

PRIEST AND PATRIOT

Great Order Loses a Great Figure

THE LATE FR. HENNESSY, O.S.A.

His Part In The Irish Volunteer Movement

Limerick mourns the passing of a patriot-priest this week in the death of Very Rev. Joseph A. Hennessy, O.S.A., which occurred in the County Infirmary on Monday night.

Born in Pallasgreen on the 28th February, 1872, the future priest obtained his secondary education in Limerick and received the Habit of the Augustinian Order on the 14th October, 1888. He was professed in 1889 and sent to Rome for his philosophical and theological studies. He was ordained in 1891 in the historic Irish Augustinian Convent of Santa Maria in Posterula. The Superior of the House at the time was the well-known Father Glynn, later Prior at Limerick. For a considerable time after his ordination Father Hennessy was retained in Rome, where he was placed in charge of the professed students.

On his recall to Ireland he was stationed for a short time at Grantstown, Co. Wexford, and subsequently in New Ross. The greater part of his priestly life, however, was spent in Limerick, to where he was transferred some 36 years ago.

During this period he held office at various times as Prior, as Definitor and was for a period Secretary to the Provincial.

UNIQUE DISTINCTION.

In 1927 he was himself elected Provincial and had the unique distinction of holding this office for three successive terms—in deference to the unanimous wish of his brethren the Holy See was pleased to grant a dispensation from the canonical impediment of one holding office for three successive periods.

Having relinquished the office of Provincial in 1936 he was elected Prior of Limerick, an office which he was holding at the time of his death.

During his term as Provincial he devoted himself particularly to the advancement of education within the Order and made substantial additions to the colleges at Dungarvan and New Ross.

In March, 1939, he saw a lifelong ambition realized when he blessed the beginning of the new Augustinian Church in Limerick. His last public appearance was

cause of the new church building fund and his work in this direction was largely responsible for the success of the various undertakings which were organised and helped to make possible the completion of the first part of the church.

Some five years ago his health became seriously impaired. He rallied, however, and was restored to much of his former health. Some months ago his health began to fall again and it became soon apparent that he had entered on his last illness. For the last three months he had been in the County Infirmary, where he breathed his last on Monday night in the presence of the Provincial and members of the Community.

One needs to go back some years in memory to recapture the picture of Father Hennessy as he was in the vigour of his early manhood. As a preacher he never attempted flights of rhetoric but he spoke with a simple earnestness and downright clarity, which created the greater impression on his hearers. One forgot his choice of words in the clear-pointed fervour of his subject and long after his actual words were forgotten the enthusiasm which he had aroused remained to influence those to whom he spoke.

THE FLAME OF NATIONAL SPIRIT.

The fire which burns so brightly in the years of youth gradually dims with the passage of time but while the passing years came to leave their mark on his frame the flame of national spirit which came from his heart burned with the same bright light to the end. He was, it is true, more subdued in his manner but here one could find the raving coffee of the effects of impaired health. Yet his courage never failed him and though his suffering was evident it was never apparent from himself. He bore his indisposition with fortitude and in silence and his outward attitude bore no sign of his inner troubles. To the end he remained the sincere, kindly priest who had endeared himself to hundreds. His eyes never lost their lustre or their twinkling light of humour and his firm handshake transmitted with it a sense of the power that animated the man.

The Order of the Augustinians

SCOUT NOTES

(BY SCRIBE.)

11th Limerick—Troop Tattle.

On Sunday last we attended the matches at the Gaelic Grounds to render First Aid. Business was pleasantly slack, and in the three matches we only attended to four minor injuries. This being their first time attending matches the S.M. and A.S.M. were present to render advice. We hope to be in attendance at all games at the Gaelic Grounds in future.

Week-end Camp.

Preparations are already under way for the Whitt week-end camp. Tents are being examined and utensils being cleaned and repaired. The S.M., A.S.M., P.L's and A.P.L's will only be allowed in this, our first camp since re-organising. We are looking forward to many happy days under canvas. The scouts are now on milk as the tea ration will not trouble them (I hope).

Club Patrol.

Last Tuesday night S. M. Crowley started a club patrol for boys under ten years of age. A number of boys came to join but only a patrol (8) were accepted. The others were put on the waiting list. This is the first time a club patrol has been organised in Limerick, and we hope to make it a success.

The Rovers Scouts are making great progress and we expect to see thirty new scouts wearing second class badges before the 1st June.

Saint Joseph's re-organising.

Harbour.

