



REVEREND GEORGE BERNARD HASENFUSS, O. P.

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE REVEREND GEORGE BERNARD HASENFUSS, O.P.



ATHER GEORGE BERNARD HASENFUSS celebrated his Diamond Sacerdotal Jubilee on June 9, 1953—a rare and joyous occasion in the annals of St. Joseph's Province! Only twice before in the long history of the Province has such an extraordinary event occurred. A happy privilege it is, therefore, for the members of the Province to rejoice with Father Hasenfuss on his sixtieth anniversary in the priesthood—a glorious milestone in the priestly career of a distinguished son of St. Dominic.

On the morning of the anniversary, the Jubilarian offered a Low Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church of the Holy Name, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he is a revered member of the community. The public observance of the Diamond Jubilee was held at nine o'clock when the Very Rev. R. M. McDermott, O.P., Prior of Holy Name, sang a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving, assisted by the Rev. E. M. Heffernan, O.P., as deacon, and the Rev. A. L. McEaney, O.P., as subdeacon. The Very Rev. E. M. Gaffney, O.P., Subprior of Holy Name, delivered the sermon. Later, in the morning the children of Holy Name School, to whom Father Hasenfuss is especially devoted, commemorated his Diamond Jubilee with a special program of entertainment, and that evening a reception was given in his honor. The parishioners filled the Church Hall to express their sentiments of heartfelt congratulations to the Jubilarian who has ministered to them as a dutiful priest of God for the last sixteen years.

A native of Massachusetts, Father Hasenfuss was born in Boston on May 14, 1864, the eldest of nine children of Martin and Mary Campbell Hasenfuss. He received his education at Holy Trinity parochial school of that city and at Boston College. Drawn to the Dominican Order through the inspiration of the renowned and saintly Father Charles McKenna, O.P., the great apostle of the Holy Name Society in this country, he entered the Order on August 14, 1886. On October 31, 1886, he was clothed with the habit and began his novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where, on the feast of All Saints a year later he made his profession as a member of the Order of Preachers. He pursued his philosophical and theological courses of study at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, and was ordained to the sacred priesthood at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio, on June 9, 1893, by the Most Reverend John Ambrose Watterson, Bishop of Columbus.

Shortly after ordination, Father Hasenfuss was assigned to parochial work at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, New York City, where, in the earnest ardor of his young ministry he overworked himself, falling victim to a malignant form of typhoid fever. For many months his condition was very critical, and for years thereafter he suffered the effects of this illness. In an effort to improve his poor health he was given assignments which were designed to provide opportunity for full recuperation: for the next twenty years he was stationed at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, St. Louis Bertrand Priory, Louisville, Kentucky and St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. His courage and cheerful patience during this ordeal was a Christlike model for all.

By 1923 his condition had so improved that he was sent as parish priest to Holy Name Church, Kansas City, Missouri, and later back once again to St. Vincent Ferrer's, New York City. Since that time, Father Hasenfuss has devoted himself with unselfish and unrelenting industry to the care of souls in the various parishes of the Order in the eastern part of the United States. Assigned to Holy Name Priory, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1937 — where he presently resides — Father Hasenfuss gained a unique distinction when appointed sub-prior in 1942. No other priest of the Province has occupied this position at such an advanced age—a tribute, indeed, to his capable administrative ability and his unswerving zeal for the Order. On June 9, 1943, he commemorated his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood by offering a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Name Church, Philadelphia, and was felicitated on that occasion by many of his friends and fellow Dominicans.

Though in poor health during a great part of his priestly life, Father Hasenfuss has always remained an exemplary Dominican, cheerful and kindly in disposition. His admirable qualities of mind and heart have endeared him to his parishioners and inspired their confidence. Gifted with a splendid voice, he has always been an excellent preacher, and his love for music and his ability as a singer are well known wherever he has worked. Father Hasenfuss is endeavoring, in his later priestly life, to do for the cause of souls what his delicate health prevented in earlier life. His has truly been a long and fruitful ministry!

Dominicana deems it an honor to salute and congratulate Father Hasenfuss at this glorious time of his Diamond Jubilee, and prays that he may continue to work for many more blessed years in the Vineyard of the Lord.