

Father Downing Is Observing His 46th Anniversary Today

Today Rev. Nelius Downing, popular pastor of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, is celebrating his forty-sixth birthday, and his host of friends are wishing him many happy returns.

Father Downing arrived in Clarksdale eight years ago to succeed Father Peter Keenan, who had served the Clarksdale Catholics faithfully and tirelessly for sixteen years.

Father Downing is known and liked for his genial disposition and charming personality.

He is admired for his love for humanity and his many acts of charity. No one in want or distress ever appealed to him without receiving help. His heart, hand and pocketbook are always open to a struggling human being regardless of creed or nationality.

He numbers his friends by the score and they are not confined to the members of his congregation.

His list of friends is made up of representatives of every denomination and his outstanding characteristic is his love for young people. The boys of the city seek his companionship as they intuitively know that he is their friend and would go any length to serve them or grant a favor.

Father Downing is a man of letters. He is a dynamic speaker and his sermons are masterpieces. Members of the congregation of St. Elizabeth's feel that they are fortunate in having so scholarly a man to lead them.

All Clarksdale will join in offering him the famous Rip Van Winkle toast, "May he live long and prosper."