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MSS 231 / PSC 247 / PSCN 231

Daughters of Isabella, St. Lawrence Circle #166 Records, 1921 - 2002

9 boxes; 4.5 cu. ft.

History

The Daughters of Isabella is a Roman Catholic women's organization intended to "unite all Catholic women into a fraternal, beneficial, social society, in order to promote friendships, and to establish a bond of unity and truth that will be of mutual interest in time of trouble and distress." Additionally, the organization is dedicated to preserving the memory and importance of the Spanish Queen Isabella of Castile. In 1897, its first chapter or "circle," as they are called, was founded in New Haven, Connecticut. This collection primarily focuses on and is oriented around the Muncie chapter (Saint Lawrence Circle #166), which was founded in 1921 by Agnes Zellers on the third floor of the Cohen building at the corner of South Walnut Street and Howard Street. At the time of its founding, there was only one Catholic Church in Muncie, from which the Saint Lawrence Circle derived its name. The Great Depression of the 1930s stressed the coherence of the organization as membership dropped because people were unable to pay dues. In 1940, Father Flanagan, the famed founder of Boys Town, came to Muncie on behalf of the Daughters of Isabella to speak at Muncie Central High School. Corresponding with the economic prosperity after the Second World War, membership picked up again in the late 1940s. The Daughters of Isabella focused their attention on charitable projects and various fundraisers. The organization held regular meetings and conventions to discuss matters of business operation and religious concern. The numerous chapters of the organization spanned across the United States and reached beyond its borders into Canada and the Philippines. Not only did these chapters concentrate their efforts locally, but they also corresponded and cooperated to consolidate and strengthen their efforts beyond their individual localities. For example, Saint Lawrence Circle #166 participated with other Indiana circles to support the Saint Elizabeth Home for unwed mothers in Indianapolis, and they joined with circles internationally to pledge \$1 million for the National Center for Family Studies.

(Sources: *St. Lawrence Circle #166, Daughters of Isabella, History and Information Pamphlet*)

Scope and Content

The Daughters of Isabella Records contain minutes, reports, publications, scrapbooks and photographs relating to meetings, conferences, treasurers activities and membership. Scrapbooks (1975-1995) include various photographs and documents related to the organization and its operations. There are photographs (PSC 247) from two conventions (1984 and 1998). The collection also includes a seal stamp.

A. Stone, 09/02/2003

Container List**MSS 231**Box 1:

Conferences, Fall Conference, Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, October 23, 1994
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, October 27, 1996
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, October 24, 1999
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, September 17, 2000
 Marten House, Indianapolis, IN, October 28, 2001
 Marten House, Indianapolis, IN, October 27, 2002
 Regent's Conference, Ramada Inn South, Indianapolis, IN, October 25, 1992
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, October 26, 1997
 Conventions, Biennial Convention, Boston, MA, August 12-16, 1974
 Ottawa, Canada, August 11-15, 1980
 Hartford, CT, August 8-13, 1982
 Kansas City, MO, August 7-9, 1984
 Detroit, MI, August 19-21, 1986
 Bal Harbour, FL, July 31 – August 4, 1988
 Montreal, Canada, July 29 – August 2, 1990
 Washington, D.C., August 2-6, 1992
 Toronto, Canada, July 31 – August 4, 1994
 Stamford, CT, August 3-8, 1996
 Quebec, Canada, July 25-30, 1998

Box 2:

R. Brown Conv. Materials, Quebec, Canada, July 26-30, 1998
 St. Paul, MN, July 29 – August 3, 2000
 Toronto, Canada, August 3-7, 2002
 Spring Fling, Quality Inn East, Indianapolis, IN, April 24-26, 1992
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, April 23-24, 1994
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, April 27-29, 1996
 Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN, April 25-26, 1998
 Holiday Inn Select North, Indianapolis, IN, March 25-26, 2000
 Marten House, Indianapolis, IN, April 27-28, 2002
 State Convention, Hotel Gary, Gary, IN, April 28-30, 1944
 Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, IN, April 27-29, 1945
 La Salle Hotel, South Bend, IN, April 26-28, 1946
 Michigan City, IN, April 27-29, 1951
 Gary, IN, April 20-22, 1956
 Atkinson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN, April 26-28, 1974
 Ramada Inn, Kokomo, IN, April 25-27, 1975
 Executive Inn, Evansville, IN, April 28-30, 1978
 Howard Johnson's East, Indianapolis, IN, April 25-27, 1980

Box 3:

