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RG 10.09 Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, Mass., Finding Aid

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, Mass.

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c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

Record Group: 10, House/Community/Parish Records

Name of Collection: Immaculate Conception Church, South End, Boston, MA

Record Group: 10.9 ICC

Size of collection: 25-5" boxes + 4-2.5" boxes = 13.5 linear feet

Dates of Collection: 1865-1997

Historical Background:

Rev. John McElroy purchased the site on Harrison Avenue in the South End from the City of Boston for a church, school and Jesuit residence in 1858. Construction began on the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1858 on what is now the corner of Harrison Avenue and East Concord Street. The back of the church abuts James, later renamed Fr. Gilday Street. The church was dedicated on March 10, 1861 by Bishop Fitzpatrick as a collegiate church, a place of worship for Boston College.

The church was designed in the style of the Italian Renaissance Revival by Patrick Charles Keely. It is built of white New Hampshire granite. The exterior of the church was designated an historical landmark as part of the South End Landmark District in 1983 by the Boston Landmarks Commission. The interior design, particularly noted for its spacious openness and ornate plaster work, is considered to be the work of Arthur Gilman, the architect responsible for crafting the master plan of Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. The organ was built by Elias and George Greenleaf Hook in 1863 and rebuilt by E.&G.G. Hook & Hastings in 1902. The walnut case holding the pipe work was designed by architect Patrick Charles Keely.

Immaculate Conception Church was the church for Boston College, and then Boston College High School, from 1863 until the 1960s. During this time, although not a parish church, Immaculate Conception also served the pastoral needs of the surrounding neighborhoods.

By the 1940s enrollment in Boston College High School had grown beyond the capacity of the existing outdated facility. In 1948 land was purchased on Columbia Point in Dorchester for a new Boston College High School campus. Over the next decade, the students, administration and faculty of the school made the transition to the Dorchester campus. Immaculate Conception Church and the old Boston College High School facilities continued to be used for school functions through the 1960s. Renovations were made to the facilities for the Centennial Celebration in 1961.

The Provincial Offices of the New England Province moved to Harrison Avenue in 1981. In the late 1980s, Immaculate Conception Church became part of The Jesuit Urban Center, an apostolate focusing on pastoral work, with clergy and members of the community collaborating to work toward justice through faith. Renovations planned to adapt the buildings for new uses initiated a dispute between the Jesuits and historic preservationists who attempted to apply landmark designation to the interior of the church. This dispute was finally settled by a decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that found that the constitutional rights of the Jesuits were violated by the attempts to prevent renovations. In the meantime, negotiations between the Province and preservations resulted

Updated: October 28, 2009 10.9 ICC i

in an approved plan for the renovations. A small "link" building was constructed between the old Jesuit residence and Immaculate Conception Church to serve the Province Curia Administration. The interior of the church was renovated to have both worship and gathering space as well as offices for the Jesuit Urban Center staff.

In the early 1990s, a section of the old college building was renovated as living quarters for the staff. The former Jesuit residence was converted into apartments for Boston University medical students and became the property of the Boston University Medical School. The Province Curia moved out in 2003, relocating the administrative offices to Watertown, MA. The Province sold a large section of the old college building in 2003.

As of April 20, 2007, the Jesuits ceased offering daily masses at Immaculate Conception Church and running any programs out of the Jesuit Urban Center. The last Sunday Mass was celebrated July 29, 2007. In 2013, the building was sold to a developer who planned to create residential space, see NEN Memo 2013/11, May 22, 2013.

Superiors for Immaculate Conception Church

Name	Term	Office
Rev. John McElroy, S.J.		Founder
Rev. John Bapst, S.J.	1863-1869	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Robert W. Brady, S.J.	1869-1870	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Robert Fulton, S.J.	1870-1879, &	Rector and Pres of BC
	1888-1890	
Rev. Jeremiah O'Connor, S.J.	1879-1884	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Edward V. Boursaud, S.J.	1884-1887	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Thomas H. Stack, S.J.	1887	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Nicholas Russo, S.J.	1887-1888	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Edward I. Devitt, S.J.	1890-1894	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Timothy Brosnahan, S.J.	1894-1898	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. W.J. Read Mullan, S.J.	1898-1903	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. William F. Gannon, S.J.	1903-1906	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Thomas I. Gasson, S.J.	1907-1913	Rector and Pres of BC
Rev. Charles W. Lyons, S.J.	1914-1919	Rector and Pres of BC
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
Rev. John J. Geoghan, S.J.	1919-1925	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. James T. McCormick, S.J.	1925-1931	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. William R. Crawford, S.J.	1931-1937	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. Francis L. Archdeacon, S.J.	1937-1942	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. Robert A. Hewitt, S.J.	1942-1948	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. James J. Kelley, S.J.	1948-1956	Rector and Pres of BCHS
Rev. Francis J. Gilday, S.J.	1956-1962	Rector and Pres of BCHS
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
Rev. Francis J. Gilday, S.J.	1962-1985	Superior of ICC
Rev. Robert G. McMillan, S.J.	1985-1989	Rector of ICC (JUC)
,	After 1989	See Jesuit Urban Center

