St. Vincent's Church
Date Range: 1877-2008
Quantity: 8 feet, 6 inches (22 full size boxes, 1 flat oversize, and 1 record carton box)

History

Bishop Patrick R. Foley requested Vincentian priests to serve as pastors and administrators of a new church and school planned for Chicago's north side. Rev. Edward M. Smith, C.M. and future parishioners laid the cornerstone of the first St. Vincent's on November 14, 1875 and Fr. Smith gave the first mass in the uncompleted church on Christmas Day of the same year. Upon completion and dedication, April 14, 1876, the building was described as simple and could "not boast of a single architectural beauty" due to costs. Sisters of Charity were asked to serve as teachers for the parish school which opened in 1883. Fr. Smith, having returned from New Orleans in 1891, found that the needs of the church had outgrown the structure and made plans to build a new church. Around 1892 or 1893 the construction of the "strikingly splendid French Romanesque" church began and was completed in 1897. Rev. Peter Byrne, C.M. became pastor in January 1899 and continued to furnish the interior of the church. Under his guidance the main altar, organ, and rose window were installed. Rev. Francis Xavier McCabe, C.M.'s served as the next pastor of St. Vincent's and though the construction debt attributed to St. Vincent's Church was high, he installed a marble altar. A fire in the 1950s led to rebuilding a vast portion of the church and replacing the rose window, a large undertaking for the pastor, Rev. James Flannery, C.M. In 1997, Rev. Don Ours, C.M. initiated a capital campaign to fund major renovations which were completed in 2001, when the church was rededicated. The parish has a long history and a strong relationship with its sister Vincentian institution, DePaul University founded in 1898, and the Lincoln Park Neighborhood.

Description

The records of the St. Vincent's Church, Chicago, Illinois date from 1875 to 2008. They are arranged into nine series: **History and Background Information**, **Church Building Files**, **Financial Files, Ephemera**, **Annual Carnivals, St. Vincent's School and Convent, DePaul High School for Girls, Photographs**, **Publications, Oversized Materials, and Artifacts and Memorabilia**.

Dating from 1918 to 2000, the **History and Background Information** series consists of written histories, newspaper clippings, and anniversary publications documenting St. Vincent's steady growth in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. The **Church and Buildings Files** series contains records about various church renovations and early documents and records about parish revenues. Spanning the years 1937 to 2008, the **Financial** series contains Yearly, Appraisal and Financial Reports, as well as the Parish Futures Coordinating Committee Report. These files are arranged chronologically. The **Ephemera** series is arranged chronologically and contains various religious and non-religious program booklets. The **Annual Carnival** series contains booklets from parish carnivals and bazars held at St. Vincent's. The first booklet is dated 1914 and the rest range between 1934 and 1947. The files in the **St. Vincent's School and Convent** series, arranged chronologically, date from 1915 to 1947 and consist of general correspondence, photographs and bond certificates used in raising funds for the construction of the convent. The **DePaul High School for Girls** series contains historical information about the high school, alumni listings, various ephemera, commencement programs and a class photograph from 1913, all of which are arranged chronologically. The **Photographs** series files are arranged into three subseries: St. Vincent's Church, Masses, and People. Each subseries are arranged chronologically. The **Publications** series is are arranged chronologically and contains monthly

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calendars, parish announcements and parish bulletins which provide news and events about parish, neighborhood, and university life. The title of the parish bulletin changed from The Vincentian Weekly, to St. Vincent DePaul Church, to St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin. The **Oversize Materials** series contains large St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs dating from 1887 and 1889, and large photographs of St. Vincent's Church. The dates to the photographs are unknown. The final series, **Artifacts and Memorabilia,** includes the trowel used in laying the cornerstone of St. Vincent de Paul's Church in 1895, a souvenir mug from the 125th Anniversary and other items.

Restrictions: None.

Processor: Amber Creger, April 2004; revised by Ben Martorell, November 2011

Location
DePaul University, Special Collections and Archives Department, 2350 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614; 3rd Floor Closed Stacks: Range 34/Unit G/ Shelves 1-5

Related Collections
Lincoln Park Neighborhood Collection, DePaul University Archives, DRMA-Provincial Files

Container List

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1		**History and Background Information**	
	1	List of Pastors	1875-1973
	2	Letter from Provincial, Rev. Thomas J. Smith, C.M., to pastor Rev. Peter V. Byrne, C.M.	1901, 1930-1988
	3	History: "History of St. Vincent's Church" by Rev. James Devine, C.M	1918
	4	"A History of the Parishes: St. Vincent DePaul Church"	ND
	5	"The Old Church Rises," by Rev. Patrick Mullins, C.M.	ND
	6	Histories	ND
	7	Newspaper Clippings: Miscellaneous	ND
	8	Golden Jubilee (50th)	1926, 1940
	9	Societies	1945, 1955, 1958
	10	Diamond Jubilee Booklet	1951
	11	Newspaper Clippings: Church Fire	1955
	12	Parish Centennial booklet (100th)	1976
	13	125th Anniversary	2000
		Church Building Files	
	14	Sanctuary and Altar	1906
	15	Windows	1907-1911
	16	Organ	1911
	17	Sanctuary Floor	1913-1914
	18	Restoration Campaign	1955
	19	Rose Window	1976
	20	Restoration Fund Appeal	1981
	21	Building Centennial	1997
	22	Rededication Booklet and Tour Brochure	2001

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	**Financial Files**		
	23	Parish Revenue: Miscellaneous Papers and Lists	c.1905-1909
	24	Yearly Report	1937
	25	Appraisal Report	[1948]
	26	Yearly Report	1952
	27	Yearly Report	1953
	28	Yearly Report	1956, 1958
	29	Appraisal Report on Vestments, Statues, Ecclesiastical Wear	1958
	30	Financial Reports	1961, 1972, 1974
	31	Appraisal Report	1967
	32	Parish Futures Coordinating Committee Report	2008
2	**Ephemera**		
	1	Christmas Programs	1889-1934
	3	Mass Programs and Prayer Cards	1907-1943
	4	Various Program Booklets	1913-1943, ND
	5	Parish Booklet	c.1986
	Annual Carnivals		
	6	Booklet	1914
	7	Booklets	1934-1940
	8	Booklets	1943-1947
	9	Scrapbook	1936
	St. Vincent's School and Convent		
	10	Histories and Lists of Superiors	[1926]
	11	St. Vincent's School: Class Photographs	1915, ND
	12	Photographs: Interior of Convent	[1952]
	13	Correspondence	1972-1977
	14	St. Vincent Convent Bond	ND
	DePaul High School for Girls		
	15	Historical Information: 1890-1923	ND
	16	Historical Information	1902-1953
	17	"A Brief History (1890-1898) of DePaul High School for Girls," by Mary Caulfield Callahan	1909
	18	Alumni Listings	1890-1923
	19	Ephemera	1911, 1918
	20	Commencement Programs	1910-1920
	21	Class Photograph	1913
3	**Photographs: St. Vincent's Church**		
	1	Exterior Façade of Original St. Vincent's Church	[1800]
	2	Scrapbook	1904-1908
	3	Exterior Views	c.1908-2001
	4	Interior	1920s-1930s, ND
	5	Church Fire	1955
	6	Exterior of Building: Slides	1970s-1982
	7	Exterior Views	ND

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	8	Postcards of Interior	ND
	Photographs: Masses		
	9	Special Masses	1905-1941
	10	Mass at Christmas	1909
	11	Triduum Mass at Easter	1921
	12	Unidentified Masses	ND
	Photographs: People		
	13	Priests	1900, ND
	14	Altar Boys	1903-1913, ND
	15	Ushers	1908-1910
4	**Publications**		
	1	Monthly Calendars	1896
	2	Monthly Calendars	1900
	3	Monthly Calendars	1901
	4	Monthly Calendars	1902
	5	Monthly Calendars	1908
5	1	Parish Announcements	1885-1899
	2	Parish Announcements	1899-1905
6	1	Parish Announcements	1911-1916
	2	Parish Announcements	1905-1911
7	1-4	The Vincentian Weekly	1911-1914
8	1-3	The Vincentian Weekly	1914-1917
9	1-3	The Vincentian Weekly	1917-1920
10	1-4	The Vincentian Weekly	1920-1924
11	1-4	The Vincentian Weekly	1924-1928
12	1-5	The Vincentian Weekly	1928-1933
13	1-5	The Vincentian Weekly	1933-1938
14	1-4	The Vincentian Weekly	1938-1942
15	1-7	The Vincentian Weekly	1942-1949
16	1-5	St. Vincent DePaul Church	1951-1955
17	1-4	St. Vincent DePaul Church	1956-1959

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
18	1-2	St. Vincent DePaul Church	1960-1961
	3	St. Vincent DePaul Church/St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin (June)	1962
	4	St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin	1963
19	1-4	St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin	1964-1967
20	1-4	St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin	1968-1971
21	1-3	St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin	1972-1974
22	1-3	St. Vincent DePaul Parish Bulletin	1975-1977
23	**Oversized Materials**		
	1	St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs	1887
	2	St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs	1899
	3	Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: Exterior View	ND
	4	Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: High Altar	ND
24	**Artifacts and Memorabilia**		
	1	Trowel used in laying the cornerstone of St. Vincent DePaul Church	1895
	2	St. Vincent's Dance and Ball Cards	1937-1941
	3	Souvenir Mug from the 125th Anniversary	2000
	4	St. Vincent's Church Medal/Ornament	ND
	5	St. Vincent Shirts and Sweatshirt	
	6	Microfilm Reel: Contains various publications and correspondence	[date of creation unknown]

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