

11-16-2015

Paul J. Murphy, SJ Papers

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Paul J. Murphy SJ

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Recommended Citation

New England Jesuit Province Archives; New England Province of the Society of Jesus; and Murphy, Paul J. SJ, "Paul J. Murphy, SJ Papers" (2015). *Finding Aids, Special Collections*. Paper 19.
http://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid_nen_spcoll/19

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**Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England
c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395**

Record Group: MSS

Name of Collection: Rev. Paul J. Murphy, SJ (1908 – 1990) Papers

Record Group Number: MS MURPHY, PJ

Size of Collection: 17 boxes: 14 – 5” boxes + 3 – 2.5” boxes = 7.75 linear feet
1 folder of photographs
4 audiocassette tapes

Dates of Collection: 1933-1990

Biographical Sketch:

Paul Joseph Murphy was born on November 18, 1908 in Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA, the son of Jeremiah Edward and Mary Teresa Crowley Murphy. He attended Milton Public Grammar School and then, Boston College High School from 1922-1926. Following graduation, he entered into the Society of Jesus at Shadowbrook in Lenox, MA on September 7, 1926. Both his novitiate and juniorate were completed at Shadowbrook between 1926 and 1930. From 1930 until 1933, he studied Philosophy at Weston College in Weston, MA. For his regency, he spent two years at St. George's College in Kingston, Jamaica, teaching second year Mathematics and Spanish. After his regency, he returned to Weston to study Theology from 1935 until 1939 and also was ordained there on June 19, 1938 by Bishop Thomas A. Emmet, S.J. After completing his Theological studies, he began study in Sacred Eloquence, also at Weston, from 1939 to 1941. He received A.B. and M.A. degrees from Boston College and an S.T.L. in Sacred Eloquence from Weston College. His tertianship year was spent in Port Townsend, Washington from 1941-42. In 1942 he became an Assistant Professor of Religion and Spanish at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. From 1943 until 1946 he was a Chaplain for the U.S. Maritime Service and then, the U.S. Navy. During this period, he took his final vows as a Jesuit at Weston College, on February 2, 1944. When he completed his active service as a Navy Chaplain, he returned to Holy Cross College and resumed his previous position for another year. He remained in the naval reserve until 1953. In 1947, he became a Parish Assistant at St. Mary's in the North End of Boston. In 1948, he began work with St. Joseph's Retreat League for Workingmen, and would be associated with that work from 1948 until 1964, serving as Co-Director with his brother Edward from 1948-1955, Director from 1955-1963, and Assistant Director from 1963-1964. When he left the St. Joseph's Retreat League in 1964, he became Assistant Professor of Theology at Boston College, serving in this position until 1970. From 1970 until 1974, he was Retreat Director at Campion Hall in North Andover, MA. From 1974 until 1990, he worked with the local apostolate and retreat ministry at Weston College. On August 21, 1990, he died in Boston MA, at the age of 82. He is buried in the Jesuit cemetery at Campion Center in Weston, MA.

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In addition to his Province assignments, Fr. Murphy was prominent in many national and local movements. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the National Catholic Social Action Conference from 1961 until 1966. He served on the board and also worked as a field representative of Morality in Media, New York (MIM), a national organization dedicated to combating pornography and encouraging vigorous enforcement of obscenity laws. Fr. Murphy succeeded the first President of Morality in Media, New York, Rev. Morton A. Hill, S.J. after his death in 1985, serving in that capacity until 1988, after which he became vice chairman. Fr. Murphy was a founder of Morality in the Media of Massachusetts, an affiliate of the national organization. In 1969 he became its First President and served as a Member of the Board of Directors for the remainder of his life. He was also a founder of the Value of Life Committee of Massachusetts (VOLCOM) opposing abortion and euthanasia. He served as a Member of the Board of Governors of VOLCOM from 1972-1977, and remained active with the organization until his death. In 1984, he became a panelist on the "Topic Religion" program of WEEI-AM radio also continuing this activity until his death.

