Provincial Assembly Records of the Midwest Province
1843-1997
Quantity: 5 feet, 6 inches (12 full size boxes, 2 audio cassette boxes, 1 oversize box)

History

According to internal rules governing the Congregation of the Mission, each province is to hold provincial assemblies. The goals of the provincial assembly are to: 1.) Establish norms for the common good of the province; 2.) Act as a consultative organ of the provincial; 3.) Act on proposals which in the name of the province are to be presented to the General Assembly or the superior general; 4.) Elect delegates to the General Assembly, when required; 5.) Make norms for domestic assemblies.[1]

The first provincial assembly in the United States was held in 1843 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, with Rev. John Timon, C.M. (later bishop of Buffalo, NY) presiding. Prior to the 1960s, the assemblies were held every six years in preparation for the General Assembly (meeting of all Vincentians worldwide) or if a special General Assembly was called to elect a new Superior General. The Superior General, Rev. William M. Slattery, C.M., called for a General Assembly in 1968 to begin the revision of the Constitutions and renewal of common life. In preparation, each house of the province prepared "aggiornamento" (updating) reports, indicating their preferences for how the renewal of community life should proceed. The 1968 provincial assembly also produced proposals for the new constitutions to be delivered to the general assembly. The debate over the new constitutions lasted until 1980, when they were finally adopted by the general assembly. During the late 1960s and 1970s, provincial assemblies continued to propose new wording and critique draft constitutions, especially proposals that downplayed or eliminated outright the apostolate of seminary education. In addition, after many years of debate, in 1974, the Western Province voted to split into three separate provinces: the Midwest, the South, and the West. Provincial assemblies held since the split primarily focused on how to cope with smaller numbers of incoming seminarians and which apostolates to maintain or close. Strategic plans and proposals make up the bulk of the discussions of these later assemblies.

Description

The Provincial Assembly Records of the Midwest Province are arranged chronologically, beginning in 1843. A brief history and chronology of the provincial assemblies is located in Box 1, Folder 1. The records of most assemblies contain delegate lists, agendas, minutes and proposed changes (*postulata*). For some assemblies, committee records are also available.

A significant portion of the collection includes documents generated in preparation for the 1968 provincial assembly and the files of the assembly itself (Boxes 2-5). House reports on aggiornamento/community renewal are arranged alphabetically by the name of the house (Boxes 2-3). In some cases, minutes of house meetings are enclosed; in all cases, reports from the individual houses to the provincial are provided. In addition, the report from the province to the Superior General is enclosed. This report called for changes to the Constitutions regarding the election of the Superior General, how brothers are treated in the community and how community

[1] *Constitutions and Statutes of the Congregation of the Mission*, Rome: General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission, 1984. English translation, Philadelphia, 1989, 143.

prayer and piety should evolve. For example, the provincial report recommended dropping portions of the Constitutions that regulated minute details of a confrere's life such as making noise at night, censorship of letters, returning home before nightfall and speaking to lay people (See Box 3, Folder 18).

Reorganization of the Western Province into three separate provinces also generated a large amount of discussion, especially during the assembly of 1970 and the second session of the 1973-1974 assembly. It was during the second session of 1973-1974, after a great deal of committee work and caucus votes, that the final decision to split into three provinces was made (See Box 8, Folders 22 and 25). Audio recordings of the 1982 and 1985 provincial assemblies and group photographs of assembly participants (1896-1997) are located in the Audio-Visual category (Boxes A, B, C).

Restrictions

Materials in the Provincial Files (which includes the Provincial Assembly Records) generated within the last 25 years as of the present date are made available subject to the permission of the current Visitor (Provincial) of the Midwest Province of the Congregation of the Mission. Permission to publish records in their entirety or a substantial portion thereof must be requested in writing prior to publication from the Visitor. The researcher has the sole responsibility for obtaining this written permission. (DRMA Access and Use Policies, August 22, 2005)

