

Bishop John McMullen

(From WikipediA)



John McMullen (January 8, 1832–July 4, 1883) was a 19th-century bishop of the Catholic Church in the United States. He was the first bishop of the Diocese of Davenport in the state of Iowa from 1881 to 1883.

Date	Age	Event	Title
8 Jan 1832		Born	<i>Ballynahinch, Ireland</i>
20 Jun 1858	26.4	Ordained Priest	Priest of Chicago, Illinois, USA
14 Jun 1881	49.4	Appointed	Bishop of Davenport, Iowa, USA
25 Jul 1881	49.5	Ordained Bishop	Bishop of Davenport, Iowa, USA
4 Jul 1883	51.5	Died	Bishop of Davenport, Iowa, USA

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Baptism of John McMullen by Alice Fitzsimmons
February 24-1831 at St. Charles in the Parish of St. Charles

Copy of (Bishop) John McMullen's Baptism entry in Magheradroll Parish Records in 1831

John McMullen was born in Ballynahinch, County Down, Ireland to James and Alice (Fitzsimmons) McMullen, and was one of ten children. When he was a little more than a year old his family immigrated to Canada. In 1837 they moved to Ogdensburg, New York and eventually they moved to Chicago. He was educated in the public school district and then parochial schools. He did his secondary and undergraduate studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago, graduating in 1852. He

studied for the priesthood at the College of the Propaganda and the Urban College in Rome where he was also awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree. McMullen was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on June 20, 1858 for the Diocese of Chicago. Archbishop Antonio Ligi-Bussi, O.F.M. Conv. was the ordaining prelate. He served the diocese, and later archdiocese, for 25 years. He was initially assigned as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral. During this time he helped to establish the House of the Good Shepherd, which cared for women who had been prostitutes, as well as orphanages for both boys and girls. He would go door to door to beg for money to support the institutions. He was well known at the Cook County jail and Bridewell, a house of corrections. In addition to visiting the inmates he would bring newspapers, periodicals and books. He was known for his friendly demeanor and concern.

From 1861 to 1866 McMullen served as president of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, during which time new facilities were built for the school. In 1865 he established the short-lived *Catholic Monthly* magazine while at the school. Unfortunately, the school suffered from lack of finances and all but the seminary department was closed in 1866. He then founded St. Louis and St. Paul's parishes in Chicago. McMullen accompanied Bishop James Duggan as one of his theologians to the Second Council of Baltimore. In 1868 he was sent to the Holy See to represent the interests of the priests of Chicago after Bishop Duggan's mental illness became evident. He was named the pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish in Wilmington, Illinois, and started a new parish in Braidwood.

He was named pastor of the Church of the Holy Name in Chicago and had just spent \$19,000 on renovations when the Great Chicago Fire struck the city on October 8, 1871. Every structure McMullen had built in the city was destroyed. Once Father McMullen looked after his parishioners, he and other priests of the diocese traveled across the country and into Canada to raise funds to rebuild Chicago's churches, and to help the multitudes who were left homeless. He then built the present Holy Name Cathedral, which was consecrated on November 21, 1875. In 1877 he was named vicar general by Bishop Thomas Foley. After Bishop Foley's death he was named administrator of the diocese, and was renamed vicar general after the arrival of Archbishop Patrick Feehan.

Bishop of Davenport



McMullen Hall at St. Ambrose University

On June 14, 1881, Father John McMullen was appointed the first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Davenport. He was consecrated bishop by Archbishop Feehan on July 25, 1881 in Holy Name Cathedral. The principal co-consecrators were Bishops John Hennessy of Dubuque and John Lancaster Spalding of Peoria.

Bishop McMullen chose St. Margaret's Church in Davenport to be his new cathedral and with zeal set to work to establish the new diocese. He was known for his simplicity of life. He did not own his own episcopal insignia or robes, but used those of the late Bishop Foley. Soon after arriving in Davenport he set out on a visitation of his diocese. He traveled by stage coach, buggy, lumber wagon, hand car and passenger coach on the train. While on visitation he administered the sacrament of Confirmation. By December 1881 he confirmed over 7,000 people, and by the end of 1882 the number rose to 13,000. McMullen called the diocese's first synod in 1882 to set procedures and regulations for the new diocese. In September of the same year he founded St. Ambrose, a seminary and school of commerce, for young men. Bishop McMullen's health soon failed, however. To try and find relief from his sufferings he attempted a trip to Rome, but only made it as far as New York. He also traveled to California where he fell gravely ill. A couple of months after his return to Davenport he died from stomach cancer after serving the diocese for a little less than two years.

