

9-29-2015

Francis X. Weiser, SJ Papers

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Francis X. Weiser SJ

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Recommended Citation

New England Jesuit Province Archives; New England Province of the Society of Jesus; and Weiser, Francis X. SJ, "Francis X. Weiser, SJ Papers" (2015). *Finding Aids, Special Collections*. Paper 10.
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**Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus
c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395**

Record Group: MSS

Name of Collection: Rev. Francis X. Weiser, SJ (1901 – 1986)

Record Group Number: MS WEISER, Francis X

Size of Collection: 3 boxes = 1.25 linear feet and 1 oversize item

Dates of Collection: 1950 – 1986

Historical Background: Francis X. Weiser was born on March 21, 1901 in Vienna, Austria. He was the son of Francis S. Weiser and Maria (nee Schipp) Weiser. He entered into the Society of Jesus, Province of Austria, on September 7, 1916, completed his studies earning doctorates in theology, philosophy and psychology from the University of Innsbruck. He was ordained a priest on July 26, 1930 at the Holy Trinity Church in Innsbruck, Austria. His tertianship, 1931-1932, was at St. Andrew-on-Hudson, New York after which he returned to Austria. In 1938, shortly following German annexation of Austria, Fr. Weiser fled to the United States, where he served as pastor at St. Ann's Church in Buffalo, New York. There he became active with the National Catholic Women's Union and the Catholic Central Union of America. Soon after, he acted as associate pastor of the Holy Trinity (German) Church, Boston, MA for four years. In 1943, Fr. Weiser took over as pastor when the previous pastor, Fr. Henry M. Brock, retired due to failing health. In addition to his duties as pastor of the Holy Trinity (German) Church, Fr. Weiser served as auxiliary chaplain to German prisoners at Fort Devens from 1943 until 1945. Always active, he was instrumental in the formation of the Massachusetts branch of the National Catholic Women's Union, which led to his appointment as Youth Director and later National Spiritual Director, a position he held for twenty years. Fr. Weiser earned a second doctorate of theology from Gregorian University in 1950. For the next eleven years, 1950-1961, he served as professor of Philosophy and German at Emmanuel College. Following that, he taught ethics and theology from 1961-1970 at Boston College. He retired to Campion Center in Weston, where he died on October 22, 1986.

During his life, Father Weiser authored 22 books, including *The Christmas Book* and *The Easter Book*. These, as well as many of the others, dealt with traditional Catholic customs. The great impact his books had on young people, and his contributions to war relief led him to be awarded the Order of Merit, First Class by the President of the Federal Republic of German, Theodor Heuss in 1957.

Scope and Content: The collection contains a typescript of “Our American Christmas,” correspondence, photographs, Order of Merit award, and the accounts of the St. Joseph’s Mission Fund that Fr. Weiser administered.

See: New England Province Authors Collection for Fr. Weiser’s publications:

Christmas Book: The Story of the Celebration of Christmas... (Harcourt Brace & Co., 1952) [2 copies]
The Easter Book (Harcourt Brace & Co., 1954)
Der Gesandte des Grossen Geistes (Verlag Josef Habel Regensburg, 1954)
Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs (Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1952)
The Holyday Book (Harcourt Brace & Co., 1956)
The Holy Land: A Pilgrim’s Description in Word and Picture (Liturgical Press, 1963)
Im Tal der Bitterwurzel (Verlag Herder Freiburg, 1953)
In Der Heimat Des Herrn (Verlag Josef Habel Regensburg, 1958)
Kateri Tekakwitha (Kateri Center, 1971) [2 copies]
The Light on the Mountain (Sanjivan Press, 1960) [2 copies]
Religious Customs in the Family (Liturgical Press, 1956) [2 copies]
Walter Klinger: Eine Erzählung für Junge Menschen (Verlag Josef Habel Regensburg, 1959)
Das Weiserbuch: Erlebnisse und Erzählungen (Verlag Josef Habel Regensburg, 1953)
The Year of the Lord in the Christian Home (Liturgical Press, 1964)

Cite As: Rev. Francis X. Weiser, SJ Manuscript Collection
MS WEISER, Francis X
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Manuscript Collection: Rev. Francis X. Weiser, S.J. (1901 - 1986)

MS

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
[Pay Stubs]	1956-60	1	1
Mail, Letters, and Documents	1973-77	1	2
Mail, Magazines, Articles, Lectures etc	1971-86	1	3
[Mail: Newsletters and Articles]	1979	1	4
[Mass Journal]	1970-78	1	5
[Silver Jubilee Certificate from U. of Innsbruck]*	1970	1	6
"Our American Christmas", typescript	no date	1	7
[Photographs and Negatives]	no date	1	8
[Prayer and Obituary Cards]	no date	1	9
[Personal Correspondence: A-D]	1973-86	1	10
[Personal Correspondence: Boyle]	1980-81	1	11
[Personal Correspondence: E-I]	1972-85	1	12
[Personal Correspondence: Gruber]	1980-81	2	1
[Personal Correspondence: J-N]	1978-86	2	2
[Personal Correspondence: Kössler]	1978-82	2	3
[Personal Correspondence: McCauley]	1980-86	2	4
[Personal Correspondence: Muise]	1973-82	2	5
[Personal Correspondence: Mülluer]	1980-86	2	6
[Personal Correspondence: O-R]	1978-81	2	7
[Personal Correspondence: Palm]	1980-85	2	8
[Personal Correspondence: Schleuter]	1980-82	2	9
[Personal Correspondence: Sisters]	1978-85	2	10
[Personal Correspondence: S]	1978-81	2	11
[Personal Correspondence: T-Z]	1978-84	2	12
[Personal Correspondence: Weiser]	1980-82	2	13
[Personal Correspondence: Woratch]	1980-81	2	14
[Correspondence From]	-1980-	2	15
[Personal Papers]	1956-79	3	1
Account Books, St. Joseph's Mission Fund	1950-62	3	2
Account Books, St. Joseph's Mission Fund	1963-68	3	3