



Irish Capuchin Archives

Descriptive List

Research Papers for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (c.1620-1656) and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710)

Collection Code: CA/SERV

A collection of documentary evidence and research papers compiled for the beatification cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The collection includes transcribed source material, research notes, correspondence, publications and ephemera relating to the beatification process of these two Servants of God.

Compiled by Provincial Archivist

April 2018

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Fig. 1: Beatification Prayer Cards for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (c.1620-1656) 'S.D. Fiacrius a Kilkennia CAP (†1656)' and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710) 'S.D. Joannes Baptista ab Ultonia CAP (†1710)'.

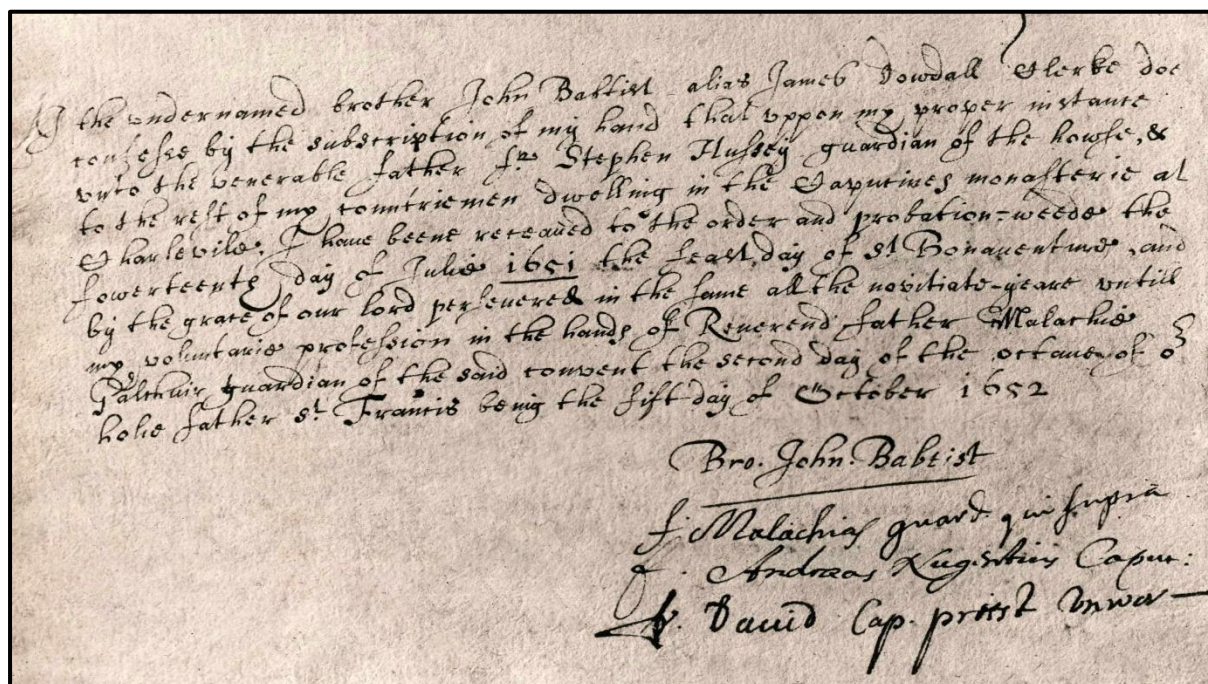


Fig. 2: Act of Profession of Br. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710) at the Irish Capuchin Friary in Charleville, France, 5 October 1652.

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Identity Statement

Reference code	IE/CA/SERV
Title	Research Papers for Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall
Creator(s)	Irish Capuchins
Date range	1902-1989; predominately c.1917-1930
Level of Description	Fonds
Extent	6 boxes, comprising 73 files and 80 items and approximately 3,593 pp

Context

Biographies

Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (c.1620-1656)

Information on the early life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin is extremely scarce. His baptismal name was John Tobin and it is likely that he was born in Fethard, County Tipperary, in about 1620. Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC (d. 1755) styles him 'of Kilkenny'. This may have been because he ministered in Kilkenny for many years. In the Rev. Patrick Francis Moran's *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (1879), Vol. I, p. 422, it is noted that he is from Fethard. In July 1637, Tobin entered the Capuchin novitiate at Charleville (now Charleville-Mézières) in France and was given the religious name of Fiacre. He made his profession on 2 July 1638, and on the completion of his studies he took his vows. He was ordained to the priesthood and was sent to Ireland in 1646. The principal scene of his priestly ministry appears to have been in Kilkenny. The city was captured by Cromwellian forces in March 1650 and Tobin was apprehended early in 1651. A letter from Fr. Antony Nugent OSFC to Fr. Christopher Kearney OSFC, Commissary General of the Irish Capuchins (d. c.1656), mentions that Fr. Fiacre was in prison in Kilkenny when he was passing through there on his way to Waterford (see **CA/SERV/1/2/3**). Tobin spent nine months in confinement before being released following an appeal by some prominent citizens in Kilkenny. On 6 January 1653 the civil authorities in Ireland issued an order that all priests should leave the country within twenty days under penalty of an English statute of 1585 (27 Eliz., c. 2). This statute had made all priests who failed to leave automatically guilty of treason, and those who abetted them guilty of felony. Soon afterwards, Fr. Fiacre left Ireland for France and wrote from Nantes on 3 March 1653. He was resident in the Irish Capuchin house in Charleville in May 1653 (see **CA/SERV/1/1/9**). He returned to Ireland and continued to minister in the country for two years until he was apprehended again in November 1655. In the *Narratiuncula* of 1656 (see **CA/SERV/1/1/2**) his place of capture is given as '*apud Fingallian Hiberniae tractum*'. In the order for payment of capture-money to Thomas Baker the place is given as 'ye Barony of Balrudery [or Balrothery]' in County Dublin (see **CA/SERV/1/1/4**). Following his examination in Dublin, Tobin was confined to prison and was afterwards sent to Waterford to await transportation to a plantation on the island of Barbados. The ship due to transport to him was detained in Waterford Harbour as a result of unfavourable sea conditions. Fr. Fiacre was held on board ship along with other Catholic priests awaiting a similar fate. He died on 6 March 1656.

Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710)

James Dowdall was a native of Glaspistoll (or Glasspistall) near Termonfeckin and Clogherhead in County Louth. The ruins of Glaspistoll Castle are located close to the village of Clogherhead and this was the former residence of the Dowdalls in the county. There is some uncertainty regarding his date of birth. In a report to the Capuchin Commissary General on 10 Sept. 1708, Fr. Andrew Nugent OSFC referred to Dowdall: '*Iam agit octogesimum annum*', which suggests that he was born in about

1628. Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC stated that he was aged 84 at the time of his death in 1710 which indicates that he was born in about 1626. Dowdall joined the Irish Capuchins in Charleville, France, on 14 July 1651, taking the religious name of John Baptist. He made his profession on 5 October 1652. The year of Fr. Dowdall's arrival in Ireland is nowhere stated definitively but he seems to have been sent on the mission soon after his ordination as a priest. In a report sent to the Congregation of Propaganda Fide by Fr. Barnaby Barnewall OSFC on 22 December 1669 it is stated that Dowdall was '*decem abhinc annis in missionis hujus arenam descendens*'. This suggests that he arrived in Ireland in about 1659. (see entry 3 at **CA/SERV/2/1/2**). In June 1666 he attended the assembly of Irish clergy held in Dublin (See Fr. Peter Walsh's *History of the Remonstrance*, entry 2 at **CA/SERV/2/1/2**). In 1670 he travelled from Ireland to Brussels to report to the Internuncio on the activities of the Irish Capuchins (see **CA/SERV/5/2**). A year later, Archbishop Oliver Plunkett (1625-1681) stated that Dowdall was one of the Capuchin friars ministering in Drogheda. An entry in the Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Custody and Mission of the Irish Capuchins dated July 1701 indicates that Fr. Dowdall was at that point ministering in England. On 2 June 1708, Fr. Andrew Nugent OSFC was appointed Vice-Custos of the Capuchin mission in England. In a report sent to the Custos on 10 September 1708, Fr. Nugent confirms that Fr. Dowdall was one of the friars working in England (see entry 10 at **CA/SERV/2/1/2**). It appears that he was arrested soon afterwards. An extract from the *Epitome Historica* (Heidelberg, 1750) by Fr. Hierotheus Confluentinus OSFC noted that he was frequently captured by 'barbarous Calvinists'. The Rev. Patrick Francis Moran's *Persecutions of Irish Catholics* (1866) suggested that he afterwards wasted away in a London prison from hunger and cold. There is a dearth of evidence relating to the precise circumstances of Dowdall's arrest, imprisonment and death. As Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. admitted in 1919, 'it is unfortunate and strange that the report of 1708 seems to be the last available'. He later suggested that that they would 'need more evidence particularly [for] John Baptist Dowdall, of whom we have so little It is not clear if he was arrested in Dublin or in England and we have no mention of his being tried before a court or sentenced' (see **CA/SERV/4/7**). No evidence for the precise location of Dowdall's imprisonment in London was ever discovered by the Capuchin researchers. The principal authority therefore remained Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC. In his *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741) he noted that Dowdall died in '*Londini in Anglia 1710 aetatis 84*'. The date of his death was given as 20 February 1710.

History of the Beatification Cause of the Irish Martyrs

This collection comprises papers relating to research for the beatification cause of two Irish Capuchin martyrs of the seventeenth century, Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (c.1620-1656) and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710). These two friars were among a very large group of Irish martyrs held to have suffered for the Catholic faith during periods of religious persecution between 1537 and 1714. Although the lives of these martyrs were a source of edification for the faithful, there was a long delay in starting investigations into their causes. In the eighteenth century, the Irish bishops, fully occupied with a pastoral ministry in circumstances which were very difficult, did not deem it opportune to pursue the beatification cause of the martyrs. Further complicating the investigation was the fact that many of the original records of these martyrs were lost due to the danger of keeping such evidence during a period of penal restrictions on the practice of Catholicism.

Interest in the cause was reawakened in the second half of the nineteenth century when Paul Cullen (1803-1878) assumed the leadership of the Irish Church. His interest in the Irish martyrs was kindled by his nephew Patrick Francis Moran (1830-1911). Between 1856 and 1866, when he was Vice-Rector of the Irish Pontifical College in Rome, Moran engaged in historical research in the Vatican Archives, the Archives of the Propaganda Fide, and elsewhere in Rome. The long-term result of Moran's research and publications was the official commencement of the cause. He set about persuading Cardinal Cullen to get the Irish hierarchy to take up the cause of the Irish Martyrs. Moran was appointed Bishop of Ossory in 1872 and was given the role of 'Promoter of the Cause of the

Canonization of the Irish Martyrs'. This appointment was the first official indication of the Irish hierarchy's intention to take all the appropriate steps to advance the canonization of the numerous martyrs of religious persecution in Ireland. Most of the credit for the preliminary work for the cause belongs to Moran. His unflagging zeal for the cause was still apparent even after he was sent to Australia as Archbishop of Sydney (1884) and created Cardinal (1885). He had a kindred spirit in William Joseph Walsh (1841-1921), President of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, who was appointed Archbishop of Dublin on 3 July 1885. In October 1886, Archbishop Walsh appointed Fr. Denis Murphy SJ Postulator of the cause of the Irish martyrs.

A major impediment to advancing the cause was the lack of scholars conversant with the complexities of Irish recusant history and its sources. This situation was made worse when Fr. Denis Murphy SJ died suddenly on 18 May 1896 and a replacement could not be readily found. Nevertheless, the arduous work of research continued and on 12 February 1915 Pope Benedict XV gave his permission for the introduction of the cause of 257 named Irish martyrs or Servants of God. The decree *In Hibernia, heroum nutrice* was published in the [*Acta Apostolicae Sedis*](#) and the Archbishop of Dublin was authorized to hold an Apostolic Process with regard to the Irish martyrs.

The Capuchins and the Cause of the Irish Martyrs

It was a source of severe disappointment to the Irish Capuchins that no friar of the Order had appeared in the list of martyrs referred to in the papal decree introducing the cause in February 1915. In the initial stages of the preliminary process documents regarding several Irish Capuchins who had suffered for the faith had been supplied to Fr. Denis Murphy SJ. Evidently, these had been overlooked following his death in 1896. The explanation given to the Capuchins was that the papers had probably been lost but many years later Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. (1876-1965) discovered evidence which had been submitted to Fr. Murphy by Fr. Benvenutus Guy OFM Cap. (1860-1927). It is likely that the Postulator had simply forgotten them when drawing up the list of cases to be examined. It seemed that the opportunity for including any of the reputed Irish Capuchin martyrs in the list of those whose causes were to be investigated had passed. However, in January 1917, the Capuchins were made aware of a reference to the death of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC in Alphons Bellesheim's *History of the Catholic Church* (1890-1). The Capuchins were of the opinion that Fr. Fiacre's case was sufficiently strong to warrant his addition to the causes to be introduced. They immediately contacted Fr. Humbert MacInerney OP, Vice-Postulator for the Irish martyrs, to ascertain if it was possible to join any additional causes to the pre-existing martyrs' list. It was agreed that Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. (1875-1953) should prepare a statement for the Vice-Postulator. Soon afterwards, a draft of evidence in favour of both Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC was submitted. Fr. MacInerney affirmed that Fr. Fiacre's case was strong but opined that Fr. John Baptist's cause would require more corroborating evidence.

Archbishop Walsh constituted an ecclesiastical court to investigate the claims of the two Irish Capuchins. The informative process opened on 4 June 1917 with three Capuchin friars called as witnesses, Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap., Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. (1870-1957), who was later replaced due to ill-health by Fr. Paul Neary OFM Cap. (1856-1939), and Fr. Matthew O'Connor OFM Cap. The court held twenty-three sessions from June to October 1917. All the evidence and documents were translated into Latin and were sent to the Congregation of Rites (now called the Congregation for the Causes of Saints) for adjudication. Within two years, the Congregation issued decrees authorising the introduction of the Capuchins' cause, thereby joining the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC to the general cause of the Irish Servants of God. Their cases would be heard at the Apostolic Process for the Irish martyrs which was to be held in the Dublin Archdiocese. The addition of the two Capuchins brought the number of martyrs to 260. Peter Talbot (1620-1680), Archbishop of Dublin, had also been added following a personal request from Archbishop Walsh in February 1917.

Archival Research for the Cause of the Capuchin Martyrs

The task facing those involved in the Apostolic Process for the Irish martyrs was enormous. There was an absence of judicial records for most of the martyrs who had been put to death under martial law. Moreover, there was a dearth of contemporary evidence because many records, letters, and papers had been lost during the persecution and the military campaigns of the seventeenth century. A number of Irish Capuchin friars were engaged in diligent searches for relevant material in libraries and archives in England, France, Italy and elsewhere on the continent. The First World War put a temporary stop to this work but the research resumed after the cessation of hostilities. Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. travelled to Rome in May 1919 specifically to search for documents relating to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Fr. Francis Hayes (1866-1946), Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap., and Fr. Dominic O'Connor OFM Cap. (1883-1935) were appointed to assist the witnesses who had already given evidence in the preliminary process. It was agreed that Fr. Francis would undertake research in the Public Record Office in Dublin, and in Trinity College and in Marsh's Library. Fr. Stanislaus was appointed to search for documents in the Public Record Office and British Museum in London. Fr. Dominic was requested to examine sources in France especially in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and in local archives in Troyes and in Chaumont which held the records of seventeenth-century Irish Capuchin foundations in Charleville, Bar-sur-Aube and Vassy. All this research was carried out from the end of 1919.

