

Obituary

DEATH OF PASSIONISTS' PROVINCIAL.

Last week, not having learned the details, we merely mentioned the sudden death of the Provincial of the Passionists in the United States. Thanks to the Catholic News we are now able to add the following touching description of his last moments. It will be noticed that Father Albert Phelan, one of the two eloquent Passionists who preached so impressive a mission last June in St. Mary's, assisted at the Requiem Mass.

The Very Rev. Stephen Kealey, Provincial of the Passionists in the United States, was suddenly called to his reward, in the monastery at West Hoboken, N. J. on the morning of July 17. His last act in life, we may say, was the celebration of Holy Mass. And so, although the peculiarly impressive circumstances of his death aroused consternation in the hearts of those present, the thought occurred to many that it was the most beautiful death that a priest could desire, and that it was merited for him by his truly priestly life. After finishing the Mass proper, he retained consciousness sufficiently long to receive extreme unction. Soon after it was administered the dying religious lapsed into unconsciousness. When those present had recovered from the shock caused by his sudden demise, none could fail to recognize the warning conveyed by the peculiar circumstances of his holy death.

Father Stephen seemed in good health when he entered the sanctuary to celebrate the 6 o'clock Mass for the unusually large congregation. He preached on the gospel appointed for the day which was St. Luke's story of the unjust steward. Those who heard him say he lingered with special and impressive emphasis on the necessity of being ever prepared to render an immediate and exact account of one's stewardship. But none of those whose piety was stimulated by his words realized that his own sudden call was to form a striking illustration of the words of his text: "Render an account of thy stewardship, for now thou canst be steward no longer."

After his sermon Father Stephen returned to the altar to finish the Mass. At the Communion he fell ill, and, communicating himself, he sent one of the acolytes into the vestry to summon Father Bertrand. The latter came at once, and the Provincial told him to give communion to the congregation, as he was not able to do it himself. Father Bertrand did so, and then went to replace the ciborium in the tabernacle, when he saw that Father Stephen was very ill. "Take me away," he heard him whisper, "I cannot finish the Mass. I am dying."

The dying priest was at once helped into the sacristy and carried into an adjoining room in the monastery, where the members of the community surrounded him, and at his request recited the prayers for the dying. Almost the last words of the dying man were: "Immaculate heart of Mary, give me a pure heart, that's all I want." About 7.30 he passed away. On preparing the body for burial there was found close to his heart a reliquary containing a relic of St. Stephen, together with a tiny slip of paper, on which was written with his own hand, "I love God most intensely; I hate sin most absolutely."

Father Stephen was one of the most distinguished members of the Passionist order and had filled almost every important office in its membership. He was born in Queens County, Ireland, Sept. 22, 1849, and came to this country when a boy. He entered the Passionist order in 1870 and was ordained priest in 1877. He served as rector of the monasteries of Dunkirk, N. Y., and Cincinnati, Ohio, where he built the imposing structure which crowns Mount Adams. He was elected Provincial Superior of the Passionists in the United States five years ago, and was serving his second term at the time of his death. His decease is keenly felt by his brethren. He was a very successful director and

a most capable and tactful executive.

The funeral services were held on Wednesday at the monastery church. At 9.30 the office of the dead was chanted, with the Rev. John J. Kean, rector of the Holy Name church, New York city presiding. At 10 o'clock Pontifical Requiem Mass was celebrated. The celebrant was the Rgt. Rev. J. J. O'Connor, Bishop of Newark, assistant priest, the Right Rev. Mgr. Stafford, D.D., president of Seton Hall College; deacons of honor, the Rev. Malick Cunio, rector of St. Raphael's church, New York City, and the Rev. Charles Kelly, rector of Our Lady of Grace, Hoboken, N. J., deacon of the Mass, the Rev. Daniel Cunio; sub-deacon, the Very Rev. Albert Phelan, C.P., superior of Passionist House, Chicago, Ill. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. E. P. Southwell, O.C.C., rector of the Church of Our Lady of the Scapular of Mount Carmel, New York City. The blessing of the grave was performed by the Right Rev. Monsignor J. A. Sheppard, V.G., rector of St. Michael's church, Jersey City.

Father Stephen is succeeded in his office as Superior by his first consultant, the Very Rev. Felix Ward, C.P.

MARKINSKI.

On Tuesday the 26th of July, ulto. a dear old lady, member of the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Winnipeg, Mrs. Mary McMahon Markinski, was called away almost suddenly from this life to a better one, we hope.

