

## REV. BERNARD MALACHY GARVEY, O. CARM.

1864-1928

By the REV. ANTHONY C. DRESSEL, O.Carm.

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FATHER Bernard Garvey was born in Ireland on September 21, 1864. In baptism he received the name Malachy. In his late teens he came to America and lived for a time in western New York State. Feeling a call to the priesthood, he applied to the Bishop of Rochester. He made his philosophy and theology in the St. Bernard Seminary and was ordained for the Rochester diocese on November 12, 1893, at the age of twenty-nine.

From 1893 to 1910 he was assistant at several parishes and finally made pastor. He had known the Carmelites in Dublin and on August 15, 1910, he returned to Ireland and entered the Novitiate. He received the religious name of Bernard and was professed on August 20, 1911. After spending a short time in Ireland he was transferred to New York which was then part of the Irish Province. Here he was stationed first at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in New York, and later in Tarrytown.

In the year 1916 during the Provincialate of Father Basil he requested to be transferred to our Province. Father Garvey was first located in Englewood and served on the Mission Band. For a number of years Father Garvey was quite successful as a missionary. However, he had always been extremely nervous, and in middle age this nervousness became more accentuated. He became extremely distrustful of self and more than ordinarily sensitive. An example of this excitability and nervousness is the incident which occurred while on a mission with Father Anthony in Irwin, Pa. The closing services of the mission took place on December 8, 1918. There had been a tremendous snow fall. The pastor, Father Edward Murphy, was fearful of being robbed as there had been several robberies in neighboring parishes. He had been unable to bank the collections for several days. Finally he decided to divide the money into three parts. Each priest was to take one-third of the collections and secrete it without the knowledge of the other priests. Then, if the burglars did come, it was highly probable that they would not get the complete sum. About one o'clock in the morning Father Garvey awakened Father Anthony and asked him to take care of his share of the collection. Father Garvey had retired at ten o'clock but had been unable to sleep worrying about the robbers. Sneak thieves did break in that night and ransacked the first floor and the pastor's office where parish monies were usually kept but the mission collections were saved.

Father Garvey was very fatherly. As a missionary he was not given to oratorical outbursts, but he had a way of talking man to man with the congregation, and thus often succeeded where the orator would fail.

Finally his nervous disposition became so pronounced it was necessary to give him lighter and less excitable work. He was then transferred to Pittsburgh where he assisted in the church and helped with the other activities of Holy Trinity parish. Later he was sent to St. Joseph's, Leavenworth, to assist Father Boniface, but even the work of assistant pastor became too great for him. He returned to Pittsburgh and finally for his health was assigned to St. Johns, New Baltimore, Pa. His sickness grew worse, and it was discovered that he was suffering from cancer. He was brought to St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, where he died on January 27, 1928. A solemn Mass of Requiem was chanted for him at Holy Trinity Church. Several priests from the Rochester diocese were in attendance. His grave is in the Order cemetery in Pittsburgh.

Those who wondered at the odd quirk of character which seemed to change Father Garvey in later life from the kind, gentle and humble religious he had been in earlier years, found ample explanation when it became known that he had suffered for many years from the cancerous growth which later took his life. The doctors marveled that pain had not forced him to reveal his illness years before and marveled at the fortitude and courage which enabled him to suffer so patiently. Those who had been offended by his irritable disposition remembered the humble apologies he always offered. Father Garvey was characterized by his knowledge of the classics and also by his priestly demeanor. He was a man of deep faith and manifested a fervent love for our Blessed Mother. He was only sixty-four years old at the time of his death. Thirty-five of these years had been spent in the priesthood and the last seventeen of the thirty-five as a Carmelite.