In Les Archives de l'Aube in Troyes, Fr. Dominic discovered many documents relating to the Irish Capuchins. Copies of these documents were procured for the Irish Capuchin Archives (see **CA/EMT/3/2**). The discoveries in Troyes included a manuscript volume titled 'The Book of the Vestitions' containing the Acts of Profession of both Fiacre Tobin and John Baptist Dowdall (see **CA/SERV/6/1/1**). A full transcript of 'The Book of Vestitions' was later procured for the Irish Capuchins Archives (see **CA/EMT/3/2/1/1**). Many more documents were uncovered by Fr. Dominic including *Registre aux deliberations des consultants et definiteurs des Capucins Irlandais de Bar-sur-Aube et Vassy* (see **CA/SERV/2/1/7**). Additional references relating to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall were retrieved from this and other manuscripts in the French repositories. In October 1922, Fr. Dominic was sent to America and was thus no longer in a position to assist in the preparation of evidence for the Capuchin martyrs.

In February 1923, Fr. Stanislaus travelled to Italy in the hope of discovering further material to advance the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. In Rome, he undertook research in the Archives of Propaganda Fide, in the Archivio di Stato di Roma (the municipal archives), and in the Vatican Archives. Searches were also made in the municipal archives of Florence, Venice and Milan. Fr. Stanislaus would express his disappointment at the very meagre results which accrued from his research in Italy. In the Capuchin General Archives (Archivio Generale Cappuccini), he discovered a list of Irish Capuchins, *hoc anno 1702 in Missions et Custodia Hiberniae existentium*, which contained the name of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall (see entry 14 at **CA/SERV/5/2**). Many more documents were found in the Archives of Propaganda Fide, copies of which procured for the Irish Capuchin Archives (**CA/EMT/3/4**), but these did not contain anything specifically relating to either Fr. Fiacre Tobin or Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. Similarly, the municipal archives in Florence, Venice and Milan were devoid of any references to either friar. However, Fr. Stanislaus's visit to the Trivulzi Palace in Milan in May 1923 did yield one significant discovery in the form of the History of the Nunciature of Giovanni Battista Rinuccini (also referred to as the *Commentarius Rinuccianus* or the 'Rinuccini Memoir') which Fr. Stanislaus would later publish in full (1932-1949). See **CA/EMT/1/3**.

Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. was rather more successful in his research discovering important documents relating to the arrest and imprisonment of Fr. Fiacre Tobin in the Irish Public Record Office. It was exceedingly fortunate that Fr. Francis procured certified copies of these documents (see **CA/SERV/1/1/4**) as the originals (along with almost most of the entire collection of the Public Record Office) were destroyed in the disastrous Four Courts' fire at the outset of the Civil War in June 1922. Use was also made of *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum*

(c.1656) by Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC (c.1623-1678), a complete copy of which had been procured for the Irish Capuchin Archives in 1904. Bibliothèque Municipale, Troyes, France (MS 706). See: http://ccfr.bnf.fr/portailccfr/jsp/index_view_direct_anonymous.jsp?record=eadcgm:EADC:D02A12470. The copy in the Irish Capuchin Archives is located at **CA/EMT/1/2/3**. This manuscript volume contained several important passages dealing with Fr. Fiacre's martyrdom. Additional information was also found in the above-mentioned Rinuccini Memoir and was used by the Capuchin witnesses in the Apostolic Process. The principal authority for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC was Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly's *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741). The original manuscript was held in the Archivio di Stato di Milano and a complete transcript of the volume was procured for the Irish Capuchin Archives in 1910 (see **CA/EMT/3/3/2**). Despite exhaustive searches no state records relating to the trial and imprisonment of Fr. Dowdall were found by the various Capuchin witnesses and researchers. It was surmised that Fr. Dowdall had used an *alias* in order to conceal his identity which may have explained the difficulties in discovering official documents relating to him.

One of the most important discoveries made by the Capuchin researchers was the uncovering by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. of an oral tradition relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin in County Tipperary (see **CA/SERV/1/2/5**). Previously, the Capuchins were unaware of the existence of any tradition in the locality where Fr. Fiacre was born. From 1924-5, Fr. Francis made three visits to districts around Fethard in County Tipperary and recorded interviews which seemed to suggest the survival of various local traditions and family folklore connected with Fr. Fiacre's death. A special session was held in Clonliffe College in Dublin on 9 February 1926 at which Fr. Francis testified to the existence of this tradition. Fr. Stanislaus also included information relating to the folklore in his extensive summation of the Apostolic Process at **CA/SERV/5/1**.

Progress of the Cause of the Irish Martyrs

The process of beatification consisted of two parts: the first; called the Ordinary Process, began in the diocese where the Servant of God died or where they had lived for a long time (especially in the last years of their life); the second part, the Apostolic Process, took place under the careful supervision of the Congregation of Rites in Rome. The Ordinary Process for the cause of the Irish martyrs was long and drawn out, lasting thirteen years from 1917 to 1930. All the documents and evidence compiled by the Capuchin witnesses were sealed and sent to the Congregation of Rites. Sealed copies were also placed in the Irish Capuchin Archives (see **CA/SERV/5/4**). These copies were to remain sealed until the termination of the process in Rome. It was clear that the Capuchins were reasonably confident of the strength of the cases for the two friars. There were, however, a number of caveats. In 1919, Fr. Angelus Healy admitted that 'the absence of any oral tradition about the martyrdom of these two Servants of God or any form of devotion towards them or miracles or anything definite and certain as to their actual deaths' was a cause for concern (see **CA/SERV/4/7**). This helps explain why the aforementioned discovery in 1924 by Fr. Francis Hayes of an oral tradition connected with Fr. Fiacre Tobin was given such prominence in his cause. Similarly, Fr. Albert Bibby OFM Cap. (1877-1925) affirmed that he had heard that 'the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin will succeed, but with regard to that of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall [it] is doubtful'. (see **CA/SERV/4/6**). The mounting costs of the process and the time involved in conducting research in foreign archives and libraries also took their toll. By June 1918 the existing beatification fund had been exhausted and a direct approach was made to the Irish hierarchy for assistance. The bishops in turn appealed to the Irish people (see **CA/SERV/4/8**). Their response was over £26,000.

The sheer bulk of the authenticated copies of evidence (twenty-three large volumes) transmitted to the Congregation of Rites by the Dublin Archdiocese after the completion of the Ordinary Process was the principal obstacle to any rapid advancement of the cause. Due in part to this difficulty, and the large number of similar causes of large groups (the English martyrs, the martyrs of the French Revolution and the Chinese martyrs) the cause of the Irish Servants of God lay in abeyance. The establishment of a Diocesan Commission for Causes by Archbishop Dermot J. Ryan

(1924-1985) in 1975 gave it renewed impetus. Monsignor John J. Hanly (d. 20 Jan. 2016), Rector of the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, was also appointed Postulator of the cause of the Irish martyrs. He was the driving force behind the completion of the process for Oliver Plunkett (1625-1681) who was canonized by Pope Paul VI on 12 October 1975. (He had been declared a martyr by the Church on 17 March 1918 and became Blessed Oliver at a beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on 23 May 1920). In the 1980s, Fr. Agostino Amore OFM, the *Relator Generalis* at the Congregation for Causes of Saints advised Monsignor Hanly to select the best documented cases for further investigation. The Dublin Commission for Causes selected seventeen of the original Irish martyrs. Further research was carried out on these cases and the resulting evidence was published in 1988 (see **CA/SERV/8/1**). Ultimately, these seventeen martyrs (including Margaret Ball, Dermot O'Hurley and Patrick O'Healy OFM) were beatified by Pope John Paul II on 27 September 1992. The remaining 243 cases (including Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC) were postponed for later and more thorough investigation.

Content and Structure

Scope and Content

The collection contains copies of documentary evidence and notes assembled by witnesses and researchers for the Apostolic Process for the beatification cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. In many instances, the documents provide direct evidence for their martyrdom. Other sources supply evidence for major steps in their careers or proofs of their activities and indications of their religious allegiance. The social upheavals of the mid-seventeenth century were responsible for the loss of many records of local, provincial and central administration, as well as for the destruction of several family and estate records. Much worse was to follow. In 1922 the Irish Public Record Office was destroyed by an explosion. Because of the destruction of much of the domestic Irish records, research for the beatification causes of the Irish martyrs in the early modern period was based upon sources available in various overseas archives. The primary sources for the documentary evidence relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC was found the Archives of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide (*Archivio della Sacra Congregazione de Propaganda Fide*) in Rome. The papers include official communications between the friars and their superiors, and between the Commissary Generals of the Irish Capuchins and the Prefect of Propaganda Fide. The collection also includes copies of letters, reports and petitions sent by the Irish superiors to Propaganda Fide, and the replies and instructions returned to the superiors from the Congregation. A particularly important example of a report sent to Propaganda Fide was the *Narratiuncula* written by Fr. Christopher Kearney OSFC, Commissary General, on 14 March 1656, referring to the death of Fr. Fiacre Tobin. (see **CA/SERV/1/1/2**)

The two Irish Capuchin historians, Fr. Richard O'Ferrall OSFC (d. 1663) and Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC (c.1623-1678), were not reckoned to be martyrologists. Nevertheless, their monumental history of the Irish Confederate wars and the nuncature of Archbishop Rinuccini, which was composed between 1661 and 1666, contains descriptions of the sufferings and deaths of many priests and bishops in the 1640s and 1650s. It has a lengthy account of the martyrdom of Fr. Fiacre Tobin. Other important sources of evidence for Fr. Fiacre include Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly's *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741), Rev. Patrick Francis Moran's *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (1879) and Fr. Pellegrino da Forlì's, *Annali dell' Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini* (1882-5). The collection includes numerous extracts from these sources providing details on Fr. Fiacre's ministry, imprisonment and death.

The chief source for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC is Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly's *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae*. This volume was written in the Irish Capuchin Friary in Bar-sur-Aube, France, in 1741. The original manuscript is held in the Archivio di Stato di Milano. Donnelly provides the fullest account of Fr. Dowdall's imprisonment and death. Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM

Cap. outlined the reasons why Donnelly should be considered a reliable authority on Fr. Dowdall. 'He was a contemporary of Fr. Dowdall who was sent on the Irish mission in 1659. Fr. Donnelly was received into the Capuchin Order in 1686. That is 27 years afterwards. Father Dowdall died in 1710. At this time Fr. Donnelly was 24 years in the Order so that during these years he had every opportunity of knowing all the facts concerning the life and death of Fr. Dowdall. ... His account of the actual death of Father Dowdall is minute and detailed' (see **CA/SERV/5/3**). The collection also includes other documentary sources containing corroborating evidence for Fr. Dowdall's martyrdom. These include letters from the Archives of Propaganda Fide, the *Bullarium Ordinis Minorum Francisci Capuccinorum* (1884), and the aforementioned *Annali dell' Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini* (1882-5) by Fr. Pellegrino da Forlì OSFC (1812-1884). Fr. Pellegrino filled all the major offices in the Order, including Guardian, Definitor, and Provincial Minister of the Province of Bologna. He was elected Definitor General of the Order in 1872 and continued to hold that office until 1884. It was during this period that he wrote the *Annali*, for which he had at his disposal official documents held in the Capuchin General Archives. Fr. Pellegrino added significant detail to the account of Fr. Dowdall's death.

The documents listed in this catalogue were compiled to establish the martyrdom of both Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The claims put forward on behalf of these Servants of God was that they were arrested and imprisoned and ultimately suffered death *in odium fidei* (in hatred of the faith). It should be noted that Servant of God is an expression used for a member of the Church whose life and works are being investigated for official recognition. It was not considered a canonical title by the Church (as for instance 'Venerable' and 'Blessed' are). Nevertheless, the collection suggests a genuine interest in the Capuchin martyrs and a great desire on behalf of the friars to see them honoured officially by the Apostolic See.

System of Arrangement

The material has been catalogued (2018) and a new arrangement has been imposed upon the fonds. The collection has been divided into eight series which have been further divided into sub-series. The papers in each series represent a distinct grouping. The first series includes transcribed copies of documentary evidence and research notes pertaining to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The second series comprises research material relating to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The third series includes primarily administrative documents relating to the Ordinary Process in the Dublin Archdiocese and the examination of witnesses in the causes of the two Capuchin martyrs. This section includes the *Positio Martyrium Capuccinorum* of 1919 (see **CA/SERV/3/2**) which sets out the documentary evidence for the martyrdom of the two Capuchin Servants of God. The fourth section contains correspondence relating to either research on the Capuchin martyrs or the Apostolic Process for their beatification. The fifth series contains compilations of documents used by witnesses in the causes of the two friars. These important summaries were compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. in the 1930s and 1940s. This section also includes the still-sealed evidence of Fr. Matthew O'Connor OFM Cap. (see **CA/SERV/5/4**). The sixth series includes visual material in the form of photographic reproductions of manuscript documents used as evidence and a collection of illustrated prayer cards which were printed for devotional purposes. Series seven contains a small collection of newspaper clippings relating to the causes. The final series contains copies of the volumes prepared for the beatification cause of seventeen of the Irish martyrs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Archival History

The fonds form part of the archival collection of the Irish Province of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. The collection is held at the Provincial Archives, Capuchin Friary of St. Mary of the Angels, Church Street, Dublin.

Postnominal Abbreviation

The Capuchin Franciscans are an order of friars within the Catholic Church, among the chief offshoots of the Observant Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor) founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209. The Capuchins have used several postnominal abbreviations during their existence. In Latin, the Order is officially referred to as the *Ordo Fratrum Minorum Capuccinorum* (Order of Friars Minor Capuchin) usually abbreviated to OFM Cap. Up until about the second decade of the twentieth century the postnominal abbreviation of OSFC (Latin: *Ordinis Santi Francisci Capuccinorum*) was widely used. The text of this catalogue broadly reflects this change and utilises the older postnominal abbreviation of OSFC to refer to friars living from the foundation of the Capuchins in 1520 up until the first decades of the twentieth century.

Access and Descriptive Control

Language	The majority of the material within this collection is written in English and Latin. Some specified material is in French and Italian.
Physical characteristics	The papers are generally in good condition. Some tearing, water damage and mould is evident on some of the material.
Archivist's note	Descriptive list compiled by Provincial Archivist.
Conventions	<i>Irish Guidelines for Archival Description</i> (2009)/ISAD(G), 2 nd Ed.
Date of description	April 2018
Access Conditions	Access is open to bona fide researchers.
Reproduction Conditions	Reproduction and licensing rules available on request.

1. Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (c.1620-1656)

Level: Series

Date of Creation: c.1914-1935

Scope and Content: The series includes transcribed copies of documentary evidence and research notes pertaining to the life and death of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC.

Format: Manuscript, typescript, bound volume and clipping

Extent: 30 files; 14 items; 1,870 pp

1.1. Document Transcriptions

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: c.1919-1924

Scope and Content: The sub-series contains transcribed copies of documentary evidence relating to the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC.

Format: Manuscript and typescript

Extent: 10 files; 674 pp

CA/SERV/1/1/1 Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Typescript

Latin and English

24 pp

- List of documents regarding Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. The list includes references to the Rinuccini Memoir, *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum* (c.1656) by Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC, Fr. Pellegrino da Forli OSFC, *Annali dell' Ordine dei frati minori cappuccini* (Milan, 1882-5), and *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (1879) by the Rev. Patrick Francis Moran. Typescript, 5 pp.
- Extracts from sources giving accounts of the death of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. The file includes extracts from the following sources:
The Report of 1656 (Archives of Propaganda Fide, Hibernia, Vol. 298, f. 999). Latin.
'Little notes for to helpe my memory in matters occureing from time to time' (1656-60) by Fr. Bernardine O'Ferrall OSFC. The original is held in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes (See transcript at **CA/EMT/3/2/1/4**).
Letter from Fr. Bernardine O'Ferrall OSFC dated 20 July 1656.
The Rinuccini Memoirs. Typescript, 19 pp.

