

Scalabrinians Collection on Rhode Island Churches CMS.029

Finding aid prepared by Olha Della Cava

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies
circa 1977
307 E. 60th Street
New York, New York 10022

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	5
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	6
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	7
<u>Other Finding Aids note</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	Scalabrinians.
Title	Scalabrinians Collection on Rhode Island Churches
Date [inclusive]	1891-1977
Extent	2.5 Linear feet in 5 document boxes
Location note	CMS.029 is housed at the Provincial House of 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	Materials in CMS.029 are in English with some Italian.
Abstract	CMS.029 documents life in nine Italian-American Roman Catholic parishes in the state of Rhode Island: Saint Rocco in Thornton; Saint Ann in Providence; Holy Cross in Providence; Our Lady of Loreto in East Providence; Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bristol; Saint Anthony in Woonsocket; Holy Angels in Barrington; Saint Anthony in North Providence; and Saint Mary in Cranston. The records consist of a history of each parish, illustrated diamond jubilee books, parish bulletins, correspondence between pastors, souvenirs journals, magazines, newspapers, albums with clippings, photographs, and short biographies of pastors.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Scalabrinians Collection on Rhode Island Churches (CMS.029), Box Number, Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

The nine Italian-American Roman Catholic parishes represented in CMS.029 are connected by their common staffing by clergy from the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, a congregation of male religious founded in 1887 to provide pastoral care to immigrants in transit and in their new homes. The first group of clergy left for New York City that same year, and soon took up work in Boston, Massachusetts, as well. In 1889 Bishop Matthew Harkins of Providence invited members of the community to conduct a mission for the Italians of Providence. Thereafter, they began work at Holy Ghost parish in the Federal Hill neighborhood of Providence and spread to Saint Batholomew parish in the Silver Lake neighborhood of the same city, and to the parishes represented in this collection.

Scope and Contents note

CMS.029 documents life in nine Rhode Island Roman Catholic parishes: Holy Angels, Barrington; Holy Cross, Providence; Our Lady of Loreto, East Providence; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bristol; Saint Ann, Providence; Saint Anthony, North Providence; Saint Anthony, Woonsocket; Saint Mary, Cranston; and Saint Rocco, Thornton.

The parishes have much in common. All were founded in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to provide pastoral care for Italian Americans. All were founded by or at some point staffed by members of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians. All are represented in CMS.029 by similar documents: ephemeral publications, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, and photographs. It may take some digging into the records to note the diversity among the parishes. Although Rhode Island is a small state, there can be considerable variety among cities, towns, and neighborhoods, depending on local demographics, economics, geography, history, and politics. Italian immigrants themselves were not monolithic, coming from different parts of Italy, speaking different dialects, and with different skills sets. It may be that CMS.029 documents more than its title suggests.

Arrangement note

CMS.029 is arranged by parish:

Box 1: Saint Rocco, Thornton, and Saint Ann's, Providence

Box 2: Saint Ann's, Providence

Box 3: Holy Cross, Providence

Box 4: Holy Cross, Providence, and Our Lady of Loreto, East Providence

Box 5: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bristol, Saint Anthony's, Woonsocket, Saint Anthony's, North Providence, Holy Angels, Barrington, and Saint Mary's, Cranston

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies circa 1977

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

Material in CMS.029 arrived at the Center for Migration Studies about 1977, when CMS founder and Scalabrinian provincial superior Father Silvano M. Tomasi called on the Scalabrinians to deposit with the CMS archives historic materials from the parishes in which they served.

Processing Information note

CMS.029 was processed some time after 1977, most likely by CMS's founding librarian, Olha Della Cava. During her tenure as intern and consultant Nicole Greenhouse prepared a finding aid in Archivists' Toolkit using descriptive criteria outlined in *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*. In July 2020, Mary Brown edited Nicole's work and added an inventory.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

CMS.021 contains the records of Holy Ghost, Providence, Rhode Island, the Scalabrinians' first parish in the area.

CMS.022 contains the records of Saint Bartholomeo, Silver Lake, Rhode Island, another Scalabrinian parish with a slightly larger collection than the parishes represented here.

