

public grammar school and the Christian Brothers Academy in that city. Before entering the Dominican Novitiate at Springfield, Kentucky, he was employed as a newspaper reporter and in the State Department of New York. Father Finnerty began his novitiate at St. Rose Priory in 1900, and made his simple profession November 1, 1901. He began his study of philosophy at St. Rose and completed it at St. Joseph's Priory in Somerset, Ohio. His theological studies were made at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. Ordination to the priesthood was received from the hands of James Cardinal Gibbons, in the Cathedral at Baltimore, Maryland, June 20, 1906.

He first served his Order as auxiliary chaplain of the Old Soldiers Home in Washington. Seven years of parish work in Washington and Newark, New Jersey then followed. Three years of this time Father Finnerty was secretary to the Provincial. In 1914 he was assigned to St. Louis Bertrand's Priory in Louisville, Kentucky, as a preacher on the Mission Band. He continued this work from his new house of assignment at St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, in 1927. Father Finnerty was made head of the Eastern Mission Band in 1936. Most Rev. M. S. Gillet, O.P., then Master General of the Order, honored Father Finnerty in 1939 with the title of Preacher General in recognition for his years of fruitful work in the service of the Church and the Order.

*Mary's Story as Told in Her Rosary*, written by Father Finnerty, was published in 1952. *Dominicana* sincerely wishes to congratulate Father Finnerty on the completion of his fifty years in God's holy priesthood.

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## GOLDEN JUBILEE

### OF

## THE REVEREND CHARLES FIDELIS CHRISTMAS, O.P.



AT ST. RAYMOND'S RECTORY in Providence, Rhode Island, June 20th, 1956, Rev. Charles Fidelis Christmas, O.P., observed his fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Father Christmas celebrated his jubilee with a Mass of thanksgiving in the Friar's Chapel in the

presence of his Dominican brethren. Because of ill health, a private testimonial dinner in his honor was served at the rectory. A letter from his Provincial and a cablegram from his Master General in Rome congratulated Father Christmas on this great occasion.

Father Christmas was born January 24, 1879, in Fall River, Massachusetts, the fifth of ten children of William and Mary Jones Christmas. He attended St. Mary's grammar school and St. Joseph's high school, both in Newport, Rhode Island, where his family had moved. College work was completed under the Holy Cross Fathers at St. Laurent College, near Montreal, Canada. In October, 1900, he entered the Dominican Novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky. Profession followed the next year and his philosophical studies were made at St. Rose's and at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. Theology was studied at St. Joseph's and at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D. C.

His Eminence, James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, raised Father Christmas to the sacred priesthood in Assumption Cathedral, Baltimore, Maryland, June 20, 1906. He then fulfilled assignments at St. Louis Bertrand's Priory, Louisville, Kentucky, St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, Connecticut, St. Vincent Ferrer's Priory, New York City, St. Rose's Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, St. Catherine's Priory, New York City and Holy Name Church, Philadelphia. In 1934 he was assigned to St. Raymond's Church in Providence, Rhode Island.

Father Christmas served as Prior of St. Rose's from 1914 to 1917, and as Subprior and Procurator of St. Vincent Ferrer's from 1928 to 1934. He was director of Third Order Fraternities at St. Vincent Ferrer's and at St. Catherine's. In Philadelphia, he was director of the Holy Name Confraternity, and at St. Raymond's he has been director of the Poor Boys Priesthood Association.

In addition to being a well-known preacher of missions and retreats, Father Christmas also contributed to *The Torch* magazine for some years. He edited the Dominican Manual and Rule of the Third Order and wrote a standard reference pamphlet, "The Dominican Third Order." Father Christmas' activities at St. Raymond's have been curtailed in recent years because of his ill health.

*Dominicana* congratulates Father Christmas at this joyous time on the occasion of his golden jubilee. May God continue to bless him.