

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

February 9, 2017

The Most Reverend Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America
3339 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20008

Your Excellency,

Please find enclosed with this correspondence a letter to His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal Amato, S.D.B., prefect for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The enclosed correspondence (Prot. N. 2958-14/16) is in reference to the cause for canonization of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton and includes the acts from the exhumation of the mortal remains of Father Tolton. I humbly ask your Excellency to please forward this correspondence to the congregation via the nunciature's diplomatic pouch.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter and please know of my personal gratitude for your work and the work of the staff at the nunciature.

With every best wish I remain

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois



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February 6, 2017

His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Amato, S.D.B.

Prefect

Congregation for the Causes of Saints

Vatican City State

EUROPE

Prot. N. 2958-14/16

Your Eminence,

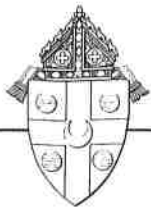
Please find enclosed with this letter the acts from the exhumation of the mortal remains of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton. The exhumation was carried out on December 9th and 10th, 2016, in accord with the instructions provided by your venerable congregation.

I wish to thank Your Eminence, and those who dutifully serve the Church in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, for your most gracious assistance in this matter. With prayers for God's abundant blessings on you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Reverend Christopher A. House
Chancellor



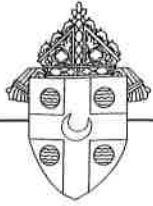
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In Nomine Domine. Amen.

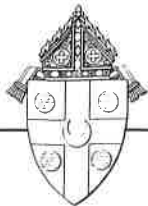
On the 10th of December, 2016, the mortal remains of the Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton, will be exhumed from their resting place in Saint Peter's Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, for the sake of their canonical recognition. At the direction of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, I appoint the following persons to fulfill the needed offices for this sacred task:

Reverend Christopher House, Chancellor - Episcopal Delegate
Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M. - Promotor of Justice
Reverend Daren Zehnle - Secretary and Notary
Reverend Monsignor David Hoefler, V.G. - Witness
Mr. Paul John Staab II - Witness

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Reverend Christopher A. House
Chancellor

Given at the Chancery in Springfield
the 23rd day of November, 2016.



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Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton

Oath of the Promotor of Justice

I, Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M. swear to fulfill faithfully my duties as the promotor of justice for this canonical recognition of the mortal remains of the servant of God and to maintain the secrecy prescribed.

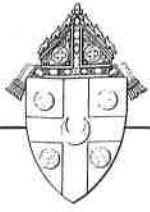
So help me God.

Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M.
Promotor of Justice

I, Reverend Christopher House, certify that Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M. took this oath in my presence and swore to fulfill faithfully his duties as promotor of justice.

Reverend Christopher House
Delegate Instructor

December 7, 2016
Springfield, Illinois



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Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton

Oath of the Delegate Instructor

I, Reverend Christopher Allen House, swear to fulfill faithfully my duties as the delegate instructor for this canonical recognition of the mortal remains of the servant of God and to maintain the secrecy prescribed.

So help me God.

Reverend Christopher Allen House
Delegate Instructor

I, Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M. certify that Reverend Christopher Allen House took this oath in my presence and swore to fulfill faithfully his duties as delegate instructor.

Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M.
Promotor of Justice

December 7, 2016
Springfield, Illinois



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Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton

Oath of the Diocesan Bishop

I, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, swear to fulfill faithfully my duties for this canonical recognition of the mortal remains of the servant of God and to maintain the secrecy prescribed.

So help me God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas John Paprocki".

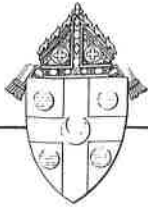
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

I, Reverend Christopher A. House, certify that the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki took this oath in my presence and swore to fulfill faithfully his duties in this cause.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. House".

Reverend Christopher A. House
Chancellor

December 7, 2016
Springfield, Illinois



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**Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of
the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton**

Oath of the Notary

I, Reverend Daren J. Zehnle, swear to fulfill faithfully my duties as the notary for this canonical recognition of the mortal remains of the servant of God and to maintain the secrecy prescribed.

