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SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH COLLECTION
1837-2010 [Bulk 1845-1990]

MIS.3.004

JESUIT ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER
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Collection Summary

Collection number: MIS.3.004

Repository Code: MoSIJA

Repository: Jesuit Archives & Research Center

Title: Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection

Date [bulk]: 1845-1990

Date [inclusive]: 1837-2010

Extent: 19 linear feet (7 record cartons, 6 oversize boxes, and 2 hanging file folders)

Creator: Jesuits. Missouri Province

Language of material: English and Latin

Abstract: Saint Francis Xavier College Church is a Roman Catholic, Jesuit parish located in Saint Louis, Missouri. Adjacent to the Saint Louis University campus, College Church is the third oldest parish in St. Louis. This collection contains artifacts, operational records, publications, writings, photographs and prints related to the history Saint Francis Xavier College Church. Though most material refers to the operation of College Church at its location on Grand and Lindell Avenues, a small number of records pertaining to the church at its first location on 9th and Christy are represented in this collection.

Processing history: Originally processed by Midwest Jesuit Archives staff. Additional description by Alexandra M. Bisio in 2016.

Conditions governing access: This collection is open for research.

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Preferred citation: [Identification of item], [Box number], [Folder number]. Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection, MIS.3.004. Jesuit Archives & Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri. [Date accessed].

Additional finding aids: Indexes to publications and photographs are available upon request.

Saint Francis Xavier College Church is a Roman Catholic, Jesuit parish located in Saint Louis, Missouri. Adjacent to the Saint Louis University campus, College Church is the third oldest parish in St. Louis. In 1836, the Jesuits of Saint Louis University were granted permission by Bishop Joseph Rosati to found a parish in conjunction with their newly founded college. In addition to serving the Saint Louis University community, Saint Francis Xavier parish responded to the needs of the English and Irish populations of Saint Louis. Originally, members met as a congregation at Saint Louis University's Aloysius Chapel located on Washington Avenue. A popular parish, it became clear that the congregation was outgrowing the space that the University provided, and the cornerstone of the first Saint Francis Xavier Church was laid at Ninth Street and Christy Avenue on April 12, 1840.

As the city of Saint Louis and Saint Louis University moved west, the congregation of Saint Francis Xavier College Church moved as well. In 1867, the Jesuits at Saint Louis University purchased land in Lindell's Grove at Grand Avenue as a new site for their college. It was not until 1879, however, that Archbishop Peter Kenrick gave the Jesuits permission to build a new church to serve the University community at their new location. In 1883, Thomas Walsh was chosen as the architect for the new church, and construction began at Lindell and Grand Avenues in 1884. The lower section of College Church opened for worship later that year while construction continued on the upper church.

Chicago architect Henry W. Switzer took over the upper church building project after Walsh's death in 1890. Changing Walsh's original design, Switzer made the upper church a transitional English Gothic quality based both on the southwest tower of the Chartres Cathedral and the spire of the Cathedral of Saint Colman in Cobh, Ireland. The upper church, except for the spire, was completed in 1897 and dedicated in 1898. The spire was completed in 1915.

Sources

"St. Francis Xavier College Church: A Rich Past – a Promising Future," brochure, 1985, Box 444, Folder 16. Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection, MIS.3.004. Jesuit Archives: Central United States, St. Louis, Missouri. 2016 May 25.

McNamee, Maurice B. *Saint Francis Xavier College Church, Saint Louis University*, booklets, circa 1990s, Box 444, Folder 19. Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection, MIS.3.004. Jesuit Archives: Central United States, St. Louis, Missouri. 2016 May 25.

Scope and content note

The Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection contains artifacts, operational records, publications, writings, photographs and prints related to the history Saint Francis Xavier College Church established in 1840. Though most material refers to the operation of College Church at its location on Grand and Lindell Avenues, a small number of records pertaining to the church at its first location on 9th and Christy are represented in this collection. Some records in this collection may also contain information about Saint Louis University due to the church's close relationship with the university.

