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RG 01.10 Records of Provincial Edward M. O'Flaherty, S.J.

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Edward M. O'Flaherty SJ

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Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus
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One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

Record Group: 1, Records of the Provincial

Name of Collection: Rev. Edward M. O'Flaherty, SJ Records

Record Group Number: 1.10

Dates of Collection: 1979-1985

Size of Collection: 13 linear feet. 28 boxes: 24 - 5" boxes + 4 - 2.5" boxes

Biographical Sketch of Provincial:

Edward M. O'Flaherty was born October 29, 1934 to Edward M. and Rose R. O'Flaherty in Roslindale, a section of Boston, MA. Following his graduation from Boston College High School, he entered the Society at Shadowbrook, Lenox, MA, on August 14, 1952. When fire destroyed Shadowbrook in 1956, he went briefly to the New York Province house of studies at Plattsburg, NY. Then, he studied philosophy at Facultes de Saint-Albert de Louvain, Belgium, earning a Licentiate of Philosophy in 1959. He taught Latin, French, and history at Cheverus High School, Portland, ME from 1959 until 1961. From 1961-1962 he studied anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and was awarded a M.A. in anthropology in 1964. From 1962 to 1966 he studied theology at Weston College, Weston, MA, earning an M.A. in 1966. He also was ordained there in 1965. His tertainship was at St. Robert's Hall, Pomfret, CT from 1966 until 1967. Then, he returned to the University of Pennsylvania as a Ph.D. candidate continuing his studies in anthropology and was awarded his doctorate in 1979. He was a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania in the Fall of 1970 and from 1971 until 1973; a lecturer in anthropology and philosophy at St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1970-1971; and a visiting lecturer of moral theology at St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia, PA from 1971 until 1972. From 1973 until 1976 he taught anthropology in the Sociology Department at Boston College.

After three years of teaching at Boston College, he was asked to become rector of the community at the Jesuit School of Theology, in Berkeley, California—the first of three jobs leading important Jesuit institutions through dramatic changes in unsettled times. After his term as rector, he was provincial of the New England Province from 1979 to 1985 and, after a sabbatical in Paris, president of Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, from 1986 to 1992.

When he stepped down as president, it was to move in an entirely new direction. For years he had been a member of the Ministers' Club, a Boston institution since the 19th century, where clergy from different faiths come together for fellowship and ecumenical conversation, and he had also long been involved in regular work on weekends in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. These two interests converged when the Archdiocese asked him in 1992 to become Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and to head the Office of Pastoral Support of Priests, working especially with recently ordained clergy. He moved back to Boston College, which became his home

Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus

for the rest of his life. There he also took on jobs as assistant rector and community treasurer. He died from a brain tumor on February 21, 2012 at Campion Center, Weston, MA, where he is also buried.

Scope and Content:

The papers for each Provincial and Vice Provincial are divided into 15 categories, called Series. Below is a list of the series for the Records of the Provincial and Vice Provincial. Though the titles themselves may be self-explanatory, short explanations of each series are provided.

Series 1 through series 11 pertain solely to matters of the New England Province in relation to the subject matter of the series. Series 12-14 include the rest of the American Assistancy Provinces, International Provinces/ Jurisdictions and Non-Jesuit Catholic organizations.

Series 1: Province Governance includes papers relating to governing matters of the Provincial. Examples are Circular Letters and Notices to the Province, Province policy information, Province planning, Province Consultors' meetings, and so on.

Series 2: Finances Any financial material relating to the Province is located under Series 2, including the papers of the Treasurer (Procurator) and Revisor. Also included are budgets, benefactor information, retirement fund information, etc.

Series 3: Personnel includes any documents regarding individual Jesuits in the New England Province, Director of Personnel, personnel assignments, deceased Jesuits, departures from the Society, housing information, residency statistics, etc.

Series 4: Formation refers to the training of Jesuits prior to final vows. Subjects include spiritual formation, education, vows, and so on.

Series 5: Pastoral and Spiritual Apostolates and Matters includes retreat work and work performed in churches, the Apostleship of Prayer, Ignatian Spirituality, Mission Band, etc.

Series 6: Education Apostolate and Academic Training of Jesuits refers to higher learning apart from seminary training such as Jesuits getting a master's or doctorate degree at a university. Some titles found in this series are Prefect of Studies and Higher and Secondary Education Apostolates.

Series 7: Social Apostolate pertains especially to any work involving the labor movement and minorities.

Series 8: Houses/ Communities includes any school, parish, community and residence that is under the auspices of the New England Province.

Series 9: Missions and International Apostolates contains material involving any of the work performed outside the United States by the New England Province. Some examples are Iraq and Jamaica.

Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus

Series 10: Curia, Rome documents to or from the Curia in Rome are placed in this series, such as Numbered Circular Letters from Father General.

Series 11: General, Procurators', and Provincial Congregations contains any material referring to these congregations.

Series 12: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: American Assistancy includes information produced for or by the American Assistancy Provinces other than New England Province.

Series 13: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: International includes any province that is outside the American Assistancy.