Fr. Paul Murphy was the youngest of three brothers who were members of the New England Province. His older brothers were Fr. George M. Murphy, S.J. (1899-1971) and Fr. Edward L. Murphy, S.J. (1904-1973), who served with Paul as Co-Director of St. Joseph's Retreat League for Workingmen. The Murphy brothers were also the uncles of another member of the New England Province, Fr. W. Laurence O'Neil, S.J. (1930-2009).

Scope and Content:

Fr. Paul J. Murphy's papers consist of format, subject, and administrative files. The format series are biographical papers, correspondence, writings, and retreat notes. The subject series consist of Theology Notes, Society of Jesus and New England Province History, and other files, grouped under the Series: Varia – One Folder of Material, that includes "Topic Religion" radio program notes. The administrative files consist of materials related to organizations Fr. Murphy was involved with: Morality in Media, New York; Morality in Media in Massachusetts; and the Value of Life Committee (VOLCOM). Many of the subject and administrative files also contain correspondence and writings. The biographical papers document his military service and Jesuit membership. The correspondence consists of letters to and from his family, including his brothers, Frs. George M. Murphy, S.J. (1899-1971) and Edward L. Murphy, S.J. (1904-1973), letters from Robert Chaplin (1887-1961), a well-known member of the International Workers of the World (IWW, aka Wobbly), and letters to Editors and Radio-TV stations regarding pornography, obscenity and other topics. The writings are divided into secular and ecclesiastical files. The secular writings cover topics of importance to Fr. Murphy: abortion, pornography, homosexuality and sex education. Speeches are also included in this series. One folder includes notes for a "Proposed Book of My Writings" that gives a basic bibliography of the writings he considered important. The ecclesiastical writings consist of retreat talks, sermons and homilies. The Society of Jesus and New England Province History series includes files on the history of three apostolates of the New England Province: Campion Hall, a retreat house in North Andover, MA; St. Joseph's Retreat League for Workingmen, a work which Frs. Paul and Edward Murphy founded; and, Xavier High School in Concord, MA. The administrative files contain correspondence, documents, publications, conference materials and subject files specifically related to that organization.

There is also one folder of personal photographs and 4 audiocassette tapes dating from the mid-1980s of speeches and recorded radio programs, see box-folder list for specific titles.

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Processing Notes:

Series labels were applied by the archives. The folders labels are largely as they were received at the archives. Any additions or clarifications added at the archives are included in square brackets on the folder. These brackets have not been including in the box/folder listing to improve readability. In some cases, overcrowded folders were sub-divided; this is noted with the notation "Folder 1 of X." A large part of the papers, as transferred to the archives, consisted of Fr. Murphy's subject file or "library" of newspaper clippings, magazine and a few scientific articles. This material was discarded because of space and preservation concerns. It was largely articles from the major East Coast newspapers, esp. the *New York Times*, and the Boston papers, as well as the Catholic press. Fr. Murphy was well informed about topics of interest and concern to him as presented in the popular press.

Fr. Paul Murphy was the custodian of his brothers' papers: Frs. George and Edward (Ned). These papers have been separated and processed as individual collections. George's papers consist of 1-5" document box. Edward's papers consist of 2-5" document boxes.

See:

RG 12 Audiovisual, Photographs for 1 folder of personal photos including a group photo of the founders of the Value of Life Committee (VOLCOM).

RG 12 Audiovisual, Audio Tapes, Audiocassette tapes for 4 cassettes of speeches and radio programs.

Also see:

The Province Dissertation and Thesis Collection for Fr. Murphy's Thesis for Licentiate in Theology: "The Virtue of Supernatural Charity and St. Ignatius Contemplation for Obtaining Divine Love"

The New England Province Authors Collection for copies of his published articles.

RG 12 Audiovisual, Photographs for 1 folder of personal photos including a group photo of the founders of the Value of Life Committee (VOLCOM).