Archbishop Feehan celebrated the Requiem Mass and Bishop Spalding preached the sermon. He was initially buried in the crypt of St. Margaret's Cathedral, and then his body was transferred to the crypt of Sacred Heart Cathedral after it was built. Finally, he and the other bishops who had been buried in the crypt were transferred to the Bishop's Circle of Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Davenport.

[Other information on Bishop McMullen and the McMullen family and descendants can be discovered on the internet by using our friend, 'Canon' Google.]



The following are some extracts from a book on the life of Bishop McMullen.

"The life and writings of the Right Reverend John McMullen, D. D.: first bishop of Davenport, Iowa"

<http://www.archive.org/stream/lifeandwritings00spalqooq#page/n8/mode/2up>

The relevant extracts below are :-

- the Bishop's whole family leaving Ballynahinch when he is age 1.
- Bishop's visit to Ballynahinch with a colleague on his way to Rome to study for priesthood and his attempt to get a Baptism Certificate from a "suspicious" Ballynahinch P.P.
- Bishop's return visit to Ballynahinch on his way home after Ordination in Rome.

LIFE OF BISHOP McMULLEN.

CHAPTER I.

HIS BIRTH—BIRTHPLACE—DEPARTURE OF HIS FAMILY FOR AMERICA—ARRIVAL IN CANADA—REMOVAL TO THE UNITED STATES—NEW YORK—LOCKPORT, ILL.—CHICAGO—INCIDENTS OF CHARACTER—HE ATTENDS SCHOOL—HIS FIRST COMMUNION IN JOLIET, ILL.

When James McMullen and his wife, Alice, left Ballynahinch, County Down, Ireland, on the 13th day of March, 1833, and sailed from Warren Point, Ireland, for America, a few days after, on the ship Princess Charlotte, they were accompanied by Mr. McMullen's father and mother, and by Mrs. McMullen's brother, James Fitzsimons, four daughters, two sons and a servant. The younger son, a little more than a year old, was John, the subject of these memoirs. He was born near Ballynahinch, on January 8th, 1832, according to the date given among the baptismal records of the College of the Propaganda. The family arrived in Quebec on the 29th day of April, after a long and stormy passage. Little do they experience who cross and re-cross the great Atlantic ocean, at this day, of the hardships of the emigrants of forty and fifty years ago. During the voyage another son was born, and since then three more children, one daughter and two sons. Having safely landed and found a comfortable temporary abode for his numerous charge, Mr. McMullen purchased a farm in the township of Halifax, Megantic County, Province of Quebec, whither he moved with his entire family.

He lived there for three years working his farm; but finding the climate too severe, he sold the place and located on another farm, near Prescott, in the Province of Ontario, Upper Canada. It was his intention to make this his permanent home, but God

CHAPTER VII.

DEPARTURE FOR ROME—INTEREST DISPLAYED BY FATHER QUARTER IN NEW YORK—ARRIVAL IN DUBLIN—ARCHBISHOP CULLEN—VISIT TO BALLYNAHINCH—INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL—ARRIVAL IN PARIS—CORRESPONDENCE—THEY SAIL FROM MARSEILLES—ARRIVAL IN CIVITA VECCHIA—ROME—FIRST INTERVIEW WITH CARDINAL FRANSONI—MCMULLEN'S CASE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PROPAGANDA—CASE REJECTED—JOHN MCMULLEN'S WORDS—CARDINAL FRANSONI RECEIVES BOTH STUDENTS INTO THE PROPAGANDA.