CA/SERV/1/1/2 Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

Latin and English

26 pp

- Copy '*Narratiuncula*' by Fr. Christopher Kearney OSFC sent to the Congregation of Propaganda Fide concluding with a letter of Br. Edward Fleming OSFC dated 14 Mar. 1656. The report contains accounts of Fr. Barnaby Barnewall OSFC, Fr. Stephen Hussey OSFC, Fr.

Anslem Ball OSFC and Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Includes a transcript of a letter written by Br. Edward Fleming OSFC of Drogheda and notes on the '*Narratiuncula*' by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. The original is held in the Archives of Propaganda Fide (Hibernia III, Vol. 298, ff. 999-1,013). Latin and English. Typescript and manuscript, 26 pp.

CA/SERV/1/1/3 Photocopies of *Historia Missionis Hibernicae Capucinatorum*

c.1917-1923

Copy manuscript

Latin

29 pp

- Photocopies of the original manuscript copy of Fr. Robert O'Connell's *Historia Missionis Hibernicae Capucinatorum* held in the Bibliothèque Municipale, Troyes, France (MS 706).

Conservation note: Some of the reproduced pages are blurred and the overall clarity of the text is poor. It is likely that the reproductions were from a microfilm copy of the original manuscript.

CA/SERV/1/1/4 Commonwealth Council Order Book Extracts

1917-1924

Manuscript, typescript and photographic print

96 pp

Certified copies of extracts (and notes) from the Commonwealth Council Order Book from 1655 relating to the apprehension and transportation of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The copies were ordered by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. and are signed by James Morrissey, Certifying Officer at the Public Record Office of Ireland. The file includes:

- A copy of an order from 'Philip Peak Esq., Marshall of ye Four Courts at Dublin doe forthwith ... deliver or cause to be delivered unto Capt. Robert Coleman, Commander of ye Wexford Frigate, all such Popish priests ... [and] may with the first opportunity of wind and weather convey them with his ship and deliver them in safe custody to the Governor of Waterford, to hereby him delivered unto Capt. John Norris, merchant there, who is safely to keep the said priests and others the prisoners abovesaid at his own charge until he shall transport them for ye Barbadoes or other the Plantation on [an] Island in America ...'. 27 Nov. 1655.
- Extract from the Commonwealth Council Books relating to the payment of £5 to Thomas Baker for the 'apprehending of John Tobin ... a popish priest at Balrudery, County Dublin'. (27-28 Nov. 1655). Manuscript, 3 pp.
- An order dated 28 Nov. 1655 requests that physical descriptions of four priests (Redmond Moore, Robert Keigan, James Tuite and John Tobin) be sent to the Lord Deputy and Council.
- An order of 4 Dec. 1655 lists the prisoners to be delivered by Philip Peak, Marshall at the Four Courts in Dublin, to Captain Coleman of the Wexford Frigate, who will hand them over to Captain John Norris who will make arrangements for their transportation to Barbados.
- Later extracts refer to orders given to Oliver Welsh, Marshall, to deliver 'Shelton, a priest now in his custody' to Captain Coleman (10 Dec. 1655).

- Letter to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. from the Public Record Office of Ireland permitting him to have a photograph taken of a portion of the Commonwealth Council Order book of 27 Nov. 1655 'containing the order referring to the Rev. John Tobin'. 11 Dec. 1919.
- Photographic print of an order in the Commonwealth Council book awarding £5 to Thomas Baker for the capture of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The file includes a cover letter from Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. enclosing the photograph. The letter is dated 3 May 1941. The envelope is endorsed 'The original Council Book perished in the Four Courts fire in 1922'. Typescript and photographic print, 2 pp.
- Photographic copy of an order in the Commonwealth Council Order book awarding five pounds to 'the Priest-hunter Thomas Baker for the capture of Father Fiacre Tobin' dated 27 Nov. 1655. The print is mounted on card with a manuscript annotation by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap.
- Notes by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. contextualising the extracts from the Commonwealth Council Books relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC.
- Commentary by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on documents sourced from the Commonwealth Council Books held in the Public Record Office of Ireland. Fr. Francis notes that these documents constitute 'evidence of a very valuable nature, as they are testimony from an independent – and I might say hostile source, and hence the importance of identifying them with Fr. Fiacre Tobin'. Typescript, 4 pp.
- Extract from *Ireland under the commonwealth; being a selection of documents relating to the government of Ireland from 1651 to 1659, ed. with historical introduction and notes by Robert Dunlop* (Manchester, 1913). The extract reads: 'Letter of the Commissioners to the Commissioners of the Revenue at Waterford ... the enclosed declaration will sufficiently instruct you in our intentions about the friars you have imprisoned, who, with all other friars and priests, are within twenty days after publication of the same (if wind and weather serve) to be sent out of the land and banished'. 15 Jan. 1652. Typescript, 1 p.
- Letter from James Morrissey to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. confirming that 'none of the Commonwealth Council Books have been recovered. The salvage operations are not yet completed but I am afraid it is almost certain that the Commonwealth Council Books have been destroyed in the fire of 1922'. 9 Feb. 1924. Manuscript, 1 p.

The certified copies are endorsed with commentary and notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. The file includes an annotated envelope confirming that Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. 'temporarily presented' these copies to the Public Record Office in July 1932 for transcription.

Note: See also **CA/SERV/5/1**.

CA/SERV/1/1/5 **Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin**
 c.1917-1923
 Typescript
 Latin and English
 80 pp

- Transcripts by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. of 'letters relative to the condition in Ireland 1656-8, written by Fr. Bernardine [O'Ferrall] OSFC to the Cardinals of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide and to the Minister General of the Capuchin Order [Fr. Fortunato de Cadore OSFC]'. The originals are held in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes, France (11/H/1). The letters form part of the manuscript titled 'Little notes for to help my memory' (CA/EMT/3/2/1/4) and include Fr. Bernardine's account of his journey to Ireland. Latin and English. 6 copies. Typescript, 75 pp.
- Transcript of the Relatio of Fr. Bernardine O'Ferrall OSFC, Commissionary General of the Irish Capuchins, to the Holy Father, 1658. The original text is in the Rinuccini Memoir, VII, ff 4610-4. Latin. 2 copies. Typescript, 5 pp.

CA/SERV/1/1/6 Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Typescript

Latin and English

18 pp

- Extract from Fr. Robert O'Connell's *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum* (c.1656), Lib. XIII, ff 695-700. The extract is from the copy held in the Irish Capuchin Archives at CA/EMT/1/2/3. Typescript, 14 pp.
- Explanatory note by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on a letter written by Br. Edward Fleming OSFC of Drogheda on 14 March 1656. Fr. Francis wrote 'Although only the latter portion of it is of direct interest regarding Fr. Fiacre, yet the whole tenor of it gives us some idea of the hardships to which the missionaries of the time were exposed. ... In the concluding paragraph, he mentions that before he left Dublin he had learned for certain that Fr. Fiacre had been captured, condemned to perpetual slavery in America, and had been transported on the ship from Dublin for that purpose'. Reference is also made to the four other priests who were sent to Waterford with Fr. Fiacre for transportation. Typescript, 4 pp.

CA/SERV/1/1/7 Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

Latin and English

55 pp

- Copies of extracts taken from the 'Book of all the vestitions and professions made among us Irishe Capucins'. The extracts include the acts of profession of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (2 July 1638) and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (5 Oct. 1652). The original copy of the manuscript is held in Les Archives de l'Aube in Troyes, France (11/H/1). A full transcript of the manuscript is extant in the Irish Capuchin Archives at CA/EMT/3/2/1/1. The copies were made on 8 Dec. 1919 in Troyes. Manuscript, 8 pp.
- Copy act of profession of Charles O'More, Philippe Hacquett, Mathew Fougartane and Stevewen Maguyre at the Capuchin Friary in Charleville on 5 November 1624. The original copy of the manuscript is

held in Les Archives de l'Aube in Troyes, France (11/H/1). The copies were made on 8-10 Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 2 p.

- Transcript of a letter from Fr. Bernardine O'Ferrall OSFC dated 20 July 1656. The original is held in the Archives of Propaganda Fide (Hibernia, Vol. 298, f. 239). The letter refers to the imprisonment and plan to transport Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC to a plantation in Barbados. Latin. Manuscript and typescript, 7 pp.
- Copy extract from the '*Narratiuncula*' sent to the Congregation of Propaganda Fide concluding with a letter of Br. Edward Fleming OSFC dated 14 Mar. 1656. The report contains accounts of Fr. Barnaby Barnewall OSFC, Fr. Stephen Hussey OSFC, Fr. Anslem Ball OSFC and Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The original is held in the Archives of Propaganda Fide (Hibernia III, Vol. 298, f. 1,013). There is also a short extract from the *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi* collection (Vol. 7, f. 42) in the Archives of Propaganda Fide. The extract refers to a note from Fr. Andrew Nugent OSFC (Prefect of the Irish Capuchin Mission) in 1708 referring to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Latin. Typescript, 1 p.
- Transcripts of documents taken from the *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi* collection (Vol. 2, ff. 24-5, 35, 187-202). Includes a petition from the Procurator General of the Capuchins to the Cardinals of Propaganda Fide requesting that the prefecture of their Irish mission be conferred on Father Luke OSFC and a petition of the Capuchin missionaries of Ireland requesting that they be permitted to accept and establish hospices and residences in Ireland merely with the consent of the Irish ordinaries. See Fr. Benignus Millet OFM, 'Calendar of Volume 2 of the "*Scritture Riferite nei Congressi, Irlanda*", in Propaganda Archives, Part I', *Collectanea Hibernica*, No. 16 (1973), pp 7-47. Typescript, 36 pp.
- Copy extract from the Calendar of State Papers, Vol. CCLIV (Jan. 1633-Dec. 1647) relating to the money received by Fr. Francis Nugent OSFC in Charleville. The letter is dated 10 Jan. 1634. Typescript, 1 p.

CA/SERV/1/1/8

Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

English and Latin

164 pp

Document transcripts relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. as evidence for his cause. Fr. Francis wrote 'In this evidence, I submit only facts directly concerning the Martyr, and do not profess to give evidence on general facts except in so far as they enter into the Martyr's career'. The file includes:

- Notes on authorities and sources for Fr. Fiacre's birthplace, dates of reception and profession, date of his coming to Ireland, his ministries in Kilkenny, his arrest, his examination and the threat of execution, his experiences in prison, his release from prison and journey to France, his return to Ireland, his re-arrest and trial, and his detention and death on board a ship in Waterford Harbour.
- A sketch of the life of the Servant of God.
- Note on the edict of 1653 banishing all priests from Ireland.

- Transcripts from the Commonwealth Council Order Entry Book re the apprehension of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC in 1655.
- The Report of 1656 (Archives of Propaganda Fide, Hibernia, Vol. 298, f. 999) referring to the fate of Fr. Fiacre.
- Copybook containing transcripts and notes relating to 'Fr. Fiacre's first visit to Ireland (1646-50) and his return in 1653'.
Note: The file also includes the covers for *the Illustrated Eagle Sixpenny Diary for 1912* which originally contained the document transcripts.

CA/SERV/1/1/9 Transcripts re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Typescript

Latin

11 pp

- Copy extract from the report of the Bishop of Kilmacduagh to His Eminence Cardinal Antonio in 1656 published in the Rev. Moran's *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (Dublin, 1879), Vol. 1, p. 406. Latin. Typescript, 1 p.
- Copy letter written by Br. Edward Fleming OSFC of Drogheda to the Father Guardian of the Capuchin Friary, Charleville, France, on 14 March 1656 referring to the imprisonment of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Latin. Typescript, 3 pp.
- Copy letter from Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC to Fr. Malachy, Guardian of the Capuchin Friary, Charleville, France, referring to the 'Corona Martyrs'. 30 May 1653. The transcript is extracted from the typed copy of the Rinuccini Memoir in the Irish Capuchin Archives. Latin. Typescript, 7 pp.

CA/SERV/1/1/10 Evidence submitted in the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1919-1923

Typescript

English, Latin and Italian

181 pp

Evidence submitted by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap., a witness in the cause of the Servant of God, Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The evidence is arranged under several sections:

- **Documents containing transcripts of the following sources:**
Act of Profession of Br. Fiacre Tobin (2 July 1638) / Photographic and Certified Copy. The certified copy is dated 8 Dec. 1919. The photographic print is from the original source in the 'Book of all the vestitions and professions made among us Irishe Capucins'. The original copy of the manuscript is held in Les Archives de l'Aube in Troyes, France (11/H/1).
Rinuccini Memoir, VII, ff 3827-3830, 4237-4241, 4244-4252, 4338-4339.
Annali dei Cappuccini. V, parte 1, ff 67-8. The original copy is held in the Milan State Archives.
Fr. Rocco da Cessinale OFM Cap., *Storia delle Missioni dei Cappuccini* (Rome, 1872), II, cap. VII, f 461.

Fr. Pellegrino da Forli OFM Cap., *Annali dell' Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini* (Rome, 1883-4), II, ff 360-2.

Commonwealth Council Order Book (Warrants for Money), 1655, and the Auditor General's Collection, Vol. 14, f. 5. The originals were held in the Public Record Office in Dublin before their destruction in 1922.

Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC, *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum* (c.1656), Lib. XIII, ff 689-93, 695-700. The original is held in the Bibliothèque Municipale, Troyes, France. (MS 706). A complete copy is held in the Irish Capuchin Archives. Archives of Propaganda Fide, III, Hibernia, Vol. 298, f. 277.

Evidence submitted by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap.:

Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC / Chief authorities quoted in the cause of this Servant of God.

Chief facts in the life of this Servant of God and testimonies to his religious spirit.

Testimonies to the good religious spirit of the Irish Capuchins.

Proofs of arrest, sufferings and death.

Note: The file also includes a copy of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap., 'The authorship of the Rinuccini memoirs', *The Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, Ser. 5, Vol. XX (Aug. 1922), pp 181-201. The files were held in a *Browne's Scribbling Diary for 1922*. A manuscript note indicates that these documents formed part of the final evidence submitted by Fr. Angelus as a witness in the cause of Fr. Tobin. The note reads 'Evidence in the case of Fr. Fiacre Tobin by Fr. Angelus OSFC / Not to be opened'.

1.2. Research Notes

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: c.1914-1935

Scope and Content: The sub-series contains files of research notes chronicling the life and death of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC

Format: Manuscript, typescript, bound volume and clipping

Extent: 20 files; 14 items; 1,196 pp

CA/SERV/1/2/1 Research Notes on the Barony of Balrudry (Balrothery), Dublin

c.1917-1923

Typescript

8 pp

- Notes on the history of Fingal and the Barony of Balrudry (Balrothery) in County Dublin. The notes are taken from various printed sources including *A Lecture on the Antiquities of Swords by the Right Rev. William Reeves* (Dublin, 1860) and the Most Rev. Nicholas Donnelly's *Short histories of Dublin Parishes*, Part XIV (Dublin, 1905). Balrudry was the location where Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC was apprehended in 1655. Typescript, 8 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/2 Letters to Fr. Francis Hayes re Tobin family history

1921-1925

Manuscript, typescript and clipping

14 items

Letters to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. regarding Tobin family history. Most of the letters were written in response to an appeal for information (parentage, place of birth and local traditions) published by Fr. Francis in *The Nationalist* and other newspapers in County Tipperary. Many of the replies include information on family lore and gravestone transcriptions. The file includes letters from:

- Mary Meagher, Cloneen National School, Clonmel, County Tipperary.
- Margaret O'Donnell, Cloneen, Clonmel, County Tipperary.
- John Tobin MD, Galtee House, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.
- Alice Tobin, Killenaule National School, County Tipperary.
- JJ McCarthy, Office of National Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin. Encloses extracts from *Fethard, its abbey, etc.* by Fr. J. A. Knowles (Dublin, 1903).
- Canon William P. Burke, Parish House, Modeligo, County Waterford. Refers to the destruction of the Irish Public Record Office. He wrote 'But for the destruction of the Public Record Office I might have carried out a course of research that would have answered your questions, e.g. one class of records known as the "two penny" books i.e. the Cromwellian Quit Rents – two pence per confiscated acre – were invaluable for such a purpose as yours. But Fr. Dominic [O'Connor] and his friends (with the native capacity for destruction) destroyed in a few days the priceless records of 700 years'.
- Fr. Reginald Walsh OP, St. Saviour's Priory, Dublin.

