

Listing of personal documents of Bernard Walker, OP

11 April 2025

- 1930, Dec 1 Letter: Gillet to Province of St. Joseph – appoints T. S. McDermott, Provincial v
- 1934, Mar 12 Letter: Walker to McDermott
- Re: Submits a proposal for the houses to build up & share libraries.
- 1935, Mar 7 Letter: McDermott to Walker
- Re: Thanks Walker for sending a bound copy of the Acts of the Provincial Chapter (1934).
- 1935, Dec 2 Letter: Anselm Townsend [St Vincent] to Walker [Washington]
- Re: Transfer of books to Washington or Chicago.
- 1935, Nov 23 Letter: McDermott to Walker
- Re: Disposal of Fr. Schwertner's books & their use by Anselm Townsend.
 - Reply – 1935, Dec 7: Schwertner's books have been secured; a list of those borrowed by Townsend has been made.
- 1935, Dec 18 Letter: Andrew Nowlen to Walker
- "The proof [?] arrived yesterday morning and you lost no time in returning the corrected copy."
- 1936, Jan 15 Letter: Peter Guilday [CUA] to Walker
- Thinks a list of Catholic newspapers & periodicals around the CU area would be helpful; thinks the *Catholic Historical Review* might be able to print it in the Review.
- 1936, Jan 16 Letter: Anselm Townsend to Walker
- Questions w/to broken sets in Schwertner's books.
- 1936, Jan 27 Letter: John Earner [?] to Walker
- He is willing to take up the endeavor w/to Catholic newspapers, etc.
- 1936, Mar 11 Letter: Guilday to Walker
- Re: Presentation of a paper on Dominican "Colleges" at the meeting of the Catholic Historical Association in Dec 1936 at Providence.
 - 1936, Mar 15 – Letter: Walker to McDermott.
 - o Re: Walker seeks McDermott's permission to present the paper.
 - 1936, Apr 2 – Letter: Guilday to Walker
 - o Re: Apparently McDermott gave permission; Guilday welcomes the paper.
- 1936, Sep 25 Letter: John Andrew Nowlen to Walker
- Re: Preparing the Catalogus for 1937 w/to Index & Necrology.
- 1936, Dec 16 Letter: John Andrew Nowlen to Walker
- Re: Received proof for Index for 1937; thanks for quick proofing.

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1937, Jan 17 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: Vic O'Daniel is upset over Walker's election as prior, fearing that Walker will no longer be able assist him. Asks Bernard to impress upon O'Daniel that all will continue to go on as before.

1937, Jan 22 Letter: Augustine Skehan to Walker

- Re: Documents for O'Daniel; deacon's stoles; progress of a new Ceremonial.

1937, Mar 9 Letter: Augustine Skehan to Walker

- Re: Still trying to get the documents O'Daniel desires. + gossip.

1937, Mar 15 Letter: Augustine Skehan to Walker

- Re: Documents for O'Daniel have been mailed. Working on other matters.

Matters w/to "The Thomistic Institute of Providence College"

#1 - [1937?] Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker

- o RE: Has mailed a book [?]. Thanks Walker for his advice presumably w/to "The Thomistic Institute of Providence College."

#2 - 1937, Apr 12 Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker

- o Re: Explains the goals and procedures of the Institute.

#3 - [1937] *undated* Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker [*handwritten*]

- o Re: Books for the Thomistic Institute.

#4 - [1937], Apr 12 Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker [*handwritten*]

- o Re: Establishing the Institute.

#5 – [1937] *undated* Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker

- o Re: Brennan invites Walker to become a member.

#6 – 1937, Nov 13 Letter: Edward Brennan to Walker

- o Re: Update on progress of the Institute. Copy of the Institute's Constitution sent to Walker.

1937, May 9 Letter: Augustine Skehan to Walker

- Re: Mostly "provincial gossip." Skehan will be returning to Washington & will bring his library to the USA for Washington. McDermott, Thomas F. Conlon & Edward Joseph O'Toole were in Rome for the opening of the new addition at Santa Sabina. McDermott & O'Toole will continue on to China.

1937, Jun 16 Letter: Augustine Skehan to Walker

- Re: "provincial gossip." Inter alia: Ed Marr has just finished his dissertation but must wait 3 months before the defense can be scheduled.

Pamphlet: "Dominican Priory Library – Minneapolis, MN.

