Dominicana

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
for Europe in 1890 to continue his studies at Louvain, Belgium. Father McMahon was ordained to the priesthood on September 11, 1892, in the Jesuit Church at Louvain, by the Right Reverend John B. DeCroliere, Bishop of Namur, Belgium.

He remained at Louvain while studying theology until 1894. In that year he went to the Dominican House of Studies, Vienna, Austria, where he completed his theological course; here he received the Lectorate in Sacred Theology in 1895. The next two years were spent at the Dominican Biblical School of St. Stephen in Jerusalem. Father McMahon was the first American Dominican to be trained at this renowned institute; at St. Stephen’s he studied under the illustrious Scripture scholar, Father M. J. Lagrange, O.P., making many scientific expeditions to landmarks in biblical history.

Returning from Europe, he was assigned to St. Joseph’s Priory in Somerset for the next eight years as a professor of theological and scriptural subjects. During part of this time he acted as Master of Students. In 1905, he became Subprior of the newly-ereected Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D. C., continuing his professorial duties in the same fields. In 1907, he journeyed to Viterbo, Italy, as Definitor to the General Chapter and acted as General Secretary of the Chapter. He then went to Rome where he successfully passed the examination “ad gradus” for the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology.

Soon after his return to the United States, Father McMahon received his assignment to the scene of his greatest work, when he was appointed Vicar General of the Dominican Congregation of California. Five years later the Master General raised the Vicariate to the status of a Province. Father McMahon became the first Provincial of the Province of the Holy Name of Jesus, which extends from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. For seventeen years he guided the fortunes of the new Province as Provincial, turning his remarkable energies towards the building of residences, schools and churches, among which the most notable is the magnificent Church of St. Dominic, San Francisco, said to be the first pure gothic church erected on the Pacific coast. An eminent scholar himself, he set high standards for the students in the Province, and sent many young Dominicans to Europe for specialized training.

In 1913 he became Master of Sacred Theology, and on February 28, 1915, at a ceremony in St. Dominic’s Church, San Francisco, he was formally invested with the insignia of his office by the Very Reverend Louis Theissling, O.P., Visitor General, who was soon to become Master General of the Order. In the same year he was
appointed to the Commission for the Examination of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In August, 1916, he was once again Secretary to a General Chapter, this time in Fribourg, Switzerland. He attended the General Chapter at Rome in 1924 and at Ocagna in 1926. At Ocagna Father McMahon was the only American Dominican appointed to the Commission organized for the guidance of the revision of the Dominican Constitutions; in 1928 he worked on this Commission at the Generalitia in Rome.

Returning to St. Joseph's Province in 1929, he assumed the duties of Procurator and Master of Lay Brothers at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. While there, he co-operated in founding The Thomist, the theological quarterly published by the Dominican Fathers of St. Joseph's Province. In 1939 he left Washington for St. Mary's Priory in New Haven, Connecticut, where he remained until his death. During these last years of his life he was still very active, despite his advanced age. At St. Mary's he helped in the parochial ministry to the extent that his health and strength would allow. As a Father of the Province and member of the Provincial Council, he assisted in the governance and administration of St. Joseph's Province over a broad span of years. He showed himself constantly interested in the well-being and progress of the Province; just a few months before his death, he participated actively in the Provincial Chapter at Washington.

On September 10, 1942, Father McMahon's Golden Jubilee was celebrated with great festivity at St. Mary's Church in New Haven. In the presence of two bishops and an immense gathering of Dominican and diocesan clergy, Father McMahon commemorated his fifty years in the priesthood by offering a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving. On that occasion, there were manifold testimonies of the high regard in which he was held by all. Dignitaries of Church and state hailed him as a model priest, and his brethren in the Order saluted him as a faithful exemplar of our Dominican heritage. The record of his achievements as professor, superior, and administrator filled many columns in the New Haven newspapers. His host of friends and admirers were looking forward to an even more jubilant observance of his sixtieth anniversary in the priesthood, but his death, so near to this extraordinary event, cut short their plans. Father McMahon would have been the third Dominican in the history of St. Joseph's Province to be blessed with the privilege of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination.

On May 12, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Connecticut. The celebrant was the
Obituaries

Very Rev. V. R. Burnell, O.P., Prior of St. Mary’s; the Very Rev. W. D. Marrin, O.P., Prior of St. Vincent Ferrer’s in New York, was deacon; the Very Rev. J. J. McLarney, O.P., Prior of St. Joseph’s in Somerset, Ohio, was subdeacon. The acolytes were the Reverends J. M. Sweeney, O.P., and R. D. Reilly, O.P. The eulogy was delivered by the Very Rev. J. R. Slavin, O.P., President of Providence College. Present in the sanctuary was the Right Rev. Monsignor Joseph M. Griffin, of Meriden, representing the Bishop of Hartford. Burial took place in the Dominican plot in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven, where Father Burnell conducted the ceremonies at the grave.

Dominicana offers sympathy to Father McMahon’s sister, and to his relatives and friends. May his noble soul rest in peace!

THE REVEREND JOSEPH LOUIS PASTORELLI, O.P.

Father Pastorelli died on May 20, 1952, at St. Joseph’s Home, Clayton, Delaware. Although he had been in all health for more than a decade, death came suddenly. He was sixty-eight years of age.

Father Pastorelli was born in Boston, on January 23, 1884. He attended Skinner and Brimmer Schools in Boston, and Boston English High School. He then continued his education at Boston College. On Christmas Day, 1903, he began his novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and a year later he made his Profession in the Order of Preachers. He took his courses in philosophy and theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., and was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1910, in the Chapel of Caldwell Hall at the Catholic University of America, by the Most Reverend Owen B. Corrigan, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore.

After his ordination, Father Pastorelli was first assigned to Aquinas High School, Columbus, Ohio. Between the years 1912 and 1917 he acquired a splendid reputation as a teacher. During the first World War, he served as a chaplain in the Marine Corps, and was