CA/SERV/1/2/3 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript

42 pp

- Copybook of Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. containing notes re the capture of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes suggest that Fr. Fiacre's arrest was the direct consequence of the Edict of 1653. The end pages of the copybook contain notes (in Latin) by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on Fr. Francis Lavalin Nugent OSFC (1569-1635). Manuscript, 10 pp.
- Notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on an outbreak of the plague in Galway in 1649-50. Particular attention is paid to the roles played by the Capuchin friars (including Fr. Fiacre Tobin) in alleviating the distress of plague victims. The sources include the Rinuccini Memoir. Manuscript, 7 pp.
- Transcripts of letters from Fr. Antony Nugent OSFC referring to the activities of 'priest hunters'. One letter is dated 30 June 1651 and was copied by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. from *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (1879). Latin and English. Manuscript, 5 pp.
- File of miscellaneous notes and transcripts by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. re Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Some of the notes are extant on headed-paper of 'The Father Mathew OSFC Centenary Memorial Hall, Church Street' with an engraving of the Hall prominent. Manuscript, 14 pp.
- Biographical note on Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Benvenutus Guy OFM Cap. Manuscript, 6 pp.

- CA/SERV/1/2/4 Research Notes and Biographical Sketches**
 c.1917-1923
 Manuscript and typescript
 54 pp
- Summary of materials for evidence in the Apostolic Process for the Cause of Beatification of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Paul Neary OSFC, Church Street, Dublin. Typescript, 3 pp.
 - Extracts relative to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC from various contemporary sources compiled by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. The text includes extracts from letters and memoirs compiled by
 Fr. Bernardine O’Ferrall OSFC (d. 1669)
 Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC (d. 1755)
 Br. Edward Fleming OSFC (Professed: 1627)
 Fr. Nicholas Archbold OSFC (1589-1650)
 English and Latin. Typescript, 10 pp.
 - Sketches on the life Fr. Robert O’Connell OSFC (c.1623-1678) compiled by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. English and Latin. 7 copies. Typescript, 20 pp.
 - Biographical sketch of Fr. Richard O’Ferrall OSFC (d. 1669) compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. English. Manuscript and typescript, 6 pp.
 - Biographical sketch of Fr. Christopher Hussey OSFC (d. 1656) compiled by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. English and Latin. Typescript, 5 pp.
 - Biographical notes on Fr. Christopher Kearney OSFC, Commissary General of the Irish Capuchins (reception: 11 Nov. 1611; d. *circa* 1656). English and Latin. 2 copies. Typescript, 10 pp.
- CA/SERV/1/2/5 Evidence for the Apostolic Process in the Cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin**
 c.1914-1919
 Manuscript and typescript
 108 pp
- Notes by Fr. Matthew O’Connor OFM Cap., Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap., and Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. for evidence in the Apostolic Process in the Cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The principal sources for each of the principal sections are given. The notes are arranged under several headings including:
- *Articuli*. A list of articles and points covering the principal events in Fr. Fiacre’s life.
 - Fr. Fiacre’s desire and motive for martyrdom.
 - Fr. Robert O’Connell OSFC as a witness.
 - The virtues conspicuous in the life of Fr. Fiacre.
 - The arrest of Fr. Fiacre.
 - The cause of Fr. Fiacre’s death / conditions of prison life.
 - Imprisonment and death of Fr. Fiacre.
 - Witnesses.
- CA/SERV/1/2/6 Research Copybooks**
 1919
 Manuscript
 Bound volume
 82 pp

- Four copybooks containing notes on Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. The copybooks contain notes on Tobin family genealogy and family history. Includes transcribed material from contemporary censuses, 'Pedigrees of the Principal Families that existed in Ireland in the seventeenth century' (Trinity College Dublin MSS F.3.23), Canon William P. Burke, *History of Clonmel* (1907), William Carrigan, *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory* (1905), and John O'Hart, *Irish Pedigrees or the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation* (1876). Also includes research and sketch maps referring to the locality where Fr. Fiacre was captured (the barony of Balrudry or Balrothery), and the prison in Dublin where he was confined.

CA/SERV/1/2/7**Research Notebook**

c.1917-1919

Bound volume

Manuscript and typescript

38 pp

24 cm x 19.5 cm

- Bound volume containing notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. mainly relating to sources pertaining to the life and ministry of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes are arranged under various headings such as 'Treason', 'Puritans', and 'Proclamations'. The volume includes excerpts from the Commonwealth and Protectorate Records held in the Public Record Office of Ireland relating to the apprehension of Fr. Fiacre in 1655. Particular attention is also paid to evidence of the martyrdom of Fr. Fiacre. Related newspaper clippings have been pasted into the volume.

CA/SERV/1/2/8**Research notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin**

c.1917-1919

Manuscript

English and Latin

125 pp

Notes and sources compiled by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. on the life and ministry of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes are arranged under several headings including:

- Chief facts in the life of this Servant of God and testimonies to his religious spirit
- The family of Tobin
- First period, 1637-1634
- Second period, 1653-1656
- Virtues of the Servant of God
- Father Robert O'Connell OSFC
- Authorities and sources quoted in Fr. Fiacre's cause (Archives of Propaganda Fide, Rinuccini Memoir, *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum*, *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinatorum Hiberniae*, Public Record Office of Ireland)
- Laws under which Fr. Fiacre suffered
- Father Fiacre Tobin endured sufferings *in odium fidei*
- Conditions of prisons

- That the sufferings of Father Fiacre hastened his death
- Father Fiacre persevered to the end under his sufferings

CA/SERV/1/2/9 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

41 pp

- Note by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. regarding conventions on Old Style (O.S.) and New Style (N.S.) dates in documents. Typescript, 2 p.
- Extracts by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. from Henry Scobell, A *Collection of Acts and Ordinances ... made ... in ... Parliament ... 1640-56* (London, 1658). Manuscript, 2 pp.
- List of manuscripts, book titles and newspapers held in Marsh's Library and ordered by Fr. Francis Hayes for his research on Catholic priests in the seventeenth century. 4 Dec. 1919. Typescript, 3 pp.
- Biographical note on Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. It is noted that Fr. Ignatius Collins OFM Cap. 'supplied the literal rendering of the original Italian text'. The note is titled 'Fr. Fiacre Tobin, Irish Missionary'. The source of the original text is not given. Typescript, 4 pp.
- Biographical notes on Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. The notes include references to his ministry in Kilkenny, his capture in Dublin in 1655 and his death on 6 March 1656 whilst awaiting transportation. Typescript, 5 pp.
- Notes on the life and literary works of Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC (c.1623-1678) compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. Particular attention is paid to the reliability and trustworthiness of his principal writings including *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum* (c.1656), *Commentarii de Missione Hibernica Capuccinatorum* (7 July 1654), and the Rinuccini Memoir (c.1661-1666). English and Latin. Typescript and manuscript, 5 pp.
- Notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on the examination, proceedings, and trial of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC in Dublin in 1655. Particular attention is paid to the signatories to the documents pertaining to Fr. Tobin in the Commonwealth Council Books. Typescript, 2 pp.
- Notes (mainly on sources) compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. in relation to the life, ministry and martyrdom of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes include a list of authorities and sources consulted along with extracts from letter and reports. Manuscript, 10 pp.
- Note on the Marshalsea Prison in Dublin where Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC was detained in late 1655. Typescript, 3 pp.
- A chronological account of Fr. Fiacre Tobin's life (from 1646-55) compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. from contemporary sources. Typescript, 3 pp.
- A sketch or plan for written evidence to be submitted by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. in connection with the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Includes a list of source documents to be verified. Fr. Francis wrote 'Preliminary explanation that evidence will be submitted only on facts directly concerning the Martyr, and on general facts of history in so far as they enter into the Martyr's career'. Typescript, 2 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/10 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript

23 pp

- Biographical sketch of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. The headings include:
Place of origin
Reception into the Capuchin Order
Profession
Coming to Ireland
Labours in Kilkenny
His arrest
Examination and threat of execution
In Prison
His release
Goes to France
Petitions to return to Ireland
Returns to Ireland
Capture
His perseverance unto death
Examination in Dublin
Sentence
Changed to transportation
He falls ill of fever
In Waterford Harbour, the Convict Ship
Sets sail to Barbados
Dies
Manuscript, 16 pp.
- Notebook of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. annotated on cover 'Father Fiacre Tobin'. The notebook contains a three-page extract from the Rinuccini Memoirs. Manuscript, 3 pp.
- Notes compiled by Fr. Victor of Appeltern OSFC (d. 27 Feb. 1918) giving a chronological history of the Irish Capuchins from 1618-36. French. Manuscript 4 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/11 Research Notebook

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and clipping

23 pp.

- Notebook of Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. containing entries relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and the 'sufferings of the Catholic clergy' in the seventeenth century. Some of the notes refers to the hardships endured by the general populace. 'A pamphlet ... states that in three years (1650-52) almost 7/8 of the population had been carried off by sword, pestilence and famine In 1641, according to Sir W. Petty, the Catholics in Ireland were about 1,240,000. In 1659, there were only 413,984 of Irish descent in Ireland'. Inserts include two newspaper cuttings from the *Irish Catholic* (8 Feb. 1915 and 15 Feb. 1919) of letters from Cardinal Michael Logue and Archbishop William Walsh referring to the Apostolic Process for the beatification of the Irish martyrs.

CA/SERV/1/2/12 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1935

Manuscript and typescript

55 pp

Notes by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. in relation to the beatification process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The file includes:

- Letter to Fr. Angelus from Fr. William Carrigan referring to a reference to Fr. Fiacre Tobin in the Rev. Moran's *Bishops of Ossory*. 7 June 1917. Manuscript, 1 p.
- Letters to Fr. Angelus from Fr. Aubery Gwynn SJ (1892-1983) forwarding some transcripts of material from the public library in Bridgetown, Barbados, referring to the transportation of Irish priests in the seventeenth century. Fr. Gwynn also refers to evidence suggesting that Fr. Fiacre may have died in Kinsale rather than in Waterford Harbour. 1 Feb. 1931-1 Mar. 1931. Typescript, 11 pp.
- Letters from Edmund J. Taylor, Town Clerk, Bristol, and A. Flower, Public Record Office, London, to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. confirming that he has been unable to trace an affidavit sworn by a John Berron before the Mayor of Bristol in 1656-7. 9 July 1923- 15 May 1929. Typescript, 2 pp.
- 'Some dates re Fr. Bernardine O'Ferrall OSFC' (d. 1669). Typescript, 4 pp.
- Extract from the Rev. Moran's *Persecutions of Irish Catholics* (Dublin, 1866) referring to Fr. Fiacre. The extract has been certified by Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, 1 May 1918. Typescript, 2 pp.
- A biographical account of the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC from his arrest in Dublin to his death in Waterford in 1656. Particular attention is paid in the account to the sources used to validate key facts associated with his detention and death. 3 copies. One of the copies has been certified by Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, 1 May 1917. Typescript, 35 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/13 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1935

Manuscript and typescript

106 pp

Notes by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. in relation to the beatification process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The file includes:

- Biographical accounts of the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. containing extracts from relevant sources, summaries of his claim for beatification, and the chief testimonies upon which these claims are based. English and Latin. Manuscript and typescript, 74 pp.
- 'Short notes with reference to Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall / Irish Capuchin Servants of God'. Fr. Angelus refers to the initial steps in the Apostolic Process and the chief events in the life of Fr. Fiacre. The text makes no reference to sources relevant to Fr. Dowdall. Manuscript, 25 pp.
- A note confirming that the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC will be investigated as part of the Apostolic Process which will open in the Summer of 1919 and will finish in the Summer of 1919. Fr. John

Baptist Dowdall's case will open in the Autumn of 1919 and conclude in the Summer of 1920. Manuscript and typescript, 3 pp.

- List of documents presented in the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- 'Extracts from documents showing truths of the statements made in the *Articuli* (summary of the martyr's life) in respect of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC'. The extracts refer to the sources used to corroborate the statements. Manuscript, 4 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/14 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1935

Manuscript and typescript

71 pp

Notes compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. in relation to the beatification process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Most of the notes are copies or extracts of documents submitted for the Apostolic Process. The file includes:

- Additional information and transcripts of documents for the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Includes transcripts of the following documents:
Fr. Pellegrino da Forlì OFM Cap., *Annali dell'Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini* (1882-5), II, ff 36-2. Italian.
Annali dei Cappuccini, V, Pt. 1, f. 67. The manuscript is held in the Milan State Archives. Italian. A note by Fr. Stanislaus on this manuscript reads: 'At the time of the suppression of the Religious Orders in the time of Napoleon I all the MSS and books in the Archives of the Capuchin Convent in Milan were on May 10th, 1810, transferred to the Archivio di Stato of that city. As many Capuchin Archivist Generals resided in that Convent, the Archives contained many historical documents of great importance. The MSS transferred, and now in the Archivio, comprise the MS materials supplied to various Archivists General by the different Provinces in accordance with the regulations of the General Chapters of the Order, together with MS Annals compiled from these materials. A list of the MSS in the Milan State Archives referring to the Capuchins appeared in the *Analecta Ordinis* of 1912 and 1913, compiled by the present Archivist General of the Order'.

The Act of Profession of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. English

Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC, *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Capuccinorum*, ff. 695-700. Latin.

The Report of 1656 (Archives of Propaganda Fide, Hibernia, Vol. 298, f. 998-9). Latin.

Passage from the *Epitome Historica* (Heidelberg, 1750), f. 407, by Fr. Hierotheus Confluentinus OSFC. Latin. From a copy held in the Capuchin General Library in Rome (23. L. 4).

Passage in the *Storia delle Missioni* (Rome, 1872), II, f. 461, by Fr. Rocco da Cessinale OFM Cap.

Typescript, 35 pp.

