

OBITUARY

THE REVEREND WILLIAM QUINN, O. P.

On Friday, May 30th, the Province of Saint Joseph lost an eminently faithful member and a model son of Saint Dominic, the Rev. William Quinn, O. P., of Saint Antoninus Priory, Newark, N. J. Father Quinn was the oldest religious of the Province in the order of profession, having spent over half a century in the Order of Friar Preachers; and had he been spared till August, he would have attained the forty-ninth anniversary of his elevation to the holy priesthood. This is the second loss sustained by the Newark Priory during the month of May, as Brother Francis Corley, O. P., passed to his eternal reward about a fortnight previously.

Father Quinn was born in Ireland, the little isle that has given so many of her sons to the Church in America, on August 1st, 1847, but came to the New World at an early age, and settled in Ontario, Canada. Impelled by the desire to devote his life to the service of Our Saviour, he applied for admission into the Order of Preachers. Upon being accepted, he passed the usual year of probation at Saint Rose Priory, near Springfield, Ky., where on May 5th, 1868, the feast of Saint Pius, he had the happiness of pronouncing his holy vows. After the prescribed course of studies in philosophy, theology and other sacred sciences, he was raised to the ineffable dignity of the priesthood at St. Joseph Priory, near Somerset, Ohio, on August 6th, 1874.

During his long and fruitful priestly life Father Quinn held many positions of honor and responsibility. He was one of the pioneer Dominicans in the city of Newark, when in the year 1875 they established the present flourishing parish of Saint Antoninus. For twelve years Father Quinn gave the fruits of his youthful zeal to the parishioners of Saint Antoninus and at the same time rendered invaluable assistance to the Eastern Missions. After having been stationed for a short time at Holy Rosary Church, Minneapolis, Minn., he was appointed Vicar of Saint Thomas Church, Zanesville, Ohio. In the year 1892 he was elected

Prior of Saint Rose Convent and upon the expiration of his term of office, was re-elected by his brethren. He was next at Saint Vincent Ferrer Priory, New York City, for a brief space, whence he was called to assume the duties as Procurator of Saint Joseph Priory, then the House of Studies of the Province. During these years Father Quinn endeared himself not only to the Novices, but also to the Catholics of Perry County. In 1909 he returned to Saint Antoninus, Newark, the parish of which he was one of the founders. Soon after he was assigned as Chaplain of the House of Good Shepherd, and Wednesday, May 28th, 1919, the last day he performed the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, was the tenth anniversary of his appointment as spiritual director there. How he was enshrined in the hearts of the Sisters and children was clearly manifested by their respectful love for him during life and sincere sorrow at his death. Many, indeed, felt so deep a reverence for the dead priest that they applied rosaries and medals to his honored remains. With them we feel that we have lost a staunch friend and a Dominican whose whole life was an inspiration to his brethren.

By request the body lay in state at the Good Shepherd Convent until Sunday, June 1st. On the following day a Solemn High Mass was offered up at Saint Antoninus, at which there were present about thirty Dominican Fathers, including the Very Reverend Provincial, as well as deputations of the Sisters and children. When the funeral passed the Convent where Father Quinn had served so faithfully the children, dressed in white, were ranged at the entrance to bid their revered guide farewell, and their tears and sobbing evinced their heartfelt sorrow.

The ministers of the Mass were as follows: Celebrant, the Very Rev. W. J. O'Leary, O. P.; deacon, the Very Rev. H. J. McManus, O. P.; subdeacon, the Rev. J. H. Durkin, O. P. At the grave the Benediction was chanted and the Very Rev. G. I. Conlon, O. P., pronounced the last blessing. Father Quinn is survived by an aged sister, a benefactress of the Order, who resides in London, Ontario. In pace requiescat!

—Bro. John Chrysostom Kearns, O. P.