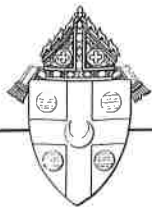
So help me God.

Reverend Daren J. Zehnle
Notary

I, Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M., certify that Reverend Daren J. Zehnle took this oath in my presence and swore to fulfill faithfully his duties as notary.

Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M.
Promotor of Justice

December 7, 2016
Springfield, Illinois



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Those attending the Exhumation of Fr Augustus Tolton St Peter Cemetery, Quincy, IL on December 9 & 10, 2016

From:

Archdiocese of Chicago:

Bishop Joseph N Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Postulator of the Cause
Msgr Patrick Pollard, Director Catholic Cemeteries
Rev Lawrence Sullivan, Assoc. Director Catholic Cemeteries
Roman Szabelski, Ex. Dir. Catholic Cemeteries
Steve Lynch, Dir Operational Services, Catholic Cemeteries
Scott Minogue, Dir Tech Services, Catholic Cemeteries
William Burbatt, Dir IT, Catholic Cemeteries
Ted Jamroz, Supervisor, Catholic Cemeteries
Eric Herron, Field Staff, Catholic Cemeteries
Chris Laurin, Field Staff, Catholic Cemeteries
John Vozel, Field Staff, Catholic Cemeteries
Mark Zbylut, Field Staff, Catholic Cemeteries

Diocese of Springfield:

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield
Rev. Christopher A. House, Chancellor, Delegate
Brother Patrick Shea, O.F.M., Promoter of Justice
Reverend Daren J. Zehnle, Notary
Greg Fleck, Director Office for Property / Cemeteries
Brad Fisher, Associate Director
Jac Treanor, Diocesan Archivist
Scott Mulford, editor of the *Catholic Times*
Rev. Msgr. David J. Hoefler, V.G., Witness
Paul John Staab, II, Witness
Marlene Mulford, Director of Communications

Outside provider of Services:

Staab Funeral Home, P.J. Staab, Funeral Director
assisted by Jared Haugh of Duker & Haugh Funeral Home in Quincy, Illinois

Todd Szymkowski, Ramaker & Assoc, ground penetrating radar (work completed 11/9/2016)

Luke H. Dzierwa, Area preparation excavator (work completed 12/9/2016)

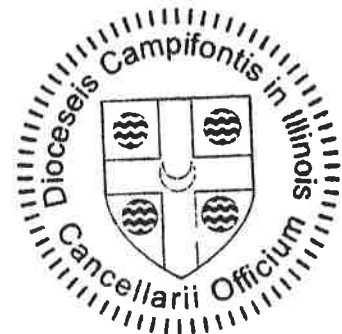
Dr. Nathaniel B Patterson MD, Autopsy Pathologist

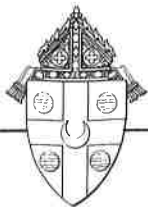
Dr. David Keene Deacon, Archaeologist

Mark Johnsey, Forensic Anthropologist

William Burbatt, Catholic Cemeteries (Chicago) – still photography

Paul Hafel, Photographer (Springfield)





**Minutes of the Exhumation of the Servant of God
Father Augustus Tolton**

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

9 & 10 December, 2016

**St. Peter Cemetery
Quincy, Illinois**

December 9th

10:00 a.m.

Representatives from the Office for Catholic Cemeteries of both the Archdiocese of Chicago and Springfield in Illinois gathered at the grave of Father Tolton to begin the initial digging and preparation of the gravesite.

10:10 a.m.

A space the size of three graves was outlined on the ground so that two trenches could be dug, one on each side of the grave, for the work of the exhumation. Digging commenced.

12:35 p.m.

It was initially believed that enough digging had been done due to the initial sonar scans of the grave showing earth disturbance at two and a half feet below the surface. No evidence of a casket or remains was found and so the digging resumed.

3:30 p.m.