- Additions to the documents in the *Positio Martyrium Capuccinorum*. The additions are various extracts from the Rinuccini Memoir. Latin. Typescript, 24 pp. (See CA/SERV/3/2).
- Copybook containing extracts from Fr. Robert O'Connell's *Historia Missionis Hiberniae Capuccinorum*, the Rinuccini Memoir and the

'Narratiuncula' by Br. Edward Fleming OSFC sent to the Congregation of Propaganda Fide in 1656. Manuscript, 21 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/15 Oral traditions concerning Fr. Fiacre Tobin

1924-1926

Manuscript, typescript and photographic print

165 pp

A collection of oral traditions relating primarily to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC collected by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. in County Tipperary. The collection includes notes derived from interviews conducted by Fr. Francis with Mary Clancy, Mary Meagher and others in the localities of Mullinahone, Cloran and Cloneen in County Tipperary. The interviews refer mainly to various local traditions and family folklore attached to Fr. Fiacre. The file includes:

- 'A tradition regarding Father Fiacre Tobin / Supplementary Evidence presented 9th Feb. 1926 / Fr. Francis Hayes'. The local tradition refers to folklore relating to Fr. Fiacre recounted to Fr. Francis by Mary Clancy from Cloneen in County Tipperary. The manuscript reads: "“Father John [Fiacre] Tobin was born and reared in Cuimsinagh. I’m [Mary Clancy] hearing that since I was a child. ... My grandmother was Katty Tobin. She was over ninety when she died, and I was a girl of eight or ten then. They used to be always talking about the Priest that was killed. He was not a Parish Priest at all, but like enough a Friar, and he may have gone abroad to be ordained, as they had friends in France. What brought him back I don’t know, unless it was to die for the Faith. Father John was on his keeping before he was captured. He was transported and put on the Ship”. I [Fr. Francis] asked her where did the ship sail from, and, without a moment’s hesitation she answered, “From Waterford, and she mustn’t have been far gone when he died, for they came back to Waterford with the body and buried him there. And maybe there were more Priests in the boat too. Twas in Cromwell’s time, what else, when they were clearing all the Priests and people out of Ireland””. Reference is also made to a tradition in the Tobin family that Fr. Fiacre was strangled on board the ship transporting him to Barbados. Fr. Francis adds a rough family tree to corroborate the statements made by Mary Clancy in relation to the tradition and notes that the folklore is in agreement with the known facts and sources pertaining to Fr. Fiacre’s life.
- Notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. of interviews he conducted with Mary Clancy. The text is titled 'Told by the fireside in Mrs Clancy’s kitchen'. The text reads: 'Went out in the afternoon to see a Mrs Clancy who lived near [Mullinahone]. She is bedridden, within a year of a hundred, and the last of the old Tobins. Her sister was Angela Tobin who died ... some years ago. They lived at Clarmore Killusty and were evicted about 30 years ago. The place was occupied by a grabber and was burned out during the Black and Tan War'.
- Mary Clancy’s recollections offer insights into local folktales and history, including her grandmother’s (Nell Tobin) oral stories about the 1798 rebellion. Reference is also made to local activities during the War of Independence and the later revolutionary period.

- A black and white photographic print is attached to the typescript record of one of the interviews. Fr. Francis stated that he reproduced the 'snap I took of that dear old soul, and by a strange freak ... Slievenamon also appears in the picture. It is doubly dear to me on that account, in spite of its artistic fault. I would not wish to have it otherwise, for, the two are inseparably associated in my memory; the Hill and the old woman's story come back together ...'.
- A letter from Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. referring to his visits to County Tipperary to collect information on oral traditions pertaining to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. He remarks that he has received a letter from a parishioner reporting that he had heard 'the story of how Fr. John [Fiacre] was *transported but died before the ship was far gone*'. [c.1924]. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- A manuscript addition to one of the interview texts reads: 'The very day I [Fr. Francis] finished the sketch I got word that Mrs Clancy was very ill, and the next morning, after I had said Mass for her, I got a letter saying "She had died this morning (28th May 1925) at 5.30pm". Note: See also **CA/SERV/5/1**.

CA/SERV/1/2/16 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1935

Manuscript

40 pp

- Notebook of Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. containing a timeline for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes contain numerous references to the sources used in compiling the timeline and citations re Tobin family genealogy (parish records). Manuscript, 34 pp.
- 'The State of Ireland in 1654', an extract taken from the Rinuccini Memoir, VII, 4386-4390. An annotation on the margin notes that this extract appeared in the Rev. Moran's *Spicilegium Ossoriense* (1879), II, f. 130. Latin. Manuscript, 4 pp.

CA/SERV/1/2/17 Research Notes re Apostolic Process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1919

Typescript

55 pp

Notes compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. titled 'Material for evidence in the Apostolic Process of the cause of beatification of Fr. Fiacre Tobin, of the Order of Capuchins in Ireland'. The notes include extensive extracts from the sources used to validate the various virtues attributed to Fr. Fiacre. The headings include:

- Sources of information, and signs of reference, in order of importance
- The Tobin Family
- Archives of Propaganda Fide
- Secular and Historical Sources
- Capuchin authorities (Br. Edward Fleming OSFC, Fr. Bernardine O'Farrell OSFC, Fr. Richard O'Ferrall OSFC, and Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC).
- John Howard as an authority on the prison system in England
- Fr. Fiacre's risks to life / Plague, 1649-50

- In Kilkenny, 1650-53 / Fr. Fiacre remained in Kilkenny at the voice of obedience and in imminent danger to his life
- Cromwell in Ireland
- Spies
- Cardinal virtues / Prudence / Justice / Fortitude
- Moral virtues / Zeal / Charity / Good Example / Confidence in God / Humility / Obedience
- Theological virtues
- Sufferings to shorten life
- Sufferings of the priesthood
- Testimony of three bishops
- What Capuchins suffered
- What Capuchins suffered in Fingal where Fr. Fiacre Tobin was arrested
- A specimen of the lives of the Capuchin Fathers 1650-1656

CA/SERV/1/2/18 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

135 pp

- A biographical account of the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC focusing primarily on the period from his capture in November 1655 until his death in March 1656. The account has extensive extracts from sources and notes on authorities and evidence. The account was compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. and contains references to the *Capuchin Positio* (see **CA/SERV/3/2**).

CA/SERV/1/2/19 The Servant of God / Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1917

Typescript

4 pp

- An account of the life and martyrdom of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC titled 'The Servant of God' compiled by Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. Fr. Aloysius was one of the original witnesses in the beatification process.

CA/SERV/1/2/20 Research Notes re Fr. Fiacre Tobin

c.1919

Typescript

English and Latin

21 pp

- A compilation of extracts from sources and documents re the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The notes were compiled by Fr. Dominic O'Connor OFM Cap. Reference is made to the sources of information for the edict and the proclamation under which Fr. Fiacre was arrested. The notes also contain extensive extracts from the Commonwealth Council Order Books held in the Public Record Office of Ireland. The extracts relate primarily to the monies paid to individuals for the apprehension of Catholic priests in Ireland from 1655 to 1658. Fr. Dominic notes that the 'abjuration of the Faith was the simple road to freedom' for these imprisoned priests. Particular attention is paid to the entries in the Council Order Book pertaining to the arrest and detention of Fr. Fiacre Tobin. A manuscript annotation on title page reads 'Fr. Dominic'.

2. Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (c.1626-1710)

Level: Series

Date of Creation: 1909-1935

Scope and Content: The series includes transcribed copies of documentary evidence and research notes pertaining to the life and death of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

Format: Manuscript and typescript

Extent: 13 files; 25 items; 636 pp

2.1. Document Transcriptions

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: c.1917-1935

Scope and Content: The sub-series contains transcribed copies of documentary evidence relating to the life of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

Format: Manuscript and typescript

Extent: 7 files; 11 items; 355 pp

CA/SERV/2/1/1 Transcripts re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1917-1923

Manuscript and typescript

English and French

12 pp

Copy documents re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The file includes:

- Extract from a Report on the Irish Mission re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC sent to Propaganda Fide in 1669. The report suggests that Fr. Dowdall began his priestly career in Ireland in 1659. The report reads: 'Fr. John Baptist Dowdall from the Plain of Oriel entered the arena of this mission ten years ago. During two of these years he took spiritual care of several parishes that were without pastors and caused 200 persons to abjure heresy and enter the Catholic fold'. The notes also contain an extract from the Rev. Patrick Francis Moran, *Persecutions of Irish Catholics* (Dublin, 1866) referring to Fr. Dowdall. The extract reads 'Fr. John Baptist Dowdall was remarkable for the number of heretics whom he brought back to the bosom of the Catholic Church'. Typescript, 3 pp.
- Note by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. re an account of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC extracted from *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741) by Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC. It reads 'Ven. Fr. John Baptist Dowdall ... left a rich inheritance to make himself poor among the Capuchins. He was a man truly humble and meek, and very much devoted to meditations and heavenly things. ...'. Manuscript, 5 pp.
- Copy extracts of the Act of Profession of Br. John Baptist Dowdall. 5 Oct. 1652.
Extracts from the Archives of Propaganda Fide (*Acta Sacrae Congregationis*), 1670, Vol. 39.
Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Mission of the Irish Capuchins. Copied from the original in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes, France. French. Typescript, 4 pp.

CA/SERV/2/1/2 Transcripts re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1917-1925

Manuscript and typescript

English, Latin and French

128 pp

Documents in the case of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC transcribed by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. The transcriptions are dated 31 Dec. 1925. Most have explanatory comments and additions by Fr. Stanislaus. The transcriptions include:

1. Act of Profession of Br. John Baptist Dowdall in 1652. English.
2. Reference in Fr. Peter Walsh's 'History of the Remonstrance', 1666. Includes a transcription from a related article published in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, VI (June 1870), pp 501-15. English.
3. Report of Fr. Barnaby Barnewall OSFC dated 22 Dec. 1669. Latin.
4. Letter of Internuncio of Brussels, 15 Dec. 1670, mentioning Fr. Dowdall. Latin with translation into English.
5. References to Fr. Dowdall in letters of Blessed Oliver Plunkett dated 1671 and 1679. The text is taken from the Rev. Patrick Francis Moran's *Memoir of the Most Rev. Oliver Plunkett* (1861). Latin with translation into English.
6. Complaint of the Bishop of Meath to Propaganda Fide about Fr. Dowdall. 9 Mar. 1686. Latin.
7. Document in the 'Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Custody and Mission of the Irish Capuchins'. 1 July 1701. French.
8. Name of Dowdall in list of members of the Irish Capuchin Province drawn up for the General Chapter of 1702. Latin.
9. Mention of Fr. Dowdall in the manuscript titled 'An exact catalogue of all the Irish Capucins from the yeare 1591 and their reception to the habit or profession'. Reference is made to 'Joannes Baptista Dowdall de Glassepistall ... 14 July 1652'. English.
10. Report of 1708 from the Archives of Propaganda Fide. Latin.
11. Passage from Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly's *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741). Note this document is given in the *Capuchin Positio*, f. 179. **(CA/SERV/3/2)**
12. *Bullarium Capuccinorum*. Note this document is given in the *Capuchin Positio*, f. 181. **(CA/SERV/3/2)**
13. The Rev. Patrick Francis Moran, *Persecution of Irish Catholics*. The Latin version is given in the *Capuchin Positio*, f. 182. **(CA/SERV/3/2)**
14. Passage in the *Storia delle Missioni dei Cappuccini* (Rome, 1872), II, pp 467-8. by Fr. Rocco da Cessinale OFM Cap. Italian. Includes a brief biographical sketch (in English) of Fr. Rocco da Cessinale OFM Cap. (1830-1901).
15. Passage from *Epitome Historica* (Heidelberg, 1750), p. 456, by Fr. Hierotheus Confluentinus OSFC. Latin.
16. Extract from Fr. Pellegrino da Forlì OSFC, *Annali dell' Ordine* (Rome, 1882-5), IV, pp 265-7. Italian. Includes a biographical sketch (in English) of Fr. Pellegrino (1812-1884).
17. Extract from *Historica Synopsis Missionis Provinciae Capuccinorum Hyberniae* from a copy held in the Provincial Archives in Church Street, Dublin. Latin.
Typescript, 78 pp.

- Transcript and commentary by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. and Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on references to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC in the work of Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC (d. 1755). A biography of Fr. Bonaventure is given. Fr. Stanislaus notes that his text 'is of the utmost importance for the case of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. Its purpose is to show that the testimony of Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly is of the greatest weight ...'. The notes also include a transcribed collection of ordinances in the Book of Enactments (1701-1725). The original Book of Enactments is held in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes, France (11/H/2). The ordinances represent the decisions of the Custos Provincial and his definitors and consultors referring to the Capuchins in England and Ireland. English, Latin and French. Manuscript and typescript, 50 pp.

CA/SERV/2/1/3 Copy documents from the Archives of Propaganda Fide

c.1917-1935

Copy manuscript

French and Latin

11 items

- Photocopies of original letters and memoranda from the Archives of Propaganda Fide. The material is probably from the *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi* collection. The file numbers for the material include *Anglia* Vol. I, f. 561-4, *Anglia*, Vol. II, f. 57-9 and *Irlanda*, Vol. 6, ff 382, 568. Includes letters from Fr. Gerard OSFC, London, Fr. Bernard OSFC (6 Jan. 1699), and Fr. Bernard de Agen OSFC, Missionaris Apostolico (25 Oct. 1711). The letters probably relate to the trial and imprisonment in London of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

CA/SERV/2/1/4 Transcripts re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1917-1925

Manuscript and typescript

English, Latin and French

25 pp

- Transcripts from letters in the *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi* collection (Vol. 7) in the Archives of Propaganda Fide. Includes extracts from a letter by Fr. George Browne OSFC (Vice-Prefect of the Irish Capuchin Mission) dated 20 Sept. 1708. Typescript, 16 pp.
- List of friars in the Capuchin mission and custody of Ireland in 1702 taken from records in the Capuchin General Archives, Rome. The total number of religious is given as eighty and includes Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The copy document is titled *Numerus, Nomina et Cognomina Fratrum Capucinatorum hoc anno 1702 in Missione et Custodia Hiberniae existentium*. Typescript, 3 pp.
- Certified copies of the Act of Profession of Br. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC dated 5 Oct. 1652. The extract is taken from the 'Book of all the vestitions and professions made among us Irishe Capucins'. The original copy of the manuscript is held in Les Archives de l'Aube in Troyes, France (11/H/1). A full transcript of the manuscript is extant in the Irish Capuchin Archives at **CA/EMT/3/2/1/1**. The certified copies were made on 8 Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 2 pp.

- Extracts from the 'Book of Enactments (1701-1725)'. The original manuscript is held in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes, France (11/H/2). The extract refers to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC in England and is dated 1 July 1701 at Bar-sur-Aube. See transcript of the 'Book of Enactments' in the Irish Capuchin Archives at **CA/EMT/3/2/1/7**. French. The certified copies were made by Fr. Dominic O'Connor OFM Cap. in Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 3 pp.
- Extract from *Historia Synopsis Missionis ac Provinciae Capucinatorum Hyberniae* held in the General Capuchin Archives. The extract (in Latin) refers to the death (at the age of 84) in London of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The copy was certified by Fr. Fredegand of Antwerp OFM Cap., Capuchin General Archivist, on 13 March 1923. Manuscript, 1 p.

CA/SERV/2/1/5 Transcripts from the Archives of Propaganda Fide

c.1917-1935

Typescript and manuscript

Latin and Italian

134 pp

- Copies of documents taken mainly from the *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi, Irlanda*, and the *Lettere* collections in the Archives of Propaganda Fide. The transcripts were compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. and relate to the seventeenth-century Irish Capuchin martyrs.

CA/SERV/2/1/6 Transcripts re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1917-1925

Manuscript and typescript

English and Latin

47 pp

Document transcripts relating to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC compiled by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. as evidence for his cause. The file includes:

- Sketch of the life of the Servant of God, with extracts from authorities and sources.
- Copy Act of Profession of Br. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. 5 Oct. 1652.
- Extract from the Book of the Custos relating to Fr. Dowdall dated 1 July 1701.
- Notes on the authorities and sources quoted in the evidence for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

CA/SERV/2/1/7 Certified copy documents re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1919

Manuscript

English, Latin and French

9 pp

Copies and extracts from sources for the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The copies have been certified by Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister. The file includes copy extracts from the following sources:

- 'An exact catalogue of all the Irish Capucins from the yeare 1591 and their reception to the habit or profession'. Reference is made to

'Joannes Baptista Dowdall de Glassepistall ... 14 July 1652 (line 105) which confirms Fr. Dowdall's place of birth'.

- *Historica Synopsis Missionis ac Provinciae Capuccinorum Hyberniae*. From an undated and unsigned document in the Capuchin General Archives, Rome. Fr. Angelus suggested that it dates to sometime after 1733.
- *Epitome Historica* by Fr. Hierotheus Confluentinus OSFC, Minister Provincial, Provinciae Rhenanae, Heidleberg, 1750, f. 407.
- *Storia delle Missioni* by Fr. Rocco da Cesinale OSFC. Vol. II, Cap. 7, f. 461.
- Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Mission of the Irish Capuchins. The Provincial Archives has a certified copy from the original held in Les Archives de l'Aube, Troyes, France.