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1938, Apr 1 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: Give O'Daniel the keys to the Archives, as well as some stocks & funds that he desires. When he sees Walker, he will share with him what "the Master General remarked in regard to the House of Studies."
- 1938, Apr 9 Letter: Walker to McDermott
 - o Re: "keys, stocks, and funds" have been turned over to O'Daniel. According to your instructions at the time of visitation, Walker has made a duplicate set of keys.
 - o Hand written notes on typed copy:
 - #1 – "Master General in Washington from Manila – Mar 19; in New York – Mar 22ff; sailed for France – Mar 30."
 - #2 – "Vic returned to the fold, after sit-down strike of 15 months (1/17/37 – 4/9/38). Returned to Archives too. The deal – my head."

Matters w/to the Foundresses of the Fall River, MA, Dominican Sisters & a Sister M. Theresa the Dominican Sisters at St. Dominic's, Washington, DC [confidential material – DFW]

#1 – (1936), Feb 4 – "Extract from a Letter by a Sister who had known Mother Bertrand in Carrollton, Missouri, and later entered the convent in Fall River, and who finally joined the Dominican Sisters pf San Rafael, California"

#2 – 1937, Nov 22 – Letter: Sr. M. Madeleine, OP [Prioress General of Fall River, MA] to Bernard Walker [Washington, DC]

- o Re: Requests any help the Bernard could give regarding Mother Bertrand Sheridan (+1915) & Mother Gertrude, her successor (+1928) while in Washington, DC.
 - Attached: "Sister Mary Anna's Statements"
 - Bernard's handwritten annotations w/to 1877-82.

#3 – 1938, Aug 6 – Letter: Walker to Mother M. Madelein, OP

- o Bernard's initial observations on the matter. It would take some time (years) for him to look into the matter.

#4 – 1938, Aug 10 – Letter: Mother M. Madeleine, OP to Walker

- Re: She will contact again in 3-4 years.

1938, Sep 24 Letter: Walker to Raymond Meagher

- o Re: W/to what might be in the Archives relative to St. Peter's, Memphis. Bernard gives a general overview but is very guarded in his reply, e.g.,
 - "You know something of the situation here, but not all; and I do not think the situation should be put in writing."
 - He suggests turning "your letter over to Father Coffey who is acting assistant."
 - "I hope you can guess enough to let the information come to you from a source other than yours truly."
 - "Trust me until we meet, when I shall explain more fully."

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Matters w/to the “Cloister Chronicles” in the December 1937 issue of *Dominicana*:

#1 – 1938, Nov 26 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: The text of the “Cloister Chronicles” had been sent to McDermott for ‘proofing.’ McDermott raises a number of technical matters (e.g., consistency in titles) & makes corrections .

#2 – 1938, Nov 28 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker explains what had happened. He had not read them – his appointment of censor had expired.

#3 – 1938, Dec 4 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: Thanks Walker for his explanation. McDermott appoints him “as one of the Censors of *Dominicana*” & asks him to suggest another to assist him.

#4 – 1938, Dec 10 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker has communicated McDermott’s corrections, etc., to Fr. Luke Thornton. He agrees with McDermott’s idea of what the “Cloister Chronicles” in *Dominicana* should be. He suggests Fr. Thornton as the second Censor.

1938, Dec 6 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: McDermott sends stipends to Washington, but wonders “just what effort is being made on the part of your Community to collect stipends.”
- 1938, Dec 10 Letter: Walker to McDermott (3pp.)
 - Walker provides abundant detail to support the efforts of the Washington-DHOS community to obtain stipends & fulfill them. There seems to be a decrease in stipends in the area according to local pastors. The number of priests residing at Washington has increased substantially in recent years – 1935-36 = 46; 1938-39 = 75.
 - Photostats of Provincial financial report for 1936, 1937 & 1938 to provide data on donations from St. Pius to Province of St. Joseph.

1939, Jan 13 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: “response to your telegram for full information about our laybrothers here.”
 - Outlines what is being done w/to religious life formation.
 - Comments upon 4 laybrothers who are troublesome – all in simple vows: Angus McParland, Raymond Delaney, Vincent Connell, Joseph McInnis
- 1939, Jan 18 Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - McDermott does not understand why “it is so difficult to handle Lay-Brothers in any community.” He re-assigns Angus McPartland (sic) & Raymond Delaney. At the moment he does not have a laybrother to send Washington. He will take this up at visitation in a few weeks.

1939, Jan 27 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: “Chaplaincy of the Jail” – “it is desirable, if not necessary, to ‘break in’ Father McGowan before releasing Father Nuttall” → reasons for this.
- 1939, Jan 31 – Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - Re: He will take this up at visitation “during the latter part of the week.”