A casket handle was discovered and digging ceased. The grave site was secured by local municipal police for the evening until the next morning when the exhumation team returned.

December 10th

7:30 a.m.

Due to cold temperatures, personnel authorized by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and by the Archdiocese of Chicago gathered in tents set up above and near the grave of the Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois.

The Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois, led those gathered in prayer to ask the Lord's guidance in their work.

7:48 a.m.

The Reverend Christopher A. House, chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield and Episcopal Delegate of Bishop Paprocki, received oaths from the participants to conduct their work with care and diligence.

7:49 a.m.

Workers began using shovels to remove dirt from above and around the casket.

7:58 a.m.

The workers began placing dirt removed from around the casket into plastic tubs and buckets to lift if out of the grave.

8:11 a.m.

Some fragile pieces of the wood of the casket were reached by shovels and trowels.

8:13 a.m.

Two of the casket's handles were removed by the workers and placed into a plastic tub.

8:15 a.m.

Pieces of glass that were part of the lid of the casket were removed and bones were discovered.

8:16 a.m.

The bones discovered were found to be the skull.

8:19 a.m.

The lights were readjusted to help the workers in their efforts inside the grave. The shape of the skull was now visible to all.

8:21 a.m.

Several more pieces of glass were removed.

8:23 a.m.

The shape of the casket was found to be rectangular.

8:27 a.m.

A metal *corpus*, believed to be from a crucifix placed in the hands of the deceased, was removed and placed in a plastic tub.

8:28 a.m.

Fragments of the lower right arm bone were removed and placed in a plastic tub.

8:32 a.m.

A third and fourth handle from the casket were removed and placed in the plastic tub with the other two handles.

8:35 a.m.

Large shovels were used to dig a deeper trench along both sides of the casket to give the forensic anthropologist and the forensic pathologist more space in which to conduct their work.

8:47 a.m.

The handle from the head of the casket was removed and placed with the other four handles.

8:48 a.m.

The skeletal remains of the hands and the sternum were unearthed.

8:50 a.m.

The workers removed the disturbed bones and placed them in the plastic tub with the arm bone removed earlier to allow the work to proceed with great care.

8:57 a.m.

Workers began sifting through the dirt removed from around the skeleton to check for any bone fragments or other items.

9:01 a.m.

Remains of a Roman collar were discovered and placed in the tub with the *corpus*.

9:03 a.m.

A crucifix, believed to come from the lid of the casket, was discovered and placed in the plastic tub with the *corpus* and the fragments of the Roman collar.

9:04 a.m.

Small and fragile pieces of clothing were found. A crucifix from a rosary was also found. These items were placed in the plastic tub with the *corpus* and the Roman collar.

9:27 a.m.

The forensic anthropologist and the forensic pathologist determined the bones were too fragile to wash.

9:41 a.m.

The skull was removed in two pieces from the grave by the forensic pathologist and the forensic anthropologist, who held the skull until the table for the skeletal remains was fully prepared.

9:56 a.m.

In order to touch the bones as little as possible, it was decided to place a wooden board on the table where the bones were to be laid. The wooden board was wrapped in a white cloth and placed within an open body pouch. A new alb was placed on top of this cloth and a chasuble was unfolded over the alb so the bones could be placed on top of the back of the chasuble; the front of the chasuble would be folded on top of the bones

when the exhumation was completed. When the table was prepared in this way, it was moved to the side of the grave.

9:59 a.m.

The skull was placed on the alb above the cloth and board prepared on the table.

9:20 a.m.

The skeleton was measured to be about 5 feet and 8 inches.

10:04 a.m.

The left femur was removed in two pieces and placed on the table.

10:08 a.m.

The right tibia was removed.

10:09 a.m.

The right femur was removed in two pieces.

10:10 a.m.

The #9 tooth was found to have a gold cap on the back side.

10:14 a.m.

Hand bones and pelvic bones were removed.

10:15 a.m.

Bishop Paprocki led those watching the exhumation in the recitation of the holy rosary.

10:17 a.m.

