



Title (Free Text Part) **Mother of God Parish Photographs**
Classification **History Records - Finding Aid**
Owner Location **Mother of God Parish (Waukegan)**
Begin Date **1/1/1903**
End Date **12/31/1978**
Processor(s) **O'Neill, Joseph Ryan**
Date Created **3/2/2012 at 3:16 PM**
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Number of Boxes **2**
Security **Unrestricted Access, Archives**
Copyright Notice **Some materials may be copyrighted.**
Collection Language(s) **English**

Biographical/Administrative History

In 1902, Slovenian Catholics in the Waukegan and North Chicago area petitioned the Archdiocese of Chicago for their own parish. They had previously attended the Irish, German, and Czech churches, but as their numbers grew, they felt the need to have their own church. Fundraising began, and in early 1903, they had constructed a wooden framed, single steeple church. That same year, Father John Plevnik was appointed pastor and quickly began organizing the fledgling parish. On November 27, 1903, Archbishop James Quigley dedicated the new church building and the parish to the Mother of God.

Father Plevnik organized a parish grammar school by 1906, first taught by the associate pastor Father Aloysius Krashevec. He was joined the next year by Angela Mesinger. In 1910, Archbishop Quigley assigned the Benedictine sisters to take over teaching responsibilities. The first graduates from Mother of God School were John Hladnik and Frank Opeka completing the eighth grade in 1914.

In 1912, Father Plevnik was reassigned to St. Joseph Church, a Slovenian Church in Joliet. He was replaced by Father James Kalan. However, the Archbishop was dissatisfied with Kalan's credentials and he was quickly replaced by Father Joseph Stukel. The two-month reign of Kalan as pastor led to a rift in the parish after he was replaced, therefore a dissident faction of Mother of God continued to meet surreptitiously at a local hall.

Under George Cardinal Mundelein, pastoral assignments were rearranged. Father Francis Azbe replaced controversial Father Stukel in late 1915. Reverend Stukel was assigned to Saint Joseph Church in Joliet. Father Azbe modernized the parish by building a modern school and a gymnasium in 1926.

In 1928, Mother of God celebrated its Silver Jubilee with a mass celebrated by the right reverend Bernard Sheil. At this time, the mass, which had previously been said only in Slovenian, was offered in English, a sign that other ethnic groups began attending the previously all-Slovenian church.

In 1929, Father Butala became pastor and led the parish until his reassignment to Saint Joseph's in 1938. Father Butala was an enthusiastic priest who fostered the blossoming of Mother of God athletics and a famed choir that performed throughout the Waukegan and North Chicago area.

Both Mother of God and Saint Joseph in Joliet mourned the loss of Father John Plevnik in 1938. The most reverend William O'Brien celebrated the requiem mass at Saint Joseph on October 15, 1938. Father Plevnik, the founder of Mother of God had also been the spiritual advisor for the KSKJ (Grand Carolinian Slovenian Catholic Union) which was active at Mother of God throughout the 1970's. Father Butala was subsequently reassigned to Saint Joseph's to fill Father Plevnik's pastorate.

Father Matthias Hiti filled the vacancy at Mother of God left by Father Butala's reassignment. Father Hiti was a young priest when assigned to Mother of God who served for over thirty years as pastor. During Father Hiti's reign as pastor, Mother of God eventually eliminated Slovenian masses to accommodate the shifting cultural dynamic. Irish, Polish, German, Latino, and African-American families were moving into the parish, adding diversity to the parish's Slovenian monogenesis.

Father Hiti and the Benedictine sisters organized a two-year high school, which operated between 1938 and 1942. Father Hiti also renovated the aging convent, which was redesigned to better accommodate more sisters more comfortably.

Father Hiti died February 27, 1971, after his long assignment to the people of Mother of God. Due to this sad occasion, John Cardinal Cody granted the parishioners' wish to have Father Albert Adamich reassigned to Mother of God. Father Adamich served as associate pastor from 1948 through 1966 under Father Hiti.

In 1978, Mother of God celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. This occasion was a time of great celebration for the parish. Although Slovenians no longer dominated the parish, Slovenian traditions abounded, such as the ringing of the church bells, by hand as was the tradition in Slovenia. The parish was also proud of grand processions that, during the Diamond Jubilee, facilitated a parade through the town that led directly into the procession for the Jubilee mass, celebrated by the most reverend Alfred Abramowicz.

Mother of God School, a mainstay of the parish since 1906, consolidated with other Waukegan schools following the eighth grade graduation class of 1984. Father Adamich served the parish until its eventual closing in 1991. Father Adamich was reassigned to most Holy Redeemer Church where he served until his retirement.

