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A List of Dominicans in Ireland, 1657

Hugh Fenning, O.P.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Almost twenty years ago, Fr Benignus Millett, O.F.M., discovered the list of Dominicans presented here.¹ It makes a fitting contribution to *Collectanea Hibernica* on its twenty-fifth anniversary. Father Benignus may now publish, as a little tribute to himself, an important document which he was the first to find. May it also serve as a token of long friendship with the Franciscans of Killiney and a token of high regard for *Collectanea Hibernica* itself.

The chief importance of the list lies in its date, for the Ireland of 1657 was no place for any priest to be. No one could reasonably expect a roll-call in the circumstances, and yet here we have one. Sixty priests of the order, and fourteen brothers, were living as best they could in the full, cold blast of Cromwellian persecution. Three of them were in prison. The names of others still were unknown, even to the provincial, Father William Burke, as he candidly admitted. The document has also the merit of filling a long gap, for no comparable list exists for thirty years before nor for almost thirty years after.

William Burke, provincial from 1650, wrote from Louvain to the secretary of Propaganda Fide on 15 September 1657. His letter precedes the list in the archives, as it does in this edition. He had submitted an *exacta ratio missionis* to the former secretary, Monsignor Dionisio Massari, a year earlier, but his earlier report has not been found. That too must have been essentially a list of names, since Father Burke refers to this second one as a *simile computum*. He claimed a total of seventy-six Dominicans in Ireland whereas there were only seventy-four names on his list. The names were numbered carelessly, after its compilation, with the result that two priests were

¹B. MILLETT, *The Irish Franciscans 1651-1665* (Rome, 1964), p 339, note 134. The archival reference to the letter and list is APF, Fondo di Vienna, 14, ff. 162r-163v. About half the friars named by Father Burke in 1657 are otherwise unknown, largely because the acts of provincial chapters survive only from 1669. Very few, and only the most outstanding, are mentioned by John O'Heyne, whose *Epilogus Chronologicus* (Louvain, 1706) is largely devoted to a later Dominican generation. Several occur in H. FENNING, 'Irish material in the registers of the Dominican Masters General 1390-1649', in *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum*, xxxix (1969), pp 249-336. For a more general, but important report of 1658 by Felix O'Connor, O.P., see B. JENNINGS (ed.), 'Miscellaneous documents III: 1602-1715', in *Archiv. Hib.*, xv (1950), pp 31-33.

allotted two numbers each: their respective entries ran to two lines, while most of the rest had only one. The main list is followed by a shorter one of the ten missionaries specially designated by Propaganda Fide: of these one was dead, six had already been listed as 'on the mission', while the other three were ready to leave for Ireland at a moment's notice.² For purposes of comparison, one may note that there were 'about 400' Dominicans in Ireland in 1645 and 'about 200' in 1665.³

Thanks to the help of Fr Thomas Flynn, O.P., who checked five doubtful readings against the original, only one name (no. 33) is really uncertain. Nos. 14 and 42 may possibly refer to the same individual. The spelling of surnames, often peculiar enough, is given just as it occurs in the original.

TEXT

*William Burke, O.P., provincial, to Mario Alberizzi,
secretary of Propaganda Fide, Louvain, 15 Sept. 1657,
with list of Dominican friars in Ireland*

APF, Fondo di Vienna, 14, ff. 162r-163v

Anno praeterito exactam rationem missionis Hybernicæ fratrum praedicatorum reddidi Ill.mo Domino, Domino Dionisio Mazario tunc Secretario Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, modoque existimo incumbere meo muneri simile computum exhibere Vestrae Ill.mae dominationi. Ut a statu Catholicorum in Hybernia degentium exordiar, nihil nisi trisstissima nuncia in dies habentur afflictionique ipsorum maximum addidit dolorem et pavorem quodam edictum approbatum in ultimo parlamento Londinensi contra omnes Catholicos Hybernos, Anglos et Scotos, et quamvis lex indiscriminatim lata sit in omnes praedictos Catholicos, adhuc propter innatum odium in nostros Hybernos, exactius et crudelius contra ipsos exercetur ita ut illorum expensis et torturis aliis terrores incutere nituntur. Omnès ecclesiastici tanquam legum violatores morte digni censentur, imo saeculares faventes ecclesiasticis eisdem poenis puniendi sunt. Quibus non obstantibus non desunt qui ultro propriam exponunt vitam pro salute spirituali proximorum. Inter alios ex nostro sacro praedicatorum ordine adhuc in Hybernia existunt 76