The artifacts series contains liturgical objects, plaques, certificates, Sunday school materials, and ephemera from Saint Francis Xavier College Church parish celebrations. Operational records consist of documents created and kept as part of daily operations at Saint Francis Xavier College Church. This series contains correspondence, financial and property records, liturgical materials, as well as sodality and parish organization records created between 1843 and 2005. The publications and writings series consists of works about Saint Francis Xavier College Church, including church bulletins, histories, and material produced for anniversary celebrations. The photographs and prints series primarily contains photographs, negatives, slides, and drawings of Saint Francis Xavier College Church and its parish community. Prints and other works of art collected by or gifted to College Church are also included in this series.

Arrangement note

The Saint Francis Xavier College Church collection is arranged in four series:

- Series 1. Artifacts
- Series 2. Operational records
- Series 3. Publications
- Series 4. Photographs and prints

Series 2. Operational records, is arranged in four subseries:

- Subseries 2.1. Correspondence
- Subseries 2.2. Financial and property records
- Subseries 2.3. Liturgical materials
- Subseries 2.4. Sodality and parish organization records

Series 3. Publications, is arranged in two subseries:

- Subseries 3.1. Bulletins and news clippings
- Subseries 3.2. Church histories and anniversary material

Collection Contents

Series 1. Artifacts, 1875-1971

Scope and content note:

The artifacts series contains ephemera from Saint Francis Xavier College Church parish celebrations, liturgical objects, plaques and certificates, and Sunday school materials. Of particular note in this series is a cloth applied to the remains of St. Francis Xavier when the saint's body was exposed for veneration in 1931.

Arrangement note:

This series is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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|--|-------------------------|
| Medals, ribbons, and buttons, 1875-1910 | Box 3.0210 Folder 1 |
| <i>Content note: contains ribbons from St. Louis University events.</i> | |
| Cloth applied to the remains of St. Francis Xavier and certificate, 1931, 1936 | OS Box 791: Object 1, 2 |
| Joseph P. McMahan memorial library plaque, circa 1971 | Box 3.0210 Folder 8 |
| Small hand bell, undated | Box 3.0210 Object 1 |
| Sunday School seal embosser, undated | Box 3.0210 Object 2 |

Series 2. Operational records, 1843-2005

Scope and content note:

This series contains records created and kept as part of daily operations at Saint Francis Xavier College Church. These records consist of correspondence, financial and property records, liturgical materials, as well as sodality and parish organization records created between 1843 and 2005. Though most material refers to the operation of the current St. Francis Xavier College Church, located on Grand and Lindell Avenues, records pertaining to the church at its first location on 9th and Christy are described as "Old Saint Francis Xavier" materials. Some records may contain information about St. Louis University due to the church's close relationship with the university.

Arrangement note:

This series is arranged in four subseries: correspondence, financial and property records, liturgical materials, and sodality and parish organization records. All subseries are intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

[Subseries 2.1. Correspondence, 1845-1985](#)

Scope and content note:

This subseries contains correspondence related to the daily operations of Saint Francis Xavier College Church. Correspondence includes general correspondence, pastor's correspondence, financial and consultor's correspondence, as well as letters sent as part of Provincial visitations to the church. Though most material refers to the operation of the current St. Francis Xavier College Church, located on Grand and Lindell Avenues, records pertaining to the church at its first location on 9th and Christy are described as "Old Saint Francis Xavier" materials.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| General correspondence, 1845-1917 | Box 3.0212 Folder 1 |
| Old Saint Francis Xavier correspondence and material, circa 1880s-1914 | Box 3.0211 Folder 13 |
| Provincial visitations, 1907, 1971-1994 | Box 3.0211 Folders 25-26 |
| Pastor's correspondence, 1942-2002 | Box 3.0211 Folders 2-5 |
| Financial correspondence, 1946-1961, 1981 | Box 3.0211 Folder 12 |
| Consultors' correspondence, 1983, 1985 | Box 3.0211 Folder 5 |

