Fall 1990

Archives of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of the West

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Introduction
Located in Montebello, California, at Saint Vincent’s Seminary, the Provincial Archive was established in 1977 by Father Joseph Falanga, then provincial of the Province of the West, with Fathers William Ready and John Ruhl as archivists. The north half of the original dormitory building was set aside and prepared with steel shelving for materials on hand and to come. The one large room (approximately 30 feet x 40 feet) was partitioned north to south into two rooms 30 x 20 each. The west side, called the Document Room, has both steel and wood shelving for archival records in written, printed, and audio-visual form. The east side, called the Display Room, was prepared with fixed wooden shelving on the north wall; the rest of the room contains display tables and cases. Appointed archivist in 1982 by his successor as provincial and relieved in 1988, Falanga gathered and organized the present content, based on the ground-work of Ready and Ruhl. The following summary inventory is substantially his and reflects the holdings of the archive at the end of 1988, with some notable additions since then. The incumbent archivist has introduced some revision, condensation, and simplification of arrangement. The primary determining factor for the placement of non-personal material in the collection and inventory is place of origin, regardless of time-frame or administrative structural change. This eliminates multiple shelf locations for the same record-generating entity and makes research a little easier. There is a detailed page inventory for each box, and the collection is presently being fine-tuned.

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1In 1986 the seminary operation was discontinued, and the name changed to DePaul Center, a facility for retreats, engaged encounters, evangelization, ministry training, etc. While housed gratis at the center, the archive is independent of the center corporation and apostolate. The center insists that this be kept perfectly clear in transacting business with the archive. Hence, correspondence should be addressed to Provincial Archive, 1105 Bluff Road, Montebello, California, 90640-6198.
to the file-folder level. Because of time and space limitations, this presentation is somewhat general. The following "Outline of Contents" pertains to this inventory as well as to the location of materials and to the structure of the database.

Datum civitate Montispulchrae die 1a mensis iulii anno domini XMM.

John A. Walker, C.M.
Archivist
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Summary Inventory
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   A. Constitutional Organization
      Common Rules and Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission: Copies of the Common Rules and Constitutions; also explanations.

²The archive has an IBM/PC Compatible computer with 30Mb hard disk, Samsung monochrome monitor, and an HP DeskJet PLUS printer. The software is WordPerfect 5.1 (word-processing), Bluebeard Explore Program (a powerful index/search/view program that can locate any file or file content on the disk in seconds; "Bluebeard Explore" is a pseudonym), WordPerfect Office 3.0 (management program for the database, and other office applications, especially a neat "card index" feature), and several utility and tutorial programs. The computer can handle both 3.5 and 5.25 inch disks.
Collections of Decrees—complete and selected: Various publications of complete decrees made at different times; also of selected decrees.

Collections of Privileges and Indulgences: Such favors granted to the Community by the Holy See.

Rules of Offices: Publications of rules governing different offices: superiors; procurators, both provincial and local; directors of internal seminaries; pastors; consultors; prefects of libraries, choirs, church, etc.; confessors; professors; directors of students, Daughters of Charity, etc.

Rules for Apostolates and Assemblies: Publications covering the various works, such as directions for missions, major seminaries, apostolic schools, internal seminary, parishes, Daughters of Charity, domestic, provincial, and general assemblies, election of the superior general, etc.

B. Superior General and General Curia

Excerpts from the circular letters of the superior general
Ordinances and directives from the superior general

C. General Assemblies (preparatory material, minutes, working papers, documents, and decrees)

General Assembly, 1968-1969
General Assembly, 1974
General Assembly, 1980
General Assembly, 1986

II. Historical Growth in United States

A. General (1816-1888)

Missionaries—1816. Pertinent booklets and articles relating to the establishment of the Community.

First Province—1835. One box of materials covering the period 1835-1888.

