

**United States Catholic Conference,  
Department of Immigration Records  
CMS.023A**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard Del Giudice**

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September 20, 2013

Center for Migration Studies  
August 1990

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	United States Catholic Conference.
<b>Creator</b>	Wenk, Michael G.
<b>Title</b>	United States Catholic Conference, Department of Immigration Records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1920-1973
<b>Extent</b>	15.0 Linear feet in 30 manuscript boxes.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	Materials are mainly in English, with some material in Italian, Spanish, and German.
<b>Abstract</b>	The United States Catholic Conference (USCC) Department of Immigration is the successor organization of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC). The records contain two groups materials, material during the organization's time as NCWC and Michael G. Wenk's papers, a staff member of the USCC from 1969-1973. The collection demonstrates the role of the Catholic Church in the immigration and adaption process.

### Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; United States Catholic Conference, Department of Immigration Records (CMS 023A); Box; Folder.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The United States Catholic Conference (USCC) Department of Immigration is the successor organization of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) Department of Immigration was a bureau/department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, established in December 1920 directly under the Executive Department of the the NCWC. The NCWC was founded in 1919 by the bishops of the United States, as an outgrowth of the National Catholic War Council, which coordinated welfare activities of of the United States Catholic Church during World War I. Their aim was to unify, coordinate, and organize Catholic activities in the areas of education, social welfare, immigrant aid, citizenship, family life, and other activities.

In 1968, the NCWC was reorganized and replaced by the United States Catholic Conference and the National Council of Catholic Bishops. The USCC was the secular arm of the two organizations, headed by John I. McCarthy. The name of its Department of Immigration was changed to Migration and Refugee Services. The goals of the department were to aid immigrants and refugees of all nationalities, in particular foreign priests, to resettle in the United States and to advocate and put forward immigration legislation In 2001, the USCC and the NCCB were combined to form the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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This collection is made up of two distinct groups of materials, materials related directly to the work of the National Catholic Welfare Conference from 1920-1968 and the materials representing the work of Michael Wenk, a staff member of the USCC from 1969-1973. The collection contains correspondence, lists, proposals, reports, articles, photographs, legislation, and other material, related to immigration, emigration, and the resettlement of immigrants and refugees. The material sheds light on the relationship of the USCC to foreign bishops, international immigration organizations, and US immigration organizations of various ethnic origins. The collection also demonstrates some of the hands-on work of the organization in Europe and the United States, through the work of its staff members.

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## **Arrangement note**

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The collection is arranged into two series:

Series I: National Catholic Welfare Council Department of Immigration  
Subseries I: Foreign Priests  
Subseries II: Joseph Breen  
Subseries III: Immigration  
Subseries IV: The Catholic Committee for Refugees During World War II  
Subseries V: Miscellaneous  
Series II: Michael G. Wenk Papers  
Subseries I: Correspondence  
Subseries II: *Pieces of Dream*  
Subseries III: Cubans  
Subseries IV: Mexicans  
Subseries V: Spanish Speaking  
Subseries VI: Italians  
Subseries VII: Vietnamese  
Subseries VIII: Refugees  
Subseries IX: Ethnic Studies  
Subseries X: Immigration  
Subseries XI: Miscellaneous

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies August 1990

### **Revision Description**

Edited by Nicole Greenhouse for DACS compliance. March 29, 2013

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

Open to researchers by appointment. Some materials have been separated and restricted.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Transferred from the Washington Headquarters of the United States Catholic Conference, Division of Migration and Refugee Services.

### **Processing Information note**

This collection was originally processed in 1990. Folders are not physically titled. In 2013, This collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit and folder descriptions were simplified from the original finding aid text. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folders are physically numbered only. The finding aid was also updated for compliance with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACCS)*.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Other collections related to the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Department of Immigration Records include:

National Catholic Welfare Conference, Department of Immigration(CMS 023)

The United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Services Records, New York Office Records (CMS 023B)

The United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Services, New York Office Records (CMS 023C)

The Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue Papers (CMS 023D)

The National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Immigration, New York Office and Catholic Committee for Refugees Records (CMS 024)

War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference Records (CMS 026)

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Catholic Committee for Refugees (U.S.).
- National Catholic Welfare Conference.