[Subseries 2.2. Financial and property records, 1881-2005](#)

Scope and content note:

This subseries includes financial and property records related to Saint Francis Xavier College Church at its location on Grand and Lindell Avenues. Financial records include several ledgers containing information on regular incomes and expenses, annual reports, annual and monthly financial statements, as well as budgets and balance sheets. Property records include information about the church building, especially the 1991 renovation.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| “Receipts and expenses,” ledgers, 1881-1891 | OS Box 810: Vol. 2 |
| | OS Box 832: Vol. 1 |
| Check, 1898 | Box 3.0211 Folder 9 |
| Income and expense ledger, 1906-1907 | Box 3.0212 Vol. 2 |
| “Status Temporalis Ecclesiae,” ledger, 1906-1922 | OS Box 810: Vol. 1 |
| “Habitualia and Specialia,” ledger, 1910-1916 | Box 3.0212 Vol. 3 |
| Collections ledger, 1913-1921 | OS Box 3.0212 Vol. 1 |
| Stained glass windows, 1914-1997 | Box 3.0211 Folder 22 |
| | Box 3.0212 Folder 6 |
| Financial statements, 1915-1930, 1987-2006 | Box 3.0211 Folder 7 |
| Income and expense ledger, 1926-1930, 1932-1938 | OS Box 793: Vol. 1 |
| Income and expense ledger, 1932-1938 | OS Box 793: Vol. 2 |
| Annual reports, 1941- 1970 | Box 3.0211 Folder 10 |
| St. Louis University and College Church financial agreement, 1959 | Box 3.0211 Folder 11 |
| Congregation collection notes, 1966 | Box 3.0209 Folder 7 |
| Renovation and rededication, 1989-1990 | Box 3.0211 Folders 27-33 |
| Budgets and balance sheets, 1996-1999, 2003-2005 | Box 3.0211 Folder 8 |

[Subseries 2.3. Liturgical materials, 1889-2005](#)

Scope and content note:

This subseries contains material used in the planning and performance of liturgy at St. Francis Xavier College Church. Included in the subseries are publications, such as Missals, hymnals and sheet music, intention books, Mass server rules, as well as programs for special Masses and holidays. Parish directories and mission profiles have been included in this series.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| Gilsinn, M.A, editor. <i>Cimarosa's Grand Military Mass</i> . St. Louis, MO: M.A. Gilsinn, 1889 | Box 3.0209 Folder 11 |
| Special Mass flyers and programs, 1903-1998 | Box 3.0211 Folder 21 |
| Altar cards, circa 1940s-1950s | OS Box 832: Folder 1, Objects 1-5 |
| Mass server rules, circa 1940s-1960s | Box 3.0208 Folder 11 |
| Missals, 1942-1967 | Box 3.0210 Folders 4-7 |
| Hymnals, 1969, 1973, circa 1990s | Box 3.0210 Folders 2-3 |
| Parish directories and profiles, 1985-2005 | Box 3.0211 Folder 23 |
| "Mary Comforter of the Afflicted, Pray for Us," intention books, 1992-1996 | Box 3.0209 Folders 13-15 |

[Subseries 2.4. Sodality and parish organization records, 1843-1961](#)

Scope and content note:

This subseries contains material related to the Sodalities and other parish organizations in which the lay members of Saint Francis Xavier College Church participated from 1843 to 1961. Groups represented in this subseries include the Young Men's Sodality, the League of the Sacred Heart, the Holy Name Society, the Apostleship for Prayer, and the Circle. Records related to these groups include, register and roll books, meeting minutes, as well as rule and prayer books. Of particular note in the subseries are the deeds and maps related to the Young Men's Sodality cemetery lots purchased in 1875.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| Sodality rule and prayer books, 1843-1876 | Box 3.0211 Folder 20 |
| Young Men's Sodality Calvary cemetery lots, deeds and maps, 1875, 1921 | Box 3.0211 Folder 4 |

