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Rev. Dennis A. Casey, O.P.
(1877-1940)



Rev. William D. Noon, O.P.
(1875-1952)

PRESIDENTS OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE AND THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS CONNECTION

by Anthony J. Lisska

That the Dominican Fathers were pioneer missionaries in the part of Ohio which eventually became the Diocese of Columbus is certainly a well known historical fact. It is common knowledge that a Dominican Friar Preacher, Father Edward Dominic Fenwick, established the first permanent parish in the Diocese, St. Joseph near the Perry County town of Somerset. Furthermore, near Somerset for many years the Dominicans maintained a House of Studies for

their students of Philosophy and Theology. There they also staffed a secular college which functioned briefly for a decade prior to the Civil War. In addition, the Dominican Fathers developed and operated Aquinas College High School in Columbus from 1905 until 1965. (1)

However, it is not commonly known what connections the Diocese of Columbus had with the Dominican priests who eventually assumed the presidency of Providence College in the capital city of Rhode Island. Founded in 1917, Providence College is the only college in the Western Hemisphere staffed and run by the Dominican Fathers.

The first president of Providence College was a Dominican priest who was raised and educated in Columbus. Father Dennis Albert Casey was born in Killorglin, County Kerry, Ireland on June 24, 1877, a son of Martin and Ellen (Russell) Casey. His family came to Columbus around 1884, when he was six or seven years old. Here his father was a railroad section hand and later a lamp lighter; they lived in several homes in succession, on Naghten street, Lazelle north of Naghten, Neil street (Neilston), and finally Eleventh street north of Groves. The future Father Casey thus grew up in the shadow of St. Patrick Church, which came under the care of the Dominican Fathers in August of 1885. There he was educated in the parish school; he also attended Central High School in Columbus.

In addition to the normal Dominican education program at St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky and St. Joseph Priory near Somerset, Father Casey continued his education at the house of studies in Washington and at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He was ordained at St. Joseph Priory on August 2, 1903 by Rt. Rev. Henry Moeller, who was soon to complete his short tenure as Bishop of Columbus and become Archbishop of Cincinnati.

Following a brief stint at the house of studies in Washington, in 1912 Father Casey was named the third president of the Dominican institution in Columbus, which was then called Aquinas College. In 1916, Father Casey was reassigned to Providence, Rhode Island and assumed the position of founding president of Providence College; he served as president until 1921. Later in the 1920's he became prior of the Dominican house of studies in River Forest, Illinois, which was a magnificent priory built by the provincial at that time, Father Raymond Meagher. Following this assignment in River Forest, Father Casey entered parochial work, an apostolic duty he continued until 1938, when he was forced into semi-retirement by a cardiac condition. (2) He returned to his home parish of St. Patrick in Columbus, where he spent his remaining days. Father Casey died at St. Patrick's on March 20, 1940 and was interred in the Dominican community cemetery at St. Joseph's near Somerset. Father Casey is the only man to have served as president of both Aquinas College High School and Providence College.

The second president of Providence College, Father William Dominic Noon, was born on February 22, 1875 near Rehoboth in Perry County in the Diocese of Columbus, a son of Charles and Anastasia (Hammond) Noon. He was educated in the county schools prior to his entry into the Dominican Order. He studied at St. Joseph near Somerset and at St. Rose in Springfield, Kentucky. He continued his education at the historic Minerva College in Rome. Following his ordination (March 5, 1898) at the Basilica of the Most Holy Savior (St. John Lateran) in Rome, Father Noon taught in the House of Studies near



Rev. Frederick C. Foley, O.P.
(1904-1955)



Rev. Robert J. Slavin, O.P.
(1907-1961)

Somerset and at Washington for eight years and then was assigned, along with Father John R. Volz, the first president of Aquinas College in Columbus, to teach at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, The Philippines. He returned to Rome and received the degree of Master in Sacred Theology. He was president of Providence College for six years, from 1921 until 1927.