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains Church Announcement Books (1880-1929), bound Church Calendars (1893-1961) and some other loose issues, Church Diaries (1898-1966), other record books, such as, the Vow book for Boston College and the other Boston residences: Holy Trinity Church and St. Mary's Church (1848-1948), financial record book (1922-1931), the records of the Liturgical Choir (1934-1939) and a menu binder of the Jesuit Residence (1962-1968). Several scrapbooks of newspaper

clippings are included, covering most of the history of the church from 1883-1991. The older scrapbooks are quite fragile and are stored with other oversize scrapbooks in RG 12 Audiovisual, Scrapbooks. Use the preservation photocopies included in this record group for research. Two of the clippings scrapbooks document the dispute over landmark designation of the interior of the church (1986-1991). There are several folders related to the history of the church. Office files include information about the building, the organ, and the stained glass windows of the lower church, some historical financial information, and some information about the Jesuit Community. The collection also includes the records of two related organizations: the Catholic Alumni Sodality of Boston, founded 1899, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There are histories and newsletters from the Catholic Alumni Sodality. Bound volumes of newsletters from 1949 to 1961 are complete runs. There are also audio recordings of Catholic Alumni Sodality programs in RG 12 Audiovisual. The Conference Records of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are the recording secretaries meeting reports for the years 1866-1929. There is also a ledger book from 1866-1867. Both organizations engaged in devotions, charitable work and fund raising activities.

The typescript "History of Boston and Immaculate Conception Church" complied by Fr. John W. Lynch, S.J., the house historian during the 1960s, contains a chronology of the Church, and a partial index to biographies and other articles published in the Church Calendars, see following pages. The Church Calendar for the Centennial year, 1961, contains many articles about the history of the church, related organizations and the building.

Series	Page
Announcement Books	1
Church Calendars	1-2
Church Diaries	3-4
Record Book	4
Clipping Books	4
History Notes	5
Office Files	6
Varia	6
Related Organizations—Catholic Sodality Society of Boston	7
Related Organizations—St. Vincent de Paul Society	7

Processing Notes:

The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Boston College, Boston College High School and the Jesuit Urban Center have been so closely associated that it is necessary to research all these record groups to conduct a thorough search of the material. Materials have been processed by the geographic location of the institution at the time of record creation.

See:

See RG 10.10 JUC, Jesuit Urban Center, for information about the Church of the Immaculate Conception after 1989.

See RG 12 Audiovisual, Photographs for photographs of Immaculate Conception Church. There are a few prints from the late 1800s. The most recent photographs are included on the website of the Jesuit Urban Center and have been recorded on compact disc.

See RG 12 Audiovisual, Tapes for reel-to-reel audio tapes of the meetings of the Catholic Alumni Sodality.

See RG 10.19 St. Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, for the Centennial Jubilee Mass Program of the Catholic Alumni Sodality of Boston which contains listings of Spiritual Directors and Presidents.

See RG 1.9 Records of Fr. Provincial Richard T. Cleary, S.J., Series 8 House/Community/Parish, Immaculate Conception Church folders and Boston College High School folders for information about the canonical status of Immaculate Conception Church.

See RG 1.11 Records of Fr. Provincial Robert Manning, S.J. for records about the dispute between the Jesuits and the historic preservationists regarding landmark designation for the interior of Immaculate Conception Church and the civil action court cases that ensured.

See the Archdiocese of Boston for sacramental records of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The church sacramental records from Immaculate Conception Church prior to 1900 have been transferred to the Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston. Records after 1900 are housed at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston, MA.

Access / Restrictions: This collection is open to researchers.