RG 12 Audiovisual, Photographs for photographs of St. Joseph's Retreat League for Workingmen. There are also oversize photographs related to this apostolate.

RG 10.19 St. Joseph's Retreat League for information about this apostolate.

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Access / Restrictions:

All the material, except one permanently restricted file of Personal Correspondence with his Jesuit Superiors, is available for research.

Cite As: Rev. Paul J. Murphy (1908-1990) Manuscript Collection
MS MURPHY, PJ
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Archives of Society of Jesus of New England

Manuscript Collection: Rev. Paul J. Murphy, S.J. (1908 – 1990)
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Biographical and Personal Information

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Military Service – Chaplain Years	1943-1954	1 – 5"	1
Society of Jesus Documents	1933-1962	1	2
Jubilee, 1976 [50 years as a Jesuit]	1976	1	3
Tench Marriage Case	1951	1	4
Newspaper Clippings re: Pornography	1965-1986	1	5
Varia	1929-1960	1	6

Correspondence

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Congratulatory Messages [Topic Religion Programs, Anniversaries]	1979-1990	1 – 5"	7
Letters re: Topic Religion Radio Program. N.B.: Similar letters in Congratulatory Messages	1987	1	8
Letters to family from Paul while assigned to Jamaica Mission	1933-1935	1	9
Letters to Paul (and other family members) from Ned	1935-1944	1	10
Letters to Paul (and some others) from George	1934, 1943-1944	1	11
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 1 of 6: Jesuit Superiors RESTRICTED	1943-1987	1	12
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 2 of 6: Roman Catholic Hierarchy	1964-1990	1	13
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 3 of 6: Government Officials and Representatives	1964-1989	1	14
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 4 of 6: Alfred A. Albert, Attorney	1962-1975	2 – 5"	1
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 5 of 6: Re: George, his brother	1971	2	2
Personal Correspondence (Private), Folder 6 of 6: Other	1951-1990	2	3
Letters from Ralph Chaplin (1887-1961; IWW-Wobbly) and 1 draft of Murphy's reply	1948-1949	2	4
Pornography – (Pre-Morality in media of Massachusetts)	1958-1959, 1964-1969	2	5
Letters to Editors and Radio-TV Stations, Folder 1 of 3	n.d., 1957, 1963-1975	2	6
Letters to Editors and Radio-TV Stations, Folder 2 of 3	1976-1981	2	7
Letters to Editors and Radio-TV Stations, Folder 3 of 3	1982-1990	2	8
Letters to the Editor written by Eileen J. Fallon	1959-1981	2	9

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Writings: My Writings

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Abortion – My Writings, Folder 1 of 2	n.d., 1971-1974	3 – 5"	1
Abortion – My Writings, Folder 1 of 2	1975-1989	3	2
Articles – My Writings, N.B. see New England Authors Collection for published copies	n.d., 1966-1989	3	3
Homosexuality – My Writings	n.d., 1974-1987	3	4
Remarks	1969-1988	3	5
Sex Education – My Writings	n.d., 1969-1989	3	6
Speeches, Folder 1 of 2	n.d., 1946-1979	4 – 2.5"	1
Speeches, Folder 2 of 2	1980-1990	4	2
Thesis for Licentiate in Theology: "The Virtue of Supernatural Charity and St. Ignatius Contemplation for Obtaining Divine Love", see Dissertations and Thesis Collection	1939, circa		
Varia – My Writings, Folder 1 of 3	1940-1990	4	3
Varia – My Writings, Folder 2 of 3: Pornography, Morality in Media	1970-1990	4	4
Varia – My Writings, Folder 3 of 3: Proposed Book of My Writings	1985, circa	4	5

Writings: Ecclesiastical

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Retreat Talks – Several Series, Folder 1 of 2	1939-1980	5 – 5"	1
Retreat Talks – Several Series, Folder 2 of 2	1939-1980	5	2
Occasional Sermons, Folder 1 of 2	1940-1989	5	3
Occasional Sermons, Folder 2 of 2	1940-1989	5	4
Homilies – Feast Days and Varia, Folder 1 of 2: with calendar dates	1939-1990	5	5
Homilies – Feast Days and Varia, Folder 2 of 2: by Liturgical Year, Subjects, Varia and Fragments	1939-1990	5	6