More Good News.

On Tuesday night last the 5th Limerick Troop, St. Joseph's, held a meeting at which Rev. W. J. Carroll presided. Also present were Mr. J. Gould, Hon. Treasurer, and a large number of the Old Troop. They had decided to re-organise their troop and are to go further with the project. Another meeting will be held on Monday evening at 8 o'clock. All ex-scouts and those intending to join the troop are requested to attend at St. Joseph's School, 1st Limerick.

At the first meeting of the above troop a lecture on First Aid was given by Neomaster Duggan. He later impressed on the boys the necessity for having a good knowledge of the subject at the present time.

Troop Leader T. O'Donnell and Patrol Leader E. Clancy were appointed to render First Aid at the Gaelic Grounds, on the following Sunday.

Table Tennis.

The following are the results of a further series of the Table Tennis League. Patrol Leader E. Clancy beat Scout S. Reagh 21-10, 21-7.

Patrol Leader P. Fleming beat Scout J. Jones 21-22, 21-15.

Troop Leader T. O'Donnell beat Patrol Leader P. Lyons 21-8, 21-12.

A challenge tournament has been arranged between the club and a team of ex-scouts. The latter by the way will include ex-Scout Master Gerry Dilworth.

Very Rev. G. Farragher, O.S.A., Prior, Galway; Rev. B. Evans, O.S.A., London; and Rev. J. O'Neill (Limerick priest attached to New Zealand diocese).

Members of the various other religious Orders and parochial clergy were also present.

The coffin was placed in front of the High Altar, being covered with Mass cards.

Vespers were chanted by the Community, followed by Rosary, in which the whole congregation joined.

THE OBSEQUES.

Solemn Office was celebrated and Requiem High Mass celebrated in the Augustinian Church on Thursday morning. The celebrant was Very Rev. C. O'Connell, O.S.A., Dublin; deacon, Very Rev. T. Conlon, O.S.A., New Ross; sub-deacon, Very Rev. P. Byrne, O.S.A., Limerick; master of ceremonies, Very Rev. M. Connolly, O.S.A., Drogheda.

Very Rev. J. B. O'Donoghue, Provincial, Limerick, presided.

More than seventy priests were in the choir. They included the following members of the Augustinian Order.

Very Rev. P. A. Doyle, Sub-Prior, Limerick; Rev. Dr. Curtis, do.; Rev. J. P. Vignoles, do.; Rev. B. Evans, London; Very Rev. C. Redmond, Definitor, Cork; Very Rev. J. C. O'Driscoll, Definitor, Dublin; Very Rev. J. Bock, Prior, Orlagh; Very Rev. T. Veale, Prior, New Ross; Very Rev. L. Doyle, Prior, Callan; Very Rev. J. Farragher, Prior, Galway; Very Rev. M. O'Sullivan, Prior, Rosythams; Very Rev. F. O'Donoghue, Prior, Richard; Very Rev. K. Donnelly, Prior, Grantstown; Very Rev. P. Donegan, Prior, Dungarvan; Very Rev. P. Connors, Prior, Cork; Rev. J. Stokes, Dublin; Rev. L. Giffin, Galway; Rev. N. McFadden, Callan; Bro. A. O'Neill, Limerick.

Also present were Very Rev. Canon W. O'Dwyer, P.P., V.F., St. Munchin's; Very Rev. Canon Wm. Condon, P.P., Newport; Rev. J. J. Kelly, P.P., Templemartine; Rev. Father Wall, P.P., Ballingarry; Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, O.P., Prior, St. Dominic's; Rev. Father Ephrem, O.F.M., Limerick; Rev. Father Moloney, P.P., St. Patrick's; Rev. J. Wallace, P.P., Kildmo; Rev. W. Hart, P.P., St. Mary's; Rev. C. O'Sullivan, P.P., Cratloe; Rev. W. J. Carroll, Adm., St. Michael's; Very Rev. J. Gubbins, S.J., Rector, Limerick; Very Rev. B. O'Dea, O.S.B., sub-Prior, Glenstal; Rev. Father Punch, P.P., Mungret; Rev. J. Moloney, P.P., Parteen; Rev. Father McLaughlin, S.C., Copewood; Very Rev. P. O'Dea, Gate, New Zealand; Rev. Father Thornhill, P.P., Adare; Rev. Father Rice, P.P., Donoughmore; Rev. Father Mulcahy, A.M.; Rev. Dr. Cowper, C.C., St. Michael's; Rev. J. White, C.C., do.; Rev. R. O'Sullivan, C.C., do.; Rev. J. Chawke, C.C., do.; Rev. Dom Lebbe, O.S.B., Glenstal; Rev. Father Adrian, O.F.M., Limerick; Rev. Father Kevin, O.F.M.; Rev. Father Fabian, O.F.M.; Rev. D. Costelloe, C.C., St. Mary's; Rev. Father Noonan, Milford House; Rev. Father White, C.C., St. Michael's; Rev. E. McCarthy, C.C., St. Munchin's; Rev. J. Ryan, C.C., do.; Rev. W. Creed, C.C., St. John's; Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C., do.; Rev. Father Moran, C.C., do.; Rev. Father Kelly, C.C., do.; Rev. C. Godfrey, C.C., St. Patrick's; Rev. J. Kiely, O.P.; Rev. J. O'Neill, New Zealand diocese); Rev. Father Collins, O.P.; Rev. Father Larkin, O.P.; Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.S.S.R.; Rev. Father Grey, Copewood College; Rev. Father Devane, S.J., Milltown, Dublin; Rev. Father Barragry, S.J., Limerick; Rev. Father Fitzgerald, C.C., Herbertstown.