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1939, Feb 4 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: A letter received from the Apostolic Delegation by way of Fr. Daly w/to some work that Fr. McMahon has done for the delegation – how should Walker respond?
 - o 1939, Feb 7 – Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - Tell the Delegate that Fr. McMahon is being transferred to New Have, but there is no reason why he cannot continue to do work for the delegation.
 - Copy of a Letter: Walker to John Berchmans Affleck [“Berky”], prior at New Haven, forwarding McMahon’s mandamus to him.
 - o 1939, Feb 18 – Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - The Apostolic Delegate has requested that McDermott not transfer McMahon to New Haven that he might continue to assist the Delegate. He will comply with the Delegate’s request. But, forward the mandamus to Fr. Affleck. He will allow McMahon to remain in Washington until his work is complete. However, he is relieving him of the office of Procurator. Father McCadden will assume this office.
 - o 1939, Feb 21 – Letter: Walker to McDermott
 - Acknowledges letter of 18 Feb 1939 – all has been done as McDermott wishes.

1939, Apr 1 Letter: Walker to Thomas Garde, Socius to Master of the Order

- Re: Walker asks that Garde (who was in the process of visiting several convents of the Province), if he intends to visit Washington-DHOS, to carry out a “thorough investigation” of his election in January 1937.
 - o On the day of his election one vocal accused Walker of having “shenaniganed” the election [from Walker’s description the unnamed vocal is Fr. O’Daniel - DFW]
 - o Within the past two months the Provincial has accused another vocal [Fr. McMahon - DFW] of having “engineered” Walker’s election & of creating “a bad spirit in the community” for which he was relieved of a position to which Fr. McDermott had appointed him on 17 Oct 1938 [Procurator] & whom Fr. McDermott has recently transferred from Washington.
 - o Walker suggests that his removal as Archivist in the Provincial Chapter of 1938 was probably the work of his unnamed accuser [Fr. O’Daniel – DFW].
- Attached: handwritten notes of Walker’s listing items that might support his request for an investigation.

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1939, Apr 21 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker has become aware that there are two in the formation community who are illegitimate. Fr. Johannsen assured him that dispensations had been granted & are in their personal files at the provincial office. Walker asks that someone check to make sure, for the two should have received a document granting the dispensation, but apparently neither had received one. If there are no documents, Walker would be glad to prepare a petition to the Master of the Order for a dispensation.
 - o 1939, May 3 – Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - Re: There are no documents. Prepare a petition.
 - o 1939, Dec 10 – Letter: Walker to McDermott
 - The matter had slipped his mind. He encloses the petitions (which are not in this file).

1939, Apr 23 Letter: Walker to Thomas Garde, OP

- Re: Walker recalls their conversation about the popularity of “novenas” in the USA. He sends Garde a sample of the typical literature that circulates in the USA.

Research w/to Thomas Carbry, OP

#1 – 1939, Apr 24 Letter: Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM (Librarian at the Franciscan Friary, Dublin) to Walker

- o Re: Responds to an earlier inquiry of Walker about documents relating to Thomas Carbry, OP

#2 – 1939, May 4 Letter: Walker to Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM (2pp)

- o Re: Walker outlines possible documents in which he would be interested.

#3 – 1939, St. Paschal [May 17] Letter: Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM, to Walker (3pp)

- o Re: Fr. Mooney is sending some photostats of documents.

#4 – 1939, Jun 7 Letter: Walker to Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM

- o Re: Walker thanks Mooney for the photostats & asks for assistance in obtaining documents in the Archiepiscopal archives in Dublin. Raises specific questions about documents.

#5 – 1939, Jun 25 Letter: Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM, to Walker

- o Re: Answers Walker’s questions.

#6 – 1939, Aug 1 Letter: Walker to Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM

- o Re: Sends Mooney references to Irish MSS in USA libraries.

#7 – 1939, Sep 15 Letter: Fr. Canice Mooney, OFM, to Walker (2pp)

- o Re: Thanks Walker for MSS references. The archivist for the Archdiocese can find no letters w/to Fr. Charles French, OP.

#8 – Typed copy of Fr. Mooney’s letter of 17 May 1939.

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1939, May 3 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker reports an automobile incident involving 3 Friars – a professor & 2 student priests from the Preachers' Institute – FYI.
- 1939, Jun 1 Letter: McDermott to Walker
 - o Re: McDermott wishes to know "what action you have taken" & by whose authority a professor took two students from the Preachers Institute w/o the permission of the Prior. The 3 had to appear in traffic court.
- 1939, Jun 4 Letter: Walker to McDermott
 - o RE: Because the three were manifestly contrite & expressed voluntarily their readiness to accept any penance he might impose, he "felt that kindness would produce more lasting good than severity" he did not impose a penance.