## **Personal Name(s)**

- Breen, Joseph Ignatius, 1890-1965
- Mohler, Bruce

## **Subject(s)**

- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church.
- Church work with refugees |z United States
- Immigrants |z Cuba.
- Immigrants |z Italy.
- Immigrants |z Mexico.
- Immigrants |z Vietnam.
- Legislation |z United States.
- World War, 1939-1945 |x Refugees

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## **Other Finding Aids note**

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The original inventory is available in print upon request.

**Series I: National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Immigration**

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**Collection Inventory****Series I: National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Immigration 1908-1961****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material from the National Catholic Welfare Council's Department of Immigration from 1920-1968. The bulk of the collection is related to the resettlement of foreign priests in the United States and other immigrant aid provided by the organization. They did this through legislation, testimony, articles, reports, and other materials, which is reflected in this collection. It also contains material from Joseph Breen reporting on emigrant aid organizations in Europe. This series also contains material from the Catholic Committee for Refugees during World War II, which reflect their work, this includes, registers, proposals, and correspondence.

**Subseries I: Foreign Priests 1942-1948****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains records dated from 1942-1948 of dioceses in the United States that engaged priests from Europe, mostly from Ireland, to staff their parishes. NCWC Bureau of Immigration, assisted the dioceses with regard to the immigration procedures. The last two folders include an index of priests from Ireland and priests from Ukraine that arrived in the United States. The material consists mostly of correspondence between the bishops and NCWC Bureau of Immigration.

**Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged in alphabetical order of the diocese that participated in the program.

**Box****Folder**



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**Subseries I: Foreign Priests**

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**Subseries II: Joseph Breen 1921-1923****Scope and Contents note**

In 1921, Bruce Mohler (Director of the Department of Immigration) engaged Joseph I. Breen as representative of NCWC in Europe to report on Catholic organizations engaged in the aid and care of emigrants. From 1921-1922, Breen visited twelve European countries and from each country he submitted long letters with detailed accounts relative to the facilities--governmental, religious, and private--that were helping the emigrants. Moreover, the letters also contain Breen's keen observations and thoughts with regard to the political, social, economic, and religious conditions of the nations he visited. The material begins with letters dealing with Breen's employment with NCWC, the correspondence with Mohler from Europe, reports submitted, and articles and photographs of children from several European countries. Lastly, there are letters, reports, and other items from Florida, Breen's last assignment with NCWC in 1923. Breen was sent to Florida to undertake a survey of conditions with the view of initiating Catholic welfare work among the recent immigrants, Italians and Cubans, in that state.

## Subseries II: Joseph Breen

**Arrangement note**

Arranged chronologically.

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**Subseries III: Immigration**

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**Subseries III: Immigration 1908-1958****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material related to immigration, including material from the NCWC, governmental sources, and private sources. The material from the NCWC contains letters, summaries of testimonies before Senate and Congressional Committees, photographs of immigrants on Ellis Island and Mexican immigrants, and articles from Bruce Mohler, T.F. Mulholland, and Sarah Weadick, the bulk of which come from 1923-1952. The material from governmental sources contain a series of extracts from the Congressional records pertaining to aspects on immigration, including reports, amendments, and bills introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Of note are the statistical reports issued by the US Department of Labor Immigration and Naturalization Service for the years 1924-1937, which provide in-depth data with regard to immigrant aliens admitted and emigrant aliens departed by race, countries of last permanent residence, sex, and marital status. Also included are speeches, letters, and memorandum concerning aliens and laws of deportation. The material from private sources contains pamphlets, bulletins, magazines, and reviews published by organizations that helped immigrants from 1917-1962.

**Box Folder**

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## Subseries III: Immigration

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**Subseries IV: The Catholic Committee for Refugees during World War II 1940-1959****Scope and Contents note**

The Catholic Committee for Refugees during World War II, located in New York City, headed by Reverend Emil Komora, functioned to correspond with trusted representatives in the Netherlands, Switzerland, and England on behalf of persons in the US who were attempting to locate their relatives in German occupied areas of Europe and prisoners of war in England. Included is correspondence between Komora and A.H. Herzog of the Netherlands, a report describing the persecution of the catholic Church in Germany, Austria, and Poland, and material recording the plight of the refugees in war-torn Europe and the role of the Catholic Committee for Refugees. Also included are registers from 1948-1959 listing refugees, priests, sisters, professors, war orphans, students and others helped to resettle in the US by the Catholic Office for Refugees. Three of the registers deal with the Children's Division from Italy, Germany, Austria, Lithuania, Korea, Japan, and several other countries, the registers include listings of names, dates of birth, places of birth, addresses, and religion.