From the pelvic bones and the femurs, the skeleton was found to be that of a black man who died in his early to middle forties.

10:20 a.m.

Cervical vertebrae were removed.

10:21 a.m.

The left humerus and lumbar vertebrae were removed.

10:22 a.m.

A cassock button was removed and placed in the tub with the other personal effects. The right humerus was removed.

10:25 a.m.

Portions of the left scapula were removed. The right scapula was removed.

10:26 a.m.

The right radius and ulna were removed.

10:28 a.m.

The thoracic vertebrae were removed.

10:30 a.m.

The right ribs were removed.

10:32 a.m.

The left tibia and ulna were removed.

10:34 a.m.

Portions of the left ankle were removed, together a few nails from the casket. The nails were placed in the plastic tub with the handles.

10:35 a.m.

Portions of the right ankle and foot, the left arms, the right collar bone, the right and left knee caps, and various bone fragments were removed.

10:39 a.m.

It was determined that all human remains had been removed from the grave.

The handle from the foot of the casket was removed and placed with the other give handles.

Father House placed fragments from the tuft of a biretta, the crucifix from a rosary, the larger crucifix, the *corpus*, the fragments of a Roman collar, the cassock button, a part of a rosary, and a portion of the lining of a cassock were sealed in a plastic Zip-lock bag.

10:44 a.m.

An amice, cincture, stole, and maniple were placed on top of the skeletal remains and the top of the chasuble was folded over the skeletal remains, enclosing them within the chasuble.

10:48 a.m.

Bishop Paprocki and Bishop Perry examined the skeletal remains and closed the body pouch.

10:51 a.m.

The skeletal remains were moved and placed within a new casket. At the head and foot of the casket, small plaques were fixed identifying the casket as belonging to the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton.

10:53 a.m.

Father House placed the Zip-lock with the personal affects within the casket. He also placed an attestation of the morning's proceedings in another Zip-lock bag inside the casket.

10:54 a.m.

The lid was placed upon the casket. Bishop Paprocki and Bishop Perry closed the casket.

11:01 a.m.

Father House prepared the ribbon and the wax for the seal of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to be affixed upon the top the casket. When the wax was ready, Bishop Paprocki affixed the seal.

11:03 a.m.

Six priests carried the casket to the vault and the casket was lifted into the vault.

11:05 a.m.

The vault, bearing a plaque identifying the vault as belonging to the Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton, was sealed.

A second, unmarked vault, with the remains of the original casket, was sealed.

11:46 a.m.

After the tent erected over the grave was taken down, the vault with the remains of the original casket was lowered into the grave.

11:53 a.m.

The vault with the skeletal remains was lowered into the grave.

11:56 a.m.

Bishop Perry led those present in prayer giving thanks to God for the day's work.

12:08 p.m.

Workers began to fill the grave with dirt.

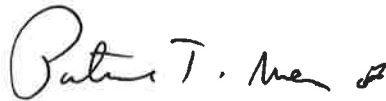
12:40 p.m.

The grave was filled, the top of the soil was leveled, the work of the exhumation was completed.

We, the undersigned, testify to the accuracy and authenticity of these minutes that have been recorded.



Reverend Christopher A. House, J. C. L.
Chancellor and Episcopal Delegate

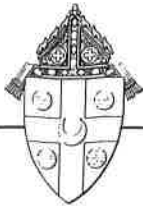


Brother Patrick T. Shea, O.F.M., J. C. D.
Promoter of Justice



Reverend Daren J. Zehnle, J. C. L.
Notary





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Office of the Chancellor

To all who read this instrument, greetings in the Lord.

On the tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016, the mortal remains of the Servant of God Father Augustine Tolton were exhumed for the purpose of their canonical recognition according to the norms provided by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Apostolic See.

The mortal remains of Father Tolton were placed in this new casket and vault with new sacred vestments.

Reverend Christopher A. House
Delegate Instructor

Reverend Daren J. Zehnle
Notary

December 10, 2016
Quincy, Illinois

