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## Sullivan Family Letters

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Raymond R. Sullivan SJ

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## New England Jesuit Archives Series Description



**Record Group:** **11.2, Records of Jamaica Mission / Region, Special Collections**

**Series Name:** **Sullivan Family Letters, 1929-1952**

**Dates of Collection:** **Inclusive: 1929-1952, Bulk: late 1930s through mid-1940s**

**Size of Collection:** **1.5 linear feet: 3-5” boxes**

### **Historical Background:**

The Sullivan Family of Boston consisted of at least 8 siblings: Daniel, Harold, Raymond, Russell, Sidney, Grace, Lilly and Mary. Four of the brothers became Jesuit Priests: Daniel H. (born 1886, ordained 1910, died 1954), Raymond R. (born 1895, ordained 1915, died 1978), Russell M. (born 1896, ordained 1915, died 1962), and Harold J. (born 1901, ordained 1919, died 1968). Two of the sisters: Lilly and Mary, became nuns, both members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Grace married John (last name unknown) and Sidney also married. His son, Daniel H., born in 1930, also became a Jesuit, was ordained to the priesthood in 1947, and left the order in 1981 as a priest. This family information has been determined from the letters themselves and the scant records at the New England Province Archives.

Fr. Raymond Sullivan, “Ray”, was a very active builder for the Church and the people of Jamaica. He was instrumental in the construction of churches, chapels, schools, rectories, a seminary building, and water supplies. His dream was the Holy Name Homestead, built in Bamboo, St. Ann, to provide good Catholic homes for the poor people in Jamaica. By 1948, the Holy Name Homestead consisted of 22 homes, a chapel, a rectory and a convent. Between 1941 and 1946, Ray was joined by his brother Harold J. Sullivan, S.J., “Hal”, in Jamaica, where they served together at the Brown’s Town mission station. While in Jamaica, Hal organized the building of a lime kiln to supply work for the inhabitants and products for Jamaica’s agricultural needs. Following his assignment in Jamaica, Hal served as the Assistant Procurator for Missions in the New England Jesuit Foreign Mission Offices from 1947-56.

*Note:* John Peter Sullivan is not related to this Sullivan Family.

### **Scope and Content:**

The letters date from 1926-1952. The bulk of the letters are from the late 1930s through the mid-1940s. The majority of the letters are correspondence between the siblings of the Sullivan Family: Daniel, Harold, Raymond, Russell, Sidney, Grace, Lilly and Mary. The primary correspondent and recipient was Fr. Raymond R. Sullivan, S.J. The subject of most of the letters is Fr. Raymond Sullivan’s missionary work in Jamaica. The family was actively involved in raising funds and procuring supplies and materials for his endeavors. Family business and concerns, especially health, are also topics. Exceptions are: letters from 1926-32 that pre-date Fr. Ray Sullivan’s assignment to Jamaica, and the letters from Russ to Lilly written while Russ was crossing the United States on his way to an assignment in the Jesuit Mission to the Philippines, 1938-39.

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Ray and Hal's letters for 1941-1946, the time when they were both assigned to the Brown's Town Mission Station, are co-mingled. On a quick review, it is often difficult to determine if Hal or Ray is the author, these letters are filed together.

There is some evidence that although addressed to one sibling, at least some of the letters were circulated among several members of the family. It also seems that some handwritten letters were transcribed into typed copies. Many of the letters are carbon copies.

**Access / Restrictions:** This collection is open to researchers.

### Processing Notes:

Although not specified in Fr. Gerard L. McLaughlin's collection description published in *A Guide to Jesuit Archives*, Thomas M. McCoog, S.J., compiler, the letters were probably received at the New England Jesuit Archives in Worcester when Jamaica Mission / Region records were transferred in 2003. Letters were received in brown paper envelopes, as many of the other earlier records were, arranged by year. Within each year there was no discernable arrangement. Letters have been sorted by recipient and calendared. When it was not possible to determine what specific letter a loose page belonged to, it was filed by the year in which it was found. It is certainly possible that these loose pages may be associated with the incorrect year. In a few cases, such as 1935-37 and 1940, the letters and replies were attached to each other, and whenever that occurred this arrangement was honored. A few letters pertinent to specific mission stations have been separated from this collection and filed in RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Region, Places / Works Series.

### See also:

RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Region, Special Collections, Raymond Sullivan, S.J. and the Brown's Town Mission and Holy Name Homestead.

These papers are directly related to the Brown's Town Mission and Holy Name Homestead. Both of these works are often referred to in the Sullivan Family Letters.

RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Records, Places / Works Series.

A great deal of Fr. Raymond Sullivan's correspondence about various mission stations and works was already included in that series. It is possible that additional family correspondence may also be found among those papers.

Province Authors Collection.

"The Holy Name Homestead", Chapter 3, pages 12-17, in *Jesuitana Jamaica: Historical Profiles, 1937-1996* by Gerard L. McLaughlin, S.J.

RG 12, MS Photos of Daniel H. Sullivan, S.J. for group photo of family members in habits, and other family photos.