On the 18th day of August, 1853, John McMullen and James McGovern started from Chicago on their long trip to Rome. The voyage in those days was considered a very important undertaking, and no pains were spared by the two pilgrims' friends to make their departure pleasant. In speaking of his farewell to his home, John McMullen said to his young companion, "when the day of our departure arrived, I was afraid to meet my mother for the last farewell; in the morning I had asked and received her blessing, so I called out good-bye mother and all, then I ran out and jumped into the wagon." This was characteristic of him for there was nothing he disliked more than to show feelings of emotion, yet he was always pleased to see them in others. Leav-

ing home on the date stated, the young Chicagoans went by railroad to Detroit, thence by steamer to Dunkirk, and from there to New York by railroad. Arriving in the latter city, they went to Father Quarter's residence on 84th street. The good priest had removed to New York soon after the appointment of Bishop Van de Velde to the See of Chicago.

Father Quarter expressed great joy on the arrival of his "two boys" who were on their way to Rome, and his solicitude for their departure on their ocean trip caused him much anxiety. Everything was submitted to his advice. A long sea voyage had been recommended by the physicians to young McMullen, on account of a serious inflammation of his eyes, and although both had been supplied with abundant means by their parents to take first-class passage, Father Quarter decidedly recommended a steerage passage, "about as good as the first-class," and as one that would make them think of the hardships their parents had to put up with when they came to America, adding "it will be only twenty dollars apiece for a steerage ticket and both of you are young."

This advice suited John McMullen's ideas of economy. Berths were engaged in the steerage of the ship *Constellation*, and, after bidding friends farewell, they sailed from New York, on the 3rd day of September, 1853. Father Quarter accompanied them aboard the ship, and when parting from them, with tears in his eyes said: "Come to me on your return and you will find a welcome. I will pray that God may permit me to live to see you both priests." His prayers were heard.

The voyage was devoid of any noteworthy incidents. No sooner, however, was it known among the Catholic passengers that there was a young theologian on board, than much pleasure was manifested, and the young ecclesiastic was regarded with special reverence by those who were returning to their homes in Ireland. Every morning he called the steerage passengers around him and read prayers. One Sunday he preached

"a great sermon," they said, and when a fierce storm arose, as he never suffered from seasickness, he was constantly occupied in going from one berth to another with nourishing food and comforting words. The passage occupied nineteen days, the 'Constellation' arriving in Liverpool on the 22nd day of September, 1853. The Chicago passengers left by steamer on the evening of that day and arrived in Dublin the following morning, Sunday, the 23rd day of September. They took with them from their superiors of St. Mary of the Lake, letters of introduction to Archbishop Cullen, to the superiors of Maynooth College and many others. These letters were duly presented by John McMullen, and every attention was shown to the young travelers.

Archbishop Cullen took special charge of them, giving them a strict outline of the methods of travel through England and France, to Rome.

Before their departure from Ireland, as it was necessary that their Baptismal certificates should accompany them, a short trip was taken to Ballynahinch, the birth place of John McMullen, to obtain the record, which was found to be in the register of the Parish Church. No small excitement was aroused in that place when the news of the arrival of a son of James McMullen from America, on his way to Rome to become a priest, was spread among the people of the neighborhood. The letters brought over were distributed, questions about friends in America were answered as far as possible and the greatest wonder was expressed at the progress of the Catholic Church in the far West, when it was seen that students were leaving the seats of learning there, for Rome, to study for the priesthood. The venerable parish priest Father Sharky at first looked with some suspicion on the two travelers and he catechised them closely; but soon all doubt was removed and he treated them in a most hospitable manner. The record of John McMullen's baptism was not found to be correctly stated in the parish registry, but Father Sharky promised to lose no time in looking the matter up and making out a certificate. This was sent to Rome sometime afterwards and the

letter accompanying it was always treasured with the greatest reverence by its recipient, and on this account it is here added :

“ BALLYNAHINCH, April 18, 1855.

“ Dear Mr. McMullen : I send you a certificate of your baptism on the other leaf of this note, having delayed in order to make suitable inquiries respecting your exact age from your friends here as there is no register of your baptism that I could find in Mr. Palin’s hand-writing. I am glad to find you are engaged in successfully prosecuting your studies at the fountain-head of Catholicity, where I trust you may drink in large draughts of the heaven-born waters of doctrine and holiness which so copiously stream from the fountain of our Savior in his earthly Capital. These are the waters mentioned by our Lord to the Samaritan woman of which “ Whosoever drinks sufficiently will not thirst forever.” Your friends are all well and send regards to you and are glad to hear of your welfare. They trust for a visit on your return home.

