

# **Lydio F. Tomasi, c.s., Ph.D., Papers**

## **CMS.121**

**Finding aid prepared by Frances Fynan and Mary Elizabeth Brown**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

January 15, 2018

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies  
8 December 2017  
307 E. 60th Street  
New York, New York 10022

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Title</b>	Lydio F. Tomasi, c.s., Ph.D., Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1964-2015
<b>Extent</b>	3.0 Linear feet in six document boxes.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>CMS.121 documents, via correspondence, photographs, publications, and reports, the career of the Rev. Lydio F. Tomasi, c.s., Ph.D., during the 2000s and 2010s. Father Tomasi served as CMS's Executive Director until 2001, then continued in a consulting position while working as pastor of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church on Manhattan's Lower East Side (2001-2006) and of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. (2006-2014). From 2014 to 2016 he resided at 27 Carmine Street in New York City, with other members of the Scalabrini Fathers, the religious congregation to which he belongs. The collection includes personal items such as educational records that Father Tomasi kept with him until he departed New York for residence in Italy.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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Lydio Francesco Tomasi was born February 6, 1938, in Casoni di Mussolente, Vicenza, Italy, to Giuseppe Tomasi and his wife Amabile (nee Bordignon). He was one of five children with two sisters, Caterina and Anna, and two brothers, Luigi and Silvano, the latter being a significant person during his life in the United States.

Lydio was an early vocation to the Scalabrini Fathers, a congregation of male religious founded in Piacenza, Italy, in 1887 to minister to migrants in transit and in their new homes. He received the equivalent of an American bachelor's degree from Collegio Scalabrini-O'Brien, Como, Italy, in 1957, a Ph.L. (license in philosophy) and a Th.L. (license in theology) from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1959 and 1963, respectively, and a Ph.D. in sociology from New York University in 1983. He made his vows with the Scalabrini Fathers in 1960 and was ordained December 16, 1962. He departed for the mission field in the United States in 1963. After completing courses in English at the Scalabrini Fathers' Saint Charles Seminary on Staten Island and at New York University, he served at Saint Michael Archangel in New Haven, Connecticut, from 1966 to 1968.

Meanwhile, Lydio's brother Silvano Tomasi was receiving his doctorate in sociology from Fordham University and organizing the Center for Migration Studies, a Scalabrinian initiative originally intended to collect and disseminate information on contemporary human international migration. Lydio was drawn into this work and from 1968 to 2001 served as CMS's Executive Director. He continued to serve CMS in a consulting role while he remained in the United States. In this capacity he developed three facets of CMS's work. He organized the annual legal conference, held in Washington, D.C., and focusing on U.S. law and policy regarding migrants and refugees, and represented CMS at other conferences in the United States and Europe. He also developed CMS as a publisher. CMS still publishes *International Migration Review*, a quarterly of multidisciplinary scholarly on human international migration. During Lydio's tenure it also published a journal for those whose work brought them in contact with migrants, *Migration Today* (later *Migration World*), books and occasional papers. Lydio also supported the development of the Center for Migration Studies library, the collection of which is now with CMS's sister institution, Centro Studio Emigrazione-Roma in Rome, Italy, and the development of the CMS archives. While much of the collection reflects the Tomasi brothers' connections in the American and Canadian Scalabrini community and the Italian-American community, it was Lydio who clarified its plans to document the experience of migrants in transit, which led to the acquisition of the records of several immigrant aid agencies.

Lydio then served as pastor of two different Scalabrinian parishes, Saint Joseph in Chinatown, New York City, from 2001 to 2006, and Holy Rosary in Washington, D.C., from 2006 to 2014. Shortly before Lydio left CMS both he and Silvano Tomasi had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. In Lydio's case, that led to his reassignment from Holy Rosary to residence in New York City, in the Provincial House of the Scalabrinians' Saint Charles Province. In 2016, he was reassigned to a place where he had studied when he first entered the Scalabrini community, now remade into a health-care facility for the fathers.