### Cite As: Sullivan Family Letters

Record Group 11.2, Special Collections of the Jamaica Mission / Region  
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

**Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Special Collections**  
**Special Collection: Sullivan Family Letters, 1929-1952**  
**1.5 Linear feet, 3-5" boxes**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Letters To</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1926-32	Dan	Family and Others	1	1
1926-32	Hal	Ray and Russ	1	2
1926-32	Lilly	Dan	1	3
1926-32	Ray	Dan	1	4
1932-33	Dan	Ray	1	5
1932-33	Ray	Russ [5 ½ x 8 ½ inch]	1	6
1932-33	Ray	Russ [8 ½ x 11 inch]	1	7
1932-33	Ray and Russ	Lilly	1	8
1932-33	Ray or Russ or Others	Ray or Russ or Others	1	9
1932-33	Russ	Ray	1	10
1934	Dan, Hal, or Lilly	Ray	1	11
1934	Ray or Russ	Lilly	1	12
1934	Ray	Russ	1	13
1934	Ray or Russ	Many	1	14
1934	Russ	Ray	1	15
1934	Others	Ray	1	16
1935-37	Dan	Ray	1	17
1935-37	Hal or Ray	Hal or Ray [correspondence]	1	18
1935-37	Lilly	Ray	1	19
1935-37	Others	Ray	1	20
1935-37	Ray	Others	1	21
1935-37	Ray	Russ	1	22
1935-37	Russ	Ray	1	23
1935-37	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		1	24
1938-39	Dan, Hal, Russ, others	Dan, Hal, Russ, others	1	25
1938-39	Frs. Sullivan: Hal or Ray	Others	1	26
1938-39	Grace, Hal, Lilly, Ray	Grace, Lilly, Ray	1	27
1938-39	Hal	Others	1	28
1938-39	Hal or Ray	Hal or Ray	1	29
1938-39	Lilly	Russ [Trip across U.S. to Philippines]	1	30
1938-39	Others	Hal and Ray	1	31
1938-39	Russ	Hal and Ray	1	32
1938-39	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		1	33
1940	Dan, Hal and Ray	Dan, Hal and Ray	2	1
1940	Hal or Ray	Hal or Ray [correspondence]	2	2

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<b>Years</b>	<b>Letters To</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1940	Hal or Ray	Others	2	3
1940	Others	Hal or Ray	2	4
1940	Grace, Hal, Lilly, Ray, Russ	Lilly, Ray, Russ	2	5
1941	Dan	Ray or Hal	2	6
1941	Grace, Hal or Ray	Grace, Hal or Ray	2	7
1941	Hal	Ray or Dan	2	8
1941	Hal or Ray	Others	2	9
1941	Lilly and Ray	Lilly and Ray	2	10
1941	Others	Ray or Hal	2	11
1941	Ray	Hal and Russ	2	12
1941	Russ	Hal or Ray	2	13
1941	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		2	14
1942	Dan	Hal or Ray	2	15
1942	Grace, Hal and Ray	Grace, Hal and Ray	2	16
1942	Hal	Dan or Ray	2	17
1942	Hal or Ray	Others	2	18
1942	Lilly	Ray	2	19
1942	Others	Hal or Ray	2	20
1942	Ray	Hal or Russ	2	21
1942	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		2	22
1943	Dan, Hal or Ray	Dan, Hal or Ray	3	1
1943	Grace, Hal & Ray, Lilly	Grace, Hal & Ray, Grace	3	2
1943	Hal or Ray	Hal or Ray	3	3
1943	Hal or Ray	Others	3	4
1943	Others	Hal or Ray	3	5
1943	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		3	6
1944-45	Correspondence with Gladstone Wilson Re: Veira-Bowman Marriage		3	7
1944-45	Dan, Lilly	Dan, Lilly, Ray, Russ	3	8
1944-45	Hal, Ray and Others	Hal, Ray and Others	3	9
1946	Hal and Russ	Ray	3	10
1946	Others	Ray	3	11
1946	Ray	Hal and Russ	3	12
1946	Ray	Others	3	13
1946	Russ	Others	3	14

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<b>Years</b>	<b>Letters To</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1946	Excerpts of Letters, 1946-1948		3	15
1946	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		3	16
1947-48	Dan, Hal, Russ	Ray	3	17
1947-48	Frs. Sullivan: Dan, Ray, Russ	Others	3	18
1947-48	Others	Ray	3	19
1947-48	Ray	Hal and Russ	3	20
1947-48	Ray	Lilly	3	21
1949-52	Hal, Russ	Ray	3	22
1949-52	Lilly	Ray	3	23
1949-52	Others	Hal, Ray or Russ	3	24
1949-52	Ray	Hal, Russ	3	25
1949-52	Ray or Russ	Others	3	26
1949-52	Pages not able to identify or co-locate		3	27
<b>VARIA</b>				
1940-41	Varia: Sermons and notes		3	28
1943	Varia: Conditions in Jamaica		3	29
1944-45	Varia: Lecture on Jamaica		3	30
1949-52	Varia: Vatican and Italy		3	31