

GOLDEN JUBILEE

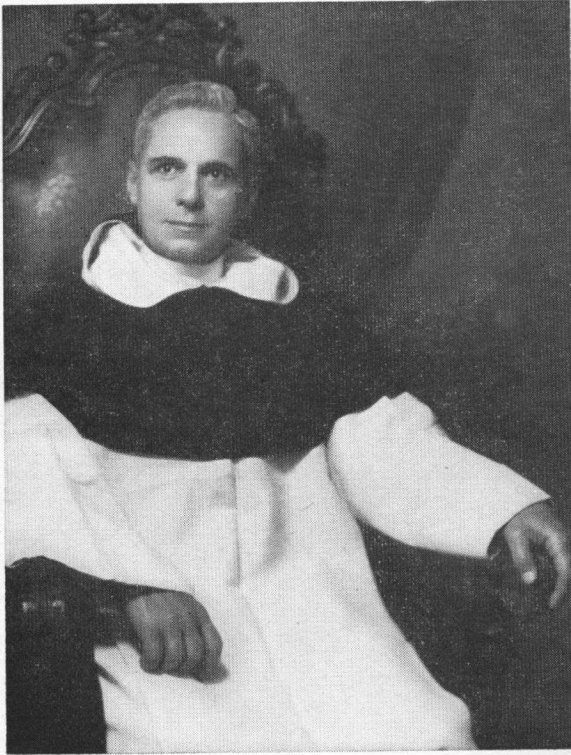
of

THE VERY REVEREND ROBERT LOUIS RUMAGGI, O.P., P.G.

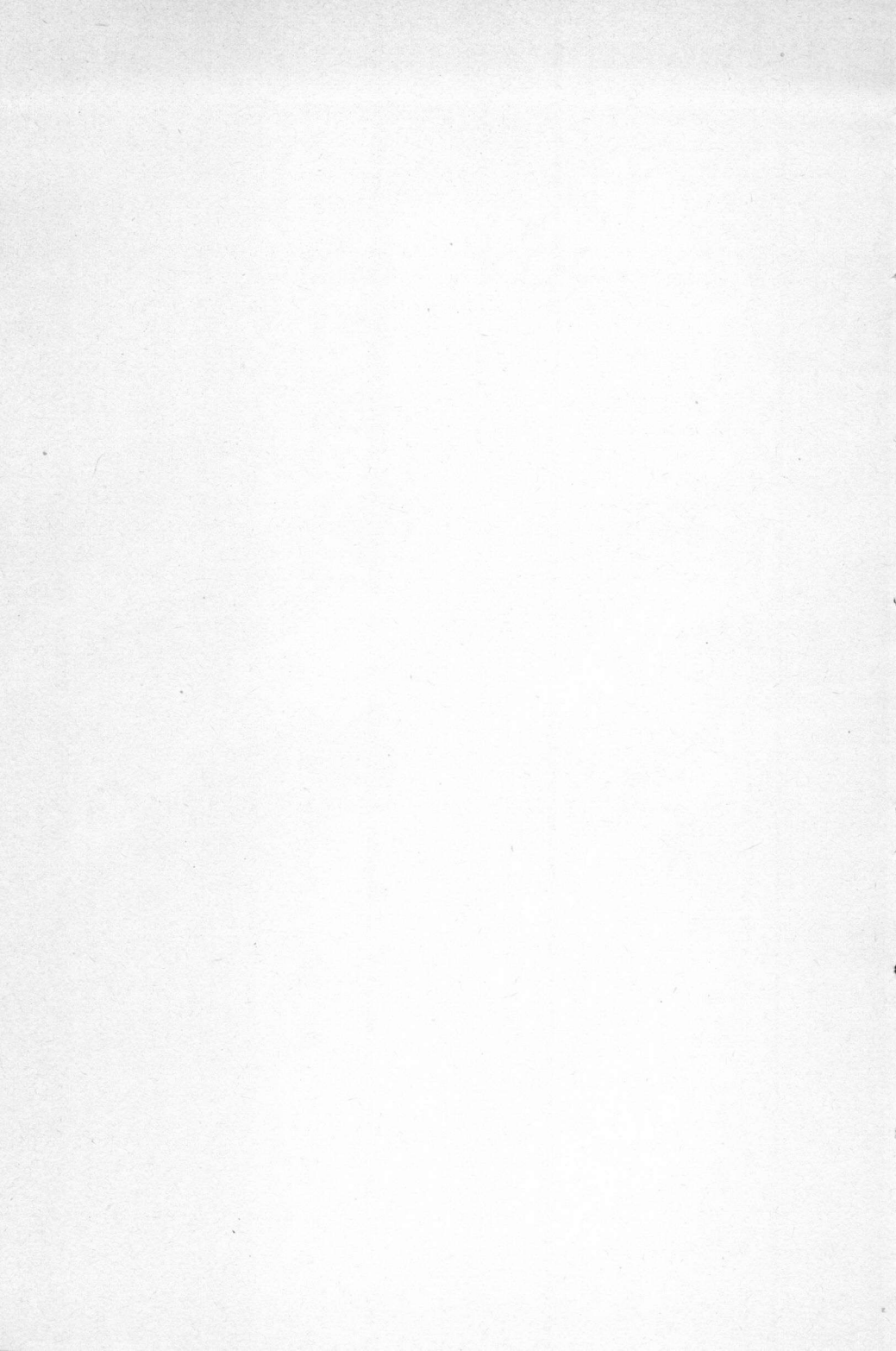
Father Robert Louis Rumaggi's Fiftieth Anniversary of ordination to the sacred priesthood took place on August 2, 1953.

