



# MY AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

*Fr. Sean McManus*

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## **MY AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND** Fr. Sean McManus

This updated Edition (2014) expands on the Irish edition (2011), the American Edition (2012) and brings the story totally current. It continues the compelling narrative of Fr. Mc Manus' long struggle for justice in Ireland. The book reveals how Fr. Mc Manus prevailed against all odds ... How he refused to be silent in the face of injustice ... And how he "kept Congress on track regarding justice and peace in Ireland." As one reviewer has said, "It makes one want to stand up and cheer." It is a story of grace and courage, devotion and determination, persistence and perseverance – without bitterness or rancor. For over forty years, Fermanagh native Fr. Sean McManus has been at the heart of the Irish- American campaign against injustice in Northern Ireland. This is his personal account of how he mainstreamed Northern Ireland on Capitol Hill after Church and State exiled him from Britain in 1972 to silence him on the issue. He founded the Irish National Caucus in 1974, "the driving force that would diminish Britain's influence with the U.S. government." He forced through Congressional action to stop the sale of U.S. weapons to the RUC and made the Mac Bride Principles on fair employment a powerful force. And all this time, he was opposed not only by the London and Dublin governments but also – and ironically and inexplicably – by elements in the Irish Republican Movement. Fr. Mc Manus also chronicles the events and social context that influenced his growing up in the parish of Kinawley -- a parish divided by the British-imposed Border that partitions Ireland -- in a large patriotic family. He gives thoughtful insights into seminary life in the 1960s, and how his faith, theology and philosophy of non-violence developed. This book is essential reading for all who want to know about how the U. S. Congress acted -- or failed to act -- regarding justice in Northern Ireland. It could not have been written by anyone else, because no one has done with Congress what Fr. Mc Manus has done, so consistently and for so long. It is has been described as the most important significant memoir in the historiography of Irish -American nationalism since *Recollection of an Irish Rebel* ( 1929) by the intrepid John Devoy.

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