The Church of Our Lady of Pompei, Monongah, West Virginia
CMS.048

The Church of Our Lady of Pompei
Finding aid prepared by Nicholas Falco (1986) and Mark Coursey (2015)

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
October 12, 2015
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies
1986, 2015
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Summary Information

Repository  Center for Migration Studies

Creator  Our Lady of Pompei (Parish: Monongah, West Virginia).

Title  The Church of Our Lady of Pompei Monongah, West Virginia Record

Date [bulk]  Bulk, 1907-1914

Date [inclusive]  1899-1926, 1907-1914

Extent  4.0 Linear feet

Locations note  Since 2012, CMS.048 has been 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  CMS.048 is mostly in English, with some Italian.

Abstract  CMS.048 documents the activities in the Italian-American Roman Catholic community of Monongah, West Virginia, which centered around the Church of Our Lady of Pompeii and the Church of Saint Joseph, both staffed by clergy who were members of a religious order then known as the Pious Society of Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo and now known as the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians. The documents date from between the 1890s to the mid 1920s, and consist principally of clippings, correspondence, and financial records.

Preferred Citation note
Center for Migration Studies of New York; Church of Our Lady of Pompei (CMS 48); Box; Folder.

**Preferred Citation note**

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Church of Our Lady of Pompei(cms 048); Box; Folder.
Scope and Contents note

CMS.048 documents activities in the Italian-American Roman Catholic community of Monongah, West Virginia, a mining town dominated by the Fairmont Coal Company, from the 1890s through the mid 1920s. These activities are seen through the lens of the leadership of this Catholic community, priests who were also members of a religious order known then as the Pious Society of Saint Charles Borromeo and known now as the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, an order organized by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini in 1887 to minister to immigrants in transit and in their new homes. The Fairmont Coal Company employed Italian immigrants in its mines, and it was the presence of those Italians that brought the Scalabrinian priests to Monongah; one priest, Giuseppe (Joseph) D’Andrea, had a brother who worked in the mines.

The records consist chiefly of correspondence and financial data. They are useful for documenting life in a company town. One file consists of lists of members of the parish who were also employees of Fairmont Coal Company, copies of lists submitted to the company month. A second file consists of monthly statements that the Fairmont Coal Company delivered to the parish. The two kinds of documents indicate that each month the Fairmont Coal Company debited a small sum from each employee-parishioner's pay and credited the total amount thus collected to the parish, which rented space from the company and bought provisions from the company store. The church could never have passed a basket during the service; the parishioners, too, lived in company houses, patronized the company store, and never actually saw the money they made.

The records also contribute to understanding one significant historical event. In 1907, a workday explosion caused the entrance to the Fairmont Coal Company's mine to collapse, trapping the employees inside, where most then died from a subsequent fire, leaving behind hundreds of immigrant widows and children. These women could not pick up their menfolk's jobs in the coal company, and there were few other community resources. The Fairmont Coal Company arranged for the repatriation of many widows and children to Italy where other relatives might care for them or where they might find work. The list of names of families affected is in Box 2, Folder 30.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged into four series:

Series I: General Correspondence
Series II: Financial records
Series III: Miscellaneous Documents and Volumes
Series IV: Newspaper Clippings
Administrative Information

Publication Information
Center for Migration Studies 1986, 2015

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 Acquistions note
Society of St. Charles-Scalabrinians, Provincial Office, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014

Processing Information note
In 2015, 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.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note
CMS.078 also contains material bearing on Our Lady of Pompeii, Monongah, West Virginia. CMS.005 contains the story of the De Carlo family, the head of which was lost in the 1907 Monongah mine collapse.

Controlled Access Headings
Function(s)

- Church records and registers [z Monongah] [z West Virginia]
- Immigrants [z Italian] [z West Virginia]
- Mine accidents [z West Virginia]
- Monongah Mines Disaster, Monongah, W. Va., 1907

Personal Name(s)

- Di Andrea Giuseppe -- Archives
- Lorenzoni, Riccardo

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Bibliography

# Collection Inventory

## Series I: General Correspondence 1899-1926

### Scope and Contents note

Series I contains correspondence between clergy stationed at Mononagh, the religious-order superiors in New York, the bishop in wheeling, and officials of the coal company that dominated Mononagh's economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<th>Folder</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Series II: Financial Records

Scope and Contents note

Series II contains account books documenting various financial records none of them completely. Folders 18 and 19 document expenses for the church and rectory. Folders 20-24 document money on hand, either money or credit, folders 21 and 24 are cash donations (folders 20, 22 and 23).
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casa and Chiesa 1914-1916</td>
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<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic and Festival 1905</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credito del Rev. Jos. D'Andrea 1905-1914</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous 1904-1910</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipt Book 1906-1912</td>
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<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Book 1911-1913</td>
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<td>24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Series III: Miscellaneous Documents and Volumes**

**Scope and Contents note**

Series III contains documents generating the cause of managing the parish. The contexts of folders 26-29 are common to many catholic parishes; the contexts of folders 31 are common to organizations promoting devotion. Folders 25 is peculiar to a company town. The coal company in Monongah, the name of which changed over the years, employed all of Pompei's parishioners and also rented the congregation the building it used for worship. Each month the pastor submitted the name of employees enrolled as parishioners. The company used that data to deduct weekly church contribution from the men's paychecks and credit the "donations" to Pompei's account, which was then depicted for building rent, coal, and purchases at the company store. Folder 30 documents parish involvement in the care of widows and orphans from the 1907 mine explosion. There being no other work in Monongah, and thus no way the widows could replace their husbands as breadwinners, the pastor at the time, Joseph N' Andrea collected the names of the needy and the names of their provinces in Italy, for possible repatriation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>Parish Census 1909</td>
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<td>Mass Register 1903-1905</td>
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<td>Marriage Documents 1904-1912</td>
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<td>Prayer Book 1899</td>
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<td>Note Book-Italian Widows 1907</td>
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<td>Note Book-Saint Anthony 1905</td>
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