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EDITORIAL



ORDINATION to the sacred priesthood in the Order of Preachers is at once a goal and a beginning. It is a goal because it marks the end of the period of training. It is a beginning because with ordination the Dominican student receives priestly powers: the power to consecrate the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the power to administer the other sacraments. He will soon begin his active ministry. A newly-ordained Dominican priest is on the threshold of his career—conscious of the years of study and discipline behind him, yet looking forward to the opportunities ahead to serve as God's instrument for souls. He is ready and most eager to give to others the fruits of his years of preparation.

During the past seven years, the members of this ordination class of 1957 have learned many things from many sources. They have learned the Dominican way of life from their novice and student masters. They have learned the intellectual discipline of the Order from their teachers. They have learned from each other the practical application of virtue. Yet still another source of learning was the example shown them by older priests. Anecdotes about some of these men were already a part of the tradition of the Order, serving as living proofs of its ideals. They made a lasting impression since they were about men who were living in the modern world, wrestling with contemporary problems.

Two such men around whom these near legends arose during their own lifespan, died this year which marks the ordination of the class of 1957—Fathers Pius Johannsen and Ignatius Smith. Their roles in the history of St. Joseph's Province had been vastly different; yet each was in his own way typically Dominican. Father Johannsen was a beloved novice master for eighteen years, having trained almost a generation of future Dominican priests. Father Smith was a famous preacher, spreading the "good news" of the Gospel whenever he had the opportunity. By

his teaching at the Catholic University of America he brought the doctrine of St. Thomas to generations of eager students. Their spheres of activity were not the same; yet they both influenced the Order's younger men profoundly. Father Johannsen taught the Dominican spirit to his younger brethren directly. Father Smith did the same thing by his brilliant example.

Father Johannsen formed his young novices into souls of prayer and silence. He instilled in them his own love for the Order's liturgy, its history, its saints. He instructed them in the monastic discipline and the obligations of the three vows. His zeal for exact observance of the Rule and Constitutions became a legend in the province, a source of those amusing stories that grow up around all novice masters. But Father Johannsen knew the importance of a firm foundation in monastic living for a Dominican. He knew that without this foundation a Dominican's apostolate would be fruitless. Thus he kept alive the traditions of the Order, passing on to his younger brethren his own appreciation for things Dominican.

To show the way the truths acquired during these formative years were to be given to others was the contribution of Father Smith. A modern apostle, in his labors he was typically Dominican—using his fine knowledge of philosophy and theology “to preach the word” to “reprove, entreat, rebuke with all patience and teaching.” Not content with just fulfilling his own laborious task as preacher, he wanted to instruct other priests in the art of sacred eloquence. Preacher, teacher, scholar, but above all a Dominican priest with a Christ-like thirst for souls—these were the traits Father Smith showed to his younger brethren as a model for Dominican activity.

The province of St. Joseph grieves over the loss of these two zealous Dominicans. But it looks to her younger sons to carry on the traditions they represented. The ordination class of 1957 has been trained in the spirit of the Order that was the love of Father Johannsen. It looks forward to the activities of preaching and teaching that were the life of Father Smith. *Dominicana* extends to the newly ordained sincere congratulations and wishes them God's blessing in their future apostolate.