

ROWENA SCEROLER FLYNN AND LORETTA SCEROLER MEANEY PAPERS

Mss. 5080

Inventory

Compiled by
Camille Boechler

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2024

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Size | 2.5 linear feet, 6 volumes. |
| Geographic Locations | Baton Rouge (La.), New Orleans (La.) |
| Inclusive Dates | 1925-1994, undated. |
| Bulk Dates | 1940-1965. |
| Languages | English. |
| Summary | The Rowena Sceroler Flynn and Loretta Sceroler Meaney Papers contain correspondence, organizational records, printed materials, personal papers, photographs, and volumes created and collected by Rowena Sceroler Flynn and Loretta Sceroler Meaney. Flynn and Meaney were sisters and active members of the Catholic Church and affiliated organizations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. |
| Access Restrictions | None. |
| Reproduction Note | May be reproduced. |
| Copyright | For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law. |
| Related Collections | None. |
| Citation | Rowena Sceroler Flynn and Loretta Sceroler Meaney Papers, Mss. 5080, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La. |
| Stack Location(s) | 18:6-7, OS:F |

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Rowena Josephine Sceroler Flynn was born on December 21, 1906, and Loretta Joana Sceroler Meaney was born on November 10, 1897, in Kiln, Hancock County, Mississippi. They were the daughters of Joseph Jacob Sceroler (1857-1913) and Frances Marcellin Haas Sceroler (1863-1907). Flynn married Joseph Vincent Flynn (1899-1958) and had two children, Barbara Francis Flynn Funk (1932-1987) and Rowena Josephine Flynn Bienvenu (1934-). Meaney married Daniel J. Meaney (1889-1966). Flynn and Meaney were longtime residents of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they were active members of the Catholic Church and affiliated organizations. The sisters were particularly active within local chapters of National Council of Catholic Women, such as the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Flynn served as president of the Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women from 1962 to 1964. Meaney served as president of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women from 1945 to 1947. Additionally, Flynn and Meaney were members of several other Catholic organizations of the Baton Rouge area, including the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America, the St. Jean Vianney Altar Society, the Third Order of Mary, and others. Both sisters were recipients of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal for their services in the Church. Flynn died November 15, 1991, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, aged 84. Meaney died January 5, 1987, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, aged 89.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Rowena Sceroler Flynn and Loretta Sceroler Meaney Papers contain personal correspondence, organizational records, printed materials, personal papers, photographs, and volumes created and collected by Rowena Sceroler Flynn and Loretta Sceroler Meaney from 1925 to 1994. Most of the papers are records from various organizations affiliated with the Catholic Church, such as the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the National Council of Catholic Women and its local affiliate organizations, the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and other organizations. The papers also contain several printed materials related to the Catholic Church, which include programs, newsletters, church bulletins, prayer cards, and assorted ephemera. Flynn's and Meaney's personal papers are also included, which primarily contain their notes from their services in the previously mentioned organizations. The papers also contain photographs of Flynn, Meaney, various Catholic priests of Baton Rouge, and the local branches of the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America. Lastly, the papers include volumes created and collected by Flynn and Meaney, including two manuals of the Third Order of Mary from 1941 and 1954, an autographed copy of Francis Leon Gassler's *History of St. Joseph's Church, Baton Rouge, La., from 1789 to date* (Hope Haven Press, 1943), personal planners from 1941 and 1960, and an autograph book from 1943.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1994, undated

Series II. National Catholic Welfare Conference and Affiliated Organizations Records, 1937-1986, undated

Subseries 1. National Catholic Welfare Conference Records, 1949-1962, undated

Subseries 2. National Council of Catholic Women Records, 1942-1964, undated

Subseries 3. Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Records, 1937-1986, undated

Subseries 4. Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Records, circa 1961-1983, undated

Series III. Other Organizational Records, 1925-1982, undated

Series IV. Printed Materials, 1925-1989, undated

Series V. Personal Papers, circa 1940-1965, undated

Series VI. Photographs, circa 1930-1960

Series VII. Volumes, 1941-1960

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1994, undated

This series contains personal correspondence addressed to Flynn and/or Meaney from 1936 to 1994. Included in this series is correspondence from Chicago-based Reverend Albert J. Buckley (nicknamed “Yankee Padre”), various Baton Rouge Catholic priests, and other members of the Church (box 1, folders 1-6). Much of the correspondence is written in yearly Christmas cards from 1960 to 1993 (box 1, folders 7-13). This series also includes correspondence addressed to Flynn after her death in 1991 (box 1, folders 3 and 12). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series II. National Catholic Welfare Conference and Affiliated Organizations Records, 1937-1986, undated

This series contains records from the National Catholic Welfare Conference and its affiliated organizations from 1937 to 1986. The series contains four subseries that are arranged according to hierarchy in relation to the parent organization of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The National Council of Catholic Women was an affiliate of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women were both affiliates of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Subseries 1. National Catholic Welfare Conference Records, 1949-1962, undated

This subseries contains records from the National Catholic Welfare Conference from 1949 to 1962. This subseries includes printed materials (box 1, folder 15), notes and informational materials (box 1, folders 17-18), and records from the Leader’s Workshop in 1960 (box 1, folder 16). This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 2. National Council of Catholic Women Records, 1942-1964, undated