2.2. Research Notes

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: 1909-1932

Scope and Content: The sub-series contains files of research notes chronicling the life and death of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

Format: Manuscript and typescript

Extent: 6 files; 14 items; 281 pp

CA/SERV/2/2/1 Research Notes re London Prisons

c.1917-1923

Typescript

113 pp

- Notes by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on London prisons in the seventeenth century. Reference is made to The Gatehouse at Westminster (King's Bench Prison), The Tower of London, The Lollards' Tower ('a prison for heretics'), The Marshalsea in Southwark and The Bridewell. The notes are taken from William Hepworth Dixon, *The London Prisons: With an Account of the More Distinguished Persons who Have Been Confined in Them. To which is Added, a Description of the Chief Provincial Prisons* (London, 1850). Typescript, 5 pp.
- Extracts by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. from sources relating to English prisons and state trials in the eighteenth century. The notes include extracts from:
State of the Prisons in England and Wales by John Howard (1777-80).
An account of the present state of the prisons etc in London and Westminster by John Howard (1789).
Account of the Principal Lazarettos in Europe etc. together with further and additional remarks on the present state of those in Great Britain and Ireland by John Howard (1789).
A Complete Collection of State Trials and Proceedings for High Treason and Other Crimes and Misdemeanours from the Earliest Period to the Year 1783, XVII (1726-1743) by T.B. Howell.
Nine letters to the Lord Mayor London on the state of prisons and prisoners within their jurisdiction by Josiah Dornford (1786).
Typescript, 108 pp.

CA/SERV/2/2/2 Research Notes re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1917-1932

Manuscript and typescript

53 pp

- List of Irish Capuchin martyrs by Fr. Benvenutus Guy OFM Cap. (1860-1927). The list is titled 'Some celebrated men from amongst the Capuchin Fathers of Ireland / several of whom were found worthy to suffer outrages and imprisonment for the sake of Jesus Christ during the cruel persecutions against the Catholics of this country'. The list includes information for:
Fr. Francis Nugent OSFC (1569-1635)
Fr. George Blackney OSFC (1582-1640)
Fr. Robert Comyn OSFC (1582-1645)
Fr. Matthew Fogarty OSFC (b. 1603; professed: 1624)
Fr. Bonaventure Carew OSFC (d.1649)
Fr. Columbanus of Glin OSFC (d.1650)
Fr. Nicholas Archbold OSFC (1589-1650)
Fr. Patrick Everard OSFC (d.1652)
Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (d.1656)
Fr. Patrick Grady OSFC (d.1690)
Fr. Christopher Plunkett OSFC (d.1697)
Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (d.1710)
Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Copybook containing notes by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on the life of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The notes are in Latin and are probably taken from Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly's *Synopsis Annalium Capuccinorum Hiberniae* (1741). Manuscript, 34 pp.
- Memorandum by Mary Moran to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. titled 'Dowdall family records'. The memorandum traces the family history of the Dowdalls in Ireland. The document is dated 7 March 1932. Manuscript, 7 pp.
- Biographical and source notes by Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. on the life and martyrdom of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Manuscript and typescript, 10 pp.

CA/SERV/2/2/3 Research Letters re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

1919-1924

Manuscript

14 items

- Letters to Fr. Paul Neary OFM Cap. Fr. William OFM Cap., and Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. responding to requests for information in relation to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Some of the letters provide information in respect of Fr. Dowdall's genealogy and place of birth and regarding Stock, a village in Essex which is mentioned in a report of Fr. Andrew Nugent OSFC in 1708. The file includes letters from Fr. J.H. Pollen SJ (1858-1925), Fr. Laurence P. Murray (1883-1941), Tadhg Ó Donnchadha (pseudonym: Tórna) (1874-1949), Egerton Beck, Rev. John Fletcher and Edwin H. Burton.

CA/SERV/2/3/4 Research Notes re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1919-1924

Manuscript and typescript

100 pp

- List of sources for research associated with the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The list was compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. and includes many references to the English State Papers (both the published calendars and the original manuscripts) and other sources held in the British Museum and British Library. Manuscript, 4 pp.
- Extracts from sources to illustrate the various Penal Laws enacted against Catholics during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-07). The sources include: John Curry, *An Historical and Critical Review of the Civil Wars* (1786), Fr. M.J. Brennan OSF, *An Ecclesiastical History of Ireland* (1845), and Fr. Reginald Walsh OP, 'Glimpses of Penal Ireland', *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* (1906-11). Manuscript and typescript, 7 pp.
- Call slips and notices from the British Museum and the Public Record Office, London. Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. affirms that these were 'particulars of research ... for information re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC, Oct.-Dec. 1919'. Printed, 36 pp.
- Call slips and notices from the Vatican Library and the Archives of Propaganda Fide. Fr. Stanislaus notes that these represent 'lists of documents examined ... for information regarding Fr. John Baptist Dowdall / negative result'. Mar. 1923-May 1923. Printed, 24 pp.
- Note by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. referring to sources relating to a holy well at Clogherhead (not far from Fr. John Baptist Dowdall's birthplace of Glasspistoll) in County Louth. The sources include Fr. L.P. Murray CC (29 Jan. 1920) and John Mathews, *County Louth / its antiquities and traditions* (Dundalk, 1925). Manuscript and typescript, 8 pp.
- Extracts by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. from sources relating to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. The sources include 'An Exact Catalogue of all the Irish Capucins from the year 1591 to the year 1691', *Historica Synopsis Missionis ac Provinciae Capucinatorum Hyberniae* (Capuchin General Archives), Fr. Peter Walsh's *History of the Remonstrance* (1666), Archives of Propaganda Fide, 1670, vol. 39. Letter of the Internuncio of Brussels, 15 Dec. 1670, the Rev. Moran's *Memoir of the Most Rev. Oliver Plunkett* (1861), and the Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Custody and Mission of the Irish Capuchins (1 July 1701). Typescript, 19 pp.

CA/SERV/2/2/5 Research Notes re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

1917

Manuscript and typescript

12 pp

File relating to searches in the Public Record Office (London), and in the British Museum in 1917 for documents relating to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The lists were made for Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. by W. Doheny, genealogist, 12 Marlboro Road, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Searches were also made by Leo Culleton, 92 Piccadilly, London. Includes statements of account and receipts for said research. The file includes:

- Copy text of the examination of Edward Tyrrell taken in the presence of their excellencies the Lord Justices and Council. 25 Oct. 1712. Public Record Office, Carton 61, No. 345 (A).
- Letter from Leo Culleton to W. Doheny listing the various sources consulted in the Public Record Office and the British Museum re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall 'died in a London prison about 20 Feb. 1710'. The letter is dated 19 June 1917.

CA/SERV/2/2/6 Research Notes re Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

1909

Manuscript

3 pp

- Narrative on the life of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The narrative is dated to 1909 and is arranged under the following headings:
Known facts of his life
Penal code
Testimonies
Act of registration
Reasons for alleged act
Effect of edict
Oath of abjuration
Administration of penal laws
The Bishop of Clogher
Spicilegium Ossoriense
Letter to the Guardian of Isidore's

3. Administrative Documents relating to Beatification Cause

Level: Series

Date of Creation: c.1915-1919

Scope and Content: The series includes primarily administrative documents relating to the Ordinary Process in the Dublin Archdiocese and the examination of witnesses in the causes of the two Capuchin martyrs. This section includes the *Positio Martyrium Capuccinorum* of 1919 (see **CA/SERV/3/2**) which sets out the documentary evidence for the martyrdom of the two Capuchin Servants of God.

Format: Manuscript, typescript and printed

Extent: 5 files; 371 pp

CA/SERV/3/1 Postulator Documents

c.1917

Manuscript and typescript

32 pp

- *Articuli* (summaries of the martyr's life) in respect of Fr. Fiace Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC, prepared for the Apostolic Process. The documents are signed by Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister and Vice-Postulator for the cause. 27-28 May 1917. Latin. Typescript, 11 pp.
- A series of questions set by the Postulator (Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP) for the causes of Fr. Fiace Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

OSFC. The first question reads 'What are the sources (oral and written) of your information concerning Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall?' Manuscript and typescript, 17 pp.

- Notes from the Vice-Postulator (Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap.) regarding the sources of required information for the Apostolic Process of Fr. Fiacre Tobin's cause. 2 copies. Typescript, 4 pp.

CA/SERV/3/2 ***Dublinen / beatificationis seu declarationis martyrii servorum dei Fiacrii Tobin a Kilkennia et Joannis Baptistae Dowdall Ab Ultonia ordinis minorum S. Francisci Capuccinorum in hibernia pro fide, uti fertur, interemptorum / Positio / super Introductione Causae***

Date: 1919

Publisher: Rome: Typis Guerra et Mirri, 28 Via Milano

Language: Latin

Physical description: 191 pp, 26 pp; 30 cm x 21 cm; 3 copies

Physical condition: The copies are bound in contemporary hard covers with gilt title to spine. The paper cover of one of the copies is annotated at front:

'*Positio Martyrium Capuccinorum* / for use of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OSFC / Church Street, Dublin / 1919'. Ink stamp reads: 'Franciscan Capuchin Order, Ireland / Rev. Fr. Stanislaus OSFC'. There are various manuscript annotations and additions made by Fr. Stanislaus to the text in the volumes. The text block is completely detached from the covers of the volumes, and many of the page-ends are frayed. Careful manual handling is required.

Note: This text is generally abbreviated to *Capuchin Positio* in the descriptive catalogue.

CA/SERV/3/3 ***Introduction to the Cause of the Irish Capuchins***

1919

Printed and typescript

English and Latin

8 pp

- *Beatification and Canonization Process of the Irish Martyrs / Introduction to the Cause of the Irish Capuchins / Fr. Fiacre Tobin (1656) and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall (1710) (Dublin, 1919). With a typescript copy of this introduction to the cause. 7 copies*

CA/SERV/3/4 ***Content Lists for the Process of the Irish Martyrs***

c.1917

Printed and typescript

6 pp

- List of documents reproduced in the *Summarium* for the beatification process of the Irish martyrs. Printed, 3 pp.
- Typescript copy of *Summarium* for the beatification process of the Irish martyrs. The principal title headings are as follows:
List of witnesses and sources of their evidence.
Titles of works and documents submitted to the Sacred Congregation to establish the claim of martyrdom.
The cause of martyrdom of those who suffered.
On their martyrdom and constancy in sufferings and death.
On their reputation for sanctity and martyrdom: Veneration of the people.

On signs and miracles.
Typescript, 3 pp.

CA/SERV/3/5

Documents re Beatification Process

c.1915-1919

Manuscript and printed

134 pp

- Notebook of Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. containing a timeline for the promotion of the beatification causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC from 1915 to 1919. It reads:
 'On Feb. 12th 1915 the Holy Father signed the decree introducing the cause of 258 Servants of God held to have suffered for the faith in Ireland ... with a view to their future canonization as Saints of our Holy Church. ... Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP, Vice-Postulator in the cause of the Irish Martyrs, regarded Fr. Fiacre Tobin's case as very satisfactory and expressed the opinion that whilst the evidence in favour of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall was satisfactory as far as it went, it would need corroboration, which probably would be forthcoming by further research. ... His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. [William] Walsh, had always been most favourably disposed to us Irish Capuchins, and during his term of office had given very many proofs of his kindness and appreciation ... [and] he kindly undertook to open up a new Process for the Cause of our two Servants of God. ... Our Provincial, Very Rev. Fr. Peter [Bowe], presented a petition on May 28th 1917, in answer to which the Archbishop constituted an ecclesiastical Court to investigate the claim of these two Irish Capuchins. ... The Irish Capuchins received very great assistance from Fr. [Michael] Curran, Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP, Fr. Fitzgerald OFM and all the officials at the Archbishop's Curia. Our Postulator General, Fr. Raphael of Vallefinaria OFM Cap. was also most helpful. ... The Court held 23 sessions extending from June 4th to Oct. 1st 1917. All the evidence and documents were translated into Latin and were forwarded to Rome and were received by the Sacred Congregation on Nov. 6th 1917. ... Fr. Angelus secured some petitions from Ireland which would point out the existence of a desire on behalf of the Irish Church to have the cause proceeded with. For this purpose, he obtained letters to the Holy See from His Eminence Cardinal Logue, the Archbishop of Cashel, the Archbishop of Tuam ... and also petitions from the Corporations of Drogheda and Kilkenny ... At this meeting the introduction of the cause was approved of and the Pope gave his signature to the Decree on 23rd July 1919. On August 13th 1919, Fr. Raphael of Vallefinaria, the Procurator General, obtained a Rescript joining the cause of these two Capuchins to the cause of the other Irish martyrs introduced in 1915'. Manuscript, 13 pp.
- *Catalogus Causarum Beatificationis et Canonizationis apud Postulationem Generalem Ordinis Fratrum Minorum Capuccinorum* (Rome: Capuchin General Curia, 1957). Latin. The publication includes a catalogue of the Saints, Blesseds, Venerables and Servants of God of

the Capuchin Order. Reference is made to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC, *Servants of God*, at p. 45. Printed, 119 pp.

- Translation (into Latin) of the decree regarding the first process in the cause of the beatification of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Manuscript, 1 p.
- Out-sized printed poster of the decree concerning the cause of the *Servants of God*, Fr. Fiacre Tobin of Fethard and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall of Glaspistoll. 23 July 1919. Latin. Printed, 1 p. Note that the item is badly torn with significant fold marks. It is held in a covering envelope annotated by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap.

4. Correspondence

Level: Series

Date of Creation: 1917-1989

Scope and Content: The series contains correspondence relating to either research on the two Capuchin martyrs or the Apostolic Process for their beatification.

Format: Manuscript, typescript and printed

Extent: 10 files; 180 pp

CA/SERV/4/1

Letters from Fr. Michael Curran

28 May 1917-17 Mar. 1920

Manuscript

27 pp

- Letter from Fr. Michael Curran, Secretary to Archbishop Walsh, to Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap. re arrangements for the presentation of the witnesses' evidence re the Apostolic Process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. 28 May 1917. Manuscript, 4 pp.
- Letter from Fr. Michael Curran to Fr. Paul Neary OFM Cap. re the requirement for more copies of the position (*Capuchin Positio*) for the advocate-procurator and witnesses. 24 Sept. 1919. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Letter from Fr. Michael Curran to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. enclosing a diary of the Apostolic Process for two Irish Capuchin *Servants of God* held in Archbishop's House, Dublin, from 28 May-1 Oct. 1917. The enclosure also refers to the expenses incurred thus far. 16 Nov. 1917. Manuscript, 7 pp.
- Letters from Fr. Michael Curran, Archbishop's House, Dublin, to Fr. Albert Bibby OFM Cap. referring to the Rinuccini Memoir and 'testifying to the great value of the work in connection with the process of the martyrs'. Feb. 1919-Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 8 pp.
- Letter from Fr. Michael Curran to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. re expenses for visiting various libraries and archives in London for research related to the causes of the Irish martyrs. 17 March 1920. Manuscript, 3 pp.

CA/SERV/4/2

Letters to Corporations

July 1919

Manuscript and clipping

8 pp

- Copy letters to M. McGowan, Mayor of Drogheda, and Peter De Loughrey, Mayor of Kilkenny, thanking them for agreeing to petition Pope Benedict XV in favour of the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. [July 1919]. With a clipping of an article reprinting a letter from the Capuchin General Minister (Fr. Juan Antonio en Persiceto OFM Cap.) thanking Kilkenny Corporation for petitioning the Holy See. 26 July 1919. Manuscript and clipping, 8 pp.