## Scope and Contents note

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These papers were what remained in Father Lydio Tomasi's last office when Father Tomasi, who was suffering from Parkinson's Diseases, was transferred to a health care facility in his native Italy. Thus it documents both the items he had kept with him since his youth and the issues that occupied him toward the end of his work life.

The collection is arranged into three Series. Series I contains 140 photographs. They range in size from 1.5x1.75" to 12x8". A few old family photographs are in black and white, but most are in color; similarly a few are matte-finished but most are glossy. The subjects include Father Lydio Tomasi in his roles as seminarian, priest, and Director of the Center for Migration Studies; Father Tomasi's family, especially his mother and his brother Silvano; friends and colleagues; and some of Father Lydio posing with celebrities such as Benedict XVI, New York City politician Rudolph Giuliani, and Ivana Trump. Some included handwritten inscriptions on the front or back of the photo.

Series II contains documents related to the Center for Migration Studies. The 33 folders are organized alphabetically and then chronologically. Father Tomasi spearheaded the publication of the International Migration Review during his tenure at the Center for Migration Studies. IMR-related folders contain related scholarship, notes, and correspondence regarding readership and mission of the journal. Father Tomasi promoted the Center for Migration Studies as a global organization and this series includes relevant correspondence, fundraising information, and event plans. The predominant format is printed email exchanges. This series also includes the joint plan between CMS and Fordham University to established an academic relationship between both Catholic institutions through professorial chair endowed by Italy's Cassamarca Foundation. This series also includes some newspaper clippings.

Series III contains materials related to Father Tomasi's time as a pastor at the Church of the Holy Rosary in Washington D.C., from 2006 to 2014. There are 31 folders and the folders are in alphabetical order. Materials within folders are in chronological order. Much of Father Tomasi's time at Holy Rosary was spent working on its Casa Italiana, and the folders document his attempts to get the aforementioned Cassamarca Foundation to support a joint chair with Georgetown University and Holy Rosary. This series also documents Father Tomasi's work with external organizations, including the Center for Human Rights, the Metropolitan Immigrant Clinic, and the New York Immigration Coalition. Folders titled "Personal" contain materials that Father Tomasi deemed important and he held on to until the end of his time at Holy Rosary. These papers span many decades. Included are philosophy notes and outlines from his time as a student, versions of his curriculum vitae, family documents, and other school records. Also included in this series are manuscripts and research that Father Tomasi was working on at the time of his departure.

While processing this collection, some photocopies and publications were discarded and bibliography constructed for the publications. These materials should be accessible through public libraries or other archives.

This collection provides researchers with a look into the life of a dedicated Catholic, activist, and organizer. Father Lydio F. Tomasi not only led the Center for Migration Studies, but also contributed

knowledge and leadership to a number of immigration-based organizations. Researchers will be able to trace the origins of and discover the ins and outs of running a nonprofit organization. Father Lydio F. Tomasi serves as an inspiration for hardworking individuals who hope to dedicate their lives to education, scholarship, and activism.

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## **Arrangement note**

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CMS.121 contains three series:

- I. Photographs
  - II. Center for Migration Studies
  - III. Holy Rosary
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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies 8 December 2017

### **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 papers in CMS.212 came to the Center for Migration Studies archive from Lydio Tomasi's last residence, the Provincial House of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014.

### **Processing Information note**

CMS.121 was processed in November 2017 by Frances Fynan, Rachel Morton, and Mary T. Sanders under the direction of Mary Brown. They arranged the papers and photographs into series and folders. Materials in the folders were organized in chronological order and the folders were put into boxes in alphabetical order. Frances Fynan and Rachel Morton prepared the finding aid.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Related materials can be found at the Center for Migration Studies. See collections 078, 078a, 078b, 078c, 084, and 084a. CMS has an unprocessed collection of papers from Lydio Tomasi's brother Silvano's early years in the United States.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Center for Migration Studies (U.S.).
- Holy Rosary (Church : Washington, D.C.).
- Saint Joseph (Church: New York, N.Y.).
- Scalabrinians.