Wishing you health and prosperity, I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

D. SHARKY, P. P.”

From Ballynahinch the travelers returned to Dublin, where calling again on Archbishop Cullen they received letters to Cardinal Fransoni and Dr. Kirby, the rector of the Irish College in Rome, which were given with special reference to the possibility of John McMullen being refused admission to the Propaganda. Archbishop Cullen was deeply impressed with the fine traits of character he had noticed in the young ecclesiastic. On his first visit to Rome in the year 1854, at the time of the definition of the Immaculate Conception, when visiting the Propaganda College, which was the Archbishop’s Alma Mater, he asked for John McMullen and was greatly pleased on seeing his young friend enrolled among the students of the Urban College.

The trip through England was brief and uneventful. Archbish-

op Cullen had urged the young travelers to hasten without delay to their destination, so as to be in time for the opening of the scholastic year, which takes place in Rome always about the first of November. They reached Paris, October 5, where they remained three days. The journey from Dover to Paris, however, was not without an amusing, but to the young travelers an apparently serious incident. Arriving at Calais their passports were submitted to the usual scrutiny, and more than ordinary caution was exercised in their regard. They were surrounded by guards and escorted to a private room where they were thoroughly searched. John McMullen had an old double barrelled pistol, given to him by his brother when he left Chicago, which had been loaded ready for any emergency. It had been placed in his trunk and was not disturbed until when leaving Dublin, he put it in his coat-pocket.

It was found there by the French officials in Calais and there was no end to the excitement; he was not only put under arrest, but his young companion was placed under the closest surveillance. John McMullen was greatly alarmed at this, and his imperfect knowledge of the French language helped to increase his fears. At last he demanded, as well as he could, the presence of an interpreter, who soon appeared, in the person of a good French priest, a fellow passenger from Dover to Calais, who was able to explain matters to the authorities, so that the two suspects were released, but without the pistol. The cause of this commotion was a dispatch, received at Paris from the London police authorities, saying that an attempt was to be made by conspirators from England on the life of Napoleon III. and the French officials at every point were directed to watch for a young man and a boy who were implicated in the plot.

The two travelers remained in Paris a few days for the purpose of distributing many letters and articles committed to them. They visited the Irish College, where they were hospitably entertained by the superiors and professors and they had the honor of receiving the blessing of the great Archbishop

of Tuam, Dr. McHale. While in Paris, John McMullen had a severe attack of illness. The one trouble of his mind was, that it might prove so serious as to prevent his seasonable arrival in Rome. His recovery, however, was so rapid as to be almost a miracle, and he felt deeply grateful to the Blessed Virgin, on whom he again called in a most fervent manner for his immediate restoration to health.

They left Paris by railway to Chalons on the Saone, thence by steam packet to Avignon, from which city they again traveled by railroad to Marseilles. John McMullen often related how his good luck smiled on him when in Chalons. They arrived in that city on a Sunday morning. While waiting for the boat to start he took a stroll to see what he could of that historic city. When he neared his hotel he stopped to have his boots blacked, which, when finished, he found that he had no change smaller than a gold piece. He tried to explain matters, but the bootblack stormed and fumed in choice Chalons French. A police officer was called, who, by signs, politely requested the young American to search more closely or to go with him to the prefecture; at this moment John McMullen thought of a United States dime, which he had carefully put away for a souvenir, which he handed over and though accepted reluctantly, relieved him from a very embarrassing situation. Another incident, deserving more than passing notice occurred this same Sunday morning. He and his young companion went to hear Mass in the nearest Church. Unaware of the custom of paying for the use of a chair and kneeling stool, each took possession of one and they had taken good places before the altar, when the collector approached and asked for the requisite dues, no heed was paid to this personage until, by many gesticulations, they were made to understand that they could not occupy the chairs without paying for their use, this was done by making exchange of a gold piece. The incident left a lasting impression on young McMullen's mind, inasmuch, that in the exercise of his priestly career he always showed a strong aversion to money changing within the precincts of the

