

**Church of Saint Mary of Mount  
Carmel of Utica, New York  
CMS.061**

**Finding aid prepared by Nicholas J. Falco (1987), Scott Keefer (2015)**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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1987, 2015  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Title</b>	Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica, New York, Records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	circa 1912-1971
<b>Extent</b>	1.25 Linear feet Two document boxes and one half-size document box.
<b>Location note</b>	Since 2012 CMS.061 has been housed at the Provincial House of the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine St., New York, New York 10014.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	The collection is mostly in English with some Italian.
<b>Abstract</b>	CMS.061 documents the activities of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel of Utica, New York, from the parish's founding in 1896 until 1971. The documents include clippings, commemorative memorabilia, correspondence, financial statements, photographs, and publications related to church events.

### Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica (N.Y.) (CMS 061); Box; Folder.

## Scope and Contents note

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One classic of Italian-American literature, Helen Barolini's *Umbertina*, is set in a small town in upstate New York. CMS.061 documents the history of a real-life upstate New York State Italian-American community, gathered around the Roman Catholic parish of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel in Utica. The documents range from the origins of the parish in 1896 until 1971, and include correspondence, financial statements, photographs, and publications.

CMS.061 highlights certain aspects of the history of Utica's Italian-American community. In 1901, the community hosted a visit by Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini, who founded the order of priests that staffed the parish, and blessed the cornerstone for the new church building. From the 1920s to the 1940s Saint Mary of Mount Carmel's Holy Name Society raised funds with an annual traditional minstrel show, amassing a file of programs documenting this particular form of entertainment. In the midst of World War II, Saint Mary of Mount Carmel opened a nursery for preschool children. After the war, parishioners participated in the campaign to provide relief for war-torn Italy. In 1951, parishioners celebrated one their own, as native son Thomas F. Carlesimo was ordained a priest in the Scalabrini order. Photographs of these last three events are on file.

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## Arrangement note

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This collection is arranged into seven series:

Series I: Publications Series II: Photographs Series III: General Correspondence Series IV: Programs  
Series V: Financial Statements Series VI: Newspaper Clippings Series VII: Miscellaneous Documents

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies 1987, 2015

### 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

The collection was donated by the Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church of Utica, New York.

## Processing Information note

In 2015, 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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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

CMS.061A, Addendum to Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica, New York CMS.061B, Second Addendum to Saint Mary of Mount Carmel , Utica, New York CMS.071, Papers of William Pizzoglio, c.s. CMS.078 through CMS.078C, Records of the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Utica (N.Y.)

### Subject(s)

- Italian-Americans--New York (State)--Utica
- Minstrel shows.

## **Other Finding Aids note**

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A paper copy of the finding aid is available at the Center for Migration Studies.

## Series I: Publications

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I: Publications</b>	<b>Box</b> 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
<p>This large series contains five subseries and comprises over one-third of this collection. These include histories and journal/histories written in 1936, 1946, and 1971 for the fortieth, fiftiety, and secenty-fifth anniversary of the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, respectively in both Italian and English; fourteen journals published for minstrel shows sponsored by the Holy Name Society which range from 1927 to 1947 with bulk from the 1930s; miscellaneous journals published under the auspices of the parochial school between 1941 and 1944; church bulletins from 1955-1971, bulk for scattered weekends in 1971; and three playscripts for church performances, which include "I Due Trovatelli," published 1881 in Italy, and "In 1999" from 1914 and "Merry Go Round" from 1938.</p>	
<b>Controlled Access Headings</b>	
<b>Subject(s)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minstrel shows.</li> </ul>	
<b>Histories and Journal/Histories</b>	<b>Box</b> 1
<b>Journals Issued Under Holy Name Society Auspices</b>	<b>Box</b> 1
<b>Miscellaneous Journals</b>	<b>Box</b> 1
<b>Church Bulletins</b>	<b>Box</b> 1

## Plays

<b>Plays</b>	<b>Box</b> 1
<b>Series II: Photographs</b>	<b>Box</b> 2
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
<p>This series consists of approximately 130-140 black and white photographs ranging from 4"x5" to 8"x10" and dated from the early 1920s through the late 1950s. Contents of the photographs include the interior of the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel in 1936, 1941, and 1971; photographs from the nursery in circa 1944-1945; the first mass celebrated by Father Thomas Carlesimo in 1951, considered to be the first native son of the church; photographs taken in Calabria, Italy of the distribution of clothes gathered and donated by the church members; and miscellaneous early scenes of the church's history and group photos.</p>	
	<b>Box</b> 2
Church Interiors	2
Nursery	2
Father Thomas Carlesimo	2
Aid to Italy	2
Miscellaneous	2
<b>Series III: General Correspondence</b>	<b>Box</b> 3
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	



**Church Restoration**

This series consists of letters received by the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel between 1912 and 1972, with the majority received in the 1940s. The topics of these letters include the church restoration project and opening of a child care nursery. A few of the letters are letters sent, and some of the letters are written in Italian. Some of the miscellaneous letters come from Father John Marchegiani of the Provincial Superior in New York City and letters sent to individuals of Italian descent informing them of the formation of the organization "Gruppo Italiano Cattolico."

**Church Restoration****Box**

3

**Day Nursery****Box**

3

**Miscellaneous Matters****Box**

3

**Series IV: Programs****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of approximately twenty-five programs from events sponsored by the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel dating from circa 1926-1971, with the majority of programs from the 1940s and 1950s. These events include a passion play from the late 1940s; the rededication of the parochial school and auditorium in 1950; a Communion breakfast in 1955 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Bishop Scalabrini, the founder of Scalabrinian order; and the Pontifical Concelebrated Mass in 1971 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the parish.

**Series V: Financial Statements****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of annual financial statements printed by the church and distributed to parishioners. Statements exist for the years 1905, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1921-1923, 1966, and 1970. Earlier statements are in both English and Italian.

**SeriesVI: Newspaper Clippings**

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**Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

This is a series of approximately 60-70 newspaper clippings. A small group date from circa 1912-1914. Most clippings are from the 1950s through the early 1970s with the majority dated from 1957. The most common subjects include efforts of the parish to help an orphanage in San Pietro a Maida in Italy, celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, and the ordination of Father Thomas Carlesimo as the first Utican of Italian descent to become a priest.

**Series VII: Miscellaneous Documents****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains 30 to 35 items dated between 1931 and 1971. The items include programs for 1931 Passion Plays performed at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel and at Our Lady of Pompei in Greenwich Village, staffed by clergy in the same order, a 1947 speech delivered over the radio commemorating Mount Carmel's fiftieth anniversary, the 1966 parochial-school yearbook, a 1971 Christmas card and other ephemera from Saint Mary of Mount Carmel's sevent-fifth anniversary.