



Title (Free Text Part) **Abp. Patrick A. Feehan Papers**  
Classification **History Records - Finding Aid**  
Owner Location **Patrick A. Feehan**  
Begin Date **7/31/1880**  
End Date **5/25/1903**  
Processor(s) **Hoffman, Donald**  
Date Created **10/11/2011 at 2:28 PM**  
Accession Number **198805907**  
Number of Boxes **1**  
Security **Unrestricted Access, Archives**  
Copyright Notice **No restrictions**  
Collection Language(s) **English; Latin**

### Biographical/Administrative History

Patrick Augustine Feehan was born at Killinall Tiperary, Ireland on August 29, 1829. At the age of sixteen, he entered Castle Knock College and two years later entered Maynooth. After spending five years in this famous center of ecclesiastical learning, he left Ireland for his newly chosen diocese of St. Louis. After only a few months of preparations at the Theological Seminary in Carondelet, Missouri, he was ordained a priest on November 1, 1852 by Archbishop Kenrick.

Feehan began his ministry by teaching in the Diocesan Seminary and doing parochial work at St. John's Church in St. Louis. In 1854, he became pastor of St. Michael's Church. During these Civil War years, Feehan served as a volunteer chaplain in a hospital established in his parish for wounded soldiers.

In 1865, Feehan was consecrated bishop of Nashville, Tennessee. With very limited resources and priests, Feehan began the major task of reconstruction of the churches and institutions destroyed in the Civil War. When this process of reconstruction was well underway, cholera and yellow fever swept the diocese taking the lives of 22 priests who had been recruited from Ireland. Feehan quickly began a second campaign for reconstruction.

On September 10, 1880, the Diocese of Chicago was elevated to the rank of an Archdiocese and Feehan was appointed the first Archbishop. He was installed in an imposing ceremony at Holy Name Cathedral on November 28, 1880.

Archbishop Feehan's episcopacy was a period of enormous growth as thousands of Catholic immigrants streamed into Chicago. Of the 119 parishes established by Feehan, 63 were national parishes designed to meet the special needs of the foreign born. To serve the needs of English speaking Catholics, 56 territorial parishes were established.

Feehan was a strong supporter of Catholic education and he encouraged the formation of parochial schools. He increased the numbers of hospitals, asylums, homes for the aged, and cemeteries.

In 1883, Feehan went to Rome to prepare for the Third Council of Baltimore. In 1887, he convened the first Archdiocesan Synod to promulgate the decrees of the Council and to establish certain irremovable pastors, a board to conduct canonical examinations for Holy Orders, and a board of school examiners for various sections of the diocese.

Because of Feehan's age and failing health, the Rev. Alexander McGavick was consecrated auxiliary bishop in 1899. However, due to a difference between the two, the Rev. Peter Muldoon was consecrated as a second auxiliary bishop.

Feehan died on July 12, 1902. He was buried in First Calvary Cemetery after a service at the Cathedral of the Holy Name, and then was transferred to the Bishop's Mausoleum in Mount Carmel Cemetery in 1912.

### Provenance

The materials in this collection were transferred from the Cardinal's Residence on 6/19/1982.

ditional material (11 items) were transferred from the University of St. Mary of the Lake on 9/24/1994.

### Separations

Other materials concerning Archbishop Feehan are available in the Madaj Collection.

### Scope & Content

This collection consists of correspondence to Archbishop Feehan from the Cardinal Prefects of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, from the Apostolic Delegate, from Cardinal Gibbons, from a parishioner, from a religious sister, from a parish committee, and a letter from the Archbishop to all pastors. It also contains Archbishop Feehan's last will.

The second accrual consists of letters from a parishioner and a religious sister to the Archbishop, a letter from the Archbishop to all diocesan pastors, and the Archbishop's last will (including letters of testament and proof of loss).

### Series Description

### Contacts

Feehan, Patrick A. (Archbishop) (Client)

### Box List

Box	Record Number	HIST/H3300/63	Classification	History Records - Historical Records
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Various Bishops</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1868</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1915</b>	DB Box Number <b>32431.11</b>
Folder	Record Number	HIST/H3300/63#3	Classification	History Records - Historical Records
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Archbishop Patrick Feehan</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1880</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1896</b>	DB Box Number <b>32431.11</b>
Folder	Record Number	HIST/H3300/63#4	Classification	History Records - Historical Records
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Archbishop Patrick Feehan</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1902</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1903</b>	DB Box Number <b>32431.11</b>
Finding Aid	Record Number	FIND/12	Classification	History Records - Finding Aid
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Abp. Patrick A. Feehan Papers</b>				
Begin Date	<b>7/31/1880</b>	End Date	<b>5/25/1903</b>	