

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE VERY REVEREND VICTOR FRANCIS O'DANIEL, O.P., S.T.M.

On June 16 the Very Reverend Victor Francis O'Daniel, O.P., S.T.M., celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. His brethren throughout the Province of St. Joseph are justly proud to honor one of their most outstanding scholars, historians, and writers.

Father O'Daniel was born February 15, 1868, in Washington County, Kentucky. He was baptized at the Dominican parish of St. Rose, Springfield, Kentucky, on March 17, 1868. Father O'Daniel's parents were descended from the Catholic pioneers of Kentucky who went west from the Lord Baltimore Colony of Maryland. After his education in private and public schools in and around Springfield, Father O'Daniel received the Dominican habit at Saint Rose on March 21, 1886. After his profession, the following year, he went to St. Joseph's Priory, near Somerset, Ohio, where he pursued his philosophical and theological studies.

Father O'Daniel was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Columbus, Ohio, on June 16, 1891, by Bishop J. A. Watterson, and celebrated his first solemn Mass at Saint Rose's, June 21, 1891.

After his ordination he attended the Dominican House of Studies in Louvain, Belgium, where he received his Lectorate in Sacred Theology in 1895. Upon his return to this country, Father O'Daniel became professor of Philosophy and Master of Students at St. Joseph's Priory, a position which he held from 1895 until 1897. He was then transferred to St. Rose Priory where he remained as professor of Philosophy and Latin and part of the time as Novice Master from 1897 to 1900. At this time he returned to St. Joseph's where for one year he was professor of Philosophy and Introduction to Theology. From 1901 until 1906 Father O'Daniel served as professor of Philosophy and Dogmatic Theology at Benicia, California. During most of his stay in California, he also served as Novice Master. Father O'Daniel travelled to Rome that same year, where, after three years of study, he was awarded the degree of Master of Sacred Theology, in 1909. Returning to his own province, he was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies, at Washington, D. C.,

as professor of Dogmatic Theology, a position which he held until 1913. He served as Bachelor of Studies at the same convent from 1907 until 1927. Father O'Daniel was appointed official archivist of the Province of St. Joseph in 1906, a position he has filled capably ever since.

Father O'Daniel was a co-founder of the *Catholic Historical Review* in 1915, and for some years an associate editor of that same magazine. He was also co-founder (1918) and a charter member of the American Catholic Historical Association. Mount Saint Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, honored him in 1924 with the degree of Doctors of Letters and in 1938 Father O'Daniel was made an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Société Historique et Héraldique de France.

Among his well documented and authoritative historical works, we may mention: *The Order of Friars Preachers* (1916); *The Very Reverend Charles Hyacinth McKenna, O.P.* (1917); *Bishop Edward Dominic Fenwick of Cincinnati* (1920); *The Dominican Lay Brother* (1921); *An American Apostle* (Matthew Anthony O'Brien, O.P.) (1923); *The Father of the Church in Tennessee* (1926); *The First Disciples of Saint Dominic* (1928); *Dominicans in Early Florida* (1930); *A Light of the Church in Kentucky* (Samuel T. Wilson, O.P.) (1932); *The Province of Saint Joseph* (1942); and, *The First Two Dominican Priors in the United States* (1947). In addition to these works, he has written a large number of articles in various periodicals.

Father O'Daniel is but the second Dominican of the Province of Saint Joseph to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. To a loyal Friar, an indefatigable scholar, and a true son of Dominic, *Dominicana* extends the warmest congratulations.