

Guide to the St. Raphael Society for Italian Immigrants, New York, New York Records CMS.005

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies
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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	St. Raphael Society (U.S.).
Title	St. Raphael Society for Italian Immigrants, New York, New York Records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1884-1936
Date [inclusive]	Bulk, 1884-1936 1884-1968
Extent	8.5 Linear feet in 17 document boxes.
Language	English

Language of Materials note The bulk of the collection is in Italian, with some Latin and English.

Abstract The Saint Raphael Society for Italian Immigrants was founded in New York in July, 1890 on the initiative of the Scalabrinian Fathers. Throughout its 32 years, the St. Raphael Society assisted newly arrived Italian immigrants in a variety of ways: finding jobs, adjusting irregularities in immigration papers, finding and contacting relatives, visiting sick Italian immigrants in hospitals. Its primary service consisted in offering food and shelter to those Italian immigrants, among them minors, who for a variety of reasons found themselves destitute, unable to gain a livelihood, or unable to proceed to their place of destination. For this purpose, the Society operated the Casa di San Raffaele. It closed in 1923. The collection is made up of correspondence with ecclesiastical figures and departments dealing with Italian immigrants, annual reports with photographs of immigrants, financial reports, newspaper clippings, case histories of immigrants with photographs and illustrations, and other materials.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; St. Raphael Society for Italian Immigrants, New York, New York (CMS 005); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

The Saint Raphael Society for Italian Immigrants was founded in New York in July, 1890 on the initiative of the Scalabrinian Fathers. It was modelled after German and Irish societies by the same name already in existence in the United States, dispensing aid to newly arrived co-nationals. The Archbishop of New York, Monsignor Corrigan was designated the first president, however the day to day activities were carried out by the Executive Secretary, Reverend Friar Bandini. In 1896, Corrigan was assigned to minister to an Italian colony in Arkansas and the St. Raphael Society was without a director. During these years, the Society became increasingly incorporated into the archdiocesan structure. Archbishop Farley assumed post of president in 1902. He pledged to the support of the work of the Saint Raphael Society \$100 annually, as did each of the two trustees appointed. In addition, an annual stipend of 12,000 Italian Lire was obtained from the Italian government. Reverend Father Giacomo Gambera was appointed to direct the Society, filling the vacancy left by Bandini. Reverends Gaspare Motetto and Riccardo Secchia, likewise Scalabrinians, complete the list of St. Raphael Society Directors.

Throughout its 32 years, the St. Raphael Society assisted newly arrived Italian immigrants in a variety of ways: finding jobs, adjusting irregularities in immigration papers, finding and contacting relatives, visiting sick Italian immigrants in hospitals. Its primary service consisted in offering food and shelter to those Italian immigrants, among them minors, who for a variety of reasons found themselves destitute, unable to gain a livelihood, or unable to proceed to their place of destination. For this purpose, the Society operated the Casa di San Raffaele at 14-16 Charleton Street administered by the Pallotine Sisters. The Society headquarters were located at 113 Waverly Place. The parish of Our Lady of Pompei can trace its beginnings back to a chapel housed in this building.

A general crisis within the Scalabrinian Order as well as internal weaknesses lie at the root of the closing down of of the Saint Raphael Society in New York in 1923. (A Boston branch existed between 1902-1908.)

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists of the correspondence of the Directors of the St. Raphael Society ecclesiastical figures and departments dealing with Italian immigrants and of the pastor of the parish of Our Lady of Pompei, Reverend Antonio Demo. Most of the letters are not originals but xeroxed copies, typed transcripts, translations, or summaries of the originals, which are preserved at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, the Archivio Generalizio Scalabriniano, or in the archives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The collection also contains printed reports and financial records of the organization, record books, newspaper clippings, and other materials. The collection contains case histories of immigrant families with photographs and illustrations. The clippings often pertain to the St. Raphael Society in New

York and in Boston, Father Pietro Bandini, the Italian American newspaper *Il Corriere dalla Domenica*, as well as its antecedent *L'Italiano in America*, and other United States Italian benevolent societies.