Following his tenure as president of Providence College, Father Noon was appointed to the Mission Band, in which capacity he preached throughout New England. For many years he was an assistant in the Dominican parishes of St. Dominic (Washington), St. Peter (Memphis), St. Albert (Minneapolis), and St. Pius V (Chicago). He spent the last years of his life among his brother priests, "a joyful and simple person awaiting the coming of his Lord." He had a marvelous sense of humor and always a funny story to tell. He died on July 4, 1952 and is buried in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, Illinois. (3)

The third and fourth presidents of Providence College, the well known scholar and educator, Father Lorenzo Cornelius McCarthy, and Father John Jordan Dillon, had little connection with the Diocese of Columbus other than studying at St. Joseph's near Somerset.

The next three presidents, Father Frederick Clement Foley, Father Robert Joseph Slavin, and Father Vincent Cyril Dore, all were alumni of Aquinas College High School in Columbus. Father Foley, although born in Lowell,

Massachusetts (in 1904) received his high school education at Aquinas, graduating in the class of 1923. He was ordained in Washington in 1932 after having studied in the House of Studies near Somerset. Following an appointment as Dean of the College at Providence, Father Foley served as president of the college from 1944 to 1947. Completing his tenure as president, he returned to Aquinas College High School, his alma mater, as an instructor of Freshman English. Father Foley died in 1955 while on the Aquinas faculty. He too was buried at St. Joseph near Somerset. Describing Father Foley, Professor Daniel J. O'Neill wrote, "The President was a man of warm friendship and comaraderie." (4)

Father Robert Joseph Slavin, also a native of Massachusetts, was born in Dorchester (outside Boston) on March 19, 1907. Like Father Foley, Father Slavin studied in Columbus at Aquinas, graduating in the class of 1924. He was also educated at St. Joseph's near Somerset. He became president of Providence College in 1947 and served an illustrious career as college administrator until his early and untimely death in 1961. Father Slavin, a renowned philosopher, was one of the founding editors of The Thomist, a quarterly journal of philosophy and theology published by the American Dominicans. Before going to Providence, Father Slavin was a member of the faculty at the Catholic University in Washington. While a high school student at Aquinas, the later Father Slavin captured many academic honors. Describing his presidency at Providence, Professor O'Neill wrote that Father Slavin, a

true renaissance person, "was a scholar, teacher, orator, philosopher and theologian of nationwide repute." (5)



Rev. Vincent C. Dore, O.P.
(1900-1984)

The last president of Providence College to have a Columbus connection was Father Vincent Cyril Dore. Father Dore was born in New Haven, Connecticut on January 31, 1900 and like Father Slavin and Father Foley received his secondary education at Aquinas. Father Dore was a member of the class of 1919. He also studied at St. Joseph's near Somerset and the Catholic University in Washington. Following his ordination in 1928, his first assignment brought him back to Columbus as a member of the faculty of Aquinas. He served on the Aquinas faculty for two years, 1929-1931. During this time he also served as the swimming coach. Father Dore was reassigned to Providence College in 1931 and served many years there until his death in 1984. Following Father Slavin's death in 1961, Father Dore became president of the college and served in that capacity until 1965. He was then named chancellor of the Rhode Island Dominican institution.

Historically, it is interesting that in the almost half-century period from 1916 until 1965, five of the first seven presidents of Providence College had rather direct connections with the Diocese of Columbus. The first two presidents were born or raised in this diocese, three of the five were graduates of Aquinas College High School within five years of each other, and three served on the Aquinas faculty, one as president. While students at Aquinas, they were members of the dormitory which was in existence for the Dominican pre-ecclesiastical students. This dormitory functioned as a residence hall for Aquinas students until 1934, when it was closed in the depths of the Great Depression.

That a diocese in a relatively non-Catholic region of the United States should have a direct connection with five of the first seven presidents of the only First Order Dominican College in the Western Hemisphere is a fascinating historical fact.

