THE CLOISTER CHRONICLE

Province of St. Joseph


The celebration in honor of St. Vincent Ferrer took the form of a literary feast. The program was made up of excellent papers on the historical setting, inner life, and labors of the Saint, interspersed with appropriate musical numbers.


Four young Fathers of the community received their Lectorate in Sacred Theology this year. They are the Rev. Fathers John Welsh, Richard Walker, Cyprian McDonnell, and Cornelius McCarthy. Fr. Cyprian McDonnell is a member of Holy Name Province.

After a useful and edifying life of fifteen years, Bro. Francis Corley, O. P., rendered up his soul to God on May 16. He had been stationed at St. Antoninus' Priory, Newark, N. J. We respectfully ask the prayers of our readers for the happy repose of his soul.

We also earnestly request our readers' prayers for the beloved sister of Bro. Aquinas McDonnell, O. P., and the father of Bro. Edmund Rogers, O. P., of our Novitiate. May their souls rest in peace.

Father Pope lectured at the House of Studies during Easter Week and the first week in May on "Dominicans and Oxford," and "Apologetics After the War." Mr. Michael Williams also lectured on "Some Opportunities for Catholic Journalism." The Novices wish to express their profound gratitude for these interesting treats.

During the last week in May Brothers John Labrador, O. P., and Sylvester Sancho, O. P., members of Holy Rosary Province, left Washington for the Far East, after having specialized at the Catholic University during the past year. They have been bound to us by ties of the truest brotherhood, and we will miss their pleasant company; but the edification of their example will remain, while the good odor of their religious fraternity diffuses itself in our memories. At Rosaryville, La., they will be joined by eight other novices of the Foreign Missionary College of the Spanish Dominicans.

Two of our lay brothers, Friars Thomas and Anthony, have been transferred to the Collegio Angelico. We wish them every blessing in their new assignment.

The Novices take a particular pleasure in the honor conferred on the Catholic University of America by the installation of the Rt. Rev. William Turner, D. D., in the see of Buffalo. Bishop Turner has a just claim on the gratitude of the Dominicans at the University, who now proffer him their sincere congratulations. His extraordinary activity of twenty-six years of priestly life to spread a zeal "for the better gifts" is a safe index of his eminent qualifications for this new charge. His record at this center of learning reads like the lines of a play, to which his life as professor, priest and friend, has been a magnificent interpretation. Ad multos annos!

Two venerable Fathers of St. Joseph's Province recently celebrated their fortieth anniversary of ordination to the holy priesthood; they are the Very Rev. Fathers H. J. McManus, O. P., March 20, and the Very Rev. C. A. Splinter, O. P., May 9. One of our chaplains from this Province will celebrate his silver jubilee on July 22, Rev. Fr. Alexius Casterot, O. P., recently at Bordeaux, France. To all three Fathers, the Novices offer their heartiest congratulations.
Father Gaffney’s valuable booklet, “Teaching Children the Mass,” has had remarkable sales. It has been adopted by many of our teaching Sisterhoods, and has taken a place beside the Catechism as a text-book in the elementary grades. We gladly recommend it to those engaged in imparting Christian Doctrine to children.

The following news item of interest to all Dominicans of this Province was received too late for our last issue. Father Edmund Baxter, O. P., a member of this Province now attached to the 136th Machine Gun Battalion, received at Ballon, France, from the Marshal of the French Army, the French Cross of War, the Croix de Guerre. The Croix de Guerre that he received has on the ribbon the silver star of divisional citation. While we know that every chaplain belonging to this Province nobly sacrificed himself to duty during his service in the great war, it is a matter of supreme satisfaction that one of them has received this public recognition.

Fr. Raphael Carpentier, O. P., has been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross. The commanding officers of the regiments 165th, 166th, 167th, to which he has been attached, are enthusiastic in his praise, as being utterly unselfish and unfearful in the face of danger. And apart from the moral effect of his splendid example, he has been of the greatest material aid in rescue work in shell-swept ground, establishing first aid stations, and by a ready use of the French language in securing valuable information. His brothers in St. Joseph’s Province and the whole Order are justly proud of his record.

The Rev. Fr. E. G. Fitzgerald, O. P., S. T. B., Professor of Hebrew and Sacred Scripture in the House of Studies, will be occupied in retreat work on the Pacific Coast this summer. He will give two clergy retreats in the diocese of San Francisco, and retreats to a number of our Sisters’ communities in the West.

Very Rev. Fr. Henry Healy, O. P., P. G., was given an affectionate send-off in Columbus at the close of the K. of C. retreat at St. Joseph’s Cathedral. Father Healy was once the Chaplain of that Council. At a banquet held in his honor a watch was presented him as a token of remembrance.
The Very Rev. Fr. Ignatius Smith, O. P., S. T. Lr., National Director of the Holy Name Society gave a course of noonday lectures on Christian Evidences and Fundamental Dogma at the Lyceum Theater, Duluth, Minn., during the week of May 4. Each day the theater was filled to its utmost capacity. From Duluth Father Smith proceeded to California in the interests of the Holy Name Society, where he will be engaged during the months of May and June.

