

OBITUARY

THE REV. MICHAEL PAUL O'SULLIVAN, O. P., B. L.

On Tuesday, June 8th, when God called unto Himself His "good and faithful servant," the Rev. Michael Paul O'Sullivan, O. P., priest and patriot, the Church lost a devoted and zealous priest, the Province of St. Joseph a learned and distinguished member and many of the faithful a true and loyal friend. Those who will miss him most are the Novices whom he taught during the last six years. For two years preceding his death, Father O'Sullivan's health had been gradually declining, all this time, however, he continued at his post teaching the Novices until three weeks previous to his death.

Father O'Sullivan was born in County Kerry, Ireland, on St. Patrick's day, 1854. Having graduated from the National School at the age of fourteen he became a teacher and later principal of the school, which position he soon resigned to pursue the studies of law and the sciences at Trinity College, Dublin. Subsequently we find him as professor of science and the junior classics at St. Michael's Seminary.

About this time English tyranny and the oppression of the poor Irish landowners were at their height. A true patriot and lover of Irish liberty, nothing could restrain the future Dominican from espousing the cause and accordingly he left the solitude of seminary life to become Secretary of the Tenants Defense Association and Editor of the Western News; fighting nobly to alleviate the almost incomparable sufferings of his country-men. In 1879, as Secretary of the Irish Land League and one of its aggressive and influential members, he travelled through twenty-six of Ireland's thirty-two counties everywhere denouncing British brutality and notorious greed until his activity made him a marked man. Two years later with Parnell, then President of the League, Dillon and other prominent members he was arrested on the charge of conspiracy and thrown into jail. Although the trial ended in a disagreement of the jury it

became imperative for them to quit their native land and take up its cause in a more hospitable country. Coming to America, he lectured for some time in our principle cities, but soon settled in Calchester, Conn., where he obtained employment, devoting his evenings to the study of law. Instead of taking the law examination for admission to the bar, he secured a State certificate to teach in Connecticut and accepted the position of principal of the Poquonoch School, which office he held for three years.

On securing his papers as an naturalized citizen of the United States Father O'Sullivan successfully passed the law examination and was admitted to the bar in New London, Conn., September 28, 1886. Immediately he began the practice of law at Windsor Locks, Conn., where for the following years he was elected Justice for that town. With success now crowning his persevering efforts and on the very threshold of worldly fame, he heard the call of God and left all to follow Him.

In the June of 1889, he received the habit at St. Rose's Convent, Springfield, Ky., was professed on the feast of St. Dominic, 1890 and transferred to the House of Studies in Somerset, Ohio. Ordained to the holy priesthood on January 25, 1894, he was sent as a missionary to the Northwest. In the discharge of his duties he visited Montana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

His funeral was held on Friday morning, June 11th, at St. Joseph's Church, Somerset, Ohio. The Very Rev. D. J. Kennedy, O. P., S. T. M., celebrated the Solemn Mass of Requiem, with Revs. G. I. Conlan, O. P., and T. L. Crowley, O. P., as deacon and subdeacon respectively. The Rev. R. J. Meaney, O. P., delivered the eulogy and the absolution was given by the Very Rev. J. R. Meagher, O. P., S. T. Lr., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province.

Besides the community of St. Joseph's there were present in the sanctuary a large number of secular and religious clergy. Interment was made in the Convent cemetery.

—Bro. Hyacinth Sullivan, O. P.

R. I. P.