

## Rev. Albert Dolan, O.Carm. 1892-1951

ON January 22nd, 1951, Father Albert Dolan, O.Carm, who had been ailing for several years, died rather suddenly. He had been fortified with the last Sacraments. Singularly, this zealous priest had become known, even among his own confreres, as Father Dolan, rather than Father Albert, though it is the Carmelite custom to use the religious name rather than that of the family. The reason for this peculiar situation is evident. So well known had Father become in publishing fields, so highly praised were his sermons, that the Catholic world proclaimed him as one of its outstanding priests. It was the custom of reviewers and critics to refer always to Father Dolan rather than Father Albert. So as Father Dolan he became known even in his own province.

Father Ronald Gray, O.Carm., who has been closely associated with Father Albert during the past several years, is going to write a biographical sketch of his life for the next issue of *The Sword*. In this issue we carry a copy of Father Ronald's funeral sermon, delivered at St. Cecilia's Church at the Requiem Mass, offered for the deceased.\* However, in this brief article, we include the following item which appeared in the obituary section of *The New York Times*, (January 23rd, 1951).

*Rev. A. H. Dolan, 57, Founder of Shrine Organizer of Little Flower Society, Matt Talbot Legion Dies*  
Wrote 53 Books.

The Rev. Albert H. Dolan, founder and for many years director of the Society of St. Therese, the Little Flower, founder also of the Matt Talbot Legion and the author of fifty three religious books, died yesterday in St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains, N.Y., after an illness of three months. He was 57 years old.

Since 1932, when he established the eastern shrine of the Society of the Little Flower at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Englewood, N.J., Father Dolan had spent most of his time at St. Cecilia's, where he wrote many of his books.

In 1944, the Carmelite Order accorded to him a silver jubilee celebration of his ordination to the priesthood. It was at St. Cecilia's that Father Dolan launched the Matt Talbot Legion, an organization based on the life of Matt Talbot, a converted drunkard, and designed to help alcoholics.

Father Dolan founded the Little Flower Society in 1923, when he was a teacher of public speaking and English at Mount Carmel College in Chicago. Dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux, France, who was popularly known here and abroad as the Little Flower, the Society won thousands of devotees everywhere. Father Dolan was relieved of his teaching duties and assigned to the propagation of the society.

He established shrines throughout the United States, Canada and France. He also made many trips to Lisieux, returning with relics and details of the life of St. Therese, which he incorporated into his books.

Born in Fond du Lac, Wis., the clergyman was educated at St. Lucy's Academy in Syracuse, N.Y., Niagara University, the North American College in Rome and at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. Among Father Albert's many accomplishments, not to be reckoned the least is his organization and editing of the first issues of *The Sword*. To gauge the caliber of this priest, as a writer and as a man, one needs only to read the first few volumes of this quarterly. Father Albert made it his business not only to have the whole province, perhaps the whole Order, reading *The Sword* but, what is more, to have each and every Carmelite anxious to write for the publication. He knew how to arouse interest. He was indeed gifted by God. The evidence of his work attests that those gifts were used for God and the Carmelite Order.