

Boston's Missionary Bishops

Bishop Thomas A. Emmet, SJ

Less than a year after Bishop Dinand's resignation, a new apostolic vicar was appointed for Jamaica. Thomas Addis Emmet was born in Boston on Aug. 23, 1873, the son of Edward and Julia (O'Shaughnessy) Emmet. After his primary and secondary education, which he received in Boston, he attended Boston College and on Aug. 14, 1893 he joined the Society of Jesus. Like his two predecessors, he spent his novitiate in Frederick, Maryland, pronouncing his first vows on Aug. 15, 1895. He continued his studies at the College of the Sacred Heart in Woodstock, Maryland. His ordination as a priest took place in Woodstock on July 30, 1909 at the hands of James Cardinal Gibbons. He took his final vows on Feb. 2, 1914.

Father Emmet was a member of the faculty of Georgetown University, subsequently served at St. George's College in Kingston, Jamaica, and was headmaster at Georgetown Preparatory School.

On July 3, 1930, Father Thomas Addis Emmet was named Titular Bishop of Tuscamia and Apostolic Vicar of Jamaica. On Sept. 21, 1930, Bishop Emmet was ordained a bishop in St. Mary's Church, Boston, by William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, assisted by Auxiliary Bishop John Bertram Peterson of Boston and Auxiliary Bishop John Michael McNamara of Baltimore. The sermon for this auspicious occasion was preached by the archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Father Richard James Cushing. When the future cardinal was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, he chose Bishop Emmet as one of his principal co-ordaining bishops.

Bishop Emmet suffered from poor health for more than a decade before his resignation on April 8, 1949. He died in Boston on Oct. 5, 1950, less than six months after the ordination of his successor.

Next week - Archbishop John J. McEleney, SJ



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