Processed

Jeremy Dixon, August 2006

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	History and Chronology	
	2	Minutes (Latin) (Photocopies)	1843-1884
	3	Eastern Province Assembly Minutes (Latin) (Photocopies)	1889-1919
	4	Minutes (Latin) (Bound volume)	1890-1955
	5	Responses from Superior General (Latin)	1855-1919
	Provincial Assembly 1933		
	6	Delegate List; Domestic Assembly Results	1933
	Provincial Assembly 1939		
	7	Delegate List; Documents	1938-1939
	Provincial Assembly 1946		
	8	Schedule; Delegate List	1946
	Provincial Assembly 1955		
	9	Rules; Correspondence; Agendas; Proponenda; Minutes	1954-1955
	Provincial Assembly 1963		
	10	Correspondence; Agenda; Delegate List; Proponenda; Minutes; Reports	1962-1963
2	**Provincial Assembly 1968: Aggiornamento/Community Renewal Discussions**		
	1	Provincial Correspondence; Reports	1965-1967
	2	House Reports: Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, TX	1965-1966
	3	House Reports: Cardinal Glennon College, St. Louis, MO	1965-1966
	4	House Reports: DeAndreis Seminary, Lemont, IL (Folder 1 of 2)	1965-1966
	5	House Reports: DeAndreis Seminary, Lemont, IL (Folder 2 of 2)	1966-1968
	6	House Reports: DePaul University, Chicago, IL	1965-1967
	7	House Reports: Holy Trinity Church, Dallas, TX	1965-1966
	8	House Reports: Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, MO	1965-1967
	9	House Reports: Los Angeles Vice-Province (Folder 1 of 2)	1966
	10	House Reports: Los Angeles Vice-Province (Folder 2 of 2)	1966
	11	Reports: Los Angeles Vice-Province	1966-1967
	12	Documents: Los Angeles Vice-Province	1966-1968
	13	Documents: New Orleans Vice-Province	1966
3	1	House Reports: Rome, Italy	1967
	2	House Reports: St. Joseph's Church, New Orleans, LA	1966
	3	House Reports: St. John's Seminary, Kansas City, MO	1965-1966
	4	House Reports: St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, TX	1966
	5	House Reports: St. Leo's, San Antonio, TX	1966
	6	House Reports: St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX	1965
	7	House Reports: St. Mary's Seminary, Perryville, MO	1965-1966
	8	House Reports: St. Patrick's Church, LaSalle, IL	1966
	9	House Meetings: St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO	1966
	10	House Reports/Correspondence: St. Vincent's Church, St. Louis, MO	1966
	11	House Reports: St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Perryville, MO	1966
	12	House Reports: St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Beaumont, TX	1965
	13	House Reports: St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Lemont, IL	1966

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	14	House Reports: St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, MO	1965-1966
	15	House Reports: Foreign Missions, Taiwan	1966-1967
	16	House Reports: Vincentian Foreign Mission Society	1966
	17	House Reports: Vincentian House of Studies, Washington, DC	1966
	18	Report to Superior General (English)	1967
	19	Report to Superior General (Latin)	1967
4	**Provincial Assembly 1968**		
	1	Preliminary Reports (Folder 1 of 3)	1967-1968
	2	Preliminary Reports (Folder 2 of 3)	1967-1968
	3	Preliminary Reports (Folder 3 of 3)	1967-1968
	4	Postulata	1968
	5	Postulata: DeAndreis Seminary	1968
	6	Postulata to General Assembly (English)	1968
	7	Postulata to General Assembly (Latin)	1968
	8	Proposed Statutes	1968
	9	Minutes	1968
5	1	Questionnaire on Proposed Constitutions and Results (English and Latin)	1967
	2	Proposed Constitutions	1968
	3	Delegate Lists	1968
	4	Preparatory Documents	1968
	5	New Orleans Vice-Province Assembly: Minutes; Postulata; Article; Essays	1968
	6	Los Angeles Vice-Province Assembly: Minutes	1968
	7	Minutes of Informal Provincial Assembly; Homilies	1968
	8	Correspondence: Provincial Rev. James Fischer	1969
	9	Revised Provincial Regulations	1969
6	**Provincial Assembly 1970**		
	1	Correspondence; Delegate List; Postulata	1969-1970
	2	Provincial Reorganization, James Fischer Memo	1969
	3	Provincial Reorganization, Provincial Council Position Paper	1969
	4	Provincial Reorganization Proposals	1970
	5	Preliminary Report and Responses on Vows; Steering Committee Documents	1969-1970
	6	Preliminary Report and Responses on Formation	1969-1970
	7	Preliminary Reports and Responses on Governance; Finance; Prayer	1969-1970
	8	Preliminary Reports and Responses on Apostolate and Vocations	1970
	9	New Orleans Vice-Province Committee Reports; Postulata; Minutes; Enacted Norms	1970
	10	Los Angeles Vice-Province Committee Reports on Apostolate; Formation; Enacted Norms	1970

