

10-1-2012

Guide to the Father Jerome Mersberger Collection

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Guide to the Father Jerome Mersberger collection, 1959-1976 CSC.021

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

October 01, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library
Creator - Creator	Mersberger, Jerome
Title	Father Jerome Mersberger collection
Date [inclusive]	1959-1976
Extent	1.25 Linear feet (Three boxes)
Location:	U.S. Catholic Special Collections, 302 Roesch Library, University of Dayton
Language	English
Abstract:	Personal clipping collection of Father Jerome Mersberger, the priest who served as pastor of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular in Palmyra, Wisconsin, as well as a small collection of personal papers, including homilies, notes, and correspondence.

Preferred Citation

[Item title], Father Jerome Mersberger collection, 1959-1976. U.S. Catholic Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

Biography of Father Jerome Mersberger

Jerome Mersberger was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin on October 8, 1917 to parents Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mersberger. He completed his elementary education at St. Peter Claver and Holy Name Schools. Mersberger graduated from St. Lawrence High School and Preparatory Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. He studied theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and received a Bachelor of Arts from the Seminary of St. Francis de Sales in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1940. After being ordained in 1942, he served as associate pastor of St. Edward parish in Racine, and St. Bernard in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1950, he was appointed as the first pastor of the newly established Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) parish in Monona, Wisconsin. Father Mersberger served at IHM for 18 years, resigning in 1968. Upon his resignation, he was reassigned to St. Mary's Church in Palmyra, Wisconsin. He served as pastor at St. Mary's until 1976, when he began to devote all his efforts to directing the Green Scapular Crusade, which encompassed a shrine-museum and the Green Scapular Travel Club. He directed the shrine and travel club until 1996, leading many pilgrimages and travel expeditions around the world. He passed away in Stoughton, Wisconsin, on December 2, 1998.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Father Jerome Mersberger's personal papers that were not related to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular and the Green Scapular Travel Club. The first series consists of some personal papers. The first folder contains correspondence, and the second folder contains sermons and notes for sermons. Some of these sermons have dates and locations recorded on them, presumably of where the sermon was delivered. The third folder in this series contains materials relating to his time spent as the pastor at St. Mary's Church in Palmyra, Wisconsin; in particular, they are related to the parish's St. Anne's Society and Holy Name Society. The remainder of the collection is Father Mersberger's personal clipping collection. This collection came to the library in a metal file drawer.

Statement of Arrangement

Items in the first series, Father Mersberger's personal papers, have been arranged in chronological order when known. Items in the second series, the clippings collection, retain the original organization of Father Mersberger, including the dividers that he created and order that he used.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library, 2011

Restrictions on Access

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

Copyright Notice

The materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code). The materials are available for personal, educational, and scholarly use. It is the responsibility of the researcher to locate and obtain permission from the copyright owner or his or her heirs for any other use, such as reproduction and publication.

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Marian Library by the Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular in Palmyra, Wisconsin; these materials were relocated to the U.S. Catholic Special Collections in September 2011.

Related Materials

Separated Material

Materials related to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular and the Green Scapular Travel Club are in a separate collection in the Marian Library, University of Dayton. Father Mersberger's collection of issues of *Sorrowful Mother Novena Notes*, dating from 1946 to 1952, which were located in the file drawer with the clippings collection, will be added to the U.S. Catholic Special Collections periodicals collection at the Roesch Library.

Search Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- National Shrine of Our Lady of the Green Scapular

Genre(s)

- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Sermons

Geographic Name(s)

- Palmyra (Wis.)

Subject(s)

- Catholic Church--Clergy

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Personal papers, 1959-1976

	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence, 1961-1976
1	2	Sermons and notes, 1959-1973, n.d.
1	3	Parish materials, n.d.

Series 2: Clipping collection, n.d.

	Folder	
1	4	"Abortion" through "Catholic Press", n.d.
1	5	"Cellini" through "Communism", n.d.
1	6	"Confession" through "Extreme Unction", n.d.
1	7	"Facts-Curious Facts Re-Church" through "Home and Family", n.d.
2	1	"Humor" through "Law", n.d.
2	2	"Legend" through "Marriages-Mixed", n.d.
2	3	"Mass" through "Picturesque Speech & Patter", n.d.
2	4	"Poetry" through "Quiz", n.d.
2	5	"Readings (Spiritual)" through "School Bus", n.d.
3	1	"Sermon (Jottings)" through "Stories", n.d.
3	2	"Stories (Animal)" through "Vows", n.d.
3	3	"War" through "Youth," loose clippings, n.d.