

OBITUARY

REV. EDWARD J. FARMER, O. P.

For the second time in a few short weeks the hand of the Shepherd touched His Dominican flock and took from us one of our beloved priests. On July 15, 1920, at Newark, N. J., whither he had gone for medical treatment, Father Edward Farmer, O. P., passed to his eternal reward. The sudden death of this holy priest is felt keenly not only by his brethren in particular, but also by many parishioners in different parts of this country, for whom he devotedly spent the twenty-six years of his priestly life.

Father Farmer was born in Lynn, Mass., June 25, 1861. After the usual course of preparatory studies, in 1889 he entered the Dominican Order and pronounced his simple profession on November 25, 1890. He was a protégé of the venerable Father McKenna, O. P., to whose influence he ascribed his entrance into the Order of Preachers. As a young man he accompanied the great Holy Name Apostle on his European trip. March 7, 1895, saw him raised to the holy priesthood and he immediately began a long and fruitful career as a harvester of souls. His first assignment was to St. Dominic's Church, Washington, D. C. During the years of his priesthood he had been pastor of Dominican churches in Memphis, Tenn., Zanesville, Ohio, Houston, Texas, and New Haven, Conn. At the latter place the magnificent rectory, said to be the most beautiful convent in St. Joseph's Province, was built during his pastorate.

Father Farmer was everywhere recognized as a man of deep piety and unusual fervor. In spite of frequent illness he spared himself nothing in his endeavors for the spiritual advancement of his flocks. It is said of him that he did ordinary things extraordinarily well. He edified all and the success of his ministry can be ascertained from the frequency with which he was called upon to assume the care of souls. Truly also, he seemed to have found the key to the hidden life with Christ.

He left St. Dominic's, Washington, D. C., early in the spring of this year, and went to Eagle Park, N. Y. Illness caused this change. He remained at the latter place until shortly before his death. His last serious illness was brief and he succumbed to heart-trouble scarcely a day after his entrance to the hospital in Newark, N. J. His remains were returned to St. Dominic's Church, Washington, and a Solemn Requiem Mass was sung for the repose of his soul on July 19, by the Very Rev. J. A. Hinch, O. P., of Newark, N. J. The Reverend Fathers W. J. O'Leary, O. P., and G. T. Conlon, O. P., assisted Father Hinch as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P. S. T. Lr., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, pronounced the absolution, and the Very Rev. J. H. Healy, O. P., P. G., preached the eulogy. The choir composed of fifteen Dominican priests sang the Mass, assisted at the organ by the Very Rev. H. I. Smith, O. P., S. T. Lr., Ph. D. Many priests were in the sanctuary and a goodly number of relatives and parishioners filled the church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery where Father Meagher read the final prayers and the Fathers present sang the Benedictus. Thus the last tribute of his brethren and friends was accorded Father Farmer, a man whose many virtues cannot fail to influence those who were blessed with his care and friendship. R. I. P.

—Bro. Reginald Hughes, O. P.

