

OBITUARY

REVEREND ALFRED HYACINTH MEAGLES

In the death of Rev. Alfred Hyacinth Meagles, O. P., the Province of the Most Holy Name lost a zealous priest and the Dominican Order a member faithful and true. Scarcely had the joyful spirit of the holiday season fled, when the little city of Crockett, Contra Costa County, California, where but a few days before all hearts were light, mourned the loss of one dearly loved by all who had the good fortune to know him. On the morning of January 3rd, Father Meagles was suddenly stricken with paralysis. The Angel of Death had taken firm hold of the stricken priest, and two days later, in the late evening of January 5th, a kind priest who had faithfully administered the stewardship of his Master, smiled peacefully and forever closed his eyes to the world.

The deceased was born in San Francisco, June 14, 1882, and was the seventh son of a seventh son. He received his early education in the local schools, and for years served with devotion as altar boy in St. Dominic's Church. Having become fully convinced that he felt himself called to the religious life, he made his way to the Dominican Novitiate at Benicia, California, where he received the habit of a Friar Preacher in the year 1900. The young religious was professed on November 1, 1901. Then followed at St. Dominic's Priory, Benicia, those years of serious study preparatory to holy priesthood, to which order he was elevated June 24th, 1907, in San Francisco by the late Most Rev. Patrick William Riordan, Archbishop of that diocese.

Although Father Meagles' years of active ministry were few, during those few years he did much for religion on the Pacific Coast. He was first stationed at St. Dominic's Priory, Benicia. While there, Father Meagles also filled the office of temporary assistant Rector at St. Raphael's Church in San Rafael. In September, 1910, he was assigned to Blessed Sacrament Church, Seattle, Washington; in February, 1915, he returned to California, being

assigned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Vallejo, where he labored untiringly until May, 1916, when he was appointed to the Rectorship of St. Rose Church in Crockett. Here he administered faithfully until his Master called him home, January 5th last.

Truly, to know Father Meagles was to love him. The fact that on the morning of the good priest's funeral, all the flags of the city hung at half-mast, all schools were closed, and all activities were suspended for a period of two hours, gives evidence of the esteem and love the people of all classes held for their departed friar, friend and pastor. Father Meagles' entire life may be epitomized in the words of one of his life-long and intimate friends who tells us: "He was a man who forgot himself in the service of others."

The funeral services were held in St. Rose Church, Crockett on Monday morning, January 9th, where a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. A. L. McMahon, O. P. (Provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name), assisted by Very Rev. W. T. Lewis, O. P., as deacon, and Very Rev. E. A. Joseph, O. P. (a classmate of the deceased), as sub-deacon. The Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, pronounced a most touching eulogy and imparted the final absolution. The remains were then borne to Benicia, where interment was made in the Convent cemetery of St. Dominic's. R. I. P.

—Bro. Robert Lindsay, O. P.

