

**Records of the Church of Saint Michael  
the Archangel, New Haven (Conn.)  
CMS.045**

**Finding aid prepared by Nicholas J. Falco**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

November 16, 2013

Center for Migration Studies  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, New Haven (Conn.).
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, New Haven (Conn.)
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1910-1929
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1888-1982
<b>Extent</b>	4.0 Linear feet in 8 manuscript boxes.
<b>Language</b>	English

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

**Abstract** Saint Michael's Church on Wooster Square near the downtown area of New Haven, Connecticut was established in 1889. In 1904, a fire destroyed the original church. The parish served the Italian-American community under Friar Leonardo Quaglia from 1916 to 1949, the period in which the bulk of the materials are dated. The collection contains church bulletins, diocesan reports, financial reports, photographs, announcement books, and other ephemera and publications documenting events and anniversaries of the church.

### Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Records of the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, New Haven (Conn.) (CMS 045); Box; Folder.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Saint Michael's Church on Wooster Square near the downtown area of the City of New Haven was the main church for Italian immigrants in the area. It later developed the Church of Saint Anthony in New Haven, and it was the focal point and inspiration for many Italian activities for the expanding Italian and Italian-American population.

Officially, the parish was canonically erected in 1889, though as early as 1884 petitions for an Italian national church had been made to the Bishop by Paul Russo, who would become a trustee of the new parish. Saint Michael's first pastor was Father Vincent Astorri, celebrated the first Mass at the church on September 1, 1889, Astorri left for Boston shortly after and was replaced by Friar Oreste Alussi and later in 1894 by Friar Francesco Beccherini, who would expand the church. The current church was not built until late 1904 after a fire virtually destroyed the old church. Saint Michael's had several pastors during its early years. Friar Leonardo Quaglia served the longest period, this being from 1916-1949.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The records of the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel are fragmentary, dating from about 1888 to 1982, the bulk of materials from 1913 to 1923 and the 1960s. The collection is made up of diocesan reports made to the local bishop, parish bulletins, account books, correspondence, registers, photographs, memoranda, event announcements and programs, memorial cards, newspaper clippings, financial documents, other church publications, and other publications commemorating church and priest anniversaries. The collection also holds materials on Michael Russo, a founding member of the church. The parish published several journals over the course of years to commemorate special events, and these are found in this collection and provide some history to the church.

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## Arrangement note

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This collection is arranged into 8 series:

- Series I: Parish Announcements Books
- Series II: Diocesan Reports
- Series III: Financial Reports
- Series IV: Parish Organizations

Series V: Publications  
Subseries A: Church Sponsored  
Subseries B: Not Church Sponsored  
Series VI: Photographs  
Series VII: Other Church Documents  
Series VIII: Newspaper Clippings and Tear Sheets

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies December 1986

### **Revision Description**

Inputed into the Archivists' Toolkit by Nicole Greenhouse for DACS compliance. November 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.

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

Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, New Haven, Connecticut.

### **Processing Information note**

In 2013, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Corporate Name(s)**

- Scalabrinians.

**Genre(s)**

- Church newsletters |z United States

**Geographic Name(s)**

- New Haven (Conn.)

**Subject(s)**

- Church records and registers.
- Church societies.

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**Other Finding Aids note**

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The original inventory is available in print upon request.

**Series I: Parish Announcements Books**

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**Collection Inventory****Series I: Parish Announcements Books 1894-1915****Scope and Contents note**

These volumes were used by the priest to inform parishioners attending Sunday Masses of the news for the coming week. These announcements referred to Masses being offered, time of special novenas, dates of meeting for parish societies, and other announcements.

**Box**

Parish Announcement Books Aug 1894-Aug 1896

1

Parish Announcement Books Feb 1913-Jun 1915

1

**Series II: Diocesan Reports 1888-1946****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains photocopies and original reports on file at the Diocesan headquarters in Hartford. Reports had to be submitted at various intervals, often annually, by the pastor of a church to his bishop. They are principally in the form of statistics, detailing the number of Catholics in the district, number of baptisms, value of church property, amount of mortgage, and other statistics. The series also contains letters, some of which are on pastoral matters, as well as some dated bills. There are some reports to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Hartford, and the Church of Saint Anthony in New Haven.

**Box**

Copies 1888-1920

1

**Series III: Financial Records**

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Originals 1933-1946

1

**Series III: Financial Records 1899-1949****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains account books or ledgers, into which were entered receipts and expenditures for the church from 1899-1949. The series also contains bills, receipts, rough notes, memoranda, and W-4 forms. Several documents are drafts of recapitulations of the financial condition of the parish.

**Box**

Financial Volumes 1899-1904

2

Financial Volumes 1907-1912

2

Financial Volumes 1909-1934

2

Financial Volumes 1912-1932

2

Financial Volumes 1934-1949

2

Other Financial Documents 1917-1948

2

**Series IV: Parish Organizations****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains minute books of church societies, including the Church Trustees, Saint Michael's Society, the Christian Mothers Society, the Children of Mary Society, and the Sacred Heart Society, and



**Series V: Publications**

the Holy Name Society. The series also contains a significant amount of materials on Paul Russo, one of the founders of the parish for the Italian community in New Haven. The materials on Paul Russo regard his family, newspaper clippings, letters, and photographs.