NOTES

Much of the biographical data used in this article is found in Rev. J. R. Coffey's Pictorial History of the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph (New York: National Headquarters of the Holy Name Society, 1946).

- (1) Lisska, Anthony J., A History of Aquinas College High School, Columbus: Catholic Record Society - Diocese of Columbus, 1985.
- (2) The Columbus Register, March 29, 1940. Some of the dates presented in this Register notice are at variance with others from Dominican sources; the latter are more historically consistent and are assumed to be correct.
- (3) Additional information supplied by the secretary of the provincial of the Province of St. Albert the Great (in Chicago), via Society member Mrs. Genevieve Frison, a cousin of Father Noon. Father Noon appears to have become affiliated with the Province of St. Albert when it was created from the Province of St. Joseph in 1939.
- (4) O'Neill, Daniel J., "Providence College: 'Like It Was; Like It Is; Like It Will Be,'" in Providence, Vol. VI, No. 1 (Fall, 1969), page 3. The author was fortunate to have had Father Foley as his Freshman English instructor at Aquinas High School in the last year he taught, 1955.
- (5) Ibid., page 4. The author knew both Father Slavin and Father Dore when he was an undergraduate at Providence College in 1958. Father Slavin was remembered and admired by the students of those days as a striking intellectual leader whose academic standing and integrity were never questioned.

ST. MARY PARISH, MINERTON, VINTON COUNTY
BAPTISMAL REGISTER, 1868-1873

(Concluded, from Volume X, Number 9)

Clara, of Philip KECK and Celinda Entzler, b. 22 Sept. 1871, bapt. 29 Sept. 1871; spons. Joseph Keenan and Mary Ryan. M. Ahern

John, of John O'DONNELL and Ellen Ferry, b. 25 Sept. 1871, bapt. 11 Oct. 1871; spons. Michael McGhee and Hannah Curran. M. Ahern

Bridget, of Samuel W. CRAMER and Cath. Cavanaugh, b. 2 Oct. 1871, bapt. 11 Oct. 1871; spons. Pat. Cavanaugh. M. Ahern

Bernard, of Bernard SKIVINGTON and Mary Heany, b. 11 Feb. 1865, bapt. 12 Oct. 1871; spons. James Dolan and Ellen Skivington. M. Ahern

Patrick, of same, born 2 Oct. 1866, bapt. 12 Oct. 1871; spons. Thomas Dolan and Mary Mulhern. M. Ahern

Rose Anna, of same, born 19 July 1869, bapt. 12 Oct. 1871; spons. Peter Mulhern and Nancy Skivington. M. Ahern

Martin, of John KENNEDY and Mary Leyden, b. 4 Oct. 1871, bapt. 13 Oct. 1871; spons. Thomas Connolly and Margaret Walsh. M. Ahern

James, of Andrew GINAN and Bridget Martin, b. 9 Sept. 1871, bapt. 13 Oct. 1871; spons. Thomas Donnelly and Margaret Donnelly. M. Ahern

William H. J., of Noble LUCAS and Sarah Swyers, b. 26 June 1853, bapt. 22 Oct. 1871; spons. John Shelton and Bridget Shelton. M. Ahern

Elizabeth M., of same, b. 17 Mar. 1855, bpat. 22 Oct. 1871; spons. Michael Ahern and Sarah Buck. M. Ahern

Ellen Sarah, of same, b. 13 July 1866, bapt. 22 Oct. 1871; spons. Bernard McClory and Rosanna McClory. M. Ahern

Mara Anna, of Michael DONOHOE and Harriet Freeman, bapt. 29 Oct. 1871; spons. Joseph Butt and Philopena Butt. D. B. Cull

Thomas, of Anthony KENNEDY and Maria Kelly, b. 9 Nov. 1871, bapt. 17 Nov. 1871, in danger of death, baptized without ceremonies. D. B. Cull

