

**Guide to The Most Reverend  
Stephen J. Donahue Papers  
CMS.023D**

**Finding aid prepared by Mary Elizabeth Brown**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	Donahue, Stephen J
<b>Title</b>	The Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1937-1946
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet in two manuscript boxes.
<b>Language</b>	English

**Language of Materials note** Materials are in English.

### Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; The Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue Papers (CMS 023D);  
Box; Folder.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue was born in New York City, December 10, 1893 and ordained for service in the Archdiocese of New York in May 1918. He was named an auxiliary bishop to Cardinal Patrick Hayes in 1934 and consecrated in May 1935. He served as archdiocesan administrator during the period between Hayes' and his successor's, Cardinal Francis Spellman, administration from 1938-1939. During the early years of Spellman's administration, Donahue was the link between the archdiocese and several Catholic agencies that operated within its borders.

In 1936, the National Catholic Welfare Conference organized the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany to assist Catholics fleeing Nazism. Joseph Rummel and Joseph Ostermann were the episcopal chairman and executive director, respectively. The committee underwent several changes in the year 1940. In May, it changed its name from the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany to the Catholic Committee of Refugees from Germany. Ostermann resigned as executive director in 1940 to be succeeded by Emil Komora, a pastor of Saint Joseph of the Holy Family, a Harlem parish with roots in the German community. Throughout this period, Donahue was the committee's treasurer.

Donahue's work with the Catholic Committee for Refugees from Germany brought him into contact with the New York office of the International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs. This office opened in 1939 under the direction of Frederick W. Hess. In 1941, when the Vatican asked that the office be disbanded, the Catholic Committee for Refugees handled the International Catholic Office's work. Donahue died August 17, 1982.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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This collection contains correspondence with leaders from the Catholic Committee for Refugees in Germany, Saint Raphael's Society, and the International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs. The collection also contains financial reports and bank statements for the Catholic Committee for Refugees in Germany, of which Donahue managed the finances.

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## **Arrangement note**

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This collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Correspondence  
Series II: Financial Reports  
Series III: Bank Statements

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies July 3, 2000

### **Revision Description**

Edited by Nicole Greenhouse for DACS compliance. April 2013

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

Open to researchers by appointment.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

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

### **Custodial History note**

When Donahue relinquished responsibility for the finances of the various refugee organizations, he apparently turned over his files to the National Catholic Welfare Conference, which later became the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). The USCC Migration and Refugee Service made several deposits of material at the Center for Migration Studies' archives, which include this body of material.

### **Processing Information note**

The collection was originally processed in 2000. The finding aid was also updated for compliance with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)* in April 2013.

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## **Related Materials**

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## **Related Archival Materials note**

Other collections related to the Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue (CMS 023D) include:

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

The United States Catholic Conference, Department of Immigration Records(CMS 023A)

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

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

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.).

### **Genre(s)**

- Correspondence.

### **Subject(s)**

- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church.
- Church work with refugees |z United States
- Priests |z United States.

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## **Other Finding Aids note**

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The original inventory is available in print upon request.

**Series I: Correspondence****Collection Inventory****Box****Series I: Correspondence 1940-1943, 1946**

1

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains Donahue's correspondence from May 1940 to December 1943, with some material from January 1946. Most of Donahue's correspondence is with Dr. Frederick Hess (Executive Director of the New York Office of the International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs), Reverend Emil N. Komora (Executive Director of the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany, in 1940, became the Catholic Committee for Refugees from Germany), Reverend Joseph Ostermann (Executive Director of the Saint Raphael Society for the Protection of German Immigrants New York Office, was the Executive Director of the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany until 1940), and the Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel of New Orleans (Episcopal Chair for the Committee of Catholic Refugees).

**Arrangement note**

Arranged chronologically.

**Box****Series II: Financial Reports 1940-1943**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains financial reports of the Committee for Catholic Refugees which covered various periods of time, including annual reports, four-month reports, three-month reports, two-reports, and monthly reports. These reports were prepared by Wiliam F. Duggan Company, who served as accountants auditors for the Committee for Catholic Refugees from June 1940 to September 1943.

**Arrangement note**



**Series III: Bank Statements**

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Arranged chronologically.

**Series III: Bank Statements 1937-1940**

**Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains bank monthly statements received by Donahue. The statements concern the Committee for Catholic Refugees' account at the National City Bank of New York. The statements span the period from July 1937 to November 1940. Most statements include cancelled checks.

**Arrangement note**

Arranged chronologically.