Handwritten notes of Walker (1p):

- Garde has been in River Forest; left there 5/21/39.
- [Unclear reference]: "Spl. Delivery – 5/25/39"
 - o [from other notes, I surmise that Garde had requested a copy of a 1938 financial report – probably the Province, but perhaps of River Forest? – DFW]

1939, Sep 7 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: Mrs. Elizabeth Ledig has contacted McDermott w/to a cruise to South America. If Walker can arrange to take this trip, McDermott gives permission & would also see to finances if this is necessary.
- 1939, Sep 10 Letter: Walker to McDermott
 - o Re: Bernard decides that he really needs to spend some time with his 86-year old mother in October, if McDermott approves. He appreciates McDermott's gesture.

1939, Sep 27 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: There is more trouble between two COOP brothers – Luke Barnes & Vincent Connell, both in simple vows. Luke Barnes has been extremely nervous for "more than a year" with headaches, etc. – doctors have suggested "he be psychoanalyzed." Walker suggests that Vincent Connell is the source of the difficulty. If McDermott sees fit to move Bro. Vincent to another house, Washington will make do.

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Matters regarding the Preachers Institute & a few others:

#1 – 1939, Oct 4 Letter: McDermott to Walker.

- Re: McDermott asks that, in order to give the student priests in the Preachers Institute experience, Walker give preference to them in assigning week-end work. He further asks that he consult Fr. Bonniwell, director of the Institute, before assigning them, as Bonniwell would know when these student priests were prepared “to deliver a Sunday instruction.”

#2 – 1939, Oct 6 Letter: Walker to McDermott (3pp)

- Re: W/to “preference in assigning student priests” he makes 3 points:
 - 1. That is already his policy – he elaborates;
 - 2. He had contacted Fr. Bonniwell in the past, but he was absolutely opposed to using student priests in this way; Bonniwell would not relent & so Bernard told him he considered Bonniwell’s opposition “illegitimate and illegal” & that he would continue to assign them;
 - 3. Bonniwell has opposed assigning student priests to other opportunities, e.g., “40 Hours,” and insists that they write weekly sermons on the Gospel & Epistle each week and that they have no time to do anything else.
- Bonniwell apparently continued to be a problem. Walker continued to assign student priests as he saw fit.

#3 – 1939, Oct 11 Letter: McDermott to Walker (2pp)

- Re: McDermott supports Walker’s approach to assigning week-end work. He also notes some typographical inconsistencies in the latest issue of *Dominicana*.

#4 – 1939, Oct 10 Letter:

Walker to McDermott

- Re: Problems with Bonniwell continue. He asks McDermott to make a decision on 2 points:
 - 1. Are the Prior’s assignments “subject to the veto of the Director of the Preachers Institute?”
 - 2. Is the Preachers Institute independent of the Regent of Studies “who has been charged with the direction of all the studies of the Province?”

#5 – 1939, Oct 21 Letter:

McDermott to Walker

- Re: #1 - In no way was it his intention to abrogate the authority of the Prior in regard to the assignments of Fathers. He merely wished to recommend consideration of students of the Preachers Institute.
#2 – He wants well-prepared preachers. When you have an opportunity to come to New York we can take the matter of the Institute and settle any misunderstandings.

#6 – 1939, Oct 24 Letter:

Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker agrees “with your ideas about the Institute.” There are still some items that need definition. He will be happy to come to New York to discuss them.

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Matters w/to times for Recreation for Student Priests & Student Brothers

#1 – Memorandum of Prior's side of controversy concerning recreation for student priests and professed students at the House of Studies, Washington. (2pp)

- RE: Bernard's history (Fall 1937 to Fall 1939) of the problem.

#2 – 1939, Sep 26 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: McDermott imposes rules concerning recreational facilities at DHOS.

#3 – 1939, Sep 29 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Walker thought McDermott had agreed with his regulations & therefore he posted them. McDermott's regulations, apparently after consultation with Fr. Thornton, now differ. They exclude all those in the community who are not student priests or student brothers (60 in number).

#4 – 1939, Oct 3 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: He appreciates the challenge of satisfying everyone, however, since the student brothers "have not the same freedom as the young Fathers and professors have, these Novices [student brothers] should receive consideration first."

#5 – 1939, Oct 6 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: Fr. Thornton & Fr. Walker have discovered that part of the difficulty about recreational activities resulted a misunderstanding concerning with each was talking about. They have worked everything out. They have a suggested amendment for regulation #4.

1939, Dec 9 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: McDermott is willing to grant Fr. Coffey's request for an extended "quies" provided he also has Bernard's permission. Bernard can grant all the Fathers the usual 'quies'.

