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Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ Collection

Carmelo A. Tranchese

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Inventory of the Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ Collection

Collection Number SC 22
Blume Library Special Collections

StMU
Saint Mary's University of San Antonio
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio TX 78228-8530 USA
Phone: 210-436-3011
www.stmarytx.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Blume Library Staff
Donor: Jesuit Province of New Orleans, donor number: 1971.1
Title: Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ Collection
Inclusive Dates: 1914, 1937-1956
Reference Code: SC 22
Language: English, Spanish, Italian,
Extent: 0.5 cubic feet
Abstract: This is a collection of materials related to the Jesuit priest Carmelo A. Tranchese obtained by the library staff from several sources to support the thesis research of Gilbert Quezada. Tranchese's personal papers were gathered from the Jesuit Province of New Orleans. His diary and scrapbook of parish life were gathered from his parish in San Antonio, Guadalupe Church. Facsimiles were made and the originals returned. To these facsimiles was added a collection made by library staff consisting of ephemera and letters from local clergy recounting their recollections of Fr. Tranchese.

Administrative Information

Restrictions: None
Alternative Forms: Microfilm 814, Blume Library
Acquisition: The papers, letters, and relics of Father Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ held by the New Orleans Jesuit Province Archives were loaned to St. Mary's University Academic Library as of March 16, 1971 for research use by Gilberto Quezada in preparation for a thesis about Father Tranchese. With the permission of the Jesuit Archives, the Academic Library microfilmed the Tranchese papers and provided that archives with positive images of that microfilm. The original documents were returned to the Jesuit Province Archives. The diary and scrapbook made by Fr. Tranchese as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio were borrowed from that parish, microfilmed and returned. (See Donor File for Tranchese)
Processing: The papers from the Jesuit Archives are arranged in four subseries by subject and within subjects by date. The diary and scrapbook for Guadalupe Parish are in order by date. The materials collected by St. Mary's Library staff are arranged roughly by date.
Finding Aids: Typescript list of items from the Jesuit Province of New Orleans Archives by James D Carroll, SJ, March 13, 1971

Preferred Citation: The materials from the Jesuit Archives must be cited as the New Orleans Jesuit Province Archives for any use made of these papers in written works. For the other series cite Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas.

Related Material

- Juan Quezada, *Father Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ: Pioneer Social Worker in San Antonio, Texas*; Master's Thesis (Special Collections 976.4, microfilm 953)
- J. Gilberto Quesada, "Toward a Working Definition of Social Justice Father Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 1932-1953," *Journal of Texas Catholic History and Culture*, (1993:44-64).
- George Sessions Perry, "Rumpled Angel of the Slums, *Saturday Evening Post*, August 21, 1948.
- Jose Antonio Navarro, *History of the School and Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, 1958
- Guadalupe Church, *San Antonio Diary and Scrapbook, 1933-1950*.

Biographical Note

Father Carmelo Antonio Tranchese, SJ (1880-) has often been described as a missionary to Texas, a social justice crusader, a Renaissance man, a humanitarian, and the father of public housing in San Antonio. To his Hispanic parishioners, however, *el padrecito*, fitted all the above labels. During his twenty years at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, he labored to alleviate the economic and social plight of his parishioners. He became the first Catholic priest in San Antonio to become involved with the social issues that faced his community during the hard days of the Great Depression." [Source: J. Gilberto Quesada, "Toward a Working Definition of Social Justice Father Carmelo A. Tranchese, SJ, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 1932-1953," *Journal of Texas Catholic History and Culture*, (1993:44-64)]

Collection Overview

Arrangement Summary

Series One: Tranchese Papers from the Jesuit Archives of New Orleans

Letters and Poems to Various Persons, 1953-1956

Activity with the Housing Authority, 1934-1955

Folder of Verses, 1937-1954

Mixed Formats ("Sundry Items"), 1927-1954

Clippings,

Photographs,

Patent Drawings,

Personal Effects

Series Two: Tranchese Materials from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Antonio

Jose Antonio Navarro, *History of the School and Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, 1958

Tranchese, *Guadalupe Church Diary and Scrapbook, 1933-1950*.

Series Three: Related Materials

Correspondence with San Antonio Clergy about Fr. Tranchese, 1951-1953.

Dedication Ceremonies for Villa Tranchese and Marshall Street Senior Center, 1968.

“From the Collector’s Corner,” *Human Options*, undated.

George Sessions Perry, “Rumpled Angel of the Slums, *Saturday Evening Post*, August 21, 1948.

Series One:

Tranchese Papers from the Jesuit Archives of New Orleans

Arrangement Note: Before loaning the Tranchese Papers to St. Mary’s University for microfilming, Fr. James D Carroll, the archivist of the Jesuit Province of New Orleans, prepared an item listing of them. The arrangement used in this inventory follows Fr. Carroll’s listing. Fr. Carroll’s item listing is filed with the papers and provides date, format, names of respondents and date.

Subsequent Disposition: In January 2018, Blume Library staff was notified that the hardcopy original documents of the Tranchese Papers were destroyed by Fr. Carroll of the Jesuit Archives after they were returned. The rationale was that since microfilm existed the originals were no longer needed. For the notification from the Jesuit Province archivist in January 2018 see case file for Tranchese Papers.

Letters and Poems to Various Persons, 1953-1956

1953 – Items 01 through 08

1954 – Items 09 through 25

1955 – Items 26 through 53

1956 – Items 54 through 67

1914 – Item 68, Certificate of Membership in National Geographic Society

Undated – Items 69 through 72

Activity with the Housing Authority, 1934-1955

1935 – Items 74 through 102

1936 – Item 103

1937 – Items 104 through 113

1938 – Items 114 through 123

1939 – Items 124 through 132

1940 – Items 133 through 156

1941 – Items 157 through 191

1942 – Items 192 through 196

1943 – Item 197

1944 – Items 198 through 201

1945 – Items 205 through 212

1946 – Items 213 through 216

1947 – Item 217

1948 – Items 218 through 252

1949 – Items 253 through 254

1951 – Items Item 255

1952 – Item 256

1955 – Items 257 through 261

Folder of Verses, 1937-1954

Items 262 through 277

Mixed Formats (“Sundry Items A and B”), 1927-1954

Clippings – Items 278 through 286

Photographs – Items 287 through 288, 290, 293, 305, 306, 307

Periodicals – Items 291, 292, 294

Patent and Trademark Applications – Items 295 through 297

Personal Effects – Items 298 through 304

Finding Aids: Typescript list of items from the Jesuit Province of New Orleans Archives
by James D Carroll, SJ, March 13, 1971

Series Two:

Tranchese Materials from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Antonio

Jose Antonio Navarro, *History of the School and Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, 1958

Tranchese, *Guadalupe Church Diary and Scrapbook, 1933-1950*.

Series Three:

Related Materials

Correspondence with San Antonio Clergy about Fr. Tranchese, 1951-1953.

Dedication Ceremonies for Villa Tranchese and Marshall Street Senior Center, 1968.

“From the Collector’s Corner,” *Human Options*, undated.

George Sessions Perry, “Rumpled Angel of the Slums,” *Saturday Evening Post*, August 21, 1948.