The great activity of the Missioner Fathers of St. Joseph’s Province may be estimated from some of the labors of the Eastern Mission Band. A number of pastors who had missions this year have requested the Very Rev. Fr. Healy, O. P., P. G., for a return of the Fathers in 1920. In Rochester the Fathers will give seven missions some time in the fall. In Lawrence, Mass., the flourishing parish of the Augustinians, has had six successive missions by the Dominican Fathers. At the last mission given recently there were 15,500 Communions during the women’s week.

On June 10th Fr. Thuente closed his labors in the diocese of Omaha, where he has labored since January 1st. He has fully organized the Holy Name Society, crowning the work with a diocesan union. His retreat schedule will then begin, including many clergy retreats, and continue till late in August.

Fr. Eckert, O. P., gave a mission during Holy Week in the church of El Cristo, Havana.

Foreign Provinces

With great delight we have received the latest number of the “Hawkesyard Review” and of “The Tallaght Record,” and we will continue to look forward to each appearance with increasing interest.

It is probably now well known that Cardinal Boggiani, O. P., is to be Cardinal in Curia no longer, having been nominated by the Holy Father Archbishop of Genoa.

On the 13th of March five Fathers of the Belgian Province of St. Rose of Lima embarked at Antwerp for the African Congo where our Belgian Fathers have a mission.
Upon the request of the Most Reverend Master General, for volunteers from the Dutch Province for missionary work in Lithuania, nearly forty members immediately volunteered.

The grand old province of Poland, it is hoped, will soon be restored to its former splendor. A convent has been opened in Lublin, and one of the Fathers has been appointed professor in the Catholic University there.

Fr. Felix Couturier, O. P., of the English Province, was consecrated Titular Bishop of Myriophylos by Cardinal Van Rossum in the Minerva, April 27th. The co-consecrators were Archbishop Cerretti, Papal Under-Secretary of State, and Archbishop Sardi. Bishop Couturier was the first Apostolic Vicar of Egypt, and for three years the principal chaplain in Egypt. Egypt will be his sphere of labor.

A General Introduction to Sacred Scripture will appear in the fall from the pen of Fr. Albert Colunga, O. P., S. T. Lr., S. Scrip. Lic., Professor of Scripture at the Collegio Angelico.

Fr. Blat, O. P., J. C. D., Professor of Canon Law at the Collegio Angelico has published a Commentary on the Second Book of the Code of Canon Law (De Personis), and is completing a Commentary on the Third Book (De Rebus). Fr. Noval, O. P., J. C. D., also Professor of Canon Law, is preparing a Commentary on the Fourth Book (De Processibus).

Fr. Fanfani, O. P., has published his Commentary on Indulgences.

Fr. Pegues' "Catechism of St. Thomas for the Faithful" has run through two editions in the short space of a few months.

Fr. Sales, O. P., has recently published the first volume of his Commentary on the Old Testament. His work on the New Testament, in two volumes, has already appeared.

**Dominican Sisters**

On June 9th, nineteen postulants were clothed in the holy habit at Amityville, and on July 8th, twenty novices will pronounce their first vows and twenty-one Sisters will make final vows.
During Holy Week a retreat was conducted at St. Joseph’s, Sullivan County, N. Y., by Fr. F. O’Neill, O. P.

The Dominican Sisters of Brooklyn, Congregation of the Holy Cross, have now a house at Belle Harbor, Long Island, which will serve as a resort for the Sisters during their vacations.

The Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer, Congregation of St. Rose of Lima, recently procured a piece of property, lying to the west of their present New York City house, the New St. Rose’s Free Home, which will be converted into gardens and promenades for the use of their men-patients, who have been unable to step out of doors hitherto. This they were enabled to do by selling their first New York house and by the aid of three benefactors: Mrs. Hugh J. Grant, Mr. N. Whitman and Mr. John D. Ryan, who gave $1000 each. Conversions at St. Rose’s Home are frequent.


On May 15th eight postulants were clothed in the habit of St. Dominic as members of the Community of St. Mary’s of the Springs. The Rt. Rev. J. J. Hartley, D. D., officiated.

Sr. Catherine Brown, one of the golden jubilarians of St. Mary’s died on May 1st, after a protracted illness. R. I. P.

On March 7th, six novices made first vows at St. Catharine of Sienna Convent, Springfield, Ky., and seventeen young ladies were clothed in the white habit. On May 1st three novices made first vows.

The annual retreat for the students of St. Catharine’s was conducted by Rev. Fr. Finnerty, O. P., of the Southern Mission Band. The retreat closed with a Solemn High Mass on the feast of St. Catherine. In the evening of the same day a music and expression recital was given by the pupils in honor of the Saint.
The Community of St. Catherine, Springfield, Ky., lost by death on the 18th of March, Sr. Vincent Ford, on the 19th, Sr. Thomas Aquinas, a novice, and on April 22d, Sr. Charlesetta Phelan. On March 17th, Sr. M. Joseph Howard died at St. Agnes Academy, Memphis, Tenn. R. I. P.

The Congregation of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, California, opened two schools in Mexico, one in Mexico City and the other in Tlalpam, D. F.

An attractive and creditable exhibit of all branches of school work pursued by the pupils of St. Mary's Home School for girls at Mission San Jose was displayed during the annual meeting of the California State Conference of Social Agencies held at San Jose, April 22-25. The vocational training imparted was the prominent feature. The proficiency shown by the pupils in needlework and in the culinary art elicited special commendation.