CA/SERV/4/3**Letters from Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP**

1916-1919

Typescript and printed

30 pp

- Copy letter from Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP, St. Saviour's Priory, Dorset Street, Dublin, Vice-Postulator in the cause of the Irish Martyrs, offering suggestions to witnesses in the forthcoming Apostolic Process. 12 Sept. 1916. The file contains numerous copies of the letter. Typescript and printed, 24 pp.
- Copy letter from Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP, Vice-Postulator, conveying instructions to the witnesses in the cause of the Irish martyrs. The instructions mainly relate to the sources and testimonies to be used in support of the cause. A list of sources and information used in the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC is attached to the copy letter. [c.1919]. Typescript, 6 pp.

CA/SERV/4/4**Correspondence of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh**

1918-1951

Manuscript and typescript

10 pp

- Letter from Canon John Begley, Parish Priest of Dromcollogher, to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. re Rev. John Creagh (d. Mar. 1663), Vicar-General of Limerick, who went to Rome in 1648 and became an agent of the Irish Bishops there. 31 May 1922. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Correspondence of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. with Fr. Bernardino da Siena OFM Cap., Postulator General, regarding the cause of Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. 4 Feb. 1949-17 Mar. 1951. Latin. Typescript, 3 pp.
- Letter from Richard Woods, Park Street, Monaghan, to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. acknowledging the 'debt of gratitude to the Venerable John Baptist Dowdall OSFC through whose intercession I have received a great favour'. 20 July 1930. Manuscript, 1 p.
- Letter from Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. re a manuscript of Fr. Richard O'Ferrall OSFC in the British Museum which he thinks should be copied. He adds 'I had a look through the archives in the strong room [of the Provincial Archives], but things are so mixed in there I could not find any document of such a nature'. [c.1918]. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Copy letter from Fr. Juan Antonio en Persiceto OFM Cap., Minister General, seeking permission for Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. to conduct research in the Archives of Propaganda Fide in connection with the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

OSFC. With a copy of the reply on reverse. 1-9 March 1923. Latin and Italian. Manuscript, 2 pp.

CA/SERV/4/5

Letters from Fr. Peter Bowe

9 July 1917-27 July 1919

Manuscript and typescript

English and Latin

32 pp

- Copy letters from Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, to Fr. Raphael of Vallefinaria OFM Cap., Postulator General, and Archbishop William Walsh, re the Apostolic Process and the articles submitted on the holiness of and virtues attributed to Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. He also refers to the evidence, and the need of witnesses to examine testimonies in favour of the causes. Latin. 4 copies. Manuscript and typescript, 22 pp.

CA/SERV/4/6

Correspondence of Fr. Francis Hayes

c.1918-1919

Manuscript and typescript

13 pp

- Letter from Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. to Fr. Leonard Brophy OFM Cap. (1869-1930) conveying information in relation to the ministry and capture of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC in 1655. The letter reads: 'There was a famous edict issued in 1653 banishing all priests from Ireland within twenty days under pain of death Some priests went into exile, those who could remain in disguise and in concealment remained. Of all the Capuchins then in Ireland only one, as far as I know, left, that was Fr. Fiacre Tobin who was so well known that he had to go away – though indeed he returned almost immediately'. He refers to a letter (July 1654) from Fr. Christopher, the superior of the Irish Capuchin mission, to Propaganda Fide requesting their support. Fr. Francis suggests that Fr. Fiacre was disguised as a farm labourer when he was apprehended. [c.1918]. Typescript, 2 pp.
- Note by Fr. Albert Bibby OFM Cap. [to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap.] referring to the 'stage which the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall, Capuchins, has reached'. Fr. Albert affirms that a summary of the Process 'is in the hands of the printer'. He states that the lawyer 'is morally certain that the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin will succeed, but with regard to that of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall [it] is doubtful'. Feb. 1919. Typescript and manuscript, 2 pp.
- Letter from Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. affirming that there is nothing about the Capuchins in the Cotton Titus collection in the British Museum. 17 Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Letter to Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. from Richard Tobin enclosing a copy of a 'genealogy of the Tobin family of Cuimsinagh'. 12 Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 9 pp.

CA/SERV/4/7

Correspondence of Fr. Angelus Healy

10 May 1917-1 Nov. 1923

Manuscript

28 pp

- Letter appointing Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. a promoter in the cause of the beatification of the Irish Capuchin martyrs, Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The official letter of appointment is signed by Fr. Raphael of Vallefinaria OFM Cap., Postulator General, *Causarum Servorum Dei Ordinis Minorum Capuccinorum*. 10 May 1917. Latin. Printed with manuscript additions, 1 p.
- Letters from Fr. Dominic O'Connor OFM Cap. to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. and Fr. Edwin Fitzgibbon OFM Cap. regarding his discoveries of manuscript material relating to the Irish Capuchins in libraries and archives in Troyes, Chaumont, and Bar-sur-Aube, France. The letters include:

'I got Fr. Fiacre's profession. There are 5 in one piece. I found also a definitorial enactment of 1 July 1701 relieving Fr. Dowdall of charge of the brethren in England ...'. Fr. Dominic directs that correspondence can be sent to c/o Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh at the Grand Hotel on the Place de l'Opera in Paris. He also makes reference to the fact that there are very 'few Catholics in this parish, nearly all are Socialist and a good many unbaptised'. 3 Dec. 1919.

He promises to send on the 'Analytical index of all the MSS in carton 11/H/1'. (This index is extant at **CA/EMT/3/2/2/1**). Fr. Dominic suggests that having this index typed and printed 'may help to stimulate historical study of the Province and produce "the historian of the province who "is yet to be found"'. 7 Dec. 1919.

He refers to the sending of certified copies of material relating Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall and to this intention to travel to the library at Bar-sur-Aube which has a 'dossier' of material on the Irish Capuchins. 12 Dec. 1919.

He notes that he has 'about 270 more MSS at Chaumont ... There was a large bundle unclassified and unnumbered which I found dealt with the Capuchins and their relations with Lille up to the Revolution. Even as early as 1746 the Capuchins of Ireland were opposed to the Irish Language and a battle royal was fought on the question ...'. He added '... the best way to deal with the MSS would be to get Fr. Paul [Neary] to try to get them transferred to Dublin ... [as] he did before. The difficulty is that English, French and Latin (and even a bit of Irish and Italian) are mixed in the same manuscript hence it is hard to get anyone to copy those at Troyes'. 22 Dec. 1919. Manuscript, 10 pp.
- Letters from Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. re progress in Rome on the causes for Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. Fr. Angelus wrote 'I feel that both the causes will get through the Sacred Congregation here but will need more evidence particularly [for] John Baptist Dowdall of whom we have so little. ... Bonaventure Donnelly – our only real authority for his death – must have had definite material. He is so detailed as to almost the exact date in the month of February, and he wrote 30 years after his death. If we could unearth that it would be of value'. He added 'It is not clear if he [Fr. Dowdall] was arrested in Dublin or in England and we have no mention of his being tried before a court or sentenced'. July 1919. Manuscript, 8 pp.

- Letter from Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. to Fr. Paul Neary OFM Cap. re his work for the promotion of the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall in Rome. He wrote 'One of the objections made was the absence of any oral tradition about the martyrdom of these two Servants of God or of any form of devotion towards them or miracles or anything definite and certain as to their actual death'. He added 'So far I've not found anything fresh about Fr. Dowdall. It is unfortunate and strange that the report of 1708 seems to be the last available'. With a covering letter from Fr. Albert Bibby OFM Cap. 9 June 1919. Manuscript, 4 pp.
- Letter to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. from Fr. C.A. Newdigate SJ affirming that he has not come across any evidence relating to Fr. Dowdall's imprisonment and death. 30 Apr. 1923. Manuscript, 2 pp.
- Letter from J.H. Pollen, 114 Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, to Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. suggesting that a search of the Middlesex session papers held in either the Clerkenwell or at the Guildhall may yield some results. 1 Nov. 1923. Manuscript, 3 pp.

CA/SERV/4/8**Circular Letter of Archbishop William Walsh**

5 Feb. 1919

Printed

5 pp

- Circular letter from Archbishop William Walsh regarding a general collection ('canonization fund') to defray the expenses 'of the Apostolic Process, now being held, by authority of the Holy See, in the Ecclesiastical Court of Dublin for the beatification of the Servants of God, Dermot O'Hurley, Archbishop of Cashel, Cornelius O'Devany OSF, Bishop of Down and Connor, Terence Albert O'Brien OP, Bishop of Emly, and 255 others, reputed Martyrs for the Faith'. 5 Feb. 1919.

CA/SERV/4/9**General Correspondence re the Cause**

c.1919-1971

Manuscript, typescript and clipping

22 pp

- Letters from Fr. Reginald Walsh OP to Fr. Paul Neary OFM Cap. re the evidence for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Fr. Reginald suggested that the evidence for Fr. Fiacre was 'so convincing that in [my] opinion he will be beatified'. He also refers to a letter 'about a priest educated at Nantes' published in various articles titled 'Glimpses of the Penal Times' published in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* (1906-11). Fr. Walsh suggests that this priest must be a Capuchin. He argues that from experience 'certified or official copies of documents make a good impression on the Roman officials'. [c.1919]. Manuscript, 10 pp.
- Copy note from Rev. Patrick J. Dineen (1860-1934) to Fr. Canice Bourke OFM Cap. regarding references to the persecution of priests 'in the poems of O'Neathain' in manuscripts held in the Royal Irish Academy. 5 Feb. 1921. Manuscript, 1 p.
- Copy letter from Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, to the Procurator General, Capuchin General Curia, Rome, regarding the extant copies of the Rinuccini Memoir and the *Historia Missionis*

Hiberniae Fratrum Minorum Capucinatorum (c.1656) by Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC. Reference is made to the texts as evidentiary sources to support beatification causes. 3 Dec. 1938. Latin. Typescript, 1 p.

- Letter from Fr. Felix Guihen OFM Cap. to Fr. Conrad O'Donovan OFM Cap. forwarding on information on Tobin family genealogy received from Sr. Imelda Tobin, a religious sister in France. Fr. Felix adds 'When I was a student in Rochestown Fr. Francis [Hayes] was working on the Cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. Fr. Stanislaus [Kavanagh] and Fr. Denis [Keogh] in 1939 went to Troyes to get information about them [but] Hitler's invasion of France put an end to that'. The letter is dated 6 Apr. 1971. Manuscript and newspaper clipping, 10 pp.

CA/SERV/4/10

Letters to Fr. Nessian Shaw

1985-1989

Manuscript and typescript

5 pp

File of letters and notes relating to enquires made by Fr. Nessian Shaw OFM Cap. re the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

The file includes:

- Notes by Fr. Nessian Shaw OFM Cap. titled 'Our Irish Capuchin Martyrs'. Fr. Nessian refers to the progress on the causes of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC in the early twentieth century. He writes 'They were ranked amongst Irish martyrs whose cause was being prepared when 257 of them were introduced in Rome on the 12th of February 1915, the two Capuchins were excluded because "in the Acts of Process no witnesses were called on their behalf, and no documents relating to them were put forward". The reason was that the Dublin Postulator of their Cause had died unexpectedly. However, in 1917 the cause was reopened in the Dublin Archdiocese; historical facts drawn from the Acts of the ordinary Process and authentic documents were submitted to the Sacred Congregation of Rites. After due consideration, the Sacred Congregation on July 22nd, 1919, decided that the causes of Fathers Fiacre Tobin and John Baptist Dowdall could be introduced. ... The Pope ratified the decision of the Congregation and deigned, on the 23rd of July, to sign with his own hand, the decree authorizing the Commission for the Introduction of the Dublin Cause of the Beatification or Declaration of Martyrdom of the Servants of God; Fiacre Tobin of Kilkenny and John Baptist Dowdall of Ulster, of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchins. There the matter rested ...'. The notes were compiled by Fr. Nessian in c.1985. Typescript, 2 pp.
- Letter from David Sheehy, Dublin Diocesan Archivist, re a fruitless search in the repository for documents relative to Fathers Tobin and Dowdall. 3 Aug. 1989. Typescript, 1 p.
- Letter from Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap. referring to documents in the postulator's office in the Capuchin General Curia re the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC from 1917-9. Fr. Sweeney wrote 'In 1919, there was a rescript from Rome to introduce the cause. It seems not to have been pursued any further ... either the Postulator here or the one in Ireland let the cause lapse.

There was certainly no blockage at the Roman end'. The letter is dated 18 July 1989. Manuscript, 2 pp.

5. Apostolic Process Documents and Summaries

Level: Series

Date of Creation: 1919-1942

Scope and Content: The series contains compilations of documents used by witnesses in the causes of the two friars. These include important summaries compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. in the 1930s and 1940s. The series also includes the still-sealed evidence of Fr. Matthew O'Connor OFM Cap. (see **CA/SERV/5/4**).

Format: Bound volume, manuscript, typescript and clipping

Extent: 4 files; 466 pp; 1 object

Note: See also the *Capuchin Positio* at **CA/SERV/3/2**.

CA/SERV/5/1

The Apostolic Process of Fr. Fiacre Tobin of Fethard

1936

Bound Volume

Typescript, manuscript, printed and clipping

English and Latin

34 cm x 25.5 cm

310 pp

A volume compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. containing material collected by witnesses in the Apostolic Process of the Servant of God, Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. The volume contains introductions to the informative processes for both Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Fr. Stanislaus remarks that the 'most important feature of the Apostolic Process was the discovery by Fr. Francis [Hayes] of a tradition regarding the Servant of God in the branch of the Tobin family to which Fr. Fiacre belonged' (See **CA/SERV/1/2/15**). He also affirms that Fr. Francis 'found in the Public Record Office, Dublin, six very important documents dealing with the arrest and transportation of Fr. Fiacre Tobin. It was fortunate that at the time he procured official copies of these documents (which are preserved in our Provincial Archives) for the originals perished in the disastrous fire of 1922' (See **CA/SERV/1/1/4**). A table of contents for the copy documents in the volume is extant and reads as follows:

I. Informative Process

1. Account of the Initial Stages
2. Articles of the Informative Process
3. List of Officials
4. Diary
5. Expenses of Informative Process
6. Documents
7. Petitions in favour of their Cause

II. Apostolic Process

8. Introduction
9. Questions for guidance of witnesses
10. Instructions for Vice-Postulator
11. Documents and *Articuli*

III. Cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin

12. List of documents presented
 13. Transcripts of some documents presented
 - (a) No. 7 from the *Epitome Historica*
 - (b) No. 10 Act of Profession
 - (c) No. 11 Account of documents in Public Record Office, Dublin
 14. Additional documents from PRO
 15. Accounts of the death of Fr. Fiacre
 16. The Irish Capuchins in the time of Fr. Fiacre Tobin / Condition of the Prisons
 17. The Companions of Fr. Fiacre
 18. Summary of evidence of Fr. Paul [Neary]
 19. List of sources in Irish Record Office, Dublin, examined by Fr. Francis
 20. Notes by Fr. Francis in his search for tradition regarding Fr. Fiacre
 21. 'A Third Visit to the Foot of Slievenamon'. (See also **CA/SERV/1/2/15**)
- IV. Additional Matter**
22. Genealogy of the Tobin family
 23. The Tobin family by Fr. Francis
 24. List of transplanted Tobins
 25. The Tobin family from the Irish Chieftains
 26. Fr. Christopher Kearney
 27. Letters regarding Fr. Fiacre Tobin
 28. Extracts from *Fethard and its Abbey*
 29. Notes on the place of capture of Fr. Fiacre and on the prison in which he was confined.

The volume includes many original and copy documents and correspondence relating to the Apostolic Process for the beatification of Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall. Includes letters from Fr. Michael Curran, Secretary to Archbishop Walsh, Fr. Raphael of Vallefinaria OFM Cap., Postulator General, Fr. Humbert MacInerny OP, and Fr. Peter Bowe OFM Cap., Provincial Minister.