Thomas, of William COONEY and Frances Moore, b. 7 Dec. 1871, bapt. 13 Jan. 1872; spons. Andrew Moore and Mary Ann Cooney. D. B. Cull

Ella, of Edward SIMONS and Ella Fagan, b. 12 Feb. 1872, bapt. 18 Feb. 1872; spons. Francis Lawler and Mary Rafferty. D. B. Cull

Mary, of James QUINN and Isabella Quinn (?) [sic], b. 14 Feb. 1872, bapt. 19 Feb. 1872; spons. Joseph Keenan and Mary Keenan. D. B. Cull

William Thomas, of Neil GLACKIN and Elizabeth Shelton, b. 29 Nov. 1871 (?) [sic], bapt. 4 Mar. 1872; spons. Patrick Glackin and Sarah (Quinn) Shelton. D. B. Cull

Mary, of James MAHAFFEY and Jane Buck, b. 28 Feb. 1872, bapt. 4 Mar. 1872; spons. Jerome Mahaffey and Catherine A. Buck. D. B. Cull

Michael, of James MORGAN and Margaret Desmond, b. 2 Apr. 1872, bapt. 7 Apr. 1872; spons. Richard McCartney and Catherine McCartney. D. B. Cull

Charles, of Daniel DOHERTY and Alice A. Williams, b. 12 Mar. 1872, bapt. 7 Apr. 1872; spons. William Ryan and Margaret Jeffries. D. B. Cull

Michael, of Owen RIORDAN and Jane Whelan, b. 23 Mar. 1872, bapt. 14 Apr. 1872; spons. John Stanton and Margaret McClory. D. B. Cull

Margaret, of Michael DONOHOE and Harriet Freeman, b. 20 Mar. 1872, bapt. 26 May 1872; spons. Michael Carpenter and Margaret Simmons. D. B. Cull

Margaret A., of Charles O'ROURKE and Hannah T. McKeever, b. 21 Apr. 1872, bapt. 26 May 1872; spons. Jeremy Condron and Elizabeth Mahaffey. D. B. Cull

Henry, of George E. COOKE and Sarah Jane Hawk, b. 27 Apr. 1872, bapt. 30 May 1872; spons. John O'Brien and Agnes O'Brien. D. B. Cull

Edward, of John McGOVERN and Catherine Keck, b. 22 May 1872, bapt. 30 May 1872; spons. Joseph Butt and Philopena Butt. D. B. Cull

Edward B., of Andrew KECK and Sarah J. Sweeney, b. 1 June 1872, bapt. 9 June 1872; spons. George E. Cooke and Cecilia Duffy. D. B. Cull

William, of John FAGAN and Margaret Sweeney, b. 19 May 1872, bapt. 10 July 1872; spons. John Rafferty and Jane Rafferty. D. B. Cull

Ellen, of same, b. 19 May 1872, bapt. 10 July 1872; spons. Francis Rafferty and Mary O'Brien. D. B. Cull

Mary Ann, of John BUCK and Drusilla Leech, b. -- Mar. 1869, bapt. 14 July 1872; spons. James Stanton and Rachel Stanton. D. B. Cull

John, of Edward FERRY and Mary Mahaffey, b. 3 Aug. 1872, bapt. 17 Aug. 1872; spons. Bernard Quinn and Ellen Murphy. D. B. Cull

Ann, of John PARKESON and Theresa Sweeney, b. 27 Mar. 1872, bapt. 18 Aug. 1872; spons. Richard McCartney and Ellen Lawler. D. B. Cull

Charles, of James McCAFFERTY and Catherine Whister (?) [sic], bapt. 18 Aug. 1872; spons. James Fagan and Rosanna Duffy. D. B. Cull

John H., of John H. BARD and Alice Kelly, b. 11 Nov. 1870, bapt. 18 Aug. 1872; spons. Thomas Burns and Mary Casey. D. B. Cull

Joseph, of Patrick MAHAFFEY and Elizabeth Allen, b. 3 Aug. 1872, bapt. 7 Sept. 1872; spons. Patrick Cooney and Margaret Carey. D. B. Cull

Martha, of John McCARTNEY and Catherine Fagan, b. 6 Sept. 1872, bapt. 18 Sept. 1872; spons. John L. Lawler and Mary Lawler. D. B. Cull

Daniel, of Daniel RYAN and Mary Whelan, b. 12 Sept. 1872, bapt. 6 Oct. 1872; spons. William Keenan and Mary Keenan. D. B. Cull

Charles, of Joseph CAREY and Elizabeth Long, b. 5 Sept. 1871, bapt. 13 Oct. 1872; spons. Timothy Hocter and Bridget Ring. D. B. Cull

William, of William RING and Ellen Whelan, b. 12 Oct. 1872, bapt. 10 Nov. 1872; spons. James Murphy and Margaret Ring. D'Arcy

Edward, of Patrick Henry QUINN and Sarah Shelton, b. 7 Nov. 1872, bapt. 10 Nov. 1872; spon. Patrick Glackin and Bridget Shelton. D'Arcy

Anthony, of Andrew MOORE and Mary A. Cooney, b. 15 Nov. 1872, bapt. 25 Nov. 1872; spon. Joseph Carey and Catherine Moore. D'Arcy

Catherine E., of Michael P. MOLONEY and Sarah Yarrington, b. 17 Nov. 1872, bapt. 17 Jan. 1873 at Iron Valley; spon. Michael Maloney and Catherine Maloney. D. B. Cull

Anne, of Arthur MORGAN and Catherine Burke, b. 3 Feb. 1873, bapt. 9 Feb. 1873; spon. Martin Murphy and Catherine Butt. D'Arcy

Andrew, of Charles MULHOLLAND and Catherine Leech, b. 14 Feb. 1873, bapt. 23 Feb. 1873; spon. John McCormick and Ellen Leech. D'Arcy

Emma, of James SIMMONS and Isabella Sweeney, b. 22 Mar. 1873, bapt. 25 Mar. 1873; spon. Aloysius Stanton and Anne O'Brien. D'Arcy

Mary Catherine, of Thomas FITZPATRICK and Bridget Murphy, b. 28 Mar. 1873, bapt. 2 Apr. 1873; spon. Joseph Butt and Philopena Butt. D'Arcy

Robert, of William THACKER and Sarah J. McKenzie, b. 6 Mar. 1873, bapt. 6 Apr. 1873; spon. John Lawler and Rachel Stanton. D'Arcy

Martin SPRAUSE, aged agout 89 years, bapt. 2 May 1873. D'Arcy

William H., of Cassius FISHER and Mary J. Sprause, b. 20 June 1860, bapt. 2 May 1873; sponsor Patrick Murphy. D'Arcy

Henry, of John COONEY and Mary Moore, b. 29 Apr. 1873, bapt. 5 May 1873; spon. Patrick Cooney and Catherine Moore. D'Arcy

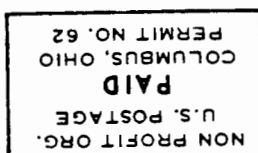
Catherine Bridget, of Michael S. MURPHY and Emily Harmon, b. 29 May 1873, bapt. 8 June 1873; spon. William Ring Jr. and Mary A. Hocter. D'Arcy

Ignatius A., of Redmond McKENZIE and Sarah E. McKenzie, b. 4 June 1873, bapt. 10 June 1873; spon. Ignatius R. Stanton and Catherine B. Stanton. D'Arcy

Elizabeth, of John HÄker and Catherine Beans, b. 3 May 1873, bapt. 23 June 1873; spon. Richard Shelton and Mary Glackin. D'Arcy

Hilah Catherine, of ---- Mc [The transcription abruptly ends here.]

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