

✠ THE REVEREND FERDINAND GASTON LEVEL, O.P. ✠

At St. Raphael's Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, on March 8, 1952, Father Level passed away as the result of a heart attack he had suffered less than a month before. He was in his seventy-fourth year. His death came two months before he would have celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on May 24 of this year.

Father Level was born on August 31, 1878, in the city of Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas-de-Calais, France. He received his early education at the Marist Brothers' School and Immaculate Conception College, both in Boulogne-sur-Mer. As a young man he entered the Order of Preachers at Poitiers, the place of novitiate for the Province of Lyons, and received the habit on May 20, 1897. The Province of Lyons established a House of Studies at Hawthorne, New York, in 1894, and Father Level, as a novice, came to the United States to complete his year of novitiate. He made his Simple Profession at Hawthorne on June 8, 1898, and passed his years of philosophical study in the same house. He was then sent to St. Stephen's Biblical School in Jerusalem for his course in theology. Father Level was ordained a priest in Jerusalem on May 24, 1902, by the Most Reverend Louis Piccardo, Auxiliary to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

After his ordination, Father Level was assigned to teach at the College of Bartolome de las Casas at Cienfuegos, Cuba. After serving for three years as dean of the college, in 1913, he was named president, besides acting as Vicar Provincial for the Dominican Fathers in Cuba. Returning to his native France, Father Level saw service in World War I; for his outstanding devotion to duty, the French government made him a Knight of the Legion of Honor, a decoration he proudly wore for the rest of his life.

After the war, he was affiliated with the Province of St. Joseph and came to the United States, where his first assignment took him to Aquinas High School in Columbus, Ohio. In 1919 he came east to Providence, Rhode Island, to help found Providence College; he was a member of the first college corporation. At Providence he taught modern languages, and acted as prefect of the Dominican pre-ecclesiastical students resident at the college. Father Level was reassigned to Columbus in

1923, where he served for two years as president of Aquinas High School. In 1925, he returned to Providence College, where for the next fifteen years he was dean of the department of modern languages and Prefect of Dominican Students. Father Level joined the faculty of Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, Connecticut, in 1939, where he was a member of the French department and chaplain of the college; he held these posts at the time of his death. Preparations had been made by his Dominican confrères and his many friends to celebrate his Golden Jubilee in May, but God in His inscrutable wisdom has called Father Level instead to celebrate a greater jubilee in heaven.

Skilled in romance languages, Father Level was kept constantly busy as a translator. He was responsible for the translation into English of many of the writings of the late Archbishop Gillet, former Master General of the Order. An exemplary religious and a devoted scholar, Father Level's splendid endowments of mind and soul made him an ideal superior for the young men taking their college courses preparatory to entering the Dominican novitiate. For over a score of years he was engaged in this most priestly work of helping others in their first steps toward the priesthood. A faithful model of our treasured Dominican ideals of prayer and study, Father Level made a life-long impression upon his students. A whole generation of Dominicans numbering into the hundreds looks back affectionately to their college days under "Père Level," and recognizes the enduring influence of his firm and gentle character.

Father Level's funeral was held at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, on March 11. On the evening before, members of the student body of Albertus Magnus College acted as a guard of honor. The Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien, Bishop of Hartford, was celebrant of the Pontifical Mass of Requiem. The Right Reverend Monsignor John F. Callahan, V.G., was assistant priest. The Reverends A. D. Frenay, O.P., and W. F. Cassidy, O.P., were deacons of honor to the Bishop. The deacon of the Mass was Rev. J. A. McTigue, O.P., and the subdeacon was Rev. James M. Egan, O.P. The Very Reverend Monsignor John F. Hackett, was master of ceremonies. The eulogy was preached by Rev. Justin McManus, O.P. The delegation of sixty priests attending the Mass was headed by the Right Reverend Monsignor John J. Hayes, Joseph M. Griffin, and Raymond G. La Fontaine. Other delegations were present from the Dominican

Sisters and the administration, faculty, student body and alumnae of Albertus Magnus College. Burial took place in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven, with committal services conducted by Rev. C. W. Sadlier, O.P., of Albertus Magnus College.

Dominicana extends sympathy to Father Level's sister, Madame Louise Siame of Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, and to his other relatives in France, to the Dominican Sisters of Albertus Magnus College, and to Father's many friends. *May he rest in peace.*



THE VERY REVEREND

✠ ARTHUR LAURENCE McMAHON, O.P., S.T.M. ✠

Death came to one of the most distinguished Dominicans in the history of the Order in America, when Father Arthur Laurence McMahon passed away on May 8, 1952. Father McMahon died at St. Raphael's Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, after a long illness. He was in his eighty-ninth year; at the time of his death he was the oldest member of St. Joseph's Province. Father McMahon died four months before he would have celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. On September 11 of this year he would have been sixty years a priest.

Father McMahon was born at Waterbury, Connecticut, on September 14, 1863. He received his elementary and high school education in the Waterbury public schools. Before entering the Order, he was engaged in business for some years, holding the position of bookkeeper in a bank. At St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, on August 4, 1887, he was received into the Order of Preachers as a novice, and a year later he made his Profession. He began his study of philosophy at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio; but he left