This subseries contains records from the National Council of Catholic Women (N.C.C.W.) from 1942 to 1964. This subseries includes records from the N.C.C.W.’s national conventions for the years 1942 to 1964 (box 1, folders 19-23), records from the 1959 N.C.C.W. Institute (box 1, folders 33-36), records from the Leadership Training Institute in 1963 (box 1, folder 37), and the National Conference on Religion and Race in 1963 (box 1, folder 38). This subseries also includes newsletters published by the N.C.C.W., such as the *Monthly Message to Affiliated Organizations* (box 1, folders 24-30) and *Women in Catholic Action* (box 1, folder 32). This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 3. Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Records, 1937-1986, undated

This subseries contains records from the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (A.C.C.W.) of the Archdiocese of New Orleans from 1937 to 1986. This subseries includes records from the A.C.C.W.’s annual conventions for the years 1937 to 1986

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1925-1994, undated **LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

(box 1, folder 43-52), correspondence (box 2, folder 5), and programs and other printed items (box 2, folder 10). Also included in this subseries are records from the Baton Rouge Deanery Council of Catholic Women, which was an affiliate of the A.C.C.W., from 1939 to 1963 (box 2, folder 1-3). This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 4. Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Records, circa 1961-1983, undated

This subseries contains records from the Baton Rouge Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (D.C.C.W.) from 1961 to 1983. This subseries contains records from the D.C.C.W.'s annual conventions for the years 1962 to 1965 (box 2, folder 14). Also included in this subseries is a copy of the D.C.C.W.'s constitution, circa 1961 (box 2, folder 13), correspondence (box 2, folder 15), assorted resolutions (box 2, folder 16), and a yearly report for 1965 (box 2, folder 17). This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Series III. Other Organizational Records, 1925-1982, undated

This series contains records from other organizational records from 1925 to 1982. Many of the organizations are affiliated with the Catholic Church, such as the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America (box 2, folders 18-27), the Diocese of Baton Rouge (box 2, folder 28), the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Baton Rouge (box 2, folder 34), and the St. George Catholic Church in Baton Rouge (box 2, folder 35). This series also contains records from non-religious organizations such as the Louisiana Legislative Council (box 2, folders 30-33), the United Services Organization (box 2, folder 36), and the War Department Bureau of Public Relations (box 2, folder 37). This series is arranged alphabetically.

Series IV. Printed Materials, 1925-1989, undated

This series contains printed materials from 1925 to 1989. Included in this series are assorted programs and newsletters from various Catholic organizations (box 2, folders 38-43 and 54-55), church bulletins (box 2, folders 46-51), prayer cards (box 2, folder 57), and assorted ephemera (box 2, folder 52). This series also includes issues of *Catholic Action in the South* from 1943 to 1961 (box 5, folder 1) and issues of *The Catholic Commentator* from 1963 to 1964 (box 5, folder 2). The issues of *The Catholic Commentator* feature articles written about Flynn and/or Meaney and pertain to their church, civic, and social activities. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series V. Personal Papers, circa 1940-1965, undated

This series contains personal papers, circa 1940 to 1965. Most of this series is comprised of notes written by Flynn or Meaney related to their service in the A.C.C.W., the D.C.C.W., the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America, and other Catholic organizations (box 3, folders 1-7). This series also includes papal blessings received by Flynn and Meaney (box 5, folder 3), a certificate of service from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (box 3, folder 8),

and assorted undated articles collected by Flynn and/or Meaney (box 3, folder 9). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series VI. Photographs, circa 1930-1960

This series contains photographs, circa 1930 to 1960. Included in this series are photographs of Flynn (box 4, folder 6), Meaney (box 4, folder 5), various Baton Rouge Catholic priests (box 4, folders 3-4 and box 5, folder 4), and members of the Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters of America (box 4, folder 1). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series VII. Volumes, 1941-1960

This series contains six volumes from 1941 to 1960. Included in this series are two copies of manuals of the Third Order of Mary from 1941 (volume 1) and 1954 (volume 2) that belonged to Meaney and Francis Leon Gassler's *History of St. Joseph's Church, Baton Rouge, La., from 1789 to date* (Hope Haven Press, 1943), which was autographed by Gassler to Meaney (volume 4). This series also contains two of Meaney's personal planners from 1941 (volume 3) and 1960 (volume 6), and a personal autograph book from 1943 that also belonged to Meaney (volume 5). Loose items removed from volume 1 and 5 have been placed in box 4, folders 10-11. This series is arranged chronologically.

INDEX TERMS

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CONTAINER LIST

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| | | 5-6 | Buckley, Albert J. ("Yankee Padre"), 1943-1987, undated |
| | | 7-13 | Christmas cards, 1960-1993, undated |
| | | 14 | Correspondence to the papal honorees of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, 1963 |
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| | | 6 | <i>The Song of Catholic Womanhood: History of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 1937-1943</i> by Peter Mathias Hubertus Wynhoven, 1944 |
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| <u>Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
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| | -- | Vol. 1 | <i>Manual of the Third Order of Mary</i> , 1941 |
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| | -- | Vol. 4 | <i>History of St. Joseph's Church, Baton Rouge, La., from 1789 to date</i> by Francis Leon Gassler, 1943 (autographed copy) |
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