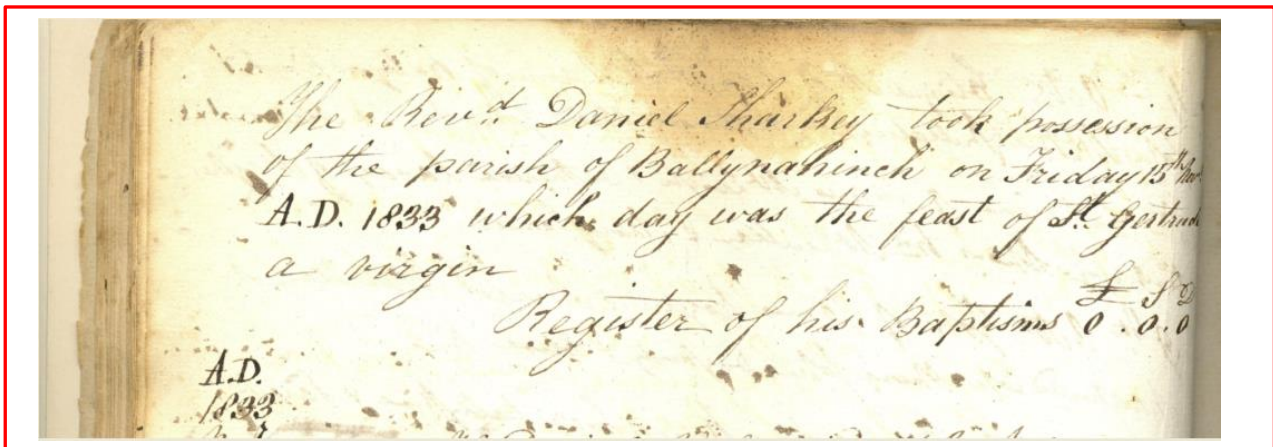
CHAPTER X.

REV. DR. McMULLEN'S ARRIVAL IN CHICAGO — HE MEETS BISHOP DUGGAN — HIS LETTER — BISHOP DUGGAN — HIS FIRST MASS IN CHICAGO — HIS FIRST SERMON IN ST. MARY'S — HIS ZEAL — HE FOUNDS THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD — HE ENCOUNTERS OPPOSITION — AN INCIDENT — REMOVAL OF THE ASYLUM TO THE NORTH SIDE — THE FIRST FRAME BUILDING IS BURNED — HIS CORRESPONDENCE — ACKNOWLEDGED SUCCESS OF THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

On the 27th day of November, 1858, a letter was received in Rome from the Rev. J. McMullen, D. D., announcing the writer's safe arrival in Chicago on the 20th of Oct. the same year. He gave in that letter a short description of his travels through France, England and Ireland; of his warm reception on his return to Ballynahinch, and of his Mass said in the old Parish Church in which he was baptised. "I have no important in-

Below is an entry by our present Canon's predecessor – Daniel Sharkey - in the same Old Baptismal Register – (but of course slightly before our Canon's time) – in 1833. It indicates that Fr. Sharkey became P.P. in 1833.

Daniel Sharkey was the verbose P.P. (a bit like our Canon!) referred to in the book above about Bishop McMullen and who wrote that letter to John McMullen in Rome confirming his baptism in Magheradroll.



Other internet links to McMullen Family in America:-

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/a/z/Vicki-R-Mazur/GENE8-0005.html>

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/mcmullen/messages/64.html>

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=kwatts&id=I4401>

A page from the 1827 Magheradroll Marriage Register – not easy reading 187 years later!

1827
May 1 1827 Ballynahinch Geo Logan and Mary Ann
Wife of Present Doctor Moore Captain Lynch
May 3 1827 Ballynahinch John Barry and Mary Ann
Present Bar John Barry John P.P. R.P. Ballynahinch
Nov 13 1827 Ballynahinch and Ballynahinch married
Wife of Present Elizabeth Barry
December 1 1827 Ballynahinch and Ballynahinch married
Wife of Present John Barry
December 27 1827 Ballynahinch and Elizabeth Barry
married Present John Barry
January 5 1828 John Barry and Margaret Barry
married Present John Barry
January 12 1828 John Barry and Elizabeth Barry married
Wife of Present John Barry
Feb 19 1828 John Barry and Elizabeth Barry married
Wife of Present John Barry
Feb 19 1828 John Barry and Elizabeth Barry married
Wife of Present John Barry
May 26 1828 John Barry and Mary Ann Barry married
Wife of Present John Barry
June 5 1828 John Barry and Mary Ann Barry married
Wife of Present John Barry