



Title (Free Text Part) **Bishop James T. Duggan Papers**
Classification **History Records - Finding Aid**
Owner Location **James Duggan**
Begin Date **10/17/1868**
End Date **3/31/1869**
Processor(s) **Hoffman, Donald**
Date Created **10/11/2011 at 11:00 AM**
Accession Number **198805905**
Number of Boxes **1**
Security **Unrestricted Access, Archives**
Copyright Notice **No restrictions**
Collection Language(s) **English**

Biographical/Administrative History

James Duggan was born in Maynooth County Kildare, Ireland, on May 22, 1825. He made his early studies at an ecclesiastical school in Ballaghadareen. But before he was ready to enter the famed major seminary at Maynooth, he responded to a call for priestly recruits sent out by Archbishop Peter Kenrick of St. Louis in 1842, and he was sent to complete his theological studies at St. Vincent's College Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he was ordained in 1847.

Assigned to the Cathedral of St. Louis, Duggan soon earned a reputation as a scholarly and eloquent orator. In 1853, he was appointed administrator of the Diocese of Chicago following the resignation of Bishop VandeVelde. In 1857, Duggan returned to St. Louis and was made pastor of the church of the Immaculate Conception and Vicar General. On May 1, 1857, at the age of 31, he was consecrated titular bishop of Antigone and coadjutor to Archbishop Kenrick. After Bishop O'Regan, Chicago's third bishop, resigned in 1858, Duggan once again became administrator and on January 21, 1859, he received letters appointing him the fourth bishop of Chicago.

Under Bishop Duggan's administration the system of parochial schools began to take form, twenty-one new parishes were established, and religious orders of men and women were invited to established parishes, schools, orphanages, and hospitals.

Bishop Duggan reorganized St. Mary of the Lake University, located at Chicago and State near the Cathedral. A new building was dedicated and in 1863, the seminary department was established along with the schools of law and medicine. However, continuing disagreements on administration and finance arose between the bishop and the faculty, and by 1868, the university was closed.

Bishop Duggan was an accomplished orator and besides regularly preaching in the Cathedral, he frequently lectured by invitation in public. Duggan gave the funeral elegy for the "Little Giant", Stephen A. Douglas. In addition, Duggan founded the Catholic Institute whose purpose was to sponsor lectures by prominent intellectuals such as Orestes Brownson.

Bishop Duggan's episcopate was noted particularly for his conduct in the Civil War. The sympathies of Duggan were strongly pro-Union and he was a strong supporter of the Irish Brigade. He released priests to serve as military chaplains, assigned Sisters of Mercy to nurse the wounded, and took an active part in war relief organizations.

During the latter years of Duggan's administration, his erratic temperament and failing health resulted in many disputes within the diocese. Various charges of maladministration were made known to the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Duggan's mentor, Archbishop Kenrick, investigated the charges and claimed that they were without foundation. Nevertheless, Bishop Duggan suffered a mental breakdown in 1869 ; he was confined to a sanitarium run by the Sisters of Charity outside of St. Louis where he lived for the next 30 years until his death on March 27, 1899.

Provenance

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

Accruals

Separations**Scope & Content**

This collection consists of two circular letters issued by Bishop Duggan and a list of taxes for orphans, seminaries, and Cathedraticum.

Other materials concerning Bishop Duggan are available in the Madaj Collection.

Series Description**Contacts**

Duggan, James (Most Rev) (Client)

Box List

Box	Record Number	HIST/H3300/63	Classification	History Records - Historical Records
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Title (Free Text Part)	Various Bishops			
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Begin Date	1/1/1868	End Date	12/31/1915	DB Box Number	32431.11
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Folder	Record Number	HIST/H3300/63#1	Classification	History Records - Historical Records
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Title (Free Text Part)	Bishop James J. Duggan			
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Begin Date	1/1/1868	End Date	12/31/1869	DB Box Number	32431.11
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Finding Aid	Record Number	FIND/9	Classification	History Records - Finding Aid
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