²The 'Gerardus' Davoc mentioned after the second list is the 'Geraldus' Davoc whose name heads the first one.

³MILLETT, *Ir. Franciscans*, pp 99, 103.

quorum nomina in annexa scedula continentur. Additus in Hybernia est valde periculosus ob urgentissimas indagaciones et interrogaciones circumstantiarum personae ingredientis, nec desunt ordinarie pericula quotidiana, silvae et cavernae subterraneae sunt loca tutiora.

Adm. Rev. di Patres fr. Ricardus Kelly, sacrae theologiae magister, et fr. Felix O Conor huius conventus nostri Lovaniensis prior, fuerunt nominati ad missiones, at urgentissima negotia nostrae Provinciae (habito prius consilio graviorum patrum nostrorum super hoc) obligarunt me ad retardandum eorum iter in Hyberniam, viaticum vero ipsorum (ut haud semel suggessit Ill.mo Dno. Mazarino) distribui inter alios religiosos qui spretis omnibus periculis Hyberniam petierunt. Quando aliqui ex Hybernia huc pervenerunt non audent secum ferre aliquas epistolas refferentes spectantia ad ecclesiasticos, quare modo V.ram Ill.mam Dominationem nequeo certiozem reddere de particularibus circumstantiis nostratum, quas cum scivero, non desinam admonere.

Interea me nostrosque in vinea Domini strenue laborantes protectioni et clientelae V.rae Ill.mae Dominationis committo.

Lovanii, 15 Septembris 1657.

Illustrissime Domine
V.rae Ill.mae Dominationis humilis
servus,
fr. Guilielmus de Burgo, magister,
provincialis et praefectus missionis
Hyberniae ordinis praedicatorum.

Nomina fratrum Hybernorum ordinis praedicatorum qui praesenti
anno 1657 degunt in Hybernia.

1. Adm. R.P.fr. Geraldus Davoc vicarius provincialis qui immediate post celebrationem missae captus Galviam reducitur, ibique ab uno anno et ultra in vinculis iacet.
2. R.P.fr. Henricus Burgatt praedicator generalis, et ex-prior Limericensis ab uno circiter anno Corcagiae incarcerationatur.
3. R.P.fr. Laurentius Kelly praedicator generalis.
- 4.5. R.P.fr. Joannes O Hairt ex-prior Sligoensis et praedicator generalis.
- 6.7. R.P.fr. Ricardus Maddin sacrae theologiae professor.
8. R.P.fr. Eugenius Cogly praedicator generalis.
9. R.P.fr. Dominicus Geoghegan praedicator generalis.
10. R.P.fr. Jacobus Croly praedicator generalis.