Provenance

Accruals

Separations

Scope & Content

This collection contains photographs from Mother of God parish, Waukegan, Illinois. This collection spans the years 1920 to the 1970s, although some undated material clearly dates much earlier. Most of the collection consists of Mother of God School photographs. This collection also documents well the clergy who have served Mother of God parish as pastors: Fr. John Plevnik, Fr. Francis Azbe, Fr. Wenceslaus Sholar, Fr. Matthias Butala, Fr. Matthais Hiti, and Fr. Albert Adamich. Many photographs exist which document the Diamond Jubilee year (1978) and parish committees whose terms spanned the Jubilee year. The collection also contains a wealth of mass adn seminary photographs from before the Seconf Vatican Council thanks to the inclusion of a scrapbook collected by Father Matthias Hiti. This collection also documents well the activities of Slovenian Catholics across the Chicago Archdiocese.

Series Description

Contacts

Mother of God Parish (Waukegan) (Client)
 Mother of God School (Waukegan) (Subject)
 Mother of God High School (Waukegan) (Subject)

Box List

Box	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) History Records ~ Photographs ~ Parish				
Begin Date	1/1/1962	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 43431.02

Box	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) History Records ~ Photographs ~ Parish				
Begin Date	1/1/1931	End Date	12/31/1962	DB Box Number 43431.03

Finding Aid	Record Number	FIND/28	Classification	History Records - Finding Aid
Title (Free Text Part) Mother of God Parish Photographs				
Begin Date	1/1/1903	End Date	12/31/1978	

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#1	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Adamich, Rev. Albert				
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#2	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Alter Servers: Acolytes				
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#3	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Altar Servers				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#4	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Altar Servers				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#5	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Altar Servers				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#6	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Azbe, Rev. Francis				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#7	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Baraga, Rt. Rev. Friderik				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#8	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Benedictine Sisters				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#9	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) BINGO: Winckowski, Stan and Betty				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#10	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Choir: First choir				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#11	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Choirs				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#12	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Church: Exterior, post renovation				
Begin Date	1/1/1935	End Date	12/31/1935	DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#13	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Church: Exterior, pre-renovations				
Begin Date	1/1/1903	End Date	12/31/1935	DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#14	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Church: Interior				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#15	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Convent: Exterior				
DB Box Number 43431.02				

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#16	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Convent: Interior		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#17	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Food Co-op		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#18	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		St. George Society		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#19	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Rev. Matthias Hiti and Rev. Matthias Butala		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#20	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Rev. Matthias Hiti		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#21	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Hladnik Family		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#22	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		St. Joseph Church, Joliet		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#23	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		St. Joseph's Society #53		
Begin Date	10/26/1930			DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#24	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		KSKJ (Grand Carolinian Slovenian Catholic Union)		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#25	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Kuhar Family		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#26	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Kuhar with a Priest		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#27	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Legion of Mary		
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#28	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part)		Nativities		
				DB Box Number 43431.02

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#29	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Frank Opeka				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#30	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Parish Council				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#31	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Rev. John Plevnik				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#32	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Rev. John Plevnik				
Begin Date	3/28/1938			DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#33	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Productions				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#34	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Mr. and Mrs. Leon Radvszewski				
DB Box Number 43431.02				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/34#35	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Ringing of the Church Bells				
Begin Date	10/6/1978			DB Box Number 43431.02
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#1	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Cheerleaders				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#2	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Class Composites				
Begin Date	1/1/1949	End Date	12/31/1984	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#3	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Early Class Photos				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#4	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Exterior				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#5	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Faculty				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#6	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: First Class with Fr. Plevnik and Angela Mensinger				
Begin Date	1/1/1907	End Date	12/31/1907	DB Box Number 43431.03

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#7	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Football				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#8	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Football				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#9	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Graduation pictures				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#10	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Miscellaneous Classroom Photographs				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#11	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Press Release				
Begin Date	11/1/1958	End Date	11/30/1958	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#12	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: School Board				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#13	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Rev. Wencelslaus Sholar with class				
Begin Date	1/1/1922	End Date	12/31/1922	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#14	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) School: Student Council				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#15	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Scrapbook: "Memoirs of Our School Play"				
Begin Date	1/1/1952	End Date	12/31/1953	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#16	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Scrapbook: "Sindulalla"				
Begin Date	4/1/1955	End Date	4/30/1955	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#17	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Setnicat, Sr. Mary Alice, OSB				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#18	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) 75th Jubilee				
Begin Date	10/15/1978			DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#19	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) 75th Jubilee				
Begin Date	10/15/1978			DB Box Number 43431.03

Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#20	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) 75th Jubilee				
Begin Date	10/15/1978		DB Box Number	43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#21	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Rev. Wencelslaus Sholar, OSB				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#22	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Silver Jubilee Band				
Begin Date	1/1/1928	End Date	12/31/1928	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#23	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Bishop				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#24	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Bishop's Coat of Arms				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#25	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Bishop's Throne				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#26	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Group Photo				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#27	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Parade				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#28	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified People				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#29	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Unidentified Priests				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#30	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Ushers				
DB Box Number 43431.03				
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#31	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Vocation Sunday: Nuns				
Begin Date	1/1/1978	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 43431.03
Folder	Record Number	HIST/P2900/35#32	Classification	History Records - Photographic Materials
Title (Free Text Part) Sr. Evelyn Zarc, OSB				
DB Box Number 43431.03				