Series 14: Non-Jesuit Catholic Church Jurisdictions and Organizations holds papers regarding Bishops, Military Ordinariate, Conference of the Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and so on.

Series 15: Other Organizations, Individuals, and Issues includes any matter that doesn't fit into the categories listed above is placed under Series 15. Some issues may be Morality in Media, Priests and Political Office, etc.

Series Table of Contents:

Series Number	Series Name	Page
1	Province Governance	1
2	Finances	2
3	Personnel	3
4	Formation	4
5	Pastoral and Spiritual Apostolates and Matters	4
6	Education	5
7	Social Apostolate	5
8	Houses / Communities / Parishes	6-7
9	Missions, International Apostolates, and Special Apostolates	8
10	Curia, Rome	9
11	General, Procurators and Provincial Congregations	10
12	Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: American Assistancy	11-13
13	Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: International	14
14	Non-Jesuit Catholic Church Jurisdictions and Organizations	15
15	Other Organizations, Individuals, and Issues	16

Access / Restrictions: This collection is open to researchers with the exception of permanently restricted material. Permanently restricted material consists of all Consultors materials, all visitation materials, all correspondence with Fr. General and some other materials. Restricted folders are identified in this finding aid.

Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus

Cite As: Rev. Edward M. O'Flaherty, SJ Records
Record Group 1, Records of the Provincial
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 1: Province Governance			
Provincial – Circular Letters and Notices to Province	1979-1981	1	1
Provincial – Circular Letters and Notices to Province	1982-1985	1	2
Provincial – Selection of Successor to Fr. Edward M. O'Flaherty – with Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum)	1983-1985	1	3
Corporation of the Society of Jesus of New England – Meetings	1980-1982	1	4
Consultors – Meetings	RESTRICTED 1980	1	5
Consultors – Meetings	RESTRICTED 1981-1982	1	5a
Consultors – Meetings	RESTRICTED 1983	1	6
Consultors – Meetings	RESTRICTED 1984	1	7
Consultors – Meetings	RESTRICTED 1985	1	8
Socius	1984-1985	1A	1
Staff – General	1982-1984	1A	1a
Staff – Meetings	1980	1A	2
Staff – Meetings	1981 January-August	1A	3
Staff – Meetings	1981 September-December	1A	4
Staff – Meetings	1982	1A	5
Staff – Meetings	1983	2	1
Staff – Meetings	1984 January-September	2	2
Staff – Meetings	1984 October-December	2	3
Staff – Meetings	1985 January-March	2	4
Staff – Meetings	1985 April-June	2	5
Superiors – Meetings	1979-1980	2	6
Superiors – Meetings	1981-1985	2	7
Apostolic Planning Committee	1985	2	8
Communications	1979-1983	2	9
Procedures – Annual Letters to Rome	1979	2	10
Province Day	1979-1985	2	11
Province Governance Structure – Proposed	1979-1980	2A	1
Province Governance Structure – Approved	1980	2A	2
Province Governance Structure – Evaluation of Province Governance, New England Province, Society of Jesus – Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)	1979	2A	3
Province Institute	1985	2A	4
Provincial – Article <i>Irrational Executives: Analysts Offer a New View</i>	1984	2A	5
Provincial – Letters of Support Regarding Nomination	1979	2A	6
Provincial – Varia	1982-1985	2A	7
<i>SJ News</i>	1980	2A	8

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 2: Finances			
Treasurer	1979-1981	2A	9
Treasurer	1982-1985	2A	10
Treasurer - Visitation	1980	2A	11
Advisory Council for Business and Finance (ACBF)	1979-1982	3	1
Benefactors	1988-1985	3	2
Budget	1979-1982	3	3
Budget Advisory Committee	1981	3	4
Budget Analysis	1985	3	5
Charitable Contributions / Alms	1979-1984	3	6
Committee Meetings – Investment, Development, and Community Support Fund Agenda Committees	1983	3	7
Community Support Fund/ Retirement Fund	1982-1983	3	8
Conference of Province Treasurers	1983	3	9
Corporate Responsibility and ICCR	1982	3	10
Development – Deferred Giving	1983-1985	3	11
Development – Missions	1982	3	12
Development – Seminary Guild	1981-1984	3	13
Facility Use / Space Needs	1979-1980	3	14
Individual Federal and State Income Tax Returns	1984	3	15
Investment Advisory Committee	1982-1983	3	16
Province Finance Advisory Committee	1979-1981	3	17
Province Supported Individuals	1981-1983	3	18
Real Estate Committee – 312-314 Dartmouth Street, Boston; 418 Beacon Street, Boston; 393 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston; Cranwell, Lenox, MA; Shadowbrook, Lenox, MA	1982-1985	3	19
Special Fund for the New England Province of the Society of Jesus	1984	3	20
Taxability of Income	1979-1983	3	21