11. R.P.fr. Clemens O Berrin praedicator generalis et prior Derensis.
12. R.P.fr. Patritius Duir ex-prior Derensis.
13. R.P.fr. Thomas Phylibin ex-prior Buessulensis.⁴
14. R.P.fr. Jacobus Turue.
15. R.P.fr. Petrus O Conor.
16. R.P.fr. Joannes Cearny.
17. R.P.fr. Patritius Dulchontie.
18. R.P.fr. Ambrosius Conmi.
19. R.P.fr. Quintilianus Hori.
20. R.P.fr. Carolus Dearmotroe.
21. R.P.fr. Hugo Donaghy.
22. R.P.fr. Thomas Loynok.
23. R.P.fr. Donaldus Carrin.
24. R.P.fr. Thomas Beolan.
25. R.P.fr. Guilielmus Moran.
26. R.P.fr. Jacobus Kean.
27. R.P.fr. Magonius Hugonis.
28. R.P.fr. Bernardus Berin.
29. R.P.fr. Gualterus Stiphen.
30. R.P.fr. Mathaeus Higgin.
31. R.P.fr. Guilelmus Feorishi.
32. R.P.fr. Thomas Feuni.
33. R.P.fr. Thomas Dyter [Dyser?] incarceratus ab . . . [*text torn away*] . . . in oppido Derensi.
34. R.P.fr. Nicolaus Haluran praedicator generalis.
35. R.P.fr. Joannes Fius.
36. R.P.fr. Gregorius Milachlin.
37. R.P.fr. Jacobus Furey.
38. R.P.fr. Joannes Scorlog.
39. R.P.fr. Dominicus Bearneval.
40. R.P.fr. Michael Witt.
41. R.P.fr. Michael Higgin.
42. R.P.fr. Jacobus O Turne [Turue?].
43. R.P.fr. Joannes Dillon.
44. R.P.fr. Eugenius O Moly.
45. R.P.fr. Christopherus Nugent.
46. R.P.fr. Dominicus Nolan.
47. R.P.fr. Petrus Lorcan.
48. R.P.fr. Ambrosius Maddin.

⁴Burrishoole priory, in County Mayo.

49. R.P.fr. Thadaeus Lorcan.
50. R.P.fr. Michael O Hanin.
51. R.P.fr. Hugo Kelly.
52. R.P.fr. Dermitius Moraghu.
53. R.P.fr. Felitianus Burgatt.
54. R.P.fr. David Rauly.
55. R.P.fr. Richardus Kint.
56. R.P.fr. Thomas Poerius.
57. R.P.fr. Thomas Magnerus.
58. R.P.fr. Gerardus Gibbon.
59. R.P.fr. Robertus Bern.
60. R.P.fr. Guilelmus Purcell.
61. R.P.fr. Morganus Clery.
62. R.P.fr. Gaspar Boitton.

Nomina Fratrum Laicorum

63. fr. Joannes Morphy.
64. fr. Raymundus Kenny.
65. fr. Joannes Gauly.
66. fr. Antonius Kenedy.
67. fr. Joannes Calanan.
68. fr. Guilielmus Lein.
69. fr. Guilielmus Porcell.
70. fr. Guilielmus Garvan.
71. fr. Edmundus Siel.
72. fr. Ulysses de Burgo.
73. fr. Guilielmus de Burgo.
74. fr. Cormacus O Maly.
75. fr. Edwardus Camberlin.
76. fr. Petrus Morisy.

Sequentes sunt missionarii a Sacra Congregatione de Propaganda
Fide nominati.

1. R.P.fr. Thomas Bermengham.
2. R.P.fr. Felix O Conor.
3. R.P.fr. Ricardus O Kelly.
4. R.P.fr. Dominicus O Kelly.
5. R.P.fr. Joannes O Hairt.
6. R.P.fr. Ricardus O Maddin.
7. R.P.fr. Eugenius O Cogly.

8. R.P.fr. Dominicus Geoghegan.
9. R.P.fr. Jacobus Croly.
10. R.P.fr. Laurentius Kelly.

Primus horum mortuus est, cui successit Adm. R.P. Vicarius Provincialis fr. Gerardus Davoc. Quintus vero, 6, 7, 8, 9 et 10 sunt in Hybernia modo, aliique cupiunt avidissime eo ire nactaque opportunitate iter lubenti animo arripient. Ut viri fide digni ad me detulerunt ipsi in Hybernia viderunt alios religiosos quorum nomina ignorabant. In quorum fide his subscripsi,
fr. Guilielmus de Burgo, magister, provincialis et praefectus missionis Hyberniae ordinis praedicatorum.