Cite As: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA Records

Record Group 10, Community/House/Parish Records

Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Updated: September 14, 2015 10.9 ICC iv

Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Announcement Books			
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1880-1885	1	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1885-1893	1	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1900-1905	1	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1906-1909	1	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1909-1914	2	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1915-1918	2	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1918-1920	2	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1921-1922	3	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1922-1924	3	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1924-1926	3	
Immaculate Conception Church Announcement Book	1926-1928	3	

Church Calendars

Bound Copies		
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1893	4
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1894	4
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1895	4
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1896	4
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1898	4
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 3 copies	1899	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1900	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy, 1 photocopy	1901	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy, 1 photocopy	1902	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1903	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy, 1 photocopy	1904	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy, 1 photocopy	1905	5
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1906	6
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1907	6
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1908	6
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1909	6
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1910	6
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1911	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1912	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1913	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1914	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy, 1 photocopy	1915	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1916	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1917	7
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1918	8
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1919	8
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1920	8
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1921	8

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Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Church Calendars			
Bound Copies			
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1922	8	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1923	8	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1924	8	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1925	9	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1926	9	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1927	9	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1928	9	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1929	9	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1930	10	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1931	10	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1932	10	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1933	10	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1934	10	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1935	11	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1936	11	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1937	11	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1938	11	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1939	11	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1940	12	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1941	12	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1942	12	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1943-1944	12	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1945-1946	13	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1947-1948	13	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1952-1955	13	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1952-1953	13	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 1 copy	1954-1955	13	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1956-1958	14	
Immaculate Conception Calendar, 2 copies	1959-1961	14	
Loose Issues			
Immaculate Conception Calendar	1914, 1950	14	1
Immaculate Conception Calendar, Centennial Anniversary 1861- 1961, November-December Issue, 6 copies	1961	14	2
	1960s	14	3
Immaculate Conception Calendars		14	3 4
Immaculate Conception Church Bulletin	1986	14	4

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Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title	Dates	Вох	Folder
Church Diaries			
Diary of Church Services at Immaculate Conception, Nov. 1, 1898 – July 31, 1910	1898-1910	15	
Diary of Boston College and Immaculate Conception Church Boston College and Immaculate Conception, Aug 1907 –July 1909 Immaculate Conception Church, July 1909-1913 See: RG 10.2 BC / BCHS, Boston College and Boston College High School	1907-1913		
Diary of Fr. Minister, Feb. 1, 1916-Dec. 8, 1920	1916-1920	15	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1921	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1922	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1923	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1924	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1925	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1926	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1927	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1928	16	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1929	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1930	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1931	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1932	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1933	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1934	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1935	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1936	17	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1937	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1938	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1939	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1940	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1941	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1942	18	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1943	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1944	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1945	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1946	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1947	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1948	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1949	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1950	19	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1951	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1952	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1953	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1954	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1955	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1956	20	
Immodulate Conception Church Diany	1057	20	

Immaculate Conception Church Diary

1957

20

Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Church Diaries			
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1958	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1959	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1960	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1961	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1962	20	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1963	20	
N.B.: No Diary for 1964			
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1965	21	
Immaculate Conception Church Diary	1966	21	
Record Books			
Account and Financial Records Book, Immaculate Conception Church	1922-1931	22	
Liturgical Choir, Record Book of Immaculate Conception	1934-1939	22	
Menu Binder	1962-1968	22	
Vow Record Book of Boston College and Boston Residences (Immaculate Conception Church, Holy Trinity Church and St. Mary's Church) See: RG 10.2 BC / BCHS, Boston College and Boston College High School	1848-1948		
Clipping Books			
Clipping Scrapbook – 1 of 2, access photocopy. Original stored in	1883-1906	23	
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Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
History Notes			
History of Boston and Immaculate Conception Church, compiled by Fr. John W. Lynch, S.J., typescript in spring binder	1960s	25	1
History of Boston and Immaculate Conception Church, compiled by Fr. John W. Lynch, S.J., photocopy of typescript in spring binder	1960s	25	2
History of Boston and Immaculate Conception Church, compiled by Fr. John W. Lynch, S.J., photocopy of typescript, unbound	1960s	25	3
Some notes on early Boston College history	n.d.	25	4
Dwight Family History	1961	25	5
Photocopies of Publications			
Cornerstone laying (1858) and Dedication of Immaculate Conception Church (1861), Facsimile of newspaper articles	1860, circa	25	6
Transcript of Fr. Bapst's letter of 1869 regarding relics of St. Valentine to Mrs. Samuel Ward	1969, n.d.	25	7
"The Church of the Immaculate Conception", Chapter from Persons and Places by George Santayana, 1944, description from circa 1880.	1880, 1944	25	8
"Boston College and the Church of the Immaculate Conception", Chapter from <i>The Catholic Church of</i> New England, (short title) 1895	1895	25	9
Centennial Address of Edward B. Hanify, Esq.	1961	25	10

Dates

Box

Folder

Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title

Tide	Dates	DOX	roluel
Office Files			
Building and Fixtures			
Architecture—Society of Architectural Historians, 1986 Spring Tour	1986	26	1
Memorial Plaques, Lower Church	1957	26	2
Organ—American Guild of Organists, Festival Program, includes article by Barbara Owen "The Great Organ and Its Players"	1972	26	3
Paintings, Upper Church—Work done in 1967	1967	26	4
Repairs and Renovations	1961	26	5
Stained Glass Window—"Shrine Window", Thomas J. Murphy, artist	1947	26	6
Stained Glass Windows, Lower Church	1956-1957	26	7
Stained Glass Windows, Upper Church [Duplicate info found in RG 1.13, Levens.]	1995, 1997	26	7a
Financial			
Insurance Record	1962	26	8
Will of Florence Lyman, New England Trust Co.	1927-1930	26	9
Fr. Francis J. Gilday, S.J., Rector			
Correspondence	1950-1961	26	10
Correspondence, Sacred Heart Program	1958-1960	26	11
Jesuit Community			
Community Meeting Reports	1986-1987	26	12
James Powers, S.J., Community Chairman, Correspondence	1963-1972	26	13
Toward a Vision for the Immaculate, Paper	1987, circa	26	14
Weddings			
Beaudieu – Marshall	1956	26	15
Pompeo – Kurprieski	1954	26	16
Varia	1005 1002	26	47
Autograph Book of Annie G. Keevan, Sunday School Teacher	1885-1892	26	17
Church Debt Society Mass Cards	1870s	26	18
Manuscript Book of Sermons	1865	26	19
Men's League of the Sacred Heart, Monthly Mass Notice	1907	26	20
Novena of Grace Booklets	1926, 1935	26	21
Organ and Music, Newspaper Clippings	1978, 1986	26	22
Organist, Carlo Giorgio Garofalo, 1910-11, Subject file from Boston		26	23
Symphony Orchestra St. Ignatius and the Society of Jesus; their influence on civilization and Christianity, a Sermon delivered in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in Boston, on Sunday, Aug. 4, 1867 by Rev. G.F. Haskins, Rector of the House of the Angel Guardian. Pamphlet.	1867	26	24
Stationary Sample	1970-1985	26	25
Sunday School Diploma of Rosa Agnes Keevan	1913	26	26
Carrady Corroot Diploma of Nood Agrico Noovan	1010	20	

Dates

Box

Folder

Record Group 10.9 ICC 1865-1997 House/Community/Parish: Immaculate Conception Church, Boston, MA

Title

Related Organizations			
Catholic Alumni Sodality of Boston			
History	1935	27	1
Sodality Rules (Common Rules of 1910)	1943	27	2
Golden Jubilee Book	1950	27	3
Diamond Jubilee Program	1974	27	4
Catholic Alumni Bulletin [Sodality Newsletters, bound vol.]	1949-1953	27	5
Catholic Alumni Bulletin [Sodality Newsletters, bound vol.]	1954-1961	27	6
Catholic Alumni Sodality Newsletters, loose copies	1928, 1930, 1943, 1946	27	7
Catholic Alumni Sodality Newsletters, loose copies	1969-71	27	8
Catholic Alumni Sodality Newsletters, loose copies	1980s	27	9
Address to Catholic Alumni Sodality by Edward B. Hanify: "The Anti-Establishment Establishment", parallel title: "The Unholy Three: Dissent, Defiance and Disruption", see RG 12 Audiovisual, Tapes for 5" and 7" magnetic audio reel-to-reel recording of the speech. See RG 12 Audiovisual, Tapes for 5" and 7" magnetic audio reel-to-reel recordings of Sodality meetings from the	1971, March 7	27	10
1960s and 1970s. See RG 10.19 St. Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, for the Centennial Jubilee Mass Program of the Catholic Alumni Sodality of Boston which contains listings of Spiritual Directors and Presidents.			
St. Vincent de Paul			
Conference Records	1866-1872	28	1
Conference Records	1882-1885	28	2
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