THE FUNERAL.

There was an extremely large attendance at the funeral. In the cortege walked representatives of the various public bodies, as well as the professional, mercantile and trade classes in the city. Evidence of the deep regret felt at the passing of Father Hen-



at the solemn opening of the completed portion on the 26th March last, when it is worthy of note, he rose from his sick bed to be present.

HIS PLACE IN ANNALS OF PATRIOTISM.

History will assign to Father Hennessy a high and honoured place in the annals of the fight for Irish freedom. He was the intimate friend and confidant of the 1916 leaders, and the Irish Volunteers in Limerick district found the greatest strength and consolation in the public patronage that he gave them.

On Easter Sunday, 1916, he proudly headed the procession of the Volunteers from the city on their way to Killonnan, the mobilisation centre on that memorable occasion.

So feared was his influence by the British Authorities that his life was in danger. The Limerick Priory was raided day and night by the Black and Tans, threatening letters were sent to Father Hennessy and to his superiors, who to ensure his safety were compelled to send him out of the country much against his will. Even abroad he had to live for a considerable period under an assumed name, while he continued to discharge his duties as a priest.

His activities outside his priestly office were general. He was for many years and up to his death a valued and able member of the Co. Infirmary Committee. His contacts with the citizens enabled him to ever enlarge his circle of friends and his sincerity of purpose and straightforward attitude to life established him as an immediate favourite with everyone who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

THE HOLY CINCTURE.

As Spiritual Director of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Cincture he devoted his energies to widening his influence and his devotion to its interests was reflected in the new life and vigour he infused into it.

He was particularly active in the

has lost in him one of their most faithful brethren. The Community in Limerick will feel this loss more keenly, for to them he was not alone a mentor but a friend who understood their wants and soothed their cares. The people of Limerick join as one in offering their sympathy to the Community in their great bereavement. Sympathy in a moment like this seems but a small thing to offer, but many a humble prayer will be said for the happy passage of a patriot soul to the Mansions of the Blessed.

REMOVAL OF REMAINS.

Public demonstration of the heartfelt sorrow at the passing of Father Hennessy was shown during the lying-in-state at the Co. Infirmary on Tuesday. All during the day there was a continuous stream of sympathisers to view the remains of a beloved priest.

At the removal of the remains on Tuesday evening many hundreds of people were present to pay their respects and all along the route of the cortege evidence was everywhere apparent of the grief of the people.

A guard of honour was formed by Prefects of the Arch-Confraternity of the Sacred Cincture as the remains were conveyed from the Infirmary. Throughout the day a guard of honour had also stood beside the bier.

The members of the Arch-Confraternity led the customary salute as the coffin was being taken from the Infirmary to the hearse and marched behind the bier to the church.

The Mayor (Ald. D. Bourke, T.D.), members of the Corporation, public officials and members of every profession and trade in the city walked in the procession.

The remains were received at the church by Very Rev. J. B. O'Donoghue, Provincial. In attendance also were the other members of the local Community—Rev. P. A. Doyle, sub-Prior; Rev. P. Byrne, Definitor; Rev. J. P. Vignoles, Rev. Dr. Curtis and Brother A. O'Neill. There were also present Very Rev. J. C. O'Driscoll, Definitor, Dublin;