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
6	11	Los Angeles Vice-Province: Correspondence; Postulata; Committee Reports on Temporal Affairs; Government; Common Life; and Prayer; Assembly Minutes	1969-1970
	12	Agenda	1970
	13	Minutes of Joint Assembly; Minutes of Informal Meetings; Minutes of Assembly of Mother Province	1970
	14	Minutes; Common Life; *De Vita Consecrata*; Provincial Regulations	1970
	15	Provincial Regulations	1970
	16	Report on Provincial Assembly by Rev. Edward Riley, CM	1970
	17	Post-Assembly Review by Superior General (English and Latin)	1970
	18	Approved Norms	1970
7		**Provincial Assembly 1973-1974: First Session**	
	1	Preliminary Documents	1973
	2	Committee Reports	1973
	3	House Reports/Postulata: Cardinal Glennon College, St. Louis, MO	1973
	4	House Reports/Postulata: DeAndreis Seminary, Lemont, IL	1973
	5	House Reports/Postulata: DePaul University, Chicago, IL	1973
	6	Postulata: Parish Houses, New Orleans Vice-Province	1973
	7	House Reports/Postulata: St. Charles Church, San Francisco, CA	1973
	8	House Reports/Postulata: St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA	1973
	9	House Reports/Postulata: St. Patrick's Church, LaSalle, IL	1973
	10	House Reports/Postulata: St. Stephen's Church, New Orleans, LA	1973
	11	House Reports/Postulata: St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, MO	1973
	12	House Reports/Postulata; St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Beaumont, TX	1973
	13	House Reports/Postulata: Tainan, Taiwan	1973
	14	House Reports/Postulata: Vincentian House, St. Louis, MO	1973
	15	Agenda	1973-1974
	16	Organization; Steering Committee Reports	1973-1974
	17	Committee on Apostolate, Common Life and Prayer Life	1973-1974
	18	Committee on Government Proposals; Committee on Finance Report	1974
	19	Committee on Vows Documents	1974
	20	Minutes	1973-1974
	21	Goals, Principles, Directives and Norms Document	1974
8		**Provincial Assembly 1973-1974: Second Session**	
	1	House Reports: DeAndreis Seminary, Lemont, IL	1974
	2	House Reports: DePaul, Chicago, IL	1974
	3	House Reports: Holy Trinity, Dallas, TX; Phoenix, AZ	1974
	4	House Reports: Kansas City, MO; Perryville, MO; St. Catherine Laboure, St. Louis, MO	1974

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
8	5	House Reports: Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, MO Cardinal Glennon College, St. Louis, MO	1974
	6	James McOwen Letter	1974
	7	House Reports: Queen of Angels Seminary, San Fernando, CA; St. Mary's Seminary, Santa Barbara, CA	1974
	8	House Reports: St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA	1974
	9	House Reports: St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX; St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Beaumont, TX	1974
	10	House Reports: St. Thomas Church, Long Beach, MS; St. Stephen Church, New Orleans, LA	1974
	11	House Reports: St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, MO	1974
	12	House Reports: St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Lemont, IL	1974
	13	Committee Reports	1974
	14	Committee Reports on Apostolate; Due Process; Brotherhood	1974
	15	Leadership Reports	1974
	16	Agenda	1974
	17	Superior General/General Assembly Correspondence	1974
	18	Committee for Allocation of Resources	1974
	19	Committee on Community Life; Committee on Retirement	1974
	20	Committee on Formation; Committee on Continuing Development	1974
	21	Committee on Norms	1974
	22	Committee on Regional Organization: Minutes; Proposals; Votes	1974
	23	Central Committee Correspondence	1974
	24	Provincial Organization Committee	1974
	25	Minutes	1974
9	**Provincial Assembly 1977**		
	1	Correspondence	1976-1977
	2	Delegate List; Agenda	1977
	3	Committee Reports	1977
	4	General Assembly Prep Commission	1977
	5	Committee Reports: Allocation of Resources; Finances; Formation	1977
	6	Minutes	1977
	7	Supplements, Resolutions and Declarations	1977
	Provincial Assembly 1979		
	8	Correspondence and Documents	1977-1979
	9	*Instrumentum Laboris* Document and Response	1978-1979
	10	Agenda	1979
	11	Committee Minutes	1979
	12	Minutes	1979
	13	Goals	1979
10	**Provincial Assembly 1982**		
	1	Agenda; Correspondence; Evaluation	1982-1983
	2	Committee Documents	1982
	3	Proposals	1982