Arrangement note

The collection has been intervened by an archivist, but there is no clear arrangement.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies July 15, 1974

Revision Description

Edited in compliance with DACS by Nicole Greenhouse June 2014

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Transferred from Our Lady of Pompei Parish, New York, New York in 1970.

Processing Information note

In 2014, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles.

Existence and Location of Originals note

Most of the letters are not originals but xeroxed copies, typed transcripts, translations, or summaries of the originals, which are preserved at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, the Archivio Generalizio Scalabriniano, or in the archives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Related materials can be found in the National Catholic Welfare Conference/United States Catholic Conference record group (CMS 023).

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Our Lady of Pompei (Parish : New York, N.Y.).

Personal Name(s)

- Demo, Antonio

Subject(s)

- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church.
- Fraternal organizations |z United States.
- Immigrant families |x Services for |z United States.
- Immigrants |z Italy.

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Correspondence received by Archbishop Corrigan from St. Raphael's General Secretary, from US immigration authorities, Mother Cabrini, and others 1891-1902	1
Scalabrini to Corrigan 1887-1897	1
Propaganda Fide Letters 1884-1898	1
Apostolic Delegate to Corrigan 1893-1901	1
Gibbons Correspondence relating to Italians 1879-1916	1
Correspondence Scalabrini and US Bishops 1888-1905	1
Corrigan to Scalabrini 1887-1902	1
Correspondence of Pietro Bandini, C.S. 1890-1895	1
Correspondence of Giacomo Gambera, C.S. undated, 1898-1911	2
Giacomo Gambera, C.S. Autobiography (1889-1934) after 1934	2
Correspondence of Gaspare Moretto, C.S. undated, 1906-1926	3

Correspondence of Riccardo Secchia, C.S. 1923-1924	4
Correspondence of Antonio Demo, C.S. 1899-1933, undated	4
Letter Books containing letters sent by Antonio Demo 1911-1919	5
Annual Reports 1891-1922	6
Scope and Contents note Containing statistical data, some case histories, and photo illustrations.	
Financial Reports 1891-1923, undated	7
Scope and Contents note Contains receipts, merchandise advertisements, reports, including a report to the State Board of Charities, itemized lists of expenses, marriage stipends, and commentary the annual reports.	
Italian Saint Raphael Society Printed Materials undated	8
Account books; Registers Listing Immigrants assisted; Elenco Ricoverati; Diary; Contabilita; Indice di emigrati mandati a destinazione New York dall Societa San Raffaele; two smaller account books 1892-1912	9
Lettere: Annual diaries listing names; Contabilita; Relazione Morale 1903-1916	10

Lettere: Annual Diaries listing names; Offerte a beneficio della Societa San Raffaele; Protocollo per lettere in arrivo e partenza; Case book 1917-1922	11
Pratiche espletate dalla Societa 1910	12
Marriage Affidavits and Licenses; Pietro Bandini and Tontitown, Arkansas; Research Paper entitled "Contributo Italiano al Carattere Geografico di Tontitown Arkansas e Rosati, Missouri" by Joseph Velikonja, Booklet entitled "The Story of Tontitown, Arkansas" 1913-1922	13
Album: Venticinque anni di Missione fra gli Italiani immigrati di Boston, Mass.; Materials on Boston 1891-1924	14
Newspaper Clippings, journal articles, and other materials 1904-1968	15
"L'Italiano in America;" "Il Corriere della Domenica" 1894-1925	16
"Italica Gens;" Societa Patronato San Michele per gl'Italiani del Sud Emigrati in America; Italian Auxiliary; General Committee of Immigrant Aid at Ellis Island; Unione Cattolica Italiana; Croce Rossa Italiana; Unione del Clero Italiano nell'America del Nord; Diocesan Council on Italian Affairs; Primo Congresso Cattolico Italiano nell'America del Nord; other societies; materials on Monsignor Ferrante; Materials on Pallotine Sisters 1884-1927	17