

Guide to the Father Joseph Berton, Papers

CMS.072

Finding aid prepared by Nicholas J. Falco and Marc Coursey

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	Berton, Joseph, c.s. 1913-1984
Title	Joseph Berton Papers
Date [inclusive]	1931-1984
Extent	1.0 Linear feet
Location note	Since 2012, CMS.072 has been housed at the Provincial House of the Province of Saint Charles of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, 27 Carmine Street, New York, New York 10014.
Language	English
Abstract	CMS.072 documents the pastoral career of Father Joseph Berton, c.s. Born in 1913 and ordained in 1936 Father Berton was a member of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, an order founded to minister to migrants. He served in a number of Roman Catholic parishes in New York, New England and Ontario, Canada. Upon his death in 1984 he left behind correspondence, including a collection of postcards, miscellaneous personal documents and wealth of photographs documenting his life and work.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Joseph Berton Papers (072); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

Father Joseph Berton was born 18 September 1913 in Crespano del Grappa near Venice, Italy. He entered the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians in his home town and was ordained in 1936. He immediately departed for the mission field, and spent the rest of his life in parishes in upstate New York, New England, and in Ontario, Canada. He died 16 May 1984.

Scope and Contents note

Father Joseph Berton was a Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians (called the Pious Society of Saint Charles during part of his life), a congregation of male religious founded in 1887 to minister to migrants in transit and in their new homes. Father Berton was a migrant himself, having been born in Crespano del Grappa; one of the appeals of the Scalabrinian priests may have been that their seminary was in Berton's home town. Upon graduation from seminary and ordination in 1936, Father Berton migrated to the United States and his first assignment, the Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica, New York. Over the years he also served in parishes in New England and in Ontario, Canada.

During his career Father Berton amassed a small collection of personal files, which were found among his effects at the time of his death in 1984, and which make up this collection. Father Berton divided his papers into two groups, one kept chronologically and one kept by subject. The subject files document Father Berton's participation in the governance of the Scalabrinians' Saint Charles Province, the one to which he belonged, and thus shed light on the internal workings of the community as well as on the daily work of pastoral care. The record of Father Berton's pastoral experience is augmented by a series of personal documents such as the granting of faculties, or the ability to act as a priest in a particular diocese of archdiocese.

Father Berton also maintained a collection of photographs. Some of them were personal, depicting his family, friends and classmates. Others document activities such as a trip to Italy. Still others provide a window into pastoral activities such as the running of a parish nursery or celebrations of parish milestones.

Arrangement note

CMS 072 is arranged into four folders, as follows:

- 1) General Correspondence
- 2) Subject Files
- 3) Miscellaneous Documents
- 4) Photographs

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies

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.

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.042, Church of Saint Tarcisius, Framingham, Massachusetts CMS.054, Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, Fredonia, New York CMS.058, Canadian Church (Saint Catherine of Siena, Mississauga CMS.061, Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Utica, New York, Records CMS.078, Provincial Records, Province of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Framingham (Mass.)
- Fredonia (N.Y.)
- Utica (N.Y.)

Subject(s)

- Nursery schools
- Priests |z United States.

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

General Correspondence

Collection Inventory

General Correspondence 1976-1982

1942-1959

1973

1974

1976

1977

1978

1982

Post Cards 1959-1964, 1971

Subject Files 1952

Early Priesthood 1931-1936

Poetry 1952

Miscellaneous Documents

Silver Jubilee Celebration 1961

Relinquishing Control of the Church of Saint Anthony 1975

Visit of Superior General 1979

Sale of Saint Charles Seminary 1979

Provincial Directory 1981

Miscellaneous Documents 1961-1981

Certificates of Religious Faculties 1936, 1950

Passports 1933-1972

Guests Registers 1973

Pamphlets and Publications 1971

Miscellaneous 1940-1983

Photographs 1910-1970

Father Berton and Family and Friends-Early Years 1930s

Photographs

Father Berton Portraits 1940s

Father Berton's Silver Jubilee 1961

European Trip 1950s

Italian Trip 1950s

Day Nursery 1950s

First Communion or Confirmation Groups 1950s

Graduation Classes 1940s

Weddings 1950-1960

Miscellaneous 1940-1960

Post Cards 1940-1960