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
10	4	Minutes	1982
	5	Report on Assembly by Rev. John Richardson, CM	1982
	6	Newspaper Clippings	1982
	Provincial Assembly 1985		
	7	Personnel Figures	1985
	8	Committees on Finances; Community for the Mission; Evangelization; Norms; Priest Shortage	1985
	9	Committees on Formation; Peace, Justice & Human Dignity	1985
	10	Agenda	1985
	11	Minutes	1985
	12	Report on Assembly by Rev. Paul Golden, CM	1985
	13	Goals	1985
11	**Provincial Assembly 1989**		
	1	Correspondence	1988-1989
	2	Postulatum	1989
	3	Committee Documents	1989
	4	Vocation Report	1989
	5	Agenda	1989
	6	Minutes	1989
	7	Goals	1989
	Provincial Assembly 1991		
	8	Correspondence	1990-1991
	9	Agenda; Delegate List	1991
	10	Norms Revision Committee	1991
	11	Committee Reports (Finance; Seniority/Wellness; Peace, Justice & Human Dignity; Formation; Vocations)	1991
	12	Midwest 2000 Plan; Other Strategic Plans	1988-1991
	13	Strategic Planning	1991
	14	General Assembly Questionnaire	1991
	15	Election to General Assembly	1991
	16	Minutes	1991
12	**Provincial Assembly 1995: First Session**		
	1	Correspondence	1994-1995
	2	Prep Commission Agendas; Minutes	1994-1995
	3	Regional Meetings	1994
	4	House Meetings: Colorado Arkansas Valley Mission	1994-1995
	5	House Meetings: Colorado Missions	1994-1995
	6	House Meetings: DePaul House, Lemont, IL	1994-1995
	7	House Meetings: DePaul University, Chicago, IL	1994-1995
	8	House Meetings: Kenya	1994-1995
	9	House Meetings: Rosati House, Chicago, IL	1994-1995
	10	House Meetings: St. Louis, MO: St. Catherine Laboure; St. Vincent's; Bellerive Acres	1994-1995
	11	House Meetings: St. Louis, MO: St.-Lazare; Henrietta	1994-1995

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12	12	House Meetings: Perryville, MO: St. Mary's Seminary; St. Vincent de Paul Church	1994-1995
	13	House Meetings: Denver, CO: St. Thomas Seminary; DeAndreis House	1994-1995
	14	Committee Reports	1995
	15	Delegates; Schedule	1995
	16	Proposed Norms	1995
	17	Postulata/Resolution	1995
	18	Provincial Plan	1995
	19	Provincial Apostolic Plan/Reports	1995
	20	Leadership Survey	1995
	21	Executive Summary; Minutes	1995
	22	Evaluation	1995
	Provincial Assembly 1995: Second Session		
	23	Agenda; Executive Summary; Resolution; Icon	1995
	24	Correspondence	1995
	25	Steering Committee Agendas; Minutes	1995
	26	Delegates; Committees	1995
	27	Norms	1995
	28	Postulata	1995
	29	Apostolic Plan	1995
	30	Common Life Discussion: Rev. Barry Moriarty, CM	1995
	31	Evaluation	1995
	Provincial Assembly 1997		
	32	Agenda/Correspondence	1997
	33	House Reports: St. Mary's of the Barrens, Perryville, MO	1997
	34	Committee Reports	1997
	35	Provincial Plan	1997
	36	General Assembly Questionnaire/Correspondence	1996-1997
	37	Minutes	1997
	Audio-Visual Materials		
A	Cassette Tapes (16); Provincial Assembly 1982		1982
B	Cassette Tapes (11); Provincial Assembly 1985		1985
C	**Photographs**		
	1	Provincial Assembly 1896, 1902	1896-1902
	2	Provincial Assembly 1906, 1914	1906-1914
	3	Provincial Assembly 1919, 1925	1919-1925
	4	Provincial Assembly 1931, 1933, 1939	1931-1939
	5	Provincial Assembly 1946, 1955	1946-1955
	6	Provincial Assembly 1963, 1968, 1974	1963-1974
	7	Provincial Assembly 1982, 1985, 1989	1982-1989
	8	Provincial Assembly 1991, 1997	1991-1997

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