**Box**

Church Trustees Minutes Book 1918-1929

3

Paul Russo 1891-1966

3

Holy Name Society volumes 1905-1923

3

Saint Michael's Society, the Christian Mothers Society, the Children of Mary Society, and the Sacred Heart Society Volume 1898-1899

4

**Series V: Publications 1905-1982****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains publications produced by the church and collected by the church. It contains programs to commemorate milestones, concerts, variety shows, dedications, and histories. The series also contains church bulletins containing announcements of Mass intentions for the week and news of parish activity, and a brief religious commentary. The other publications contains biographies, leaflets related to Italian American Catholic life.

**Subseries A: Church Sponsored Publications 1905-1982****Box**

Giubileo Sacerdotale May 22, 1905

4

## Subseries A: Church Sponsored Publications

Grand Benefit Concert May 6, 1917	4
Orazione Panegirica del Giorioso Apostolo S. Andrea Jun 27, 1926	4
Welcome Home Reception in Honor of Reverend Leonard Quaglia Jan 23, 1947	4
First Annual Variety Show May 1951	4
Golden Jubilee Journal 1950	4
Third Annual Variety Show of the United Societies of Saint Michael's Church Feb 11, 1953	4
Church Rededication Program 1954	4
Convent Dedication May 4, 1958	4
Gymnasium Rededication Program 1963	4
75th Anniversary Journal 1965	5
St. Michael's Novena 1960s	5
90th Anniversary Journal 1979	5
Untitled History 1979	5

**Subseries B: Non-Church Sponsored Publications**

Church Bulletins 1964-1982	6
<b>Subseries B: Non-Church Sponsored Publications 1905-1971</b>	
	<b>Box</b>
"La Parola Cattolica" May 28, 1905	7
<i>La Preghiera Vocale</i> 1920	7
<i>Lo Spirito Missionario di San Carlo</i> 1928	7
<i>La Vergine Madre Nella Vita Italiana</i> 1934	7
"The Catholic Messenger" May 7, 1939	7
<i>The Italian Emigrants and the Pious Society of St. Charles</i> 1950s	7
<i>Ethnicity in American Political Life-The Italian Experience</i> Oct 26, 1968	7
"L'Eco d'Italia" 1969-1971	7
<i>Hands to Build America</i> Apr 23-25, 1971	7
<b>Series VI: Photographs 1890s-1970s</b>	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	

## Series VI: Photographs

This series contains photographs of church members, priests, and exterior images of the church.

	<b>Box</b>
Unidentified Male Portrait 1890s	7
Tin-type of unidentified priest with a group of eight young boys 1890s-1900s	7
Photographs depicting exterior and interior of the church showing the fire damage 1904	7
Friar Vincenzo Astorri 1890s-1920s	7
Papal Delegates Archbishop Martinelli and Archbishop Satolli 1900s	7
Unidentified Priest 1890s-1900s	7
Seven Elderly Men and Women in a backyard with pastor Friar Leonard Quaglia 1930s	7
School graduation with Quaglia 1940s	7
Matrimonial Mass 1940	7
Album of Bassano del Grappa in Italy for a Scalabrinian Seminary Construction 1940s	7
Silvio Sartori 1950s	7
Rectory Construction 1954	7

**Series VII: Other Church Documents**

Exterior of the Church, including Guido Caverzan, Michael Intoccia, and Silvio Sartori 1965	7
Paul A. Falcigno, Michael R. Russo, and Lawrence F. Pisani 1965	7
Friar Michael Sommesi 1955-1978	7
<b>Series VII: Other Church Documents 1917-1971</b>	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
This series contains memoranda from the board of trustees and other church activities, momento cards, celebrating priesthood anniversaries and memorials, typescripts, proposals, programs, leaflets, postcards, and other materials related to the administration of the church.	
	<b>Box</b>
Donation of Wooden Statue with Painting and Glass Work by Quaglia 1925	8
Baptism Memorandum Mar 8, 1929	8
Marriage Memorandum 1931	8
Notes on Altar Construction circa 1930	8
Board of Trustees Memorandum on Loan for the erection of St. Michael's Hall circa 1930	8
Meeting Minutes of Board of Trustees Apr 1932	8

## Series VII: Other Church Documents

Columbus Day Celebration Banquet Oct 12, 1941	8
Momento Card celebrating 25th anniversary to the priesthood of Qualia and Friar Giorgio Cavigiolo May 25, 1932	8
Postcard of St. Michael Parochial School Sep 2, 1940	8
Memorial card on the death of Friar Francesco Levra Apr 15, 1947	8
Resolution adapted at a Special Meeting of the Church Jan 20, 1948	8
Notes on Christmas 1948	8
"Italian Center of New Haven" typescript 1960s	8
Program of Muscial Revue "CYO on Parade" Jun 20, 1947	8
A Lost Cause, by Michael Didone 1960s	8
Christmas Card circa 1965	8
Leaflet of Christmas services 1965	8
"Insieme" Periodical by Scalabrini Order in Switzerland Apr 1971	8
Proposal of Gennaro J. Capobianco to build a chapel in Hartford circa 1971	8

**Series VIII: Newspaper Clippings and Tear Sheets**

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Program for the Dedication Recital of New Organ Apr 27, 1974 8

Program of Silver Anniversary of priesthood of Joseph G. Bizzotto Jun 8, 1975 8

Program of Silver Anniversary of the priesthood of Thomas F. Carlesimo Oct 24, 1976 8

Financial report 1976 8

**Series VIII: Newspaper Clippings and Tear Sheets 1907-1979**

**Scope and Contents note**

These clippings and tear sheets from newspapers both in Italian and English, and refer to religious topics, including the 75th anniversary of the church, the death of a priest, the dedication of Saint Michael's Hall as a recreation center, or other clippings. Several refer to a child organist at the church, Angelina Spinello.