

OBITUARY

THE REV. RALPH AUGUSTINE LA PLANTE, O. P.

The Province of St. Joseph lost an earnest devoted son when early in the evening of Nov. 4th, the Reverend Ralph Augustine La Plante, O. P., departed this life at Mt. Carmel Hospital, Columbus, Ohio.

Father La Plante was vested in the habit of the Order at the Convent of St. Rose near Springfield, Ky., in the autumn of 1896, and pronounced his vows there on Oct. 16th of the following year. Since his ordination to the priesthood, Dec. 17, 1904, his life had been consecrated to the ministry in several parishes throughout the Province. A few years were spent in Houston, Texas, where, as first pastor, he established the parish and built our church dedicated to the Holy Rosary. In all the places that claimed his care a host of friends share in the sorrow his brethren feel at the shortness of a career so full of good works. His last assignment was to St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, where his labors were cut short by an attack of appendicitis which caused his death.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8th, a solemn Mass of requiem was sung at St. Patrick's Church by Rev. M. J. Kennedy, O. P., with Rev. F. L. Kelly, O. P., as deacon, and Rev. E. J. O'Toole, O. P., as subdeacon. The Very Rev. L. F. Kearney, O. P., S. T. M., preached a moving sermon on the Priesthood. The Right Rev. Bishop Hartley, the prelate who raised Father La Plante to the priesthood, gave the final absolution.

After the Mass in Columbus the body was taken to Somerset where another solemn Mass of requiem was sung by Rev. J. B. Kircher, O. P., assisted by Rev. G. I. Conlan, O. P., as deacon, and Very Rev. J. S. Wilburn, O. P., as subdeacon. The Fathers were assisted in the Office of Burial by the Novices of the Simple Novitiate at St. Joseph's Priory. The deceased was then laid to rest in the community cemetery attached to the Convent.

—Bro. Peter O'Brien, O. P.