

**Church of the Holy Rosary,
Kansas City (Mo.) Records
CMS.053**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 09, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

EAD encoding and edited for DACS compliance by Mary Brown

Center for Migration Studies
Januar 1987

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Title	Church of the Holy Rosary, Kansas City (Mo.) Records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1921-1941
Date [inclusive]	1921-1946, 1967
Extent	0.25 Linear feet 1 half-document box
Location note	CMS.053 is housed at the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014.
Language	English
Language of Materials note	CMS.053 is in English and Italian.
Abstract	CMS.053 documents, via annual diocesan reports, correspondence, photographs and publications, the activities between 1926 and 1941 at the Roman Catholic parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, founded to provide pastoral care for Italian immigrants in Kansas City, Missouri.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Church of the Holy Rosary, Kansas City (Mo.) Records (CMS.053); Box 1; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

The congregation for Holy Rosary was first gathered in 1890 when Father Ferdinand Santipolo came to Kansas City, Missouri. Santipolo was a member of a new congregation of male religious, founded by Blessed Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini in Piacenza in northwest Italy in 1887 to provide pastoral care for migrants in transit and in their new homes. The order came to be known as the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, after the patron saint Scalabrini chose for it and after the founder the members revered. The Scalabrinians began their work with Italian migrants; hence Father Santipolo's mission. Holy Rosary's church opened in 1895, its parochial school in 1896, and its Don Bosco Community Center, named for another great nineteenth-century Italian saint, in 1941. The neighborhood remained a solidly Italian one through World War II, the years documented in this collection.

Scope and Contents note

CMS.053 documents the activities at the Italian American Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rosary, Kansas City, Missouri. Although the parish's congregation was gathered in 1890, the first church building the congregation owned was erected in 1895, and a parochial school was established in 1896, the collection documents the period from the 1920s to the 1950s, possibly because Holy Rosary enjoyed a period of clerical stability then: Father Luigi Franchinotti came to the parish in 1921 and served as pastor from that date until 1942; his assistant, Father Luigi Donanzan, succeeded him. Thus, the collection covers another significant event in construction at Holy Rosary, the opening of the parish's Don Bosco Center (for youth outreach and social activities) in 1941.

The most comprehensive part of the collection is Series I, which contains annual financial and spiritual reports for 1921-1925, 1927 and 1929-1940, in English and Italian. These reports are supplemented by Series of a more fragmentary nature. Series II contains church bulletins for December 1931, 21 July 1940, 18 May 1941, 17 March 1946 and 31 March 1946. Series II also suggests some of the difficulties of this collection. CMS and Holy Rosary in Kansas City are both missions of the Scalabrini Fathers, a congregation of male religious founded in 1887 to minister to migrants in transit and in their new homes. However, CMS is a mission of the Saint Charles (eastern Western Hemisphere) province and Holy Rosary is a mission of the Saint John the Baptist (western Western Hemisphere) province. Saint John the Baptist province had other parishes named Holy Rosary, and, as the Saint Charles province was unfamiliar with the parishes, material from them sometimes got mixed up. The December 1931 bulletin in this series from "Holy Rosary" is probably Holy Rosary in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Letters Series may have been gathered by Father Luigi Franchinotti in the course of answering a request from Father Silvano Tomasi regarding the history of Holy Rosary in Kansas City. The Series includes a 1931 letter from the Sacred Consistorial Congregation to Father Franchinotti; two 1935 form

letters from the Italian Colonial Committee to the parishioners regarding raising funds to redecorate the parish church; a 1940 letter from the Missionary Zelatrices to Father Franchinotti regarding the staffing of his parochial school; a May 4, 1941, letter from Kansas City's Bishop Edwin O' Hara to Father Franchinotti; the May 15, 1967 letter in which Father Silvano Tomasi makes the plea for historic materials; and a draft of a November 13, 1967, letter from Father Franchinotti to Father Silvano Tomaso in which he describes life in the parish during the period of Prohibition.

The Photographs Series may have been gathered by Father Luigi Donanzan, one of three brothers who joined the Scalabrinians from their home in Italy in the 1940s and served in various part of the United States during the second half of the twentieth century; evidence for this argument is that the Series consists of twenty images, mostly from the 1950s, most of them of events or of the church, and the only priest shows is Father Donanzan himself, broadcasting "The Italian Catholic Hour" on radio station KCKN out of Kansas City.

The Miscellaneous Documents Series covers the years 1930s and 1940s. It includes: invitations to activities and concerts of sacred music from the 1930s; September 8, 1940, programs for the laying of the cornerstone for the Don Bosco Community Center; a 1942 golden anniversary history of the parish; January 3, 1949 programs for the rededication of the parish church after a devastating fire; two photographs that seem to be of participants in a beauty pageant; and two undated posters inviting the public to a Carnival and a Popularity Contest.

Arrangement note

CMS.053 is arranged into five Series:

Series I: Annual Reports

Series II: Church Bulletins

Series III: Letters

Series IV: Photographs

Series V: Miscellaneous Documents

Series I: Annual Reports

Series II: Church Bulletins

Series III: Letters

Series IV: Photographs

Series V: Miscellaneous Documents

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies Januar 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

In the 1970s, the Rev. Silvano Tomasi, c.s., Provincial of the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, called on members of the province stationed in parishes and other institutions to forward historical material to the newly established Center for Migration Studies. Although the Church of the Holy Rosary in Kansas City, Missouri, was part of another Scalabrini Province, the Province of Saint John the Baptist, headquartered in Chicago, it heeded the call and deposited this material with CMS.

Processing Information note

In 2016, Mary Brown entered CMS.053 into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS. The original finding aid is available in print upon request.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

CMS.053 covers a mission of the Province of Saint John the Baptist of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians. There is some material on the parish in the records of the order's Province of Saint Charles, CMS.078 and its addendae. The parish and province may have more information. For the parish, contact Church of the Holy Rosary, 911 Missouri Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 842-5440, <http://www.hrkcmo.org/> For the province, contact Province of Saint John the Baptist Provincial House, 546 N. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302, (708) 386-4430, <http://www.scalabrinians.org/website/ProvinceSGB/Provincial/index.html>

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Kansas City (Mo.).
- Scalabrinians.

Subject(s)

- Church records and registers |z Kansas City |z Missouri
- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church.
- Italian Americans |z Missouri

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Series I: Annual Reports

Collection Inventory

Series I: Annual Reports 1921-1925, 1927, 1929-1940	Box 1
Series II: Church Bulletins December 1931, 21 July 1940, 18 May 1941, 17 March 1946, 31 March 1946	Box 1
Series III: Letters 1931, 1935, 1940, 4 May 1942, 15 May 1967, 13 November 1967	Box 1
Series IV: Photographs 1950-1959	Box 1
Series V: Miscellaneous Documents 1930-1949	Box 1