

BROTHER HERMAN EMIL SARY, O. CARM.

1864-1911

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

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Brother Herman Sary, known in the world as Emil Sary, was born in Sennheim, Alsace, November 20, 1865. His parents were Augustus Sary and Mary Ann Stemmelin. He made his grade studies at home and had entered what we would term high school when he decided to become a machinist. In the rounds he had to make because of his work he became acquainted with a blacksmith, John Huck by name, who was a Lutheran. Soon they became inseparable friends and resolved to seek their fortunes in America. Eventually Brother Herman became instrumental not only in bringing John Huck into the Church but also in leading him into the Carmelite Order where he was known as Brother Leo Huck. (Brother Leo's biography is given in Volume II, page 204 of THE SWORD).

In 1892 the two men arrived in Pittsburgh where they took rooms with the Rosenblatt family in Holy Trinity parish. Emil Sary obtained work as a machinist and John Huck as a blacksmith. They were more like brothers than friends.

Leo had become a convert to Catholicism in 1892; and, of course, being so closely united to his friend, it is not strange that when Brother Herman decided to enter the Carmelite Order, Brother Leo planned to enter also. Both entered the novitiate on August 27, 1897 at New Baltimore under Father Otto Wiedeman and made their solemn vows October 19, 1898. Brother Herman was first assigned to New Baltimore where he acted as gardener and general handyman. Later he was sent to Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh, where his kind and humorous disposition made him many friends. He was next transferred to St. Cyril College in Chicago where his services were not only appreciated but were very much needed, for besides being an expert machinist, he was an excellent plumber, rendering valuable service as such and saving many a bill.

During his stay in Chicago a very strange form of slow, creeping paralysis came upon him. He was able to work, but one arm became more and more useless. It was thought that the lighter work in a parish house would help him to regain his strength, and he was stationed at St. Joseph's parish, Leavenworth, Kansas. Here his sickness proved to be of a progressive nature and on December 18, 1911, he died in St. John's Hospital, Leavenworth.

Brother Herman was a model religious but at times proved to be moody. This was not noticeable at first. While in health he was of a jovial, light-hearted and happy nature. However, later—no doubt his gradual decline in health was responsible for it—he was subject to sudden changes of temperament, jovial and gay at one moment and wretched, irritable and despondent the next. In his agreeable moments he had a fund of interesting stories. He was a splendid mimic. Among other things he could imitate in a marvelous way the intricate movements of a machine. At such times every bone and muscle was in operation, jerking and twisting in some way. His audience never failed to roar with laughter.

His different accomplishments always kept him busy. He was a Frenchman at heart although Alsace in his time belonged to Germany. Neither he nor Brother Leo would have you call them anything but Frenchmen. They even placed their names in French over the doors of their cells. Brother Herman and Brother Leo came to the Order at a time when workmen were badly needed. The New Baltimore community was preparing for the Chicago expansion. Hard workers were in demand and Brother Herman was the machinist, the plumber, the carpenter and general repair man. He could often substitute as the Community tailor, if need be.

After they had been stationed in New Baltimore for a year or so, the Postulants and Frates gave them the nickname of "the Gold Dust twins." The Brothers seemed to enjoy the title.

Never were two men so different in appearance and personality, and never were there closer friends. Of a dark complexion Brother Leo was more of the rough and ready type. Brother Herman was fair and blond and inclined to be a bit timid and excitable. They were almost direct opposites, and yet they agreed with each other. Those who knew them realized how ably God carries out His eternal plans.

This biography would be remiss were it not to mention some of Brother Herman's excellent traits. Among others, mention must be made of his neatness and exactness. Whether when, as sacristan, he was in charge of the altar linens or when engaged in plumbing, his tidiness was almost feminine. He was equally exact about his own person and looked clean and spotless even in overalls. His own room was scrupulously kept. His punctuality was proverbial. As porter he met people with a pleasing kindness, always smiling. One can marvel at Brother Herman's patience as porter when one realizes how frequently in larger houses telephones and door-bells ring and how disturbing they can be to one often engaged in the performance of other work and in fulfilling the routine chores of the day. Yet he continued ever courteous and ever polite.

He also had great love for little children. When he passed through the school yard, little ones would flock around him, begging to hear another story, for he always had a wondrous supply at hand. It is a sign of real virtue to be able to adjust oneself to the whims and fancies of children, and Brother Herman did that very aptly. He seemed to understand the words of the poet: "To a child a rattle is a revelation, and a rag doll a thing to be adored."

His comparatively short life of fourteen years in religion was well spent. He died at the age of forty-six, young in years, but with the satisfaction of having achieved his goal in life, of having brought another to God and having placed him in the Order and on the path to perfection. The exigencies of religious life necessitated that Brother Herman and his protegee, Brother Leo, be separated for many years, but today they sleep side by side in the little churchyard of St. Boniface, nestling in the Kansas prairies. And we know that that friendship which bound them so intimately to each other and kept them so close to Almighty God in life, finds its fuller realization in the heavenly Carmel.