

✠ BROTHER THOMAS PURCHASE, O.P. ✠

Brother Thomas Purchase died on March 31, 1953, in Mary Immaculate Hospital, Lebanon, Kentucky, after a brief illness. He was sixty-nine years of age, and had been a Dominican lay brother for twenty-six years.

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 9, 1884, Brother Thomas was one of ten children of the late Edward and Mary Marshall Purchase. A convert to Catholicism, Brother Thomas had been a lay brother in the Protestant Episcopal Society of St. John, Boston, Massachusetts. After embracing the Catholic faith, he entered the Dominican Order as a lay brother postulant in 1926.

Brother Thomas made his novitiate at the Dominican House of Studies, River Forest, Illinois, where he received the habit on May 24, 1927. After his profession a year later, he embarked upon a long life of devoted service when he was first assigned to Fenwick High School, Oak Park, Illinois. In subsequent years he labored at Providence College and St. Raymond's Church, Providence, Rhode Island; St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio; Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C.; and St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where he was stationed at the time of his death. Throughout his life, Brother Thomas remained a faithful son of St. Dominic, tireless in the performance of all his appointed tasks, and diligent in the fulfillment of all his religious duties. Death came to him just two months prior to the observance of the Silver Jubilee of his religious profession.

On April 1, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered at St. Rose Church, Springfield, Kentucky. The Very Rev. B. H. Scheerer, O.P., Subprior of St. Rose, was celebrant, assisted by the Rev. D. J. McMahon, O.P., as deacon, and the Rev. J. V. Dailey, O.P., as subdeacon. The Very Rev. C. A. Musselman, O.P., Prior of St. Rose, delivered the eulogy. The Fathers and Brothers of the Priory chanted the Mass and Office of the Dead, and the lay brothers attached to St. Rose acted as pallbearers. Burial took place in the community cemetery at St. Rose.

*Dominicana* offers its sincere condolences to Brother Thomas' relatives and friends. *May his soul rest in peace!*