St. Vincent de Paul Seminary Records, Lemont, Illinois
Date Range: 1955-1991
Quantity: 5 feet, 10 inches (17 full size boxes and 1 oversize box)

History

Following World War II there were many young men interested in the priesthood. In response to this trend, Rev. James Stakelum, C.M., Provincial of the Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission, began seeking a site for a minor seminary to prepare young men of high school age for the priesthood. In the early 1950s a decision was made to establish the new facility in the Chicago area and over the next several years several properties were investigated for their suitability. Around the time of the search, the Vincentians learned that the Fournier Institute in Lemont, Illinois was closing. Arthur J. Schmitt, a DePaul University Board of Trustee member, founded the military school in 1943 focusing its curriculum on electrical engineering. After numerous meetings, The Society of Priests of the Congregation of the Mission of Chicago and the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation reached an agreement regarding the donation of nearly 300 hundred acres. Although the Society of Priests was familiarly known as the "Vincentians at DePaul" it was independent of the University and was the organization that held the Lemont property in trust for Congregation of the Mission of the Western Province until the early 1970s.

In 1955, three Vincentian priests, Rev. Carl Schulte, C.M., Rev. Louis Derbes, C.M., and Rev. Thomas Barrett, C.M. were assigned as the first faculty members of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary. Ten sophomore students transferred from another Vincentian minor seminary located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and twenty-six freshmen made up the first classes. Enrollment fluctuated throughout its history; however the highest was in 1964 when the school had 149 students. Following Vatican II, a more liberal attitude was adopted by the Vincentian administrators and faculty. Students were allowed to go home on the weekends and their families were encouraged to attend activities at school. Normal days at the school included daily prayer, Mass, academic classes, and free time to pursue extracurricular activities such as intramural sports or student organizations. Due to declining enrollment and fewer vocations to the priesthood the Vincentians decided to close the school after the 1990/1991 academic year; this was a reflective of a trend throughout the rest of the country. The last class, consisting of five students, graduated on May 19, 1991.

Description

The records of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary date from 1955 to 1991. The collection is divided into seven categories: History and Background, Administrative Files, Students, Programs and Plays, Publications, Photographs, and Oversize Materials. All categories are arranged chronologically.

Related Collections

Correspondence and legal agreements about the donation of the Lemont property are located in the DeAndreis Seminary Records; DePaul University Biographical Files: Arthur J. Schmidt; DePaul University Archives: Fournier Institute; *Quest for Leadership the Arthur J. Schmidt Story*, call number: SPC 658.40092 S294Ys 1985

Processed: Pat Wagner and Morgen MacIntosh Hodgetts, November 2007-June 2008

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
1		**HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**	
	1	History	1955-1962
	2	Newspaper Clippings	1955-1994
		ADMINISTRATIVE FILES	
	3	Rev. Carl Schulte, C.M, Appointment as Superior	1955
	4	Correspondence with Chicago Archdiocese	1955-1961
	5	Visitations by Provincial	1956-1963
	6	Catalogues	1956-1971
	7	Hand Books	1957-1991
	8	Dormitory Building: Ralph Ranft Correspondence	1957-1959
	9	Dormitory Building: Specifications by Ralph Ranft	1957
	10	St. Vincent's Seminary Auxiliary: Constitution & By-laws	1958
	11	Appraisal Report	1961
2	1	Formulary of Prayers	1961
	2	Josefinas Sisters: Correspondence	1961-1990
	3	Donations, General Correspondence	1967-1992
	4	Illinois State Board of Education: Recognition Certificates	1974-1991
	5	Illinois State Board of Education: Reports	1979-1983
		25TH ANNIVERSARY SCRAPBOOK: SEE BOX 16	1980
	6	Donations: Mary A. Beaver	1983-1989
	7	Donations: Anne G. Palionis Estate	1983
	8	Rules and Regulations	1985
	9	Closing Documents	1990-1991
	10	Closing of St. Vincent's: Correspondence	1991-1992
3		**STUDENTS**	
	1	Class Rosters	1955-1979
		CLIENTS OF MARY AND JOSEPH, MINUTES: SEE BOX 16	1955-1964
	2	Alumni List	1959-1994
	3	Student Council: Constitution and By-laws	1962-1965
	4	National Honor Society: Arthur J. Schmitt Chapter: Minutes and Induction Brochure	1966-1991
	5	National Honor Society: A.J. Schmitt Chapter: Membership Records	1966-1991
	6	Vocation Week	1966-1976
	7	Commencement Programs	1980-1991
	8	Last Graduating Class: Copies of Lemont Vincentian and Graduation Invitations	1990-1991
4		**PROGRAMS AND PLAYS**	
	1	Miscellaneous Programs	1957-1961
	2	Holiday Plays - Christmas	1963-1965
	3	Play Programs (Miscellaneous – no scripts)	1964-1976
	4	"Lucifer's Lodge": Script	1964
	5	Holiday Play - Thanksgiving	1974