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Retreats/Conferences

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Cana Conferences – Marriage – The Family	1945-1982	6 – 5"	1
Danvers Carmel (Nuns)	n.d., 1976-1990	6	2
Retreat Apostolate – General Material	1938-1975	6	3
Retreat Notes	1940s, circa	6	4
Spiritual Exercises – First Week	1948-1981	6	5
Spiritual Exercises – Second Week	n.d.	6	6
Spiritual Exercises – Third Week		6	7
Spiritual Exercises – Fourth Week		6	8
7 Last Words and Novena of Grace, Folder 1 of 2	n.d.	6	9
7 Last Words and Novena of Grace, Folder 2 of 2	1940-1980s	6	10
Also see: Retreat Talks – Several Series, 2 folders in Writings: Ecclesiastical Series	1939-1990	5	5 & 6

Theology Notes

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Academic Freedom – Catholic Moral Teaching	1949-1990	7 – 5"	1
Catholic Theology at Boston College, esp. Committee on Theology Curriculum	1967-1973, 1981	7	2
Faith, Church, Apologetics Notes, Folder 1 of 2	1960s	7	3
Faith, Church, Apologetics Notes, Folder 1 of 2: Lectures – Discussion Meetings for C.C.D. Teachers	1960s	7	4
Set of all my mimeographed Theology Notes, Folder 1 of 2	1942-1975	7	5
Set of all my mimeographed Theology Notes, Folder 2 of 2	1942-1975	7	6

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Society of Jesus and New England Province History

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Campion Hall, North Andover – Its Demise	1971-74	8 – 5"	1
Drinan, S.J., Robert	1966-1981	8	2
Jesuitana, Folder 1 of 2	1970-1990	8	3
Jesuitana, Folder 2 of 2	1970-1990	8	4
St. Joseph's Retreat League – Origin and History	1948-1985	8	5
Xavier High School, Concord – Closing	1968-1980	8	6

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Morality in Media, New York

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence [mostly letters to Fr. Murphy from Rev. Morton Hill, S.J.]	1965-1985	9 – 5"	1
Letters and Current Events	1986-1989	9	2
Correspondence – Varia	1968-1989	9	3
National Board, Folder 1 of 2	1972-1990	9	4
National Board, Folder 2 of 2: Directors Meetings, Agendas and a few Minutes	1973-1990	9	5
National Activities	1978-1989	9	6
National Office – Documents (Varia)	1986-1990	9	7
Hill, S.J., Rev. Morton – Death of	1986	9	8
Knights of Columbus	1978-1987	10	1
Legal Cases	1986, 1988	10	2
Radio and TV Push	1981-1988	10	3
My Trips to Dioceses for MIM, NY – Correspondence and Arrangements	1976-1978	10	4
Atlanta, Georgia	197-1985	10	5
Field Trips: California, St. Louis, Central Michigan, Central Connecticut, Houston	1977-1980	10	6
Homosexuality	1987-1990	10	7
Homosexuality and the Church	1983-1989	10	8
Conferences, Fr. Murphy speaker, Folder 1 of 3	1980-1986	10	9
Conferences, Fr. Murphy speaker, Folder 2 of 3: Denver	1985	11 – 2.5"	1
Conferences, Fr. Murphy speaker, Folder 3 of 3: Orlando	1987	11	2
Magazine and Newspaper Material	1979-1990	11	3
Publications – Brochures	1970s-1990	12 – 5"	1
Publications – Newsletters (Incomplete run)	1974-1990	12	2
Publications – Dated	1983-1986	12	3
Publications – Dated: Summary Report of Attorney General's Pornography Commission	1986	12	4
Publications – Dated	1987	12	5
Publications – Undated	1970-1990	12	6
Publications – National Obscenity law Brochure and Newsletter	1976, circa	12	7
Publications – Obscenity Law Bulletin	1977-1983, 1987, 1989	12	8

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Morality in Media in Massachusetts

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Board of Directors, Folder 1 of 2: Minutes and Agendas, incomplete	1974-1985	13 – 5"	1
Board of Directors, Folder 2 of 2: Minutes and Agendas, incomplete	1986-1990	13	2
Records – Financial, Treasurers Reports, incomplete	1971-1990	13	3
Fund Raising and Financial Correspondence	1980-1990	13	4
Letters to Media by MM Mass Officers and Board	1977-1988	13	5
Digest for Speakers	1981	13	6
Current Items	1980-1990	13	7
Current Events	1986-1990	14 – 5"	1
Cable TV, Folder 1 of 2	1980-1981	14	2
Cable TV, Folder 2 of 2	1982-1987	14	3
Channel 2, WGBH-TV, Boston – MM Mass Complaint to FCC, 1978	1978	14	4
Governor's Advisory Committee – Cablevision, August 16 – December 30, 1982	1982-1983	14	5
Caligula (film)	1980-1981	14	6
Cape Cod – (CADOP): CADOP: Committee Against Display of Pornography and CAIDOP: Committee Against Indiscriminate Display of Pornography	1979-1986	15 – 5"	1
Springfield Decency Group	1981-1986	15	2
Homosexuality: AIDS – Condoms	1985-1988	15	3
Pornography – Primary Material	1970-1980s	15	4
Pornography, Obscenity	1978-1989	15	5
Pornography – Obscenity Laws: Massachusetts Towns	1981-1985	15	6
Extra Copies: Flyers, Articles by Fr. Murphy, Articles by others, Clippings and Varia	1970s-1980s	15	7
Conference – A Call for Compassion	1985, circa	15	8
Publications – Brochures and Reports	1970s-1980s	15	9
Publications – Newsletter, begins with Volume 4	1976-1990	15	10

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Value of Life Committee (VOLCOM)

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Organizational Papers, Folder 1 of 2	1970-1974	16 – 5"	1
Organizational Papers, Folder 1 of 2: History	1983, 1989	16	2
Newsletters	1971-1975	16	3
Abortion – Legal Aspects	1970s-1990	16	4
Abortion – Varia	1970-1990	16	5
Embryonic Cell Transplants – Chestnut Hill Medical Colloquium, June 29, 1983	1983-1989	16	6
Euthanasia	1975-1990	16	7
Food and Water – Nutrition and Hydration for the Terminally Ill	1984-1990	16	8
Human Experimentation, Fetal and Other	1983-1989	16	9
In Vitro Fertilization	1983-1989	16	10
In Vivo Fertilization (LTOT)	1982-1989	16	11

Varia – One Folder of Material

Folder Title	Date	Box	Folder
Blasphemy	1970s	17 – 2.5"	1
Church – Magisterium – Love for and Dissent	1968-1988	17	2
Church and State – Tax Aid to Education	1960s-1990	17	3
Interfaith Committee on Health and Morality – Crime, Police, Religion / ECOHAM: Ecumenical Committee on Health and Morality	1966-1969	17	4
Topic Religion Notes	1986-1989	17	5

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Audiocassettes

Stored in RG 12 Audiovisual, Audio Tapes, Audiocassettes, MS Box

Title	Date	Box	Folder
1. Evangelization and Public Obscenity, Address to Atlanta Christian Council 2. Sex Education, Speech to Catholic Alumni	n.d.	MS Box	
Homosexuality, Radio Talk Show, WKOX [Boston area, Framingham, MA]	n.d.	MS Box	
Regulations for Cable TV, 10 a.m. Radio Station, WKOX [Boston area, Framingham, MA], Fr. Murphy and Senator Edward Burke	1983, April 8	MS Box	
Topic Religion [WEEI Radio Program]	1984, Feb. 18 & 25	MS Box	