Marriott Inn, Indianapolis, IN, April 24-26, 1981
 Marriott Inn, Clarksville, IN, April 23-25, 1982
 Executive Inn, Vincennes, IN, April 22-24, 1983
 Don Halls Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, IN, April 27-29, 1984
 Atkinson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN, April 26-28, 1985
 Ramada Inn, Kokomo, IN, April 25-27, 1986
 Quality Inn, Jeffersonville, IN, 24-26, 1987
 Midway Motor Lodge, Elkhart, IN, April 22-24, 1988
 Holiday Inn, Jasper, IN, April 28-30, 1989
 Holiday Inn, Portage, IN, April 27-29, 1990
 Howard Johnson's East, Indianapolis, IN, April 26-28, 1991
 Holiday Inn, Columbus, IN, April 23-25, 1993
 Executive Inn, Evansville, IN, April 21-23, 1995
 Weston Plaza, Elkhart, IN, April 25-27, 1997
 The Seasons, Nashville, IN, April 23-25, 1999
 Holiday Inn, Lakeview, Clarksville, IN, April 27-29, 2001

Box 4:

Membership, Attendance Register, 1955 – 1970
 Attendance and Service Register, 1996 – 2001
 Roll and Address Book of Bernice Hottinger, Rec. Sec. for St. Lawrence Circle #166,
 1921-1967
 Roll Book, 1952-1968
 1968-1992
 Roll of Officers, 1921-1952
 Minutes, St. Lawrence Circle #166, November 1942 – December 1948

Box 5:

January 1949 – October 1953
 November 1953 – August 1959
 September 1959 – November 1966
 October 22, 1975 – January 14, 1987

Box 6:

February 1987 – May 1997
 December 1997 – November 2000
 Publications, Information Pamphlet on Daughters of Isabella, New Haven, CT
 The Isabellan Magazine, October 1961 – May 1963
 Reports, Financial Statement, New Haven, CT, April 30, 1980
 Indiana State Regent's Report, St. Paul, MN, July 8-10, 1999
 St. Paul, MN, July 29 – August 3, 2000
 September 17, 2000
 April 30 – October 24, 2001
 Biannual Report of the State Audit Committee, March 25 – September 16, 2000
 Treasurer's Report, Elizabethella Trust for St. Elizabeth's, January 1 – August 31, 2000

Indiana State Circle, March 17 – September 8, 2000
 Shelbyville Chapter, Fiftieth Anniversary Notice for St. Rose of Lima Circle #79, June 11,
 1968

Box 7:

Legal Size Material

Lawrence Circle #166, History, July 24, 1921 – July 24, 2002
 Minutes, November 1930 – October 1942
 First Roll Book, July 24, 1921 – November 10, 1945

Box 8:

Scrapbooks,

My Years as Regent, St. Lawrence Circle #166, Muncie, IN, 1975-1978, Rosemary
 Brown
 My Years as Past Regent, St. Lawrence Circle #166, Muncie, IN, Martha Barlow
 Regent, 1979
 Daughters of Isabella International Convention, Hartford, CT, August 7-15, 1982
 Indiana State Convention, Jeffersonville, IN, April 24-26, 1987; State Fall
 Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 25, 1987; International Membership
 Workshop for State Regents (Midwest), July 27-28, 1985; State Convention,
 Kokomo, IN, April 25-27, 1986
 CONTENTS: Bridge Club, Christmas Party, December 18, 1990; St. Lawrence Circle
 #166, Christmas Party, December 14, 1988; Hazel McGuigan, Fort Wayne,
 January 21, 1989; Installation and visits to circles, September 5, 1989 – March
 1990; Boat Cruise Down the Ohio, Louisville, KY, September 20, 1989; St.
 Lawrence Circle #166, Crazy Style Show, September 26, 1990; Bertha Wagner
 with Raffle Check; Airport Inn, Janet Hagen, Julliette LeClair, International
 Regent, September 1986; Installation of Officers, October 22, 1986

Box 9:

International Convention, Sheraton, Bal Harbour, FL, August 2-4, 1988
 61st Indiana State Convention, Holiday Inn, Jasper, IN, April 28-30, 1989
 Installation of Officers, 61st State Convention, Jasper, IN, April 30 1989 through
 Business Meeting Bishop Noll Circle #359, Gary, IN, February 19, 1990
 Circle installations and visits as State Regent, April 1989 – April 1991; 63rd Annual
 State Convention, Howard Johnson East, Indianapolis, IN, April 26-28, 1991;
 Spring Fling, Quality Inn East, Indianapolis, IN, April 24-26, 1992
 Begins Business Meeting #230, Huntingburg, February 26, 1990; 62nd Indiana State
 Convention, Holiday Inn, Portage, IN, April 27-29, 1990; International
 Convention, July 27 – August 2, 1990, Montreal, Canada; Ends #569 Our Lady
 of Providence, Terre Haute, IN, Mass, Carryin, Business, & Installation of
 Officers, October 9, 1990
 State Convention, Executive Inn, Evansville, IN, April 21-23, 1995

Additions: J.E. Gastineau, 1/2006

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Photographs, Biennial Convention, Rosemary Brown's photographs, Quebec, Canada, July
26-30, 1998

State Convention, Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, IN, April 27-29, 1984