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
4	6	"The Gazebo" - Script and program	1976
	7	"Camelot"	1977
	8	"Oliver"	1978
	9	"Andy" - Script and score	1979
	10	"Andy" - Vocal score	1979
	11	"A Man For All Seasons" - script	n.d.
	12	"The Adventures of the Final Problem or Holmes Sweet Holmes"– script	n.d.
	13	"The Devil and Daniel Webster"– script	n.d.
5	1	"Hadrian VII"	n.d.
	2	"Heaven Can Wait" – script	n.d.
	3	"Murder in the Manor" – script	n.d.
	4	"Paint Your Wagon" – script	n.d.
	5	"Paint Your Wagon" – Musical score	n.d.
	6	"Poor Nelly" – script	n.d.
	7	"Requiem for a Heavy Weight" – script	n.d.
	8	"My Three Angels" – script	n.d.
	9	"Whodunit" – script	n.d.
6	**PUBLICATIONS**		
	1	Lemont Vincentian: Vol. I –III	1955-1957
	2	Lemont Vincentian: Vol. IV-V	1958-1960
	3	Lemont Vincentian: Vol. VII-VIII	1960-1963
	4	Lemont Vincentian: Vol. IX-XII	1963-1967
	5	Lemont Vincentian: Vol. XIII-XIV	1968-1970
	6	Lemont Vincentian	1970-1974
	7	Lemont Vincentian	1974-1976
	8	Lemont Vincentian	1978-1980
	9	Lemont Vincentian	1980-1983
	10	Lemont Vincentian	1983-1985
7	1	Lemont Vincentian	1985-1986
	2	Lemont Vincentian (Mixed Dates)	1986-1992
	3	Christmas Logs – Awardee Lists	1955-1963
	4	Christmas Programs	1957-1973
	5	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1983-1984
	6	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1984-1985
	7	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1985-1986
	8	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1986-1988
	9	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1988-1989
	10	Literary Magazine – National Honor Society	1990-1991
	11	Insights	N.D.
8		Yearbooks	1959-1964
9		Yearbooks	1965-1968

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
10		Yearbooks	1969-1972
11		Yearbooks	1974-1976
12		Yearbooks	1977-1980
13		Yearbooks	1981-1983
14		Yearbooks	1984-1986
15		Yearbooks	1987-1989
16		Yearbooks	1989-1991
17		**PHOTOGRAPHS**	
	1	Photos – Exterior Buildings	n.d.
	2	Photos – Study Hall	n.d.
	3	Photos and blueprint of St. Vincent Statue	1962
	4	Photos: Faculty and Students	1955-1959
	5	Photos: Faculty and Students	1958
	6	Photos: Faculty and Students	1959
	7	Photos: Faculty and Students	1960
	8	Photos: Faculty and Students	1950-1960
	9	Photos: Faculty and Students	1980-1990
18		**OVERSIZE MATERIALS**	
		Clients of Mary and Joseph Meeting Minutes - ledger book	1955-1964
		Plaque	1978
		25th Anniversary Scrapbook	1980
		Commemorative Medal	1991

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