On Wednesday, August the eleventh, Father Rumaggi observed this joyful occasion by celebrating a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Assisting as deacon in the Mass was the Very Reverend John L. Finnerty, O.P., P.G., with the Reverend Walter G. Moran, O.P., as subdeacon. The Very Reverend John H. Healy, O.P., P.G., a fellow-Jubilarian, preached the sermon. Present in the sanctuary were the Bishop of Hartford, the Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien, D.D., the Most Reverend John F. Hackett, D.D., Auxiliary-bishop of the diocese of Hartford, and the Very Reverend Terence S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial. In attendance also were several Monsignori, a large delegation of Dominicans and local clergy, as well as many of the local civic authorities. The church was filled with relatives, friends and parishioners, who came to felicitate Father Rumaggi on his fifty years of exemplary priestly ministry. A testimonial dinner was tendered the Jubilarian in St. Mary's Hall immediately following the Mass.

Father Rumaggi was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on December 14, 1878, one of five children of John and Catherine (Catamatir) Rumaggi. In early youth Father Rumaggi's parents fell victim to the dread yellow-fever epidemic. Consequently, he received his early education and training at St. Peter's Orphanage, Memphis, Tennessee. It was here that he came under the motherly influence of Sister Pelagia Grace, Sister of Charity, to whom he credits the seed of priestly vocation. Father Joseph Augustine Kelly, O.P., hero of the epidemic, inspired Father Rumaggi to a love of things Dominican, which interest was fostered by the good Sisters of the Orphanage, and later, by the Christian Brothers whose high-school and college he attended in that city. Realization of his aspirations commenced when, on October 15, 1896, he was clothed in the habit of the Order at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky. After the usual year of novitiate, Father Rumaggi made simple profession as a member of the Order of Friars Preachers on October 16, 1897. He pursued the course of philosophical and theological studies at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio,



VERY REV. ROBERT LOUIS RUMAGGI, O.P., P.G.



where, on August 2, 1903 he was ordained to the sacred priesthood by the Most Reverend Henry Moeller, D.D., Coadjutor to the Archbishop of Cincinnati.

After the customary year of theology following ordination, Father Rumaggi was assigned first to parochial work at St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio and then to St. Thomas Priory, Zanesville, Ohio. Thereafter, he served in various parishes within the vast reaches of St. Joseph's Province until 1924. On the feast of St. Dominic that year, Father Rumaggi was appointed the first Director of the Deserving Poor Boys' Priesthood Association. For fourteen years he excelled in this office, endeavoring to aid young men seeking to realize their vocation to the priesthood in the Dominican Order. Subsequently, Father Rumaggi received assignments to St. Pius Priory, Chicago, Illinois, St. Dominic's Priory, Detroit, Michigan and in 1946, to St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, Connecticut where he is stationed at present.

In recognition of his many outstanding years of priestly service, Father Rumaggi was awarded the high honor of 'Preacher-General' by the Master-General of the Order in the fall of 1938. Self-effacing industry and devotion characterized Father Rumaggi's labors both as a parish priest and as a tireless pioneer in behalf of the Deserving Poor Boys' Priesthood Association. Though not as active in the priestly ministry as in former years, Father Rumaggi continues to exemplify the ideals of Dominican life, being a constant source of edification to his brethren throughout the Province.

Dominicana is privileged to offer its sincere congratulations to Father Rumaggi on this happy occasion of his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the sacred priesthood, and prayerfully wishes him many more years in the Vineyard of the Lord.