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| “Apostleship of Prayer Record,” register book, 1888-1890 | Box 3.0209 Folder 9 |
| League of the Sacred Heart, register and minute book, 1888-1903 | Box 3.0209 Folder 12 |
| “Minute book of the Young Men’s Sodality,” 1905-1917 | Box 3.0209 Folder 8 |
| “The Circle” roll books, 1930-1961 | Box 3.0209 Folders 1-3 |
| Holy Name Society minutes, 1952-1955 | Box 3.0209 Folder 6 |
| “Register of the Holy Name Society,” circa 1952 | Box 3.0209 Folder 5 |
| Apostleship of Prayer in League with the Sacred Heart, register book, 1957-1959 | Box 3.0209 Folder 10 |

Series 3. Publications and writings, 1837-2010 (bulk 1900-2010)

Scope and content note:

This series includes publications and writings about Saint Francis Xavier College Church and its community. Included in publications and writings are church bulletins, newspaper clippings, church and parish histories, as well as material produced for anniversary celebrations.

Arrangement note:

This series is arranged in two subseries: subseries 3.1. bulletins and newspaper clippings, and subseries 3.2. church histories and anniversary materials.

Subseries 3.1. Bulletins and newspaper clippings, 1899-1993

Scope and content note:

This subseries primarily contains church and parish news bulletins produced by Saint Francis Xavier College Church for its congregation. Newspaper clippings collected over time from various sources about Saint Francis Xavier College Church have also been included in this subseries.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged alphabetically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| Newspaper clippings, 1934-2000 | Box 3.0211 Folder 14 |
| Saint Francis Xavier Parish Community, College Church, Bulletin, 1899-1925 | Box 3.0207 Folders 1-11 |

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| Saint Francis Xavier Parish Community, College Church, Bulletin, 1938, 1943-44, 1948, 1951, 1952 1954, 1960 | Box 3.0207 Folder 12 |
| Saint Francis Xavier Parish Community, College Church, Bulletin, 1945, 1955-1956, 1958, 1976-1980 | Box 3.0207 Vol. 1-7 |
| Saint Francis Xavier Parish Community, College Church, Bulletin, 1980-1989, 1993 | Box 3.0208 Vol. 1-10 |

Subseries 3.2. Church histories and anniversary materials, 1837-2010

Scope and content note:

This subseries contains published and unpublished works about the history of Saint Francis Xavier College Church. Many of these works, including a large number of brochures and booklets, were produced as part of anniversary celebrations of the building of the church on Grand and Lindell Avenues. Also included in this series are historical sketches and time memoirs and house histories by the Jesuits who served the parish, as well as a Master's thesis on the history of the parish.

Arrangement note:

This subseries is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

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| "Diarium Universitatis Sti. Ludovici," 1837-1841 | Box 3.0211 Folder 17 |
| "The Church of St. Francis Xavier: Lindell and Grand Avenues, St. Louis," booklet, circa 1900 | Box 3.0211 Folder 15 |
| Anniversary newspaper clippings, 1903-1998 | Box 3.0211 Folder 1 |
| Anniversary booklets, 1921-1998 | Box 3.0211 Folder 2 |
| "Recollections of SFX: Brother Theodore Van Ryn, S.J. Sacristan, 1869-1924," journal, 1925 | Box 3.0209 Folder 4 |
| Kramer, Urban James. <i>History of St. Francis Xavier (College) Church, St. Louis, 1837-1943</i> . Master's Thesis St. Louis University, 1944. | Box 3.0209 Folder 4 |
| Historical sketches and timelines, 1926, 1948, 1983, 1990s | Box 3.0211 Folder 18 |
| House histories, 1974-1988 | Box 3.0211 Folder 6 |

