

**Fonds:** Bishop Francis C. Kelley fonds

**Reference code:** F 9

**Dates of creation:** [ca. 7000]-1952 ; predominant 1885-1952

**Physical description:**

1.5 centimetres of textual records  
2 volumes of textual records (leatherbound)  
5 photographs : carte-de-visite  
20 artifacts : medals  
5 artifacts : lapel pins  
5 artifacts : medallions  
1 artifact : medallion and chain  
1 artifact : sterling silver charm  
1 artifact: arrowhead  
1 artifact: épitoge  
1 artifact: sash

**Scope and content:**

Fonds consists of records created and accumulated by Bishop Francis Clement Kelley.

Textual records include documents concerning Bishop Kelley's death, memorials, dedications of schools in his name, the deed of his personal library donation to St. Dunstan's College, correspondence regarding the conveyance of his library, as well as shipping and customs documents. Other documents include two leatherbound volumes, *Ad Altare Dei* tribute and *A Silver Jubilee*. Textual records also include newspaper articles and books regarding the peace treaty with Italy, the Malta Crisis and a short story publication written by Bishop Kelley.

Photographs include carte-de-visite of Catholic clergy accumulated by Bishop Kelley.

Artifacts include medals, medallions, lapel pins and awards presented to Bishop Kelley, as well as an arrowhead, a blue and white épitoge with fur trim and a black sash with a bow.

**Biographical sketch:**

Bishop Francis Clement Kelley was born in Summerville/Vernon River, on November 24, 1870, to John Kelley (of Kilkenny County, Ireland) and MaryAnn Murphy (of Summerville, PEI). He was the second child and the eldest living son of the Kelley children.

Bishop Kelley was educated at St. Dunstan's College in Charlottetown, PEI, two small colleges affiliated with the University of Laval, Quebec, and was ordained by the

Diocese of Detroit, Michigan on August 24, 1893. His first post was at a country parish in Lapeer, Michigan.

During the Spanish-American War of 1898, Bishop Kelley served as a Chaplain with the rank of Captain in the Michigan National Guard. He was Vice Commander General of the Military Order of Foreign Wars and a Commander in the Order of the Spanish-American War.

In 1905, during his time in Lapeer, Michigan, Bishop Kelley established the Catholic Extension Society. The society was initiated as a response to the rural and poor Catholics in America and the need for mission services in remote areas. After one year, he moved to Chicago to continue the Extension Society's work while adding the *Extension Magazine* to the mission's outreach efforts.

Shortly after beginning the Catholic Extension Society, the University of Laval conferred upon Bishop Kelley the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and Notre Dame University an honorary Doctor of Laws, both in 1907.

In 1915, Pope Benedict XV made Bishop Kelley a Domestic Prelate and one month later, he was further raised to Protonotary Apostolic.

On June 25, 1924, Kelley was appointed Bishop of Oklahoma by Pope Pius XI. He was consecrated in Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago by Cardinal George Mundelein on October 2 and installed in St. Joseph's Cathedral at Oklahoma City on October 15, 1924.

In 1927, the University of Louvain, Belgium, conferred the honorary degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and a Doctor of Letters on Bishop Kelley.

Bishop Kelley's concern and aid for the exiled Catholics during the Mexican Revolution resulted in him building a seminary in Texas, primarily for the exiled Mexican clergy. Following WWI, Bishop Kelley served as a diplomat at the 1919 Peace Conference in Versailles and Paris, where he represented the Bishops of Mexico. While in Paris, he was involved in settling the Roman Question, a dispute between the Italian State and the Papacy. In 1930, the Italian government made him a Knight of Saints Maurus and Lazarus, in recognition of his work on the Roman Question. In 1931, the Austrian government conferred on him the Great Golden Cross of the Order of Merit with Star, for work done after the war in relieving famine conditions in Vienna.

Bishop Kelley supported the Catholic Church's integration of the Boy Scouts of America program and was appointed Chairman of the Bishops' Catholic Committee on Scouting in 1932. In 1939, the Boy Scouts awarded him the Silver Buffalo Award.

Bishop Kelley was a writer, speaker and lecturer. He wrote sixteen books, multiple pamphlets, and articles during his career. He was a priest for fifty-four years and a Bishop for twenty-three years. He died of a heart attack on February 1, 1948, at age 77. He is buried in the Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

Bishop Kelley bequeathed his library in Oklahoma and a monetary donation to St. Dunstan's University in his will.

**Restrictions on Access:**

See series descriptions for further information.

**Terms Governing Use:**

See series descriptions for further information.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:**

The records were donated by the St. Dunstan's University Board of Governors, care of Executive Director George Morrison, in 2025.

**Associated Material:**

- Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections: Catholic Church Extension Society, UA1980.34 (Catholic Church Extension Society, Subgroup 1: History, Series 2: Rev. Francis Clement Kelley Records)
- Notre Dame University Archives, Indiana: <https://archives.nd.edu/Scholastic/Bishop Francis Kelley as a search term>.