B. Particular (1888-present)³

³Originally, each house was assigned a box to contain all articles from the Annals, newspaper clippings, magazines, albums, and publications and materials used at the House. In many cases, however, there were only a few items (sometimes only one) to a box. To conserve space, these items have been assigned to individual folders, and the number of boxes reduced accordingly.
Eastern Province
Provincial newsletters
Letters of Philip Dion to senior and retired confreres
Report on the assassination of Nicholas Van Kleef in Panama (7 May 1989)⁴
Material on Saint John’s University, Jamaica, New York
Material on Saint Vincent’s Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia
New England Province (former Polish Vice-Province) Provincial newsletters
Midwest Province (former Western Province) Provincial newsletters
Saint Mary’s of the Barrens, Perryville, Missouri⁵
Many issues of The DeAndrein (newsletter) from June 1940 to December 1963; various programs, goals, directions, etc.; many pamphlets and leaflets covering history, devotions, celebrations, library guides, catalogs; different newsletters, reports, writings, alumni listings, and choice of province requests; pictures of the buildings, grounds, camp, individuals, and groups; letters from or about Saint Mary’s; letters from the Miraculous Medal Center.
Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado
Annual reports to the association of provincials; copies (6) of The DeAndrein, student publication.

⁴Father Van Kleef, C.M., an Eastern confrere originally from Holland and assigned to the Panama Mission, was shot by an officious, nervous, trigger-happy policeman during a period of unrest on 7 May 1989. The official story was that the shooting was “accidental.” However, the boy accompanying Van Kleef in the car testified that the policeman was sitting in the back seat with his finger on the trigger of the rifle held to the back of the priest’s head. Van Kleef, a paraplegic driving a specially equipped car, was slow in executing the policeman’s commands to turn!

⁵This was the original house of formation for the Western Province. When the two vice-provinces were established in 1958, it became a house of common formation, as a novitiate, college, and Theologate. It later lost the novitiate to Santa Barbara, and the theologate to Lemont.
De Andreis Seminary, Lemont, Illinois
One box containing sixteen folders of historical materials, newsletters, and *The Quest*, a magazine published there.

Two boxes of miscellaneous items for the following Houses: DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois; Saint Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Saint John's Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri; Kenrick Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri; Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary, Lemont, Illinois; Saint Catherine Laboure Church, Saint Louis, Missouri; Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Chicago, Illinois; Vincentian Foreign Mission Society; the former Provincial House of the Western Province (1849 Cass Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri; Religious Information Bureau, Saint Louis, Missouri; Confraternity Home Study Service (textbooks and tests for the correspondence religion courses written by members of the Community; religious information pamphlets).

Individual Confreres: File folders containing various items for individuals

Southern Province (former New Orleans Vice Province)

Provincial newsletters

Damascus House Novitiate, New Orleans, Louisiana


Miscellaneous material (eight folders) for the following Houses: Saint Stephen's Church, New Orleans, Louisiana; House of Discernment, Houston, Texas; Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary, Beaumont, Texas; Holy Trinity Church, Dallas, Texas; Holy Trinity College, Dallas,
Texas; Holy Souls/Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa, Texas; Saint Joseph's Church, New Orleans, Louisiana; Saint Katherine Church, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Individual Confreres: File folders for individuals.

Province of the West

Provincial and Council

Materials pertaining to Provincial government, directives, activities, meetings other than Assemblies; directives from the provincial; council notes; annual reports of the C.M. corporation; financial reports from the provincial treasurer; contract committee; reviews of provincial plans for different years; reports of elections for provincials and consultors; reports of the resources committee; report of the mission committee; reports from formation committees; communications from director of continuing education; vocation commission meeting statements; Vincentian-heritage-day meetings; letters about formation-day meetings; letters from the ombudsman for older confreres.

Provincial meetings

Background material for August 1984 provincial meeting; provincial meeting, August 1987 (with reference material on evangelization of the poor); provincial meeting, 24-25 February 1988; provincial meeting, 16-18 August 1989 (United for Mission); provincial meeting, 7-8 February 1990 (Third Age).

Community celebrations/anniversaries


Vocation Directors

Materials for vocation promotion (programs, leaflets, etc.); five 16mm reels of vocation films taken in 1968.
Provincial Assemblies (six, 1978-1988)
Pre-assembly material by the Provincial and Preparatory Committee; minutes, proceedings, etc. of the assembly; subsequent decrees, evaluation, comment.

Amat House, Los Angeles, California (1985)
A small number of pictures, letters, announcements.

De Paul Center, Montebello, California (1987)
Programs, schedules, announcements (by mail and news publication), publicity, pictures, texts of material presented, operational reports, and correspondence with the provincial.

Los Angeles College, Los Angeles, California (1926-1953)
Pictures

Miraculous Medal Church, Montebello, California (1950)
Magazines of the Marian School and of the church; bulletins; calendars; pictures of special celebrations.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Talpa, Los Angeles, California (Province of Zaragoza, 1938)
Anniversary booklet; bulletins

Queen of Angels Minor Seminary, San Fernando, California (1926-1974)
The Prep (yearbook), 1953-1974; historical materials; records; magazine publications and news clippings; canonical visitation; miscellaneous other.

DePaul Center provides "hosting facilities" (meeting rooms of various sizes) and staff-conducted programs for group and private retreats; engaged encounter weekends (English or Spanish); ministry formation; lector training; substance-abuse dependency counseling; meeting space for ACA, Al-Anon, Nar-Anon; neighborhood minorities action groups (SCOC, ELAC, etc.); Cursillo; Movimiento Familiar; RCIA; deanery meetings; archdiocesan regional meetings, programs, and workshops; Spanish or English classes for parish clergy/ministers; various other occasional groups, such as disadvantaged children/adults, parish ministry teams, large family gatherings (anniversaries/birthday parties), the Vincentian Family, the Saint Vincent's Seminary Alumni, and the Vincentian Studies Institute.

This was the name given to the original diocesan minor seminary. While I do not find any pertinent mention or documentation, I strongly suspect that the name is a sentimental perpetuation of the defunct Los Angeles College, which was the name used in referring to Saint Vincent's College during the six years after it closed in 1911 and before the Jesuits opened Loyola. Pertinent materials might be at the archdiocesan archive, the provincial office, or Queen of Angels Seminary.
Regina Cleri Seminary, Tucson, Arizona (1956-1975)

*Crown* (yearbook), 1960-1974; three minute books, 1958-1966, 1957-1972, 1958-1966; finances; records; history; contract; article by James Richardson, C.M.

Sacred Heart Church, Patterson, California (1955)

Pictures; news clippings; historical articles; bulletins.

Santa Isabel, Los Angeles, California (Province of Zaragoza, 1974-1990)

Bulletins

Saint Charles Borromeo Church, San Francisco, California (1955-1975; under Province of Zaragoza since 1976)

Canonical visitation; historical information; dedication pamphlet; bulletin (15 February 1987); article by James Richardson, C.M.

Saint John's Seminary College, Camarillo, California (1966)

Catalogs; pictures; recordings; student news publications; reports; miscellaneous other historical materials.

Saint John's Seminary (Theologate), Camarillo, California (1939)

Catalogs; pictures; recordings; student news publications; reports; miscellaneous other historical materials.

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Originally entrusted to the direction of the Vincentian Fathers, Saint John's Seminary was established in 1939 at Camarillo on property donated by the Juan Camarillo family. It comprised the usual two-year philosophy and four-year theology program. In 1961 the philosophy department was combined with the two-year post-high school program of Queen of Angels Minor Seminary, thus establishing a four-year college. In 1966 a new building on a different part of the property was opened and administratively separated from the theology department as Saint John's Seminary College, making two separate Community houses. Later, total administration and partial staffing was transferred to priests of the archdiocese.
Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Whittier, California (1896-1922)
Two magazines (1963; 1983); historical articles; letters; article by James Richardson, C.M.

Saint Mary’s Seminary, Santa Barbara, California (1964)
Photo albums; The Hill (newsletter); material on the dedication; material about automobile accident; health certificates; records kept by Father Jerome Jourdan; materials on the planning and construction; programs; regulations; daily schedules; celebrations; pictures of construction and dedication; novitiate diary; building plans; student records; miscellaneous materials.

Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Phoenix, Arizona (1957)

Saint Vincent’s College, Los Angeles, California (1865-1911)
Student gradebooks; textbooks; student publications; framed pictures (mostly reunion groups); publications and news items about reunions; official seal; Annals of Saint Vincent’s College (handwritten diary, 1882-1905); original contract; declaration of incorporation; minute book of the corporation, 1869-1934; catalogues, 1878, 1882-1917; Illustrated History of Saint Vincent’s College (1908); New Illustrated History of Saint Vincent’s College (1990).

Saint Vincent’s Church, Huntington Beach, California (1977)
News clippings; letter from the bishop; parish bulletins; directories.
Saint Vincent’s Church, Los Angeles, California (1886)

Bulletins; pictures; news articles about the consecration; booklets and leaflets about various events; historical materials on the new church and turning it over to the archdiocese.

Saint Vincent’s Church, San Diego, California (1910-1922)

Historical documents received from San Diego archives; letters; article by James Richardson, C.M.

Saint Vincent’s Seminary, Montebello, California (1954-1986)

Pictures and articles about the construction and consecration of the chapel; articles about the early days; building plans and specifications; materials about student activities, events, publications, scholastic tests and achievements; financial records of the Friends of Saint Vincent’s (parents, friends, former students, ex-Cape men); newsletters from the rector; reports and proceedings of the provincial task force on disposition or conversion of the seminary; student records; teacher reports; rector’s files on activities, operations, accreditation, personnel assignments, etc.

Burundi, Africa (1980-1985)

Correspondence of missionaries; news clippings about their expulsion in 1985.

*The parish was established in August of 1886, and the church was built at Grand Avenue and Washington, south of Saint Vincent’s College. The first mass was celebrated on 25 January 1887; the last on 29 March 1925. The ground-breaking for the present church at Adams and Figueroa took place on 13 October 1923, and the cornerstone was laid 18 July of the following year. The first mass in the new church was offered on 5 April 1925 (Easter Sunday); the solemn consecration by Cardinal Patrick Hayes of New York was 23 October 1930. The church had been donated by Edward and Estelle Doheny. The building and grounds were maintained, and continue to be, by the Doheny Foundation. In 1968 the statues and other unstable appendages on the facade were bolted firmly in place, as were various interior statues. Fortunately, this eliminated damage in the several substantial earthquakes since then.*
Peten, Guatemala
Correspondence of missionaries
Individual Confreres

C. Common Endeavor
Western Provinces—Joint Assembly Meetings
Material on renewal meeting, 1969; letters from James Fischer, provincial, about various meetings of the Western Province; Memorandum: Considerations of the Future of the Western Province, from James Fischer, 5 December 1969; norms, recommendations, and resolutions of the assemblies: Western Province—Vice-Province of Los Angeles—Vice-Province of New Orleans, 1970; Report on Self-Study: Joint Provincial Assemblies Region of Western U.S.A., 1973-1974.

Materials Common to All Five Provinces
Inter-Provincial Peace, Justice, and Human Dignity Committee; Inter-Provincial Committee on Formation/Continuing Education; Vincentian Studies Institute; Inter-Provincial Vocation Directors Committee.

D. Other Members of Vincentian Family
Daughters of Charity. Many standard published works, plus the following less well known items:

Sister Catherine, D.C. One Hundred Years of Service: The Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul: 1856-1956. Dedicated To the People of Southern California. 1956.
Ladies of Charity
Pamphlets; manuals; clippings; pictures
Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Books; leaflets
Common Endeavor
Annual Family Day, November 1988
Annual Family Day, November 1989
E. Ecclesiastical Relations Present and Past
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Guidelines; directives; programs; events
Papal visit, September 1987
Cardinal Manning's funeral, June 1989
Diocese of Salt Lake City
Bishop Glass
Cathedral of the Madeleine

The archive holds the masterful book by Bernice Maher Mooney, *The Story of the Cathedral of the Madeleine* (Salt Lake City, 1980).
III. History and Activities Worldwide

A. General

*Annales de la Congrégation de la Mission,*
100 volumes, 1837-1963 (incomplete; see below under microfilm for complete set)\(^{11}\)

*Annals of the Mission,* 4 volumes, 1894-1896

*Annals,* 26 volumes, 1894-1913

*Annals of the Congregation of the Mission,* 22 volumes, 1902-1924

*Vincentiana* (complete)

B. Particular

*Au Temps de Saint Vincent de Paul et Aujourd'hui* (France)

*Cahiers Vincentiens* (France)

*Anales* (Madrid), 1945-present

*Colloque* (Ireland), 1979-present

*Schede Vincenziane* (Italy), 12 issues, 1977-1982

*Vincentian Heritage,* 1980-present

*Vincentian Magazine* (Saint Louis), 30 issues, 1928-1962

*Miraculous Medal Novena Band* (New York), 3 issues

*Missione Vincenziana* (Italy), 1980-present

*Vincentians in Asia-Oceania,* 1980

*The Malabar Vincentians* (India)

C. Universal Church—Vatican

*Vatican II:* 1962, 1964, 1965 (one item each year), 1966 (four items)

Papal visit, 1965 (two items)

Papal visit, 1987 (news articles; four videotapes of the entire visit—see below: Videotapes)

IV. Publications

The archive library contains 538 titles on Saint Vincent, Saint Louise, the Daughters of Charity, and the saints and blesseds of the Double Family, including a number of

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\(^{11}\)For the *Annales,* Father Falanga compiled a special inventory listing subject matter by country with the page location taken from the table of contents and index of the respective volumes. For the English *Annals,* there is a file of photocopies of the table of contents and index pages, volume by volume. Both compilations occupy a full file drawer.
recent titles in Spanish. There are an additional 150 titles of miscellaneous publications and unpublished writings (e.g. dissertations, sermons, lectures, spiritual direction) by confreres. The Document Room holds another 202 titles (old and rare books, etc.). Some of the less common items include the following.

A. Community Books


Congregation of the Mission. *Regulae seu Constitutiones Communes Congregationis Missionis.* Paris, 1658.\(^{13}\)


Davitt, Thomas, C.M. *Justin de Jacobis, C.M.* Dublin, 1975.


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\(^{12}\)When Father Falanga took his spirituality workshop at Saint Louis University in 1981, he was highly annoyed that there was little available in English about Saint Vincent’s spirituality. Aware that the Spanish Provinces were publishing a great wealth of material, he began accumulating some of it for the archive in hope of attracting and interesting somebody to translate it into English. The idea is still a viable one.

\(^{13}\)Unfortunately “enhanced” at a later date with a frontispiece of *Sanctus Vincentius a Paulo Congregationis Missionis et Puellarum Charitatis Fundator.* [J.B.Scotin Sculp.]

\(^{14}\)Community history from the time of Saint Vincent to the 1950s in diary format, i.e., what happened on a day to day basis, as found and compiled from various sources.


B. Periodicals
Catalogs of Houses and Personnel
Ordos
Necrologies
Yearbooks (of various seminaries run by the Community)

Booklets, pictures, clippings, sermons, and addresses for the following: Tercentenary celebration of the deaths of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise; canonization and bicentennial celebration of Mother Seton; canonization of Saint Justin de Jacobis; blessing of Saint Vincent's Church, Kaosiung, China; letters about Saint Vincent on special occasions, including a letter by Pope John Paul II on the 400th anniversary of Saint Vincent's death.

C. Writings By Confreres

Our collection of published and unpublished writings by confreres, particularly those in the western region of the United States, deserves a more thorough and ordered listing than presently exists. Space and time limitations dictate a postponement until a suitable bibliography can be prepared to share with the other archives of the Double Family.

D. Special Books

Liturgy: missals, rituals, chants, sacramentaries, lectionaries.

Miscellaneous, cataloged by age, author, and topic:
  e.g. Latin and Greek grammars; Plato; Aristotle;
  Signers of the Declaration of Independence (with a set of facsimile signatures).

Publications by Francis Weber on the California missions and the history of Catholicism in that state.

Old, and perhaps, rare books about California from the Isidore Dockweiler collection.

Old and rare books from the Doheny collection.¹⁵

¹⁵The archive has two copies of the famous (to book collectors) Novum Psalterium Pii XII, specially printed MCMLV in forty-eight copies for Mrs. Doheny. The copy she gave to Cardinal McIntyre sold in March 1989 at Christie's in New York for over $100,000! One of the archive's copies is Number 6, presented to Father William Ward, C.M.R.(sic), with the well known Doheny oval leather bookplate. The other copy is unnumbered and unpresented. These are with the other books that came from Chester Place and/or Saint Vincent's rectory basement. There is no clear record about the source.
V. Audio-visual Materials

A. Audio

Tape recordings

Disc recordings (old phonograph records, e.g.,

Latin *Conversation*, by Robert Brown, C.M.; *Pray Along with Father John Vidal*, C.M.; Recitation of the rosary—15 mysteries).

B. Visual

Photographs:

Small-size group pictures

Large-size group pictures

Community Houses

Travel and other albums (Father Ready)

Assemblies: provincial and general

Saints, Blessed, and Venerable of the Double Family

Saint Vincent de Paul

*Videotapes:*

Papal visit to Los Angeles, 1987 (4)

Golden Jubilee, Saint John’s Seminary, Camarillo, 1989 (1)

United for Mission Meeting, 1989 (1)

*Microfilm:*

Notre Dame Vincentian Collection (four 35mm reels, calendared)

General Curia-U.S. Letters (five 35mm and three 16mm reels, calendared)

*Annales de la Congrégation de la Mission*, vols. 1-126 (twenty-five 16mm reels)

*Other pictorial:*

Paintings, large framed photos/portraits

Awards; diplomas; commemorative plaques

VI. Memorabilia Display and Storage

Souvenir items from deceased

Three boxes of magazines and newspapers about President Kennedy’s assassination, 1963

Table 1: Relics of saints and blessed of Double Family; others

Table 2: Eight relics

Table 3: Pictures of various confrere-bishops
Table 4: Pictures of Saint Vincent's Church, Los Angeles, California; Saint Mary's Seminary, Santa Barbara, California; Saint Vincent's Seminary/De Paul Center, Montebello, California; Amat House, and the Provincial House, Los Angeles, California.

Trophy case of Saint Vincent's Seminary
Glass cabinet containing relics of 39 different saints, including Saint Vincent; small statues and artifacts from the Doheny family; pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Doheny. Framed pictures of all the graduating classes from the Seminary; Saint Vincent; Saint Louise; Blessed Mother; Miraculous Medal chapel, Paris, France; Bishop Quinn; Bishop Glass; Saint Vincent's College, Los Angeles, California.

VII. Archive Operations
The Archives Operations are noted here as an integral element, but not necessarily of general interest.
In prayer God helps us to realize his goodness in giving himself to us.

(Saint Louise de Marillac, conference to Daughters of Charity, 31 May 1648)

Prayer is the soul of our souls, that is, what the soul is to the body, prayer is to the soul.

(Saint Vincent de Paul, conference to Daughters of Charity, 31 May 1648)

You must realize that authority is not to be wielded absolutely, but charitably, and that we are Sister Servants, which means we must bear the heaviest loads of mind and body.

(Saint Louise de Marillac to a Sister Servant at Liancourt, 20 September 1650, letter 290b).