

Dominican Order in Limerick

THE recent visit of Fr. Aniceto Fernandez, O.P., Master General of the Dominican Order, recalls some very interesting facts about the Dominican Order in Limerick.

The Dominican Priory of St. Saviour was founded in Limerick in 1227. The first friars were befriended by Donogh Cairbre O'Brien, King of Munster, and a direct descendant of Brien Boru, who had decisively defeated Danish power in Ireland in 1014. Donogh Cairbre O'Brien gave the friars gifts of land and property, and was buried in their church when he died in 1241.

Martyred

Bishop Terence Albert O'Brien, who was martyred by General Ireton during the Cromwellian Wars of 1651, was a member of the Limerick community. Because of conditions during Penal times, the friars had to abandon their original priory. On October 20th, 1780, they opened a house and Mass centre in Fish Lane, close to the present Mary Street. In 1816, when Fr. Joseph Hartigan was prior, the Dominicans moved to their present site in Glentworth Street.

Statue

A statue of Our Lady of Limerick is venerated in the Priory Church. This statue, a Rosary Madonna carved in wood, was given to the Dominicans by Patrick Sarsfield in 1640, in reparation for the execution of Sir John Bourke, of Brittas, by his uncle, John Sarsfield. The statue was hidden during Penal times, but its hiding place was always remembered, and in 1780 it was put out for veneration in the Church of St. Saviour.

At present there are 12 friars in the community of St. Saviour's. The Prior is Fr. Clement Lavery, who was elected to that office in May, 1970.

Charlie Tully dead

One of Ireland's best-known soccer players, Charlie Tully, who made his name with the famous Glasgow Celtic Club way back in the early 'fifties, died suddenly to-day. He was aged 47. Tully played with Cork Hibernians at outside-right towards the end of his playing career some years ago, and in 1960 guested for a Limerick Sel. against Glasgow Celtic in a thrilling 3-3 draw at the Markets Field.

Mrs. Catherine O'Brien

The death occurred at the Limerick Regional Hospital to-day of Mrs. Catherine O'Brien, 1 Clifton Villas, Ennis Road, Limerick. The deceased was mother of Rev. Tom O'Brien, S.J., Zambia; and Fr. Gerry O'Brien, O.S.M., Chicago. She was a member of a highly respected family in the City. She is survived by her husband, Thomas; sons, Willie, Noel, Leonard, Cecil, Kevin, James, and Frank; and daughter, Phyllis.

Remains will be removed to Holy Rosary Church, Ennis Road, this Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Requiem Mass tomorrow at 3 p.m. Funeral afterwards to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.