Although she had been unwell and confined to her bed for some time nobody had expected her end would come so soon. She breathed her last peacefully, being surrounded by a sorrowing husband, son and daughter, and near relatives. She was 69 years, 11 months 11 days of age, and had lived with her son Mr. John Markinski for some years back. The funeral took place on Thursday the 28th ulto. The Rev. Father Chierri came to the house, 180 Austin St., read the prayers of the church, blessed the remains, which were then carried to the Church. Here solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated with a large attendance of relatives and friends, the "Libera" was sung by the full choir of the Church, and the remains were then taken to St. Mary's cemetery to be laid at rest until the day of the resurrection.

Much might be said of Mrs. Markinski. As humble as remarkable for the sincerity of her piety, no road did she know so well as that leading to the Church, where she was nearly always accompanied by one of her grandchildren. She had always been a dutiful wife and loving mother, and in her old age she had become the visible angel of God to watch over her grandchildren, who in return were fondly attached to her.

Those who know Mr. John Markinski and his untiring devotedness to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, may by their knowledge of the son form an idea of the qualities of the mother. It was in appreciation of these noble virtues that the heartfelt sympathy of the members of Br. 163 of the C. M. B. A. were extended to the bereaved family. The Review adds its sincere condolence. The Markinski family has lost a dear mother, and the parish of the Immaculate Conception an exemplary member. Our consolation is in those words of Holy Scripture: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."—Apoc. xiv., 13.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

At a regular meeting of Br. 163 of the C. M. B. A. held on Tuesday the 2nd of August, A.D. 1904, on motion of Brother Michael Buck, seconded by Brother J. Schmidt, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death the beloved mother of our brother John Markinski, we the members of Br. 163 of the C. M. B. A., consider it our duty to extend our sincerest sympathy to our brother and his family in this their hour of sore

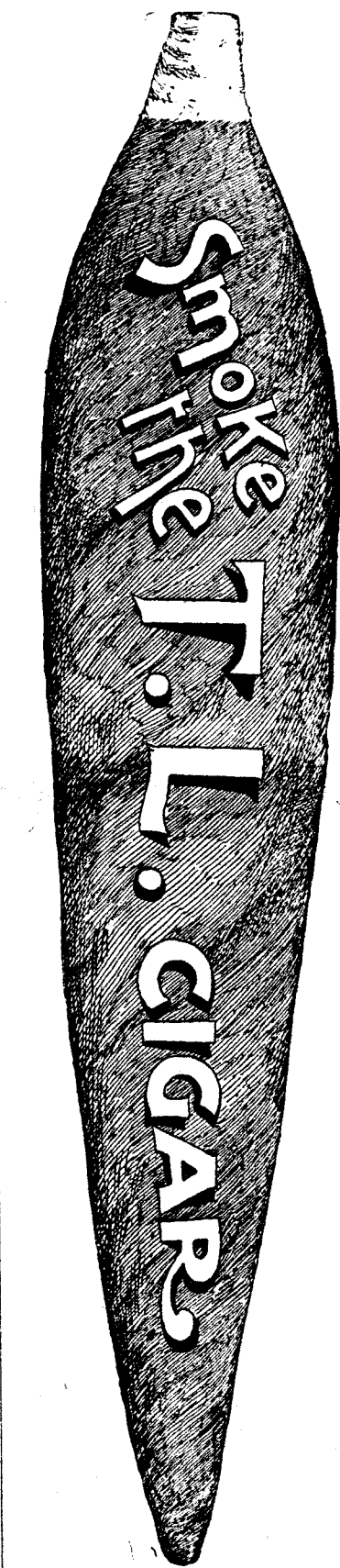
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affliction and sorrow. We were all witnesses and admirers of the virtues of Mrs. Markinski during her life as a dutiful wife, loving mother and pious Christian, therefore, we can appreciate the more the great loss sustained by Mr. W. Markinski now bereft of his noble companion, and by his dear children and grandchildren. May the departed soul rest in the peace of the Lord.

It was further resolved that a copy of the above should be sent to the Northwest Review for publication.

Keep by the practice of your religion, Catholic young man and young lady who are going away for the summer, and maintain all the formality in dealing with new companions at the summer hotel that you deemed your safety when meeting new faces in your native city. In this way you will return home refreshed in body, and having suffered no loss of Christian perfection."—Providence Visitor.

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