A heart attack, resulting in death one-half hour later, struck Father Joseph O'Connell on the feast of his holy Father, St. Dominic, August 4, 1956. Death came to him in Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City, where he was on sick leave from his duties as pastor of St. Dominic's Church, Youngstown, Ohio.

Father O'Connell was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on August 10, 1901, the son of Dennis Patrick and Julia Haggerty O'Connell. He attended Sacred Heart Parochial School and St. Peter's Prep, both in Jersey City. The Bachelor of Arts degree was received from Providence College, which Father O'Connell had entered in 1922.

Father O'Connell entered the Dominican Novitiate at St. Joseph's Priory, and received his Dominican habit from the Very Rev. J. C. Brady, O.P., on August 15, 1924. He made his profession to Father Brady the following year on August 19. His course of philosophy was completed at the House of Studies in River Forest, Illinois, and his theology in Washington, D.C. Father O'Connell was ordained to the sacred priesthood in St. Dominic's Church, Washington, June 15, 1931, by Archbishop Michael J. Curley of Baltimore.

Father O'Connell was appointed an assistant at Holy Name Church, Kansas City, Missouri, and at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church in New York City, before being made pastor of Holy Name Church at Valhalla, New York, in 1941. In April, 1942, he was assigned as pastor to St. Dominic's Church in Youngstown. Father O'Connell built the debt-ridden parish into one of the finest in the city, completing a large expansion program, which included a new rectory and church. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated at midnight on Christmas, 1955. The formal dedication had been planned for August 26, 1956.

Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Greensburgh, and Erie were present for the Mass. The Very Rev. D. L. Shannon, O.P., prior of St. Vincent Ferrer’s Church in New York, officially representing the provincial, headed a large group of Dominicans in attendance. Father O’Connell was buried at St. Joseph’s Priory in Somerset, Ohio.

Two sisters and a brother survive Father O’Connell. To them and to the friends of our brother Dominican, Dominicana wishes to express its sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace.

+ THE REVEREND JAMES MARTIN MURPHY, O.P., S.T.Lr. +


Father Murphy received his early educational training in Chicago at St. Ita’s Grammar School, Quigley Preparatory Seminary, DePaul Academy, and Loyola University. He then went to Providence College and from there entered the novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., making profession on Sept. 8, 1930. He studied philosophy at the house of studies in River Forest, Ill. and theology at the houses of studies in Somerset, Ohio and Washington, D.C. Ordained June 10, 1936 by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, apostolic delegate to the United States, he was sent that same year to the Angelicum in Rome. There he received the licentiate and lectorate degrees in Sacred Theology. Then, after a year’s study at the Catholic University of America in 1937-38, he was assigned to Aquinas College, Columbus, Ohio. He fulfilled other teaching assignments at the University of Dayton, Providence College, St. Rose, and the House of Studies in Washington, D.C. In 1943 he was assigned to retreat work and from then until his death he continued in this apostolate. He was buried at Desplaines, Ill. in the All Saints Dominican Plot. To Father Murphy’s brother and sister Dominicana extends sincere condolences. May he rest in peace.