**Box****Folder**



## Subseries IV: The Catholic Committee for Refugees during World War II

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**Subseries V: Miscellaneous 1915-1961****Scope and Contents note**

There is material used by the Diocese of Newark in classes in English for the foreign born. The material was prepared by NCWC Bureau of Immigration. There are miscellaneous booklets and pamphlets published by NCWC regarding the Catholic Church, pamphlets from the International Catholic Migration Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, relative to international migration news, and clippings and booklets regarding the religious crisis in Mexico in 1926/ Included in a register containing the membership of an unnamed club, dated 1938-1961.

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**Series II: Michael G. Wenk Papers 1951-1973****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains the records accumulated by Michael G. Wenk, who was a staff member of the USCC. Wenk was with USCC from 1969-1973. His area of concentration were legislation and research with an emphasis on ethnic minorities, and matters dealing with immigration, migration, and nationality. This is reflected in the material collected in this series. This series contains correspondence, materials and article's gathered for his book, *Pieces of Dream*, and material on Cuban, Mexican, Chicano, Italian, and Vietnamese immigrants. Wenk also collected a significant amount of material related to refugee and immigrant legislation and ethnic studies.

**Subseries I: Correspondence****Scope and Contents note**

Wenk corresponded with people in the government, academia, the churches, and those in private life concerning matters of migration, refugees and miscellaneous other items, covering the years 1968-1973.

**Subseries I: Correspondence**

It consists of both letters sent and received seldom on a one to one basis. There is also a small amount of correspondence by John E. McCarthy, Director of Migration and Refugee Services, and Donald Hobel.

**Arrangement note**

Arranged chronologically.

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**Subseries II: *Pieces of Dream* 1972-1973****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains Wenk's 1972 correspondence with noted public academic and private persons, inviting them to write an essay for the book, *Pieces of Dreams*. The book was edited by Wenk, Geno Baroni, and Silvano Tomasi and focuses on the issues and priorities facing the urban ethnic worker. Included are essays that appear in the book and other articles concerning work in America.

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## Subseries II: Pieces of Dream

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**Subseries III: Cubans****Subseries III: Cubans 1962-1970****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains articles on Cuban refugees, materials on Cuban teachers retraining program, material describing the activities of the Voice of America and IAL Cuban Media in Miami, photographs of Cuban immigrants, reports, and clippings on Cuban refugees, the bulk of which is from 1965-1968.

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"Adjustment and Assimilation: The Cuban Refugee Experience," Michael G. Wenk 1968	21	226
Proposal for a Teachers Institute to Prepare Qualified Cuban Refugees to Teach in California Schools 1969	21	227
Article regarding Cuban Refugees in the US Armed Forces, Summary and List of Refugees Assisted by Coast Guard 1959-1969	21	228
"Cuba's Children in Exile" and "Care of Unaccompanied Cuban Children," published by US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare 1967	21	229
Bibliography on Cuban Refugee Matters and Alejandro Portes' "Dilemmas of a Golden Exile: Integration of Cuban Refugee Families in Milwaukee" 1917, 1969	21	230
Voice of America and IAL Cuban Media, Materials Used to Maintain Close Watch on All Events inside Cuba for the Purpose of Producing the Agency's Anti-Castro Media 1968-1970	21	231

**Subseries IV: Mexicans**

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National Catholic Welfare Conference featuring News on Cuban Refugees 1965-1967	22	240
House Congressional Records on events in Cuba and Life of Cuban People in US 1965-1970	22	241

**Subseries IV: Mexicans 1968-1971****Scope and Contents note**

**Subseries V: Spanish Speaking**

This series contains several articles and projects concerning Mexicans as migrant workers in the United States.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<i>Pro-Advance of Latinos: A Community Development Project for the Mexican American Community in El Paso, Texas</i> , by Michael Wenk and Louis Velarde (Director, Migration Service) undated	22	242
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Draft of Article by San Diego Schools, Office of the Superintendent, "A Proposal to Establish a Coordinated Demonstration Project on Urbanization of the Mexican American" October 1968	23	244
"Farm Labor" Article; Reports of a series of Workshops on Education, Health, and Welfare, Housing by Governor's Committee on Migrant Labor in Texas undated	23	245
<i>Mexican American Industrial Migrants</i> Project 1971	23	246
<i>The Migrant Magazine</i> undated	23	247
<i>The Lost Yellow Bus: A Comprehensive Migrant Manpower Program</i> Project Plan by US Department of Labor, Rural Manpower Service 1971	23	248