### Personal Name(s)

- Tomasi, Lydio F., c.s., Ph.D., 1938-
- 

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## Series I: Photographs

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I: Photographs 1960-2013</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Photograph</b>
	1	1-140
<b>Center for Migration Studies</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Annual Migration Pastoral Report 2014	1	1
Bylaws 1989	1	2
Chronological 1960s	1	3
Chronological 1970s	1	4
Chronological 1980s	1	5
Chronological 1990s	1	6
Chronological 2000s	1	7
Chronological 2010s	2	1
Chronological, Undated I	2	
Chronological, Undated II	2	3

## Center for Migration Studies

CMS Gala 2015	2	4
CMS Library	2	5
CMS Mission, Special Assembly 1996	2	6
CMS Strategic Plan	2	7
Conference, Italian Immigration to America 1992, 1994	2	8
Correspondence	2	9
Cutrale, Jose Luis	2	10
Di Marzio, (Most Rev.) Nicholas	2	11
Financial	2	12
Fordham Cassamarca Chair 1998-2002	3	1
Fordham Cassamarca Chair 2003-2005, undated	3	2
Fundraising	3	3
International Migration Review 1971-2015, undated	3	4
Miller, Mark J. 2002-2007	3	5

## Holy Rosary

Personnel 1995-2005	3	6
Publication Agreement 1997	3	7
Publications, Battistella, Province of St. Charles Borromeo	3	8
Publications, Battistella, Scalabrinians in the Chicago Area April 1984	3	9
Publications, Profilo e Attitudini Del Telespettatori Italianiani dei Programmi RAI-USA Nell'Area Metropolitana di New York 1984	3	10
Publications, Sullivan, Pastoral Resources from CMS August 1993	3	11
Publications, Three Year Development Plan 1991-1992	4	1
Scalabrini International Migration Network.	4	2
50th Anniversary Gala 2014, undated	4	3
<b>Holy Rosary</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit 1998-2005	4	4
Casa Italiana 2006	4	5
Casa Italiana 2007	4	6

## Holy Rosary

Casa Italiana 2008	4	7
Casa Italiana 2009	4	8
Casa Italiana 2010-2011, undated	4	9
Center for Human Rights 2003	4	10
Correspondence 1982-2014	4	11
Global Commission on International Migration 2004	4	12
Instituto Storico Scalabrini 2003-2006	4	13
Metropolitan Immigrant Clinic 2005	4	14
New York Immigration Coalition 2005	4	15
Other Catholics, Chapters I-IV, Pages 1-143	4	16
Other Catholics, Chapters V-VI, pages 149-238	5	1
Other Catholics, Chapters VII-Appendix I-VII, Pages 239-324	5	2
Other Catholics, Remaining Appendices and Bibliography, Appendices misnumbered, Pages 235-477	5	3

## Holy Rosary

Personal, Classes	5	4
Personal, Curriculum Vitae	5	5
Personal Faculties 2006	5	6
Personal, First Vows 1960	5	7
Personal, Mother's Death Certificate 2007	5	8
Personal, Ordination Anniversary 2012	5	9
Personal, Saint Michael Archangel, New Haven, Connecticut 1965-1966	5	10
Personal, School Records 1951-1965, undated	5	11
Publications, Other Authors 1971-2015, undated	6	1
Publications, Tomasi, Silvano	6	2
Sansone, Mary 2003-2004	6	3
Stibili, Edward C.	6	4
Toronto Italians Part I, Italian and Canadian Leaders 1975	6	5
Toronto Italians Part II, Priests' Survey 1975	6	6

Holy Rosary

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Toronto Italians Part III, "Marginals" (Statistics) 1975

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Toronto Italians Part IV, Tables

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