



JESUIT ARCHIVES &
RESEARCH CENTER

LAURENCE J. KENNY PAPERS
1883-1960

MIS.5.001

JESUIT ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER
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Collection Summary

Collection number: MIS.5.001

Repository Code: MoSIJA

Repository: Jesuit Archives & Research Center

Title: Laurence J. Kenny papers

Date [inclusive]: 1883-1960

Extent: 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Creator: Kenny, Laurence J., (1864-1958)

Language of material: English

Abstract: Laurence J. Kenny (1864-1958) was a Jesuit priest and professor of history at Saint Louis University. His papers consist of one box, containing biographical information, correspondence, newspaper clippings, religious ephemera, collected books and periodicals, and unpublished poetry.

Processing history: Processed by Sarah C. Hinds, July 2015. Additional description completed 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]. Laurence J. Kenny papers, MIS.5.001. Jesuit Archives & Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri. [Date accessed].

Biographical note

Laurence J. Kenny (1864-1958) was born near Zaleski, Ohio, the son of a Union army soldier. He spent his adolescence studying at Saint Joseph's College in Bardstown, Kentucky, and Saint Xavier College in Cincinnati, Ohio until he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Florissant in 1883, at the age of 18.

His period of religious formation included several years studying philosophy and science in Woodstock, Maryland, until 1890, when he began to teach at Saint Ignatius College in Chicago. He returned to Saint Louis to attend Saint Louis University and obtain his Master's degree in 1895. In 1896, he studied for a time at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska before studying theology at the Saint Ignatius Mission in Montana, a mission founded by Jesuit Peter J. De Smet.

Ordained in 1900, he was one of the first to be ordained in Saint Francis Xavier (College) Church at Saint Louis University. Aside from a brief six year stint teaching at the University of Detroit, he spent most of his adult life teaching history at the University, also serving at various times as registrar, prefect of discipline, and director of the history department. He possessed a great interest in the history of the University, and in genealogical research.

Laurence J. Kenny died at the age of 94 in St. Louis, having been the oldest Jesuit in the United States.

Scope and content note

The Jesuit Laurence J. Kenny papers consists of one box, containing biographical information, correspondence, newspaper clippings, religious ephemera, collected books and periodicals, and unpublished poetry. Much of the collection relates Kenny's life as a Jesuit and teacher of history. Also present are materials related to Kenny's interest in genealogy, particularly regarding the Mudd family, descendants of Dr. Samuel Mudd who was implicated in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged in four series:

Series 1. Biographical material

Series 2. Topic files

Series 3. Correspondence

Series 4. Photographs

Collection Contents

Series 1. Biographical information, 1902-1959

Scope and content note:

The biographical information series includes Kenny's personnel file kept by the Missouri Jesuit Province office in Saint Louis, which contains vital data, correspondence with the provincial, and obituaries, press releases from Saint Louis University, bulletin and newspaper clippings, as well as some genealogical data compiled by Kenny.

Arrangement note:

This series is in its original order.

File Drawer 5.0161 & 5.162

Series 2. Topic files, 1882, 1930-1960

Scope and content note:

The topic files series includes articles and poetry written by Kenny, ephemera, such as greeting, holy, and memorial cards, awards, and genealogical research done by Kenny on the Mudd family.

Arrangement note:

This series is in chronological order.

File Drawer 5.0161 & 5.0162

Series 3. Correspondence, 1883-1959, undated

Scope and content note:

The correspondence series includes letters by and about Kenny. Correspondence includes letters to and from his family, colleagues, students, other Jesuits.

Arrangement note:

This series is arranged in chronological order.

File Drawer 5.0161 & 5.0162

Series 4. Photographs, 1873 1954

Scope and Content note:

The photographs series includes photographs, negatives, and sketches of Father Kenny from age 19 to age 90.

Arrangement note:

This series is in its original order.

File Drawer 5.0161 & 5.0162