CMS.078, 078A, 078B, and 078C contain the records of the Saint Charles Province, a geographic unit that includes Rhode Island. CMS.078 and 078A are organized alphabetically by name of correspondent, so if one wishes to search for information on a particular parish it helps to know the names of clergy associated with that parish. CMS.078B is organized chronologically. CMS.078C is organized by subject, with folders for the parishes in which Scalabrinians were stationed at the time those provincial records were collected.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Italian Americans |z Rhode Island
- Providence (R.I.)
- Rhode Island.

Subject(s)

- Church records and registers |z Rhode Island
- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church

Other Finding Aids note

The original typescript finding aid is at the Center for Migration Studies office, 307 East 60th Street, New York, New York 10022.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Saint Rocco's Parish Bulletins and Reunion Booklets 1960, 1974-1975	1
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains two parish bulletins on the proposed new school and two books on parish reunions and dinner dances.	
Saint Rocco's Parish, Booklets and Pamphlets. 1903-1978	1
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains two booklets on Saint Rocco's fiftieth anniversary in 1953, and one pamphlet on its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1978.	
Saint Rocco's Parish, Correspondence 1918-1975	1
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains correspondence between the various pastors, two letters written by Senator John O. Pastore (D-RI), and a short history of Father Mario Albanesi as pastor.	
Saint Rocco's Parish Miscellaneous Material 1943-1978	1
Scope and Contents note	

This folder contains a 1943 annual report of the parish, 1946 and 1949 monthly bulletins, 1978 weekly collection report, undated newspaper clippings, and photocopies of photographs taken between 1948 and 1950.

Sant Ann's Parish Albums and Books

1

Scope and Contents note

This folder contains an illustrated diamond jubilee book and a large album of clippings from Providence, Rhode Island, newspapers documenting religious, including accusations of proselytism, in the Providence, Rhode Island, Italian community as seen through the eyes of Saint Ann's pastor, Father Antonio Bove.

Saint Ann's Parish Clippings 1915-1922

2

Scope and Contents note

This file contains a second album of newspaper clippings from Father Antonio Bove, and loose clippings from the following newspapers: *The Providence Journal*, *the Providence Visitor*, *il Mezzogiorno*, *il Progresso Italo-Americano*, and *Il Corriere del Rhode Island*.

Saint Ann's Parish Miscellaneous 1910-1921

2

Scope and Contents note

This folder contains clippings, pamphlets, a brief biography of Father Antonio Bove, and correspondence from him. Among the topics covered are the dedication of Saint Ann October 16, 1910, proposals for a parochial school, and the secular nature of the Order of the Sons of Italy in America.

Holy Cross Parish Bulletins 1965-1974

3

Holy Cross Parish Bulletins 1975-1976	4
Holy Cross Parish Bulletins and Histories 1949-1977	4
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains loose parish bulletins from 1976 and 1977, a short undated history of Holy Cross parish, and two silver jubilee booklets covering the years 1949-1974.	
Our Lady of Loreto Parish Golden Jubilee Booklets 1970	4
Our Lady of Loreto Parish Photographs no date	4
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Histories 1917-1971	5
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains two golden jubilee books coverings the years 1917 to 1967 and one illustrated book entitled <i>Fifty Years of Devoted Service to Almighty God, 1921-1971</i> .	
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Miscellaneous 1919-1925	5
Scope and Contents note	
This folder contains a 1919 letter from the first pastor, an undated history of the church, and a 1925 description of the beginnings of the church with a list of donors for a special collection.	
Saint Anthony Parish, Woonsocket, Golden Jubilee Book 1924-1974	5

Saint Anthony Parish, North Providence, Dedication Souvenir no date 5

Holy Angels Parish Souvenir of Golden Jubilee and New Church Dedication 1913-1963 5

Saint Mary's Parish History (photocopy) no date 5

Saint Mary's Parish Miscellaneous 1891-1901 5

Scope and Contents note

This folder contains a list of Italian parishes in Rhode Island, photocopies from Giovanni Schiavo, *Italian-American History*, volume II, *The Italian Contribution to the Catholic Church*, and photocopies of correspondence between pastors from 1891 to 1901.