**Subseries V: Spanish Speaking 1971-1972****Scope and Contents note**

**Subseries VI: Italians**

This series contains articles, reports of meetings, papers relative to the Chicano people, 1971-1972.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"The Latin American Community in the Diocese of Rockville Centre" Article undated	23	249
Reports of Meetings, Articles, Papers, and Projects on the Chicano People 1971-1972	23	250
Articles by Monsignor George Rochau, "Migration Between El Salvador and Honduras" and "Bolivian, Chilean, and Paraguayan Immigrants in Argentina" 1971	23	251

**Subseries VI: Italians 1951, 1965-1971****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains summary of the immigrant law of 1965 and its impact on the Italian immigration, a NCWC study, photographs, and clippings.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Letter from Donald Hohl (Assistant Director, Department of Immigration) to Friar Dominic Rodighiero (Holy Rosary Church, Washington DC) 1966	23	252
"Immigrant Social and Economic Improvement Program: North Side Neighborhood Center of Syracuse, Inc." by Rinaldo Morro undated	23	253
"War Relief Services: National Catholic Welfare Conference," <i>Population and the Italian Economy</i> 1951	23	254

**Subseries VII: Vietnamese**

Photograph of Richard Nixon, Michael Wenk, Silvano Tomasi, and Paul Asciolla from <i>L'Osservatore Romano</i> 1971	23	255
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Clipping from <i>Times-News</i> of Erie, Pennsylvania of twins adopted from Italy December 1966	23	256
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**Subseries VII: Vietnamese 1966****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material published by the Agency of International Development on the economic, health, education, and welfare of South Vietnam in the 1960s. This series also holds articles, reports, and other materials dealing with the flight of the children of Vietnam, the bulk of which is from 1966.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Material Published by the Agency of International Development on the Economic, Health, Educational Welfare of South Vietnam 1965-1966	23	257
Report to the Board of Directors of International Social Service, American Branch, on Visit to Vietnam by Walter Sherman February 1966	23	258
"The Vietnamese Orphan" from the Department of Immigration, National Catholic Welfare Conference November 1966	23	259
Reports Regarding Services to Children in Vietnam from Foster Parents Plan, American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, American Friends Service Committee, Lutheran World Relief, International Rescue Committee 1966	23	260

## Subseries VIII: Refugees

Articles and Summary on Children of Vietnam undated	23	261
<b>Subseries VIII: Refugees 1959-1967</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
<p>The material on refugees include NCWC/Catholic Relief Services project list of services for refugees in Africa, Asia, and Europe in 1966, reports, statements, made before the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees regarding the US unification of refugees programs. There are statements from other organizations before the Senate Committee to investigate problems connected with refugees and escapees. There are also reports and speeches.</p>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
United States Catholic Conference, Migration and Refugee Service: Proposal to the Office of Opportunity and Migrant Worker Project 1970	24	262
National Catholic Welfare Conference, Catholic Relief Services: Refugee Campaign, Project List of Services 1966	24	263
National Catholic Welfare Conference, Catholic Committee for Refugees' reports to the Administrative Board 1962-1965	24	264
Statement of James Norris (National Catholic Welfare Conference and International Catholic Migration Commission) before the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees and John McCarthy's Statement before the Senate Subcommittee for Unification of Refugee Programs 1966	24	265
Statements by United HIAS Service, Lutheran Immigration Service, United Service, Tolstoy Foundation, and American Council of	24	266

**Subseries IX: Ethnic Studies**

Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service before the Senate Subcommittee Investigating Problems with Refugees and Escapees 1966		
United States Committee for Refugees, <i>World Refugee Report</i> , Annual Survey Issue 1966-1967	24	267
Report of Conference on Aliens in America, held under the Foreign Language Information Service May 1936	24	268
Memorandum from Monsignor Edward Swanstrom to members of National Catholic Resettlement Council on Special Appeal for Placements of Dutch Indonesian Refugees in the US; Memorandum from James Norris to Bruce Mohler and John McCarthy; "Double Uprooted: Dutch Indonesian Refugees in the US Refugees in the US pamphlet; Congressional Bills to allow displaced Indonesian Nationals to Enter US 1959, 1965	24	269
<b>Subseries IX: Ethnic Studies 1969-1973</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
This series contains a report on white working class communities, articles, news releases, and congressional records, and proposals by the Center of Urban Ethnic Affairs.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"White on White: An Examination of White Working Class Communities in Metropolitan Washington, DC," Report by the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs by Geno Baroni undated	24	270
Joint Proposal by FACE and the Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs undated	24	271