**Related Material:**

- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Bishop Jots it Down: An Autobiographical Strain on Memories* (New York, N.Y., Harper and Brothers, 1939). [[BX4705.K35A3 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Sacerdos et Pontifex: Letters to a Bishop-Elect* (Paterson, N.J., St. Anthony Guild Press, 1942). [[BX1905.K4 1942 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Forgotten God* (The Bruce Publishing Company, 1932). [[SPEC-PEI BX 890.K45 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *When the Veil is Rent* (P.J. Kennedy & Sons, 1929). [[SPEC-PEI PS 8521.E46W5 1929 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Epistles of Father Timothy to his Parishioners* (Extension Press, 1924). [[SPEC-PEI BX2350.K45 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Story of Extension* (Extension Press, 1922). [[SPEC-ARCH BV2190.K45 ARCH](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Dominus Vobiscum: a Book of Letters* (Matre & Company, 1922). [[SPEC-ARCH BV4010.K45 ARCH](#)]

- Francis Clement Kelley, *Letters to Jack* (Extension Press, 1919). [[SPEC-PEI BJ1671.K27 1919 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Throne of the King* (Extension Press, 1918). [[SPEC-PEI PS8521.E46T5 1918 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The Book of Red & Yellow: Being a Story of Blood and a Yellow Streak* (Catholic Church Extension Society, 1915). [[SPEC-PEI F1234.K27 1915 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *The City and the World, and Other Stories* (Extension Press, 1913). [[SPEC PEI PS8521.E46C5 1913 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Tales from the Rectory* (Bruce Publishing Co., 1943). [[SPEC-PEI PS8521.E46T3 1943 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Pack Rat: a Metaphoric Phantasy* (Bruce Publishing Co., 1942). [[SPEC-PEI PS8521.E46P3 1942 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Problem Island* (St. Anthony Guild Press, 1937). [[SPEC-PEI P58521.E46P7 1937 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Blood-Drenched Altars: Mexican Study and Comment* (Bruce Publishing Co., 1935). [[SEC-PEI F1234.K28 PEI](#)]
- Francis Clement Kelley, *Anniversary Addresses* (Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, 1933). [[SPEC-ARCH BX4705.K35A4 ARCH](#)]
- James P. Gaffey, *Francis Clement Kelley and the American Catholic Dream* (Heritage Foundation Inc., 1980). [[SPEC-PEI BX4705.K35G33 PEI](#)]
- <https://islandvoices.ca/islandora/object/ivoices%3A491>

**Accruals:**

No further accruals are expected.

**Former codes:**

UASC2024-008

**How to order:**

See series descriptions for further information.

**Finding Aid:**

See series descriptions for further information.

**Notes:**

Some records are in Latin, French, and Spanish.

**Authority Record:**

*Person:*

Kelley, Francis Clement

*Biography:*

Bishop Francis Clement Kelley was born in Summerville/Vernon River, on November 24, 1870. He attended St. Dunstan's College (Charlottetown, PEI), the University of Laval (Laval, Quebec) and was ordained in the Diocese of Detroit, Michigan. During the Spanish-American War of 1898, Bishop Kelley was awarded a number of medals and pins for his service. In 1905, during his time in Lapeer, Michigan, Bishop Kelley began the Catholic Extension Society. On June 25, 1924, Kelley was appointed Bishop of Oklahoma, by Pope Bius XI. Honorary degrees conferred upon Bishop Kelley include: Doctor of Philosophy by The University of Laval; honorary Doctor of Laws, Notre Dame University; as well as a Doctor of Philosophy and a Doctor of Letter in 1927 by the University of Louvain, Belgium. He died of a heart attack on February 1, 1948, and is buried in the Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

**Series and Subseries Arrangement:**

<b>Reference Code:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
Series 9-1	Bishop Francis C. Kelley's medals and lapel pins
Series 9-2	Records concerning Bishop Francis C. Kelley's death
Series 9-3	Photographs accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley
Series 9-4	Artifacts accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley
Series 9-5	Publications created and accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley

**Series F 9-1:** Bishop Francis C. Kelley's medals and lapel pins

**Dates of creation:** [ca. 1890s]-[1948]

**Physical Description:**

20 artifacts : medals

5 artifacts : lapel pins

5 artifacts : medallions

1 artifact : medallion and chain

1 artifact : sterling silver charm

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of thirty-two artifacts, including medals, medallions, lapel pins and awards belonging to Bishop Kelley.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

**Series F 9-2:** Records concerning Bishop Francis C. Kelley's death

**Dates of creation:** 1943-1951

**Physical Description:**

1 centimetre of textual records

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of textual records that include documents concerning Bishop Kelley's death, memorial(s), records concerning school dedications in his name, the deed of his personal library donation and correspondence regarding the library conveyance, shipping and customs documents.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.



**Series F 9-3:** Photographs accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley

**Dates of creation:** 1885-1888

**Physical Description:**

5 photographs : carte-de-visite

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of five carte-de-visite of Catholic clergy accumulated by Bishop Kelley.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

**Series F 9-4:** Artifacts accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley

**Dates of creation:** 7000-[1948] ; predominant [ca. 1893]-[1948]

**Physical Description:**

1 artifact : arrowhead

1 artifact : épitoge

1 artifact : sash

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of three artifacts: an arrowhead, a blue and white épitoge with fur trim and a black sash with a bow.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

**Series F 9-5:** Publications created and accumulated by Bishop Francis C. Kelley

**Dates of creation:** 1918-1952

**Physical Description:**

0.5 centimetres of textual records

2 volumes of textual records (leatherbound)

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of textual records that include two leatherbound volumes, one *Ad Altare Dei* tribute and the other a *1893-1918 Silver Jubilee*. Other records include newspaper articles and books regarding the peace treaty with Italy, the Malta Crisis and a short story publication written by Bishop Kelley. Also included is an Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem acceptance certificate.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.