

# **Guide to the Father Caesar Donanzan,c.s., Papers CMS.067**

**Finding aid prepared by Nicholas Falco**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	Donanzan, Caesar, c.s., 1920-1993
<b>Title</b>	Father Caesar Donanzan,c.s., Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1968
<b>Date</b>	1968
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Linear feet in one document box.
<b>Language</b>	English

**Language of Materials note** CMS 067 contains materials in Italian and in English.

**Abstract** CMS 067 contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs and office files that document the twenty-fifth anniversary of Father Caesar Donanzan, c.s., celebrated June 9, 1968, at Our Lady of Pompei Church at 25 Carmine Street and also at the Commodore Hotel in New York City.

### Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Caesar Donanzan Papers, Coll. #067, Box 1, Folder Name.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Caesar Donanzan, c.s., was born in Mussolente, Vicenza, Italy, July 4, 1920. He followed his brothers Emilio and Luigi into the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, a congregation of male religious founded in 1887 to assist immigrants in transit and in their new homes. He professed his first vows September 8, 1937. However, he was ordained June 13, 1943, in the midst of World War II, and thus it was not until 1946 that he entered the mission field. He began his work as an assistant priest at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica, New York. In 1953 he became Executive Secretary of the American Committee for Italian Migration, in which capacity he oversaw fundraising and the provision of assistance to Italian immigrants struggling with Italian or American Social Security, immigration or veterans'-benefit bureaucracies, and he took personal responsibility for lobbying Washington, D.C., for immigration reform. In 1964 his confreres elected him superior of the Scalabrinians Saint Charles Province, which oversaw the activities of Scalabrinian priests stationed in eastern Canada, along the U.S. Eastern seaboard, and in the Caribbean. During his tenure he constructed a provincial headquarters at 27 Carmine Street in New York City and a Casa Marinaio, or institution for sailors whose ships had docked in New York Harbor, at West 44th Street. In 1970, having served the maximum term permitted a Provincial Superior, he became Executive Director of the Casa Marinaio. Two years later, he was transferred to the Scalabrinians' Holy Rosary parish in Washington, D.C. His work there included outreach to Italians and Italian-Americans in the Greater Washington Area (unlike most parishes, which are geographically based, Holy Rosary had no nearby parishioners); the completion of the construction of Villa Rosa, a nursing home the parish had founded in the 1950s; the construction of Casa Italiana, which provided the parish with space to rent to others and with space for its own social, cultural and educational activities; and the development of the Scuola Italiana, which taught Italian to area children and adults on a non-academic-credit basis. On January 2, 1993, he was transferred to Saint Peter's, Syracuse, but during the following spring he was asked to substitute for a confrere at Saint Anthony's, New Haven, and it was there he died of natural causes, April 27, 1993, about six weeks before he would have returned to Holy Rosary to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

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## Scope and Contents note

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CMS 067 focuses on a single event, the silver anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Father Caesar Donanzan, c.s., which was celebrated June 9, 1968, with Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Pompei in Greenwich Village and with a banquet at the Commodore Hotel in midtown Manhattan. The collection documents the event through the paperwork generated to bring it about, through photographs taken at it, through the newspaper articles it generated, and through the many thank-you notes the celebrant had typed for his signature after the event.

Because of the many thank-you notes, the collection also documents Father Caesar Donanzan's circle of friends and acquaintances as it was constituted in 1968. This is significant because Father Caesar (who used his first name because he had two brothers also in the priesthood) played a role in the passage of the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. His correspondence indicates the network he leveraged to get Congress to act on that reform. He knew not only Members of Congress and Senators, but also key figures in the Catholic Church, the Italian-American community and the Italian government, which represented a nation that was going to be impacted by any change in U.S. immigration law, and therefore kept informed on the issue.

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## Arrangement note

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CMS 067 is arranged into one document box containing thirteen file folders. Ten of those folders contain correspondence with Father Caesar Donanzan, c.s., regarding his twenty-fifth anniversary as a priest; the files are arranged alphabetically by the name of the other correspondent. An eleventh file contains both original newspapers clippings, in Italian and English, covering the anniversary events, and photocopies of these clippings. A twelfth file contains four 8x10" black and white, landscape-oriented glossy photographs of the event. A final folder contains some of the paperwork for planning the event.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies April 1987

### Revision Description

Inputted into AT and edited for DACS compliance by Mary Brown and Nicole Greenhouse December 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**

The unprocessed materials that became CMS 067 was transferred from the Provincial Office of the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014, to the Center for Migration Studies, then at 209 Flagg Place, Staten Island, New York 10304, during the tenure of Provincial Superior Silvano Tomasi, 1977-1981.

### **Processing Information note**

Nicholas Falco processed the collection and prepared a finding aid for it in April 1987. 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)**

- Our Lady of Pompei (Parish : New York, N.Y.).

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.) |x Church history.

### **Subject(s)**

- 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.

## Collection Inventory

Letters Sent A-B 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent C 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent D-F 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent G-I 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent J-L 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent M-O 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent P 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent R 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent S 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Letters Sent T-Z 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Newspaper Clippings 1968 (Bulk, 1968)

Photographs 1968 (Bulk, 1968)



Donanzan, Caesar, c.s., 1920-1993 Miscellaneous Documents 1968 (Bulk, 1968)