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 3: Personnel			
Personnel Committee – Meetings	1980-1981	4	1
Age Distribution	1985	4	2
Brothers	1979-1983	4	3
Censors – Judgement of	1982-1984	4	4
Chaplains – Hospitals	1980	4	5
Clerical Dress	1984	4	6
Commission on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (CARA)	1979	4	7
Deceased Jesuits – Cemetery Directories – 1846-1985	1984-1985	4	8
Deceased Jesuits – Listings	1981	4	9
Deceased Jesuits – Notices	1982-1985	4	10
Deceased Jesuits – Notices – Procedures	1981	4	11
Departed Jesuits – Procedures	1979-1985	4	12
Departure Lists (Elenchus Dimissorum) – 1979-1983	1979-1983	4	13
Departure – Status Lists and other materials	1982-85	4	14
Former Jesuits and Scholastics – Lists – to 1981	1974-1981	4	15
Housing Requests	1979	4	16
Lindsay, S.J., Robert E.	1984	4	17
Loyalty and Dissent	1980	4	18
Mailgrams	1980	4	19
Manpower Projections	1984	4	20
Parish Staffing Requests	1980	4	21
Personnel Assignments	1980-1985	4	22
Personnel Requests	1985	4	23
Psychiatrists – List of	n.d.	4	24
Publishing	1980-1981	4	25
Secretarial Staff/ Lay Employees	1979-1982	4	26
Seniority – List by Age	1985	4	27
Travel Permissions	1980	4	28
Van Beeck S.J., Frans Jozef	1983	4	29
Vital Statistics	1979-1982	4	30

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 4: Formation			
Formation, Vice Provincial for, <i>see also: RG 5.1 Formation</i>	1979-1983	5	1
Vocations, Director of, <i>see also: RG 5.2 Formation</i>	1979-1982	5	2
Brother Vocations	1979-1981	5	3
Candidates	1979-1983	5	4
Canonization of Blessed Claude La Colombiere	1982	5	5
Final Vows/ Tertianship Program	1979-1982	5	6
Formation Promotional Booklet	1983	5	7
Novices	1979-1984	5	8
Novices – Announcements	1981-1983	5	9
Novices – Rosters by Year of Entrance and Subsequent Status – 1966-1982	1982	5	10
Ordinations	1979-1981, 1983	5	11
Ordinations – Programs	1979-1981, 1984-1985	5	12
Ordinations – Testimonials to Ordinations (Major and Minor Orders)/ Ordination Rosters and Documentation	1979-1985	5	13
Renewal Institute/ Continuing Theological Education	1979-1981	5	14
Seminary Study	1982-1984	5	15
Vocations – Promotional Booklet	1982	5	16
Vocations – Statistics	1983	5	17

Series 5: Pastoral and Spiritual Apostolates and Matters

Pastoral Apostolate – Assignments	1981	5	18
Pastoral Ministries, Assistant for	1981-1984	5	19
Atheism	1980-1981	5	20
Eastern Point Retreat House – Cease of Use as Villa	1981	5	21
“The Gathering” Conference, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA – August 1980	1980	5	22
Homosexuality	1981	5	23
Hospital Chaplains, Boston City Hospital	1977-1980	5	24
Hospital Chaplains	1982	5	25
Ignatian Spirituality	1980	5	26
Urban Ministry Task Force and Immaculate Conception Church	1980-1981	5	27

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 6: Education Apostolate and Academic Training of Jesuits			
Secondary Education Apostolate	1979-1982	5A	1
Secondary Education – Boards of Trustees	1984	5A	2
Secondary Education – Province Director of	1979-1985	5A	3
Secondary Education – Personnel	1984	5A	4
Apostolic Planning – Question of Approval for Degree Programs	1981	5A	5
Colloquium on the Ministry of Teaching	1982	5A	6
New England Jesuit Colloquium on Higher Education	1982	5A	7
New England Jesuit Colloquium on Higher Education – College and University Rectors – Meetings	1980-1985	5A	8
Office of Continuing Education – Religious Life: A Summer Institute for Jesuits – Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT June 15-19, 1981	1981	5A	9
Secondary School Advisory Council	1979-1981	5A	10
Secondary School Jesuits Meeting – January 1982	1982	5A	11
Special Students	1979-1981	5A	12
Series 7: Social Apostolate			
Social Ministries, Director of/ Assistant for Social Apostolate	1979-1982	6	1
Advocacy Material – Bolivia	1980	6	2
Advocacy Material – Cambodian Hunger Relief	1979	6	3
Advocacy Material – China	1980	6	4
Advocacy Material – Disappeared in Argentina	1979-1980	6	5
Advocacy Material – El Salvador and Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero	1980	6	6
Advocacy Material – Guyana	1980	6	7
Advocacy Material – Israel	1982	6	8
Advocacy Material – Latin America	1980	6	9
Advocacy Material – Military Draft	1980	6	10
Common Life	1982-1985	6	11
Faith and Justice	1979	6	12
Institute of Industrial Relations/ Labor Guild/ 761 Harrison Avenue, Boston	1980-1981	6	13
Institute of Industrial Relations/ Labor Guild/ 761 Harrison Avenue, Boston	1982-1983	6	14
Institute of Industrial Relations/ Labor Guild/ 761 Harrison Avenue, Boston	1984-1985	6	15
Jesuit Office of Social Ministries – