Collection Description

St. Vincent’s Church, Chicago, Illinois Records
Date Range: 1875-2001
Quantity: 8.5 LF

Creator
St. Vincent's Church (Chicago, IL)

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. 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.

Scope
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. Subseries are
arranged chronologically. The Publications series is arranged chronologically and contains monthly 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 of 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.

Arrangement
The records of the St. Vincent's Church, Chicago, Illinois are arranged into eleven 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.

Files within the series are arranged chronologically. Oversized materials and artifacts are arranged as well by size.

Provenance
Accession #2001.11

Assoc Materials
Lincoln Park Neighborhood Collection, DePaul University Archives, DRMA-Provincial Files

Location
4/9/F/5-7 and 4/9G/3-4

Restrictions
None

Prepared By
Amber Creger __April 2004
Ben Martorell, updated and revised __November 2011
Series Descriptions

Series 001: History and Background Information
Date Range: 1875-2000

Scope:
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.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#  Folder Title    Date
001.001  List of Pastors    1975-1973
001.002  Letter from Provincial, Rev. Thomas J. Smith, C.M., to pastor Rev. Peter V. Byrne, C.M. 1901, 1930-1988
001.003  History: "History of St. Vincent's Church" by Rev. James Devine, C.M. 1918
001.004  “A History of the Parishes: St. Vincent DePaul Church” undated
001.005  “The Old Church Rises” by Rev. Patrick Mullins, C.M undated
001.006  Histories undated
001.007  Newspaper Clippings: Miscellaneous undated
001.008  Golden Jubilee (50th) 1926, 1940
001.009  Societies 1945, 1955, 1958
001.010  Diamond Jubilee Booklet 1951
001.011  Newspaper Clippings: Church Fire 1955
001.012  Parish Centennial booklet (100th) 1976
001.013  125th Anniversary 2000

Series 002: Church Building Files
Date Range: 1906-2001

Scope:
The Church and Buildings Files series contains records about various church renovations and early documents and records about parish revenues.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#  Folder Title    Date
001.014  125th Anniversary 2000
001.014 Sanctuary and Altar 1906
001.015 Windows 1907-1911
001.016 Organ 1911
001.017 Sanctuary Floor 1913-1914
001.018 Restoration Campaign 1955
001.019 Rose Window 1976
001.020 Restoration Fund Appeal 1981
001.021 Building Centennial 1997
001.022 Rededication Booklet and Tour Brochure 2001

Series 003: Financial Files
Date Range: 1905-2008

Scope:
The Financial series contains Yearly, Appraisal and Financial Reports, as well as the Parish Futures Coordinating Committee Report.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder# Folder Title Date
001.023 Parish Revenue: Miscellaneous Papers and Lists circa 1905-1909
001.024 Yearly Report 1937
001.025 Appraisal Report [1948]
001.026 Yearly Report 1952
001.027 Yearly Report 1953
001.028 Yearly Report 1956, 1958
001.029 Appraisal Report and Vestments, Statues, Ecclesiastical Wear 1958
001.031 Appraisal Report 1967
001.032 Parish Futures Coordinating Committee Report 2008

Series 004: Ephemera
Date Range: 1889-circa 1986

Scope:
Ephemera series is arranged contains various religious and non-religious program booklets.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder# Folder Title Date
002.001 Christmas Programs 1889-1934

Page 5 of 10
### Series 005: Annual Carnivals

**Date Range:** 1914-1936

**Scope:**
The Annual Carnival series contains booklets from parish carnivals and bazars held at St. Vincent’s.

**Arrangement:**
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Restrictions:** None

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>002.006</td>
<td>Booklet</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.007</td>
<td>Booklets</td>
<td>1934-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.008</td>
<td>Booklets</td>
<td>1943-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.009</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 006: St. Vincent’s School and Convent

**Date Range:** 1915-1977

**Scope:**
The St. Vincent’s School and Convent series consists of general correspondence, photographs and bond certificates used in raising funds for the construction of the convent.

**Arrangement:**
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Restrictions:** None

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>002.010</td>
<td>Histories and Lists of Superiors</td>
<td>[1926]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.011</td>
<td>St. Vincent's School: Class Photographs</td>
<td>1915, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.012</td>
<td>Photographs: Interior of Convent</td>
<td>[1952]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.013</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1972-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.014</td>
<td>St. Vincent Convent Bond</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 007: DePaul High School for Girls

**Date Range:** 1890-1953

**Scope:**
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.
### Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>002.015</td>
<td>Historical Information: 1890-1923</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.016</td>
<td>Historical Information</td>
<td>1902-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.017</td>
<td>“A Brief History (1890-1898) of DePaul High School for Girls” by Mary Caulfield Callahan</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.018</td>
<td>Alumni Listings</td>
<td>1890-1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.019</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>1911, 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.020</td>
<td>Commencement Programs</td>
<td>1910-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002.021</td>
<td>Class Photograph</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 008: Photographs

**Date Range:** [1800s]-2001

**Scope:**
The Photographs series files are arranged into three subseries: St. Vincent’s Church, Masses, and People. Each subseries are arranged chronologically.

**Arrangement:**
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Restrictions:** None

#### Series 008.001: St. Vincent’s Church

**Date Range:** [1800s]-2001

**Arrangement:**
Files are arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>003.001</td>
<td>Exterior Facade of Original St. Vincent's Church</td>
<td>[1800]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.002</td>
<td>Scrapbook</td>
<td>1904-1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.003</td>
<td>Exterior Views</td>
<td>circa 1908-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.004</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>1920s-1930s, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.005</td>
<td>Church Fire</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.007</td>
<td>Exterior Views</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.008</td>
<td>Postcards of Interior</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Series 008.002: Masses

**Date Range:** 1905-1921

**Scope:**
Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>003.009</td>
<td>Special Masses</td>
<td>1905-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.010</td>
<td>Mass at Christmas</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.011</td>
<td>Triduum Mass at Easter</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.012</td>
<td>Unidentified Masses</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 008.003: People**
Date Range: 1900-1913

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>003.013</td>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>1900, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.014</td>
<td>Altar Boys</td>
<td>1903-1913, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003.015</td>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>1908-1910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 009: Publications**
Date Range: 1896-1977

**Scope:**
The Publications series contains monthly 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.

**Arrangement:**
Files are arranged chronologically.

**Container List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004.001</td>
<td>Monthly Calendars</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004.002</td>
<td>Monthly Calendars</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004.003</td>
<td>Monthly Calendars</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004.004</td>
<td>Monthly Calendars</td>
<td>1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004.005</td>
<td>Monthly Calendars</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005.001</td>
<td>Parish Announcements</td>
<td>1885-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005.002</td>
<td>Parish Announcements</td>
<td>1899-1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006.001</td>
<td>Parish Announcements</td>
<td>1911-1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006.002</td>
<td>Parish Announcements</td>
<td>1905-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007.001-007.004</td>
<td>The Vincentian Weekly</td>
<td>1911-1914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 010: Oversized Materials
Date Range: 1887-1899

Scope:
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 of the photographs are unknown.

Arrangement:
Items are arranged according to size.

Container List
Box#.Folder#  Folder Title                     Date
023.001        St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs 1887
023.002        St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs 1899
023.003        Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: Exterior View undated
023.004        Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: High Altar undated

Series 011: Artifacts and Memorabilia
Date Range: 1895-2000

Scope:
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.

Arrangement:
Items are arranged according to size.

Container List
Box#.Folder#  Folder Title                     Date
023.001        St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs 1887
023.002        St. Vincent's Church Bazaar Programs 1899
023.003        Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: Exterior View undated
023.004        Photographs: St. Vincent's Church: High Altar undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>024.001</td>
<td>Trowel used in laying the cornerstone of St. Vincent DePaul Church</td>
<td>1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024.002</td>
<td>St. Vincent's Dance and Ball Cards</td>
<td>1937-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024.003</td>
<td>Souvenir Mug from the 125th Anniversary</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024.004</td>
<td>St. Vincent's Church Medal/Ornament</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024.005</td>
<td>St. Vincent Shirts and Sweatshirt</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024.006</td>
<td>Microfilm Reel: Various publications and correspondence</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>