**Subseries X: Immigration**

"Ethnicity as a Factor in Recent American Political History" by Salvatore La Gumina and "A Plan for the Establishment of a University Affiliated with the Institute for the Study of American National Ethnic Traditions" by Otto Von Hering 1969	24	272
Articles on Ethnic Studies 1971-1973	24	273
Articles, News Releases, and Congressional Records regarding the Ethnic Studies Bill Approved by Senate-House Higher Education Act Conferees. sponsored by Richard Schweiker 1971	24	274
<b>Subseries X: Immigration 1956-1972</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
This series contains material dealing with immigrants and USCC services to the international student and visitors in the United States. Included are issues of <i>Immigration News</i> , articles and papers by Wenk concerning immigration, manual, proceedings, and papers related to migration policies, pamphlets on adoption and US citizenship.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Immigration News, published by Department of Immigration, United States Catholic Conference 1966-1972	25	275
Articles Describing the Role of United States Catholic Conference's Department of Immigration undated	25	276
Articles and Papers on Immigration by Wenk 1967-1972	25	277



## Subseries X: Immigration

"American Immigration and its Catholic Component" and "Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Heritage in a Catholic Dimension" by Wenk and Tomasi 1972	25	278
Annual Report of the International Catholic Migration Commission General Secretariat 1965-1966	25	279
Report of the First National Catholic Welfare Conference National Advisory Committee to the Foreign Visitors Office October 1959	25	280
National Catholic Welfare Committee National Visitors Office, Including a Directory of US Catholic Organizations 1965-1966	25	281
Remarks of Lyndon Johnson at the Signing of the Immigration Law at Liberty Island, NY October 1965	25	282
Department of Justice's Release Containing Letter from Attorney General William Rogers to Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act 1956-1960	25	283
Articles and Statements on Asylum of Foreign Nationals in the US 1972	25	284
Statement of Alphonsus Dietsche of United States Catholic Conference, Department of Immigration on Deportation Proceedings of Czechoslovak Nationals 1968	25	285
Report from the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress; Analysis of Major Proposals for Revision of McCarran-Walter Act 1957	26	286

**Subseries XI: Miscellaneous**

"Pre-Emigration for Migrants: A Manual for Refugees and Immigrants to the United States" by Bernard William and Proceedings of the Second Special Conference on Immigration, Naturalization, and Related Matters 1950	26	287
Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development: "Manpower and Social Affairs Committee Confirmation of Migration Policies" and "Background, Objectivity, and Methodology of the Longitudinal Study of the Economic and Social Adaptation of Immigrants" by E. Ziegler 1966, 1969	26	288
Brief Animus Curiae Before Supreme Court of the United States, Relative to Welfare Payments to Certain Aliens October 1970	26	289
Pamphlets on Adoption, Including Korean Children 1966	26	290

**Subseries XI: Miscellaneous 1959-1972****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains the draft of Wenk's proposal for a quarterly journal addressing issues that concern USCC and material dealing with the Catholic Social Service of Phoenix. There are also three loose leaf binders, which relate to organization and management of USCC and their proposals.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Proposal for a Quarterly Journal Addressing the Issues and Priorities that Concern the United States Catholic Conference, draft by Wenk undated	26	291
Catholic Social Service of Phoenix, Arizona 1970	26	292

## Subseries XI: Miscellaneous

Catholic Social Service of Phoenix, Arizona 1970	26	293
"Proposal to the Rural Manpower Administration, United States Department of Labor, Migrant Worker Training and Settling in Program, Project Opportunity" Loose-Leaf Binder undated	27	294
Excerpts from the Study of Organization and Management of the United States Catholic Conference conducted by the firm Booz, Allen, and Hamilton 1971	28	295
Loose-Leaf Binder Containing Invoices, Requests for Vendor Payments, and work Order Requests to the United States Catholic Conference Printshop 1969-1973	29	296
Six Films sent to Wenk by Edward Cummings. The six films are the Golden Door (two copies); Hard Core Film III-D.P. Film; Hard Core and Home for the Homeless; Flight to Freedom; Gracias Amigos; Home for the Homeless undated	30	