

# **Church of Saint Anthony, Fredonia (N.Y.) Records**

## **CMS.054**

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

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies  
January 1987  
27 Carmine Street  
New York, New York, 10014  
(212) 337-3080  
[archives@cmsny.org](mailto:archives@cmsny.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	Parolin, Pio, c.s., (Rev.), 1879-1970
<b>Title</b>	Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, Fredonia (N.Y.) Records
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1906-1947
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1898-1975
<b>Extent</b>	1.25 Linear feet 3 document boxes
<b>Location note</b>	CMS.054 is housed at the Provincial House of the Province of Saint Charles, Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	Material in CMS.054 is in English, with some Italian and Latin.
<b>Abstract</b>	CMS.054 documents, thorough chancery correspondence, financial records, marriage records and ephemeral publications, activities at Saint Anthony of Padua of Fredonia, New York, a Roman Catholic parish founded for Italian immigrants in that towns. Although the records focus on the internal workings of the parish, the collection documents life in a small town in upstate New York, especially life among Italian Americans. Because Saint Anthony's was founded by the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, a congregation of male religious founded to minister to migrants, the collection also documents the history of the Scalabrinians between 1902 and 1976, from the time they first gathered the congregation to when they relinquished the parish to diocesan staff.

**Preferred Citation note**

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, Fredonia (N.Y.) Records (CMS.054); Box Number; Folder name.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Saint Anthony of Padua of Fredonia, New York, was founded in 1902. The bishop responsible for providing pastoral care to the Italians of Fredonia at the time was Charles Colton of the Diocese of Buffalo. Bishop Colton sought Italian-speaking clergy to provide pastoral care for the Italian immigrants of Fredonia. He turned to a congregation of male religious then known as the Pious Society of Saint Charles and now known as the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, whom he knew because they also staffed Saint Anthony's in Buffalo, New York (CMS.049).

The Scalabrinians laid the cornerstone for a church in Fredonia September 10, 1905, and opened the church in 1906. Generally, the Scalabrinians sent one priest to staff the parish; the longest serving were Domenico Belliotti (1920-1930) and Pio Parolin (1934-1953, CMS.073). Father Parolin led the renovation of the church in 1949. He also rallied the parishioners to rebuild after a fire consumed the church building February 24, 1952; a new church was dedicated July 5, 1953.

Clergy from the Diocese of Buffalo began to staff Saint Anthony's in Fredonia January 1, 1976. The Scalabrinians argued they did not have enough clergy to staff the parish. Also, by that time, the Scalabrinians' work was largely done, as the Italian immigrants and their offspring had become an integral part of Fredonia.

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## Scope and Contents note

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CMS.054 documents activities at Saint Anthony of Padua in Fredonia, New York, a parish founded to care for Italian-speaking Catholics in this town within the Diocese of Buffalo. Charles Colton, Bishop of Buffalo at the time, confided Saint Anthony's to the care of a congregation of male religious then known as the Pious Society of Saint Charles and now known as the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians. The order had been founded in 1887 to minister to migrants in transit and in their new homes. The Scalabrinians staffed Saint Anthony's until January 1, 1976, when they turned the parish over to the diocese to staff, citing a lack of clergy in their own order. Canon law requires that some historical records remain with the parish, but the Scalabrinians carried away others and deposited them in the Center for Migration Studies archives.

The bulk of the records are financial. The Scalabrinians saved the receipts for purchases, documenting Saint Anthony as a consumer of the goods and services of the businesses of Fredonia and also Catholic businesses in New York City and beyond. The Scalabrinians also created another sort of financial record for Saint Anthony's by preparing a statement listing all the receipts and expenditures in particular years.

The Scalabrinians also documented one aspect of pastoral care at Saint Anthony's by saving some of the documents generated when couples came to the church to be married. Canon law required that couples

with what the law described as "impediments" to their marriages (e.g., they were first cousins, or only one party was Catholic) had to obtain a "dispensation" before the wedding. The Scalabrinians saved these dispensations. While it is not clear what percentage of parishioners needed dispensations, the file opens a window onto marriage in upstate New York in the early twentieth century.

The financial records and the marriage records series are augmented by two smaller series. CMS.054 has a file of communications with the local chancery. Most of the communications are circulars announcing diocesan-wide regulations or events, but there is some correspondence that is particular to Saint Anthony's. The collection also has a file containing miscellaneous documents of parish history, such as charters for the parish Holy Name Society and parish histories.

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## Arrangement note

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CMS.054 is arranged into four Series

Series I. Documents Pertaining to Impending Marriages

Series II. Financial Papers

Subseries A: Bills and Invoices

Subseries B: Statements of Receipts and Expenditures

Series III: Communications To and From Chancery Office

Series IV: Miscellaneous Documents

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies January 1987

### 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 Center for Migration Studies is, like Saint Anthony in Fredonia, a mission of the Scalabrini Fathers. When the Scalabrinians relinquished Saint Anthony in Fredonia in 1975, material from that parish was deposited at CMS.

### **Processing Information note**

In 2013, This collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles. The finding aid was also updated for compliance with Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

CMS.073, Pio Parolin, c.s., Papers CMS.078, Saint Charles Province, Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, Records

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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

- Fredonia (N.Y.).

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

- Italian American |z New York (State) |z Fredonia

**Subject(s)**

- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church

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**Other Finding Aids note**

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The original inventory is available in print upon request

## Series I: Documents Pertaining to Impending Marriages

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I: Documents Pertaining to Impending Marriages</b>	<b>Box</b>
<b>Series II: Financial Papers</b>	
<b>Subseries A: Bills and Invoices</b>	
	<b>Box</b>
Bills and Invoices 1925	1
Bills and Invoices 1927	1
Bills and Invoices 1928	1
Bills and Invoices 1929	1
Bills and Invoices 1933	2
Bills and Invoices 1934	2
Bills and Invoices 1935	2

**Subseries B: Statements of Receipts and Expenditures**

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Bills and Invoices 1936	2
Bills and Invoices 1937	2
Bills and Invoices 1939	2
Bills and Invoices 1940	2
Bills and Invoices 1941	2
Bills and Invoices 1942	2
Bills and Invoices 1943	3
Bills and Invoices 1944	3
Bills and Invoices 1946	3
Bills and Invoices 1947	3
<b>Subseries B: Statements of Receipts and Expenditures 1930-1933</b>	<b>Box</b> 3
<b>Series III: Communications To and From Chancery Office 1927-1939, 1975</b>	<b>Box</b> 3

**Series IV: Miscellaneous Documents**

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**Series IV: Miscellaneous Documents 1898-1975**

**Box**

**3**