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| Centennial register, 1984 | OS Box 800: Folder 2 |
| “St. Francis Xavier College Church: A Rich Past – a Promising Future,” brochure, 1985 | Box 3.0211 Folder 16 |
| McNamee, Maurice B. <i>Saint Francis Xavier College Church, Saint Louis University</i> , booklets, circa 1990s | Box 3.0211 Folder 19 |
| “A Celebration of College Church History,” exhibit outline, 1998 | Box 3.0211 Folder 3 |
| 125 th anniversary booklets and material, 2010 | Box 3.0211 Folder 24 |

Series 4. Photographs and prints, 1882-2000

Scope and content note:

This series primarily contains photographs, negatives, slides, and drawings of both the interior and exterior of Saint Francis Xavier College Church on Grand and Lindell Avenues. Photographs of the demolition of the old Saint Francis Xavier Church on Ninth and Christy are also present, though no photographs of the original church before that event are in this collection. A small number of photographs of the members of the Saint Francis Xavier College Church staff and parish community are available. Prints and other works of art collected by or gifted to College Church, such as the *Veronica's Veil* print given to the church in celebration of its centennial, are also included in this series.

Arrangement note:

This series is intellectually arranged chronologically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

Access:

Access to the original glass lantern slides is limited to special appointments because the images are fragile. This collection also includes conventional slides and stereographs. To view these images, please contact the Archivist in advance to provide the appropriate equipment.

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| Architect's renderings, prints, circa 1880s | Box 734: Folder 4 |
| Glass plate negatives, circa 1880s-1925 | Drawer 865 |
| Slides, circa 1880s-1990s | Box 734: Folder 7 |
| <i>Scope and content note: Slides of historical photographs.</i> | |
| Construction, exterior, 1882-1887 | OS Box 840: Folder 1 |
| | Box 734: Folder 5, 32 |

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| | OS Box 840: Folder 1 |
| Old College Church demolition, 1888 | Box 734: Folder 1 |
| Old College Church interior, before 1888 | Box 734: Folder 2 |
| <i>Access note: Includes stereograph. Please contact the Archivist to view this image.</i> | |
| Construction, interior, 1897-1898 | Box 734: Folder 19, 33 OS Box 840: Folder 1 |
| Exterior before the steeple, 1897, 1908 | Box 734: Folder 6 |
| Negatives, 1899-1940 | Box 734: Folder 3 |
| Parish groups, circa 1890-1968 | Box 734: Folder 14 |
| Interior, 1899-1992 | Box 734: Folders 18, 23, 25, 30, 34 OS Box 840: Folder 1 |
| <i>Access note: Includes stereographs and slides. Please contact the Archivist to view this image.</i> | |
| Altars and statues, circa 1900-1993 | Box 734: Folder 8 |
| <i>Immaculate Conception</i> , print, circa 1900 | OS Box 800: Folder 3 |
| Eucharistic congress, 1901 | Box 734: Folder 21 |
| Bells, 1912, 1992 | Box 734: Folder 11, 29 |
| Events 1918-1989 | Box 734: Folder 13 |
| Exterior, circa 1920s-2000 | Box 734: Folder 17, 31, 33 OS Box 840: Folder 1 |
| Parish buildings, 1926-1966 | Box 734: Folder 15 |
| Centennial <i>Veronica's Veil</i> , print on cloth, circa 1961 | OS Box 800: Folder 1 |
| Lower level, circa 1950s-1960s | Box 734: Folder 16 |
| St. Colman's, Cork, Ireland, circa 1980-1992 | Box 734: Folders 25-27 |
| Main alter, circa 1990-1940, 1992 | Box 734: Folders 9, 22, 28 |
| Stained glass, circa 1990s | Box 734: Folder 10 |
| Renovation, 1990 | Box 734: Folder 20 |
| <i>Cenodoxus</i> , 1991 | Box 734: Folder 12 |
| Historic artifacts, 1992 | Box 734: Folder 24 |