- 1939, Dec 12 Letter: Walker to McDermott

- Re: He is happy Bro. Giles Waskowski will be assigned to Washington. He outlines a history of his dealings with Fr. Coffey – they seem not to have gotten along well. His proposal is that Fr. Coffey be granted a quies from the close of the University (Dec 20, 1939) until it opens again (Jan 4, 1940) & that Bernard tell him "on my own that he is denied a longer quies because of unsatisfactory work at the University; and that in future he will first seek permission of local authority before approaching his Major superior."

- 1939, Dec 14 Letter: McDermott to Walker

- Re: Walker's proposal in dealing with Fr. Coffey meets with McDermott's approval; McDermott will back him up.

Envelop containing a record of Walker's receipts & expenses for 1937 – 38 – 39.

1940, Jan 2 Prior's Report on receipts & expenditures for 1937, 1938, & 1939

- [This appears to be the financial report for his "end-of-term" report. – DFW]

1939, Dec 31 Report on TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2pp)

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- 1966, Jan 30 Note from P.o'B [Peter O'Brien] thanking Walker for sharing a packet of materials which consisted of:
- RE: Cost per student appears to be \$400 per year.
 - Handwritten notes on cost-per-man for the years 1931-1939 (original & copy)
 - Copy of: 1940, Jan 2 - Prior's Report on receipts & expenditures for 1937, 1938, & 1939
 - Copy of: 1939, Dec 31 - Report on TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2pp)
- 1940, Jun 23 Letter: John "George" [Washington-DHOS] to Jim [= James Bernard Walker]
- NB: The author is a bit of a mystery: the only "George" that I could find in the East-Catalogi for 1939 & 1940 were Edward George Fitzgerald & George Boniface Stratemeier. Stratemeier seems to me the more likely candidate – DFW]
- 1940, Jul 22 Letter: Peter O'Brien to Walker [Columbus, OH]
- Re: Walker's document of transfiguration has arrived from Rome.
- 1940, Aug 1 Letter: McDermott to Walker [Washington, DC]
- Re: Your request for transfiguration has been granted.
- 1941, Feb 18 Letter: "Ted" [Mariner Theodore Smith – Washington-DHOS] to Jim [Walker]
- Re: Arrangements for bringing Barrois to the US; Fr. Chenu played a part.
- 1941, Mar 17 Letter: Arthur Lawrence McMahon [New Haven] to Walker [Miami] ✓
- Re: Friendly letter. Refers to a "movement" to revise the boundaries of St. Joseph's and of St. Albert's by moving Michigan, Indiana & Ohio into St. Albert's.
- 1941, Mar 24 Letter: Arthur Lawrence McMahon [New Haven] to Walker [Miami] ✓
- Re: Gossip. Comments on Fathers Burnell & Rumaggi participating in the Provincial Chapter. Discusses the process for establishing St. Albert's – it should have been *ad experimentum*. Discusses provincial boundaries & possibility of revision. Discusses Barrois affair at CU. Returns to provincial boundaries – ecclesiastical provinces of Cincinnati & Detroit should have been in St. Albert's.
- 1940 (Spring) Memo to Fr. O'Brien giving Walker's recollections w/to establishment of Vicariate & Finances ✓
- 1941, Apr 5 Letter: (Mrs. J. Leo) Connie Gleason (Nat. Council of Cath. Women) {W. Palm Beach} to Walker
- Re : Invitation to speak at their Convention in Gainesville – Apr 28-30, 1940
- 1941, Apr 9 Letter: Peter O'Brien [River Forest] to Walker [Miami] ✓
- Re: Gossip about Ohio & Michigan.
- 1941, Jun 30 Letter: Sr. Mary Gerald, OP (Adrian, MI) to Walker [Miami]
- Re: Expresses her appreciation for his presence at Barry College & realizes Fr. O'Brien needs him.

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1941, Jul 18 Letter: McDermott to Walker [Miami]

- Re: Fr. Burke, Bernard's replacement at Barry, is in Summer School at CUA & he will not get a 'quies' if he then goes immediately to Barry. He will report no later than Aug 15th. He thanks Bernard for his service to St. Joseph's; he is always welcome in St. Joseph's.

1941, Oct 9 Letter: Ted E. [Mariner Theodore Smith?] to Jim [Walker]

- Re: microfilm of Quetif-Echard has shipped; will assistance with providing some volumes for the River Forest library as able.

Chart listing those in formation 1934-1939.

✓

1938 – Financial Status of the Houses of the Province, their indebtedness, interest & principal paid.

✓

Packet of materials w/to USA Catholic demographics / comparison of 1930 & 1939.

✓