Other copy documents include:

- Copy petition in favour of the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall signed by Cardinal Michael Logue. 23 June 1919.
- Copy petition of the Most Rev. Thomas Gilmartin, Archbishop of Tuam. June 1919.
- Copy petition of the Most Rev. Abraham Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossory. 23 June 1919.
- Copy petition of the Mayor and Corporation of Kilkenny to Pope Benedict XV re the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. 23 June 1919.

Conservation note: Bound in contemporary hard covers with gilt title to spine 'S.D. Fr. Fiacre Tobin of Fethard'. There is minor fraying and wear to some of the document and typescript inserts. Careful manual handling is required.

Note: See **CA/SERV/5/2** for a similar volume by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on the Apostolic Process for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC.

CA/SERV/5/2

The Apostolic Process of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall of Glasspistil

c.1942

Bound Volume

Typescript, manuscript, and clipping

English and Latin

25.5 cm x 21 cm

138 pp

A volume compiled by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. containing source material collected by witnesses in the Apostolic Process of the Servant of God, Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The volume contains a brief introduction to the cause Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Fr. Stanislaus affirms that a fuller account of the informative processes for the two Servants of God (Fr. Tobin and Fr. Dowdall) is to be found in a bound volume titled 'S.D. Fr. Fiacre Tobin of Fethard' (See **CA/SERV/5/1**). It is noted that Fr. Matthew O'Connor OFM Cap., Fr. Francis Hayes OFM Cap. and Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. gave evidence on Fr. Dowdall at the Ecclesiastical Court investigating his cause. An excerpt from an article by Fr. Humbert MacInerney OP titled 'Archbishop Walsh and the Irish Martyrs', *Studies*, X, No. 4 (Dec. 1921) is included in the introduction. A table of contents is given in the volume and reads as follows:

- I. Prefatory Note
- II. Documents Presented
- III. The *Annales Capuccinorum Hyberniae* by Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly of Portarlington
- IV. Conditions of the Prisons
- V. Searches in the Public Record Office, London, British Museum, and Westminster Archives
- VI. Search in Dublin Records
- VII. Origin and dates of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall
- VIII. Places associated with the Servant of God
- IX. Sketch of Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly
- X. The London Prisons
- XI. Correspondence

A list of (transcribed) documents for the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC is also given:

- 1. *Annales Capuccinorum Hyberniae* by Fr. Bonaventure Donnelly OSFC.
- 2. *Bullarium Ordinis*, V., f. 277.
- 3. Archives of Propaganda Fide, anno 1708.
- 4. Translation of a passage in *Persecutions of the Irish Catholics* by the Rev. Patrick Francis Moran.
- 5. Archives of Propaganda Fide, Vol. VIII, f. 39 etc.
- 6. Archives of Propaganda Fide, Vol. II, f. 187.

Additional documents also transcribed into the volume:

- 7. Act of Profession of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall in 1652 (Book of Vestitions. Copy in Capuchin Archives, Dublin).
- 8. The 'Remonstrance', by Fr. Peter Walsh OSF, 1666. See article in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, VI (June 1870), pp 501-15.
- 9. Archives of Propaganda Fide, 1670, vol. 39. Letter of the Internuncio of Brussels, 15 Dec. 1670.
- 10. Archives of Propaganda Fide, *Scritture Riferite nei Congressi, Irlanda*, Vol. II, f. 439. Letter of Blessed Oliver Plunket, 1671.
- 11. Archives of Propaganda Fide.
- 12. Manuscript of 'An Exact Catalogue of all the Irish Capucins from the yeare 1591 to the yeare 1691 and their reception to the habit or profession'. (Copy in the Capuchin Archives, Dublin).
- 13. Manuscript of the 'Book of the Custos and Consultors of the Custody and Mission of the Irish Capuchins'. 1 July 1701. (Copy in the Capuchin Archives, Dublin).

14. Archivum Curiae Generalis, Rome. 1. MS '*Numerus Nomina et Cognomina FF MM Capuccinorum hoc anno 1702 in Missione et Custodiae Hiberniae existentium*'. 2. MS '*Historica Synopsis Missionis ac Provinciae Capuccinorum Hybernicae*'.
15. *Epitome Historica* by Fr. Hierotheus Confluentinus OSFC, Minister Provincial, Provinciae Rhenanae, Heidleberg, 1750, f. 456. (Copy in the Capuchin Archives, Dublin).
16. *Annali de Cappuccini* (1883) by Fr. Pellegrino da Forli OSFC. Vol. IV, ff 265-7.
17. *Storia delle Missioni* by Fr. Rocco da Cesinale OSFC. Vol. II, Cap. 7, f. 468.

Inserts in the volume include an article by M.M. Merrick titled 'English, Irish and Welsh Martyrs / One by one these heroes died', *Catholic Herald*, 27 Apr. 1951. With letters to Fr. Stanislaus From Canon William P. Burke and other responding to requests for information re Fr. Dowdall.

Note: See **CA/SERV/5/1** for a similar volume by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on the Apostolic Process for Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC.

CA/SERV/5/3

Evidence for the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1919-1923

Typescript

18 pp

Evidence submitted by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap., a witness in the cause of the Servant of God, Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The evidence is arranged under several headings:

- The chief authorities for his life
- Short statement of the chief facts in the life of Fr. Dowdall
- The chief feature of Fr. Dowdall's ministry – conversion of heretics
- Penal enactment against the conversion of heretics
- Final arrest, imprisonment and death
- Authority of Father Bonaventure Donnelly's *Annales*
- His special qualification to deal with the facts concerning Fr. Dowdall
- Place of Fr. Dowdall's arrest and death
- Other authorities quoted
- Note on a complaint against Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

Note: Two copies of the evidence. A manuscript note indicates that this document formed part of the final evidence submitted by Fr. Angelus as a witness in the cause of Fr. Dowdall. The note reads 'Not to be opened / evidence in the case of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall'.

CA/SERV/5/4

Sealed Evidence for the cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC

1923

OS Object

Manuscript

- A roll of sealed documents containing the evidence of Fr. Matthew O'Connor OFM Cap. (1864-1930) for the beatification cause of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The roll is sealed with cord and wax. A manuscript annotation (in the hand of Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap.) reads 'Evidence given by Very Rev. Matthew [O'Connor] OSFC, ex-Provincial, at Apostolic Process for Father John Baptist Dowdall. Nov. 12, 1923 / Not to be opened'.

6. Illustrative Material

Level: Series

Date of Creation: c.1919-1943

Scope and Content: The series includes visual material in the form of photographic reproductions of manuscript documents used as evidence in the beatification causes and a collection of illustrated prayer cards which were printed for devotional purposes.

Format: Photographic print, typescript, printed and clipping

Extent: 6 files; 241 items; 47 pp

6.1. Photographic Prints

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: c.1919

Scope and Content: The sub-series contains photographic reproductions of manuscripts used as evidence in the beatification causes of the Capuchin martyrs.

Format: Photographic print

Extent: 3 files; 41 items

CA/SERV/6/1/1 Photographic Reproductions of Manuscripts

c.1919

Photographic prints

19 items

- Photographic prints of the original Acts of Profession of Br. Fiacre Tobin OSFC (1638) and Br. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC (1652) at the Irish Capuchin Friary in Charleville, France. The documents state Br. Fiacre was received in Charleville on 2 July 1637 and professed on 2 July 1638. Br. John Baptist was received on 14 July 1651 and professed on 5 Oct. 1652. Photographic prints, 18 items.
- Photographic print of the title page of *An apologie and true declaration of the institution and endeouours of the tvvo English colleges, the one in Rome, the other novv resident in Rhemes against certaine sinister informations giuen vp against the same*. The text is by William Allen (1532-1594). Printed at Mounts in Henault [i.e. Rheims: By Jean de Foigny?], 1581. Photographic print, 1 item.

CA/SERV/6/1/2 Photographic Reproductions of Manuscripts

c.1919

Photographic prints

20 items

- Photographic prints of an original manuscript by Fr. Robert O'Connell OSFC dated 3 June 1664 at Florence. The file consists of prints of numerous copies of ff 55-7, 65. The original document is probably from the *Archivio della Sacra Congregazione di Propaganda Fide* (Archives of Propaganda Fide). Latin. 20 photographic prints.

CA/SERV/6/1/3 Photographic Reproductions of Manuscripts

c.1919

Photographic prints

2 items

- Photographic print of the signature page of a manuscript dated 7 July 1654. The signatures include Fr. Christopher Kearney OSFC, Irish Capuchin Commissioner General. The print is probably from the *Commentarii de Missione Hibernica Capuccinorum* which bears the same date. The ink stamp of 'Biblioteca Francescana Provinciale' is visible on the page. Two copies. Photographic print, 2 pp.

6.2. Illustrated Prayer Cards

Level: Sub-series

Date of Creation: 1928-1943

Scope and Content: The sub-series includes prayers cards depicting the Capuchin martyrs. The cards were printed for promotional and devotional purposes.

Extent: 3 files; 200 items; 47 pp

CA/SERV/6/2/1 Beatification Prayer Cards

1928

Typescript and print

3 pp

- Letter from Fr. Sylvester Mulligan OFM Cap., Definitor General, to Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. referring to an order for pictures of Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. Fr. Sylvester wrote 'The pictures are printed in Milan, but we have 3,000 which I gave to a Roman printer today after having got the imprimatur of the "Promotore della fede". ... Unfortunately, the title under the picture is in Latin, but I take it for granted that it is better to have them in time, even with that defect. What I want to know is shall I order another 3,000 of them from Milan when I am getting those of Fr. Fiacre executed'. With enclosures of prints of 'S.D. Fiacrius a Kilkennia CAP (†1656)' and 'S.D. Joannes Baptista ab Ultonia CAP (†1710)'. The letter is dated 11 May 1928.

CA/SERV/6/2/2 Beatification Prayer Cards

c.1928-1943

Print and clipping

44 pp

- Illustrated prayer cards for *S.D. Fiacrius a Kilkennia / Sacredos Capuccinus* (c.1620-6 Mar. 1656). With an English-titled version of the card. Illustrated prayer cards for *S.D. Joannes Bapt. AB Ultonia / Sacredos Capuccinus* (1630-1710). With newspaper clippings of notes of thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. 6 Oct. 1941-15 Feb. 1943. Printed and clipping, 44 pp.

CA/SERV/6/2/3 Beatification Prayer Cards for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall

c.1928

Printed

c.200 items

- Illustrated prayers cards for 'The Servant of God / Fr. John Baptist of Ulster OSFC / Born 1630 – died 1716 / Introduction of his cause signed by Benedict XV / 23 July 1919'. The reverse is endorsed with the prayer

for the beatification of Fr. Dowdall. Printed by C. Salotti, S. Fidei Promotor Generalis.

Note: The card has an incorrect date of death for Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. He died in February 1710. The large number of prayer cards extant in this file suggests that they were not circulated.

7. Newspaper Clippings

Level: Series

Date of Creation: 1902-1919

Scope and Content: The series contains a small collection of newspaper clippings relating to the causes of the Capuchin martyrs.

Format: Clippings and photocopies

Extent: 5 files; 23 pp

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| CA/SERV/7/1 | Newspaper Clippings re Beatification Process
1919
Clipping and photocopies
8 pp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clipping of an article by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. titled 'The Cause of Beatification of two Irish Capuchin Priests' published in <i>The Father Mathew Record</i> (pp 172-3) and <i>The Irish Home Rule Journal</i> (p. 190). [1919]. |
| CA/SERV/7/2 | <i>Drogheda Independent</i>
26 July 1919
Clipping
1 p <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper cutting of an article, 'Franciscan Church, Drogheda / new organ, altar rails, and sanctuary required', <i>Drogheda Independent</i>, 26 July 1919. Reference is made in the article to Fr. John Baptist Dowdall 'as a Drogheda man and member of the Capuchin Order' and to his martyrdom for the faith in the seventeenth century. The article reprints a letter from Fr. Joseph Anthony OFM Cap., Procurator and Commissioner General of the Capuchin Order, to the Right Hon. M. McGowan, Mayor of Drogheda dated 10 July 1919. |
| CA/SERV/7/3 | <i>Franciscan Annals</i>
Aug. 1902
Clipping
4 pp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clipping of an article titled, 'A forgotten Irish Capuchin', <i>Franciscan Annals</i> (August 1902), pp 234-7. The article refers to the life of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. Printed, 4 pp. |
| CA/SERV/7/4 | <i>Kilkenny People and Kilkenny Journal</i>
28 June 1919-26 July 1919
Newspaper
3 copies |

- Copies of the *Kilkenny People* (28 June 1919 and 26 July 1919) and a copy of the *Kilkenny Journal* (5 July 1919). These editions include a copy of the petition of the Mayor and Corporation of Kilkenny to Pope Benedict XV re the cause of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC. 23 June 1919.

Conservation note: The newspapers are in poor condition. There is extensive fraying and tearing to the edges of one of the copies. Very careful manual handling is required.

CA/SERV/7/5

Newspaper Clippings re Beatification Process

30 Dec. 1916-26 Oct. 1919

Clipping

7 pp

- Newspaper clippings referring to the cause of the beatification of Fr. Fiacre Tobin OSFC and Fr. John Baptist Dowdall OSFC. The clippings include articles from the *Cork Examiner* (26 July 1919), *Freeman's Journal* (26 July 1919), the *Kilkenny People* (28 June 1919) and the *Irish Catholic* (22 Nov. 1919). Clipping, 4 pp.
- Clipping of an article titled 'The Irish Martyrs ... Evidence brought before the Roman Tribunals ... its progress and future', *Irish Catholic*, 26 Oct. 1929. Clipping, 1 p.
- Clipping of an article by Christopher Barres titled 'Banished by Cromwell / How Priests were Deported', *Saturday Herald*, 30 Dec. 1916. Reference is made to 'how Father Nugent, a Capuchin, became gardener to the Governor of Waterford, Colonel Lawrence'. Clipping, 2 pp.

8. Related Beatification Documents

Level: Series

Date of Creation: 1988

Scope and Content: The series contains copies of the volumes prepared for the beatification cause of seventeen of the Irish martyrs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Format: Printed

Extent: 2 volumes

CA/SERV/8/1

Cause for the Beatification of the Servants of God / Dermot O'Hurley, Archbishop, and Companions

Authors: Monsignor John J. Hanly (Postulator), Monsignor Patrick Corish, Fr. Benignus Millet OFM *et al.*

Date: 1988

Place of publication: Rome: Congregation for the Causes of Saints

Protocol Number: 114

Language: English and Latin

Physical description: 2 Vols.; Vol. I: xxxi, 432 pp; Vol. II: 433-830 pp.

Note: The volume presents the case (with documentary evidence) for the beatification of seventeen individuals from the large number of Irish martyrs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries whose cause was examined in the Apostolic Process in Dublin from 1917-30. The seventeen were:

- Patrick Healy OFM, Bishop of Mayo, and Conn O'Rourke OFM, priest, martyred at Killmallock, c.13 August 1579.
- Matthew Lambert, Robert Meyler, Edward Cheevers, Patrick Cavanagh and companions, laymen, martyred at Wexford, July 1581.
- Dermot O'Hurley, Archbishop of Cashel, martyred at Dublin, 20 June 1584.
- Margaret Ball (née Bermingham), laywoman, died in prison in Dublin, c.1584.
- Maurice MacKenraghty, secular priest, martyred at Clonmel, 20 April 1585.
- Dominic Collins SJ, laybrother, martyred at Youghal, 31 October 1602.
- Conor O'Devany OFM, Bishop of Down and Connor, and Patrick O'Loughran, secular priest, martyred at Dublin, 1 February 1612.
- Francis Taylor, layman, died in prison in Dublin, 30 January 1612.
- Peter Higgins OP, priest, martyred at Dublin, 23 March 1642.
- John Kearney OFM, priest, martyred at Clonmel, 11 March 1653.
- William Tirry OSA, priest, martyred at Clonmel, 2 May 1654.