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Guide to the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties records

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Guide to the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties records, 1958-1967 UASC.008

Finding aid prepared by Lisa Pasquinelli

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September 27, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Catholic Council on Civil Liberties
Title	Catholic Council on Civil Liberties records
Date [inclusive]	1958-1967
Extent	1.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Administrative records, publications, photographs, and correspondence of the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties--formerly the American Freedoms Council--a national group of Catholics involved in the civil liberties front.

Preferred Citation

[Item title.] Catholic Council on Civil Liberties records, 1958-1967. University Archives and Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

History of the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties

The American Freedoms Council was incorporated on May 26, 1959, in Omaha, Nebraska, by John Holman and Gerald McGuire. The Council was conceived as a type of "Catholic Civil Liberties Union" in which the laity could work for the general welfare without fear of compromising their religious principles.

The aims of the group were to promote closer cooperation of Catholics in a non-political body for the purposes of the benevolence, charity, and education and to educate its members in civic and religious liberty and the constitutional rights of all American citizens. Local chapters soon sprung up in cities across the country, including Cleveland, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; Brooklyn, New York; and Detroit, Michigan.

In 1961, the board of directors voted to change the organization's name to the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties. At this time the national headquarters was moved to Lawndale, California. The group disbanded in 1966.

Scope and Contents

The materials in this collection document the creation and operation of the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties, originally named the American Freedoms Council. The collection includes the constitution, bylaws, membership applications, and mailing lists of the organization, as well as briefs filed in court cases, publications, photographs, and newspaper clippings. A large portion of the collection is made up of correspondence of the organization's officers and members, including that of Thomas F. Ritt, director; Russell W. Gibbons, secretary; William B. Ball and A.V. Krebs, members of the national board of directors; and Joseph O'Meara, A.C. Germann, and Rev. Louis A. Gales, members of the national advisory committee. The collection spans 1958-1967.

Arrangement

The records of the Catholic Council on Civil Liberties are arranged alphabetically with the exception of the newspaper clippings, which are located at the end of the collection.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives and Special Collections, 2006

Revision Description

Finding aid updated by Leigh Burnham, 2009

Access to Materials

This collection is open and available to the public for research in the University Archives and Special Collections reading room. The materials are non-circulating.

Copyright Notice

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Acquisition Information

Russell W. Gibbons, secretary of the CCCL, donated the collection in 1967.

Search Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- American Freedoms Council

- Catholic Council on Civil Liberties

Personal Name(s)

- A. V. Krebs
- Ball, William B.
- Gales, Louis A., 1896-1978
- Germann, A. C.
- Gibbons, Richard W.
- Holman, John
- McGuire, Gerald
- O'Meara, Joseph, 1898-
- Ritt, Thomas F.

Subject(s)

- Catholics
- Catholics -- United States
- Civil rights
- Civil rights--United States

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	
1	1	AFC and CCCL -- Constitution and bylaws, 1943, 1958
1	2	AFC and CCCL -- Publications and reprints; news releases; positions statements, 1958-1965
1	3	Articles, statements, and other materials, 1961-1964
1	4	Buffalo Diocesan Chapter records -- Detroit Chapter members and constitution, 1962-1965
1	5	Convention -- University of Dayton, August 1963
1	6	Correspondence -- AFC and CCCL, 1960-1964
1	7	Correspondence -- A.C. Germann, 1962-1964
1	8	Correspondence -- Albert V. Krebs, 1963-1964
1	9	Correspondence -- Joseph O'Meara, 1958-1965
1	10	Correspondence -- Rev. Louis A. Gales, 1962-1964
2	1	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1959-1960
2	2	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1961
2	3-4	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1962
2	5-6	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1963
2	7-8	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1964
2	9	Correspondence -- Russell W. Gibbons, 1965
3	1	Correspondence -- Thomas F. Ritt, 1962
3	2	Correspondence -- Thomas F. Ritt, 1963
3	3	Correspondence -- Thomas F. Ritt, 1964-1965
3	4	Correspondence -- William B. Ball, 1962-1964
3	5	Freedom Award, 1962-1965
3	6	Green vs. Continental Airlines, 1962-1963
3	7	House Un-American Activities Committee -- Publications and correspondence, 1961-1967
3	8	Invoices -- Financial statement, 1963-1965
3	9	Mailing lists, undated
4	1	Membership applications, 1960-1964
4	2	Photographs, undated
4	3-7	Newspaper clippings, undated