



Very Rev. A. C. O'Neil, O.P., S.T.Lr.

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THE VERY REV. ARTHUR CHARLES O'NEIL, O.P., S.T.Lr.

On April 24, death took from the Province the Very Rev. Father Arthur Charles O'Neil, O. P., S. T. Lr., the beloved and esteemed Prior of St. Mary's Convent, New Haven. The suddenness of Father O'Neil's death was keenly felt not only by his kindred, his brother priests, his parishioners, but also by the novices among whom he devoted practically the whole of his priestly life preparing them for the priesthood.

Father O'Neil was born in Boston, Mass., August 9, 1872. At a tender age he felt the call of God to the priesthood, but circumstances necessitated the postponement of his ardent hopes for a few years, during which he gave himself to business pursuits. Eventually the day came when he could pursue his priestly ambition, and accordingly entered St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Md. At this venerable institution he received an excellent classical training which amply fitted him to take up the study of philosophy and theology.

Thus it was that the fall of the year 1897, following the lofty aspiration of his soul, he entered St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., to begin his novitiate. Here his well formed character, studious habits, respect for authority and filial affection for his superiors marked him as one of God's elect. And so when the time of his probation had expired he was admitted on October 4, 1898, to his first profession and pronounced the vows of holy religion. His days of preparation were finally completed in the autumn of 1901, and on October 10, three days after his solemn profession, he was raised to the priesthood, at St. Joseph's Church, near Somerset, Ohio, by Bishop Moeller of Columbus, Ohio, the present Archbishop of Cincinnati.

The success which Father O'Neil attained in his studies while a novice prompted his superiors to send him to Europe to acquire

a deep and thorough knowledge of the theological sciences. Thus shortly after his first Mass he sailed for Rome where with the greatest diligence and ardor he studied for the space of three years. At the end of that time he obtained the degree of Lector of Sacred Theology and upon returning to the United States he received his first appointment as professor of philosophy at St. Rose Priory. In September, 1905, the present House of Studies, Washington, D. C., was opened and Father O'Neil was among those chosen to teach at the new institute. Here for fourteen years he was engaged first as an instructor of philosophy and later as professor of the moral of St. Thomas and Master of student-priests. In the month of April of last year he was elected prior of St. Mary's Convent, New Haven, filling the vacancy caused by Father Aldridge's departure for Rome.

The zealous and exemplary manner in which Father O'Neil discharged his priestly duties together with his splendid grasp of theology marked him at once a man of God and a cultured scholar and gave evidence of a promising future. But his untiring zeal was too much for his physical endurance. Early in April he was taken with an acute attack of appendicitis, for which he was successfully operated upon and had almost recovered when a clotting of the blood suddenly ended his life.

In the death of Father O'Neil St. Joseph's Province lost a great priest and an admirable religious; a man whose great learning seemed but to strengthen his piety and humility; a son who after God's glory and the salvation of souls sought but the good of the Order in the generous execution of the will of his superior. To the students to whom he gave the best decade and a half of his life, Father O'Neil's example must ever be an inspiration of all that is fine and noble in a priest, even as his daily life must merit him a high place in heaven.

On April 27, the day of the funeral obsequies, St. Mary's Church was filled by relatives, parishioners and friends who came to pay their last tribute of esteem and affection to Father O'Neil. Besides this representative gathering of the laity there was also present a large body of priests among whom were a score of the diocesan clergy as well as forty of the Fathers of the Province. The Rev. Father W. J. Owens, O. P., S. T. Lr., Novice Master at the House of Studies, Washington, D. C., was the celebrant of the Solemn Requiem Mass, assisted by the Very Rev. J. A. Mackin, O. P., Prior of St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., as dea-

con, and the Rev. J. S. Moran, O. P., as subdeacon. The eulogy was delivered by the Very Rev. D. J. Kennedy, O. P., S. T. M. The final absolution was imparted by the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial Raymond Meagher, O. P., S. T. Lr., and interment took place in St. Lawrence Cemetery, New Haven.

Father O'Neil is survived by one brother, Mr. Henry O'Neil, and one sister, Miss Elizabeth O'Neil, to whom "Dominicana" extends heartfelt sympathy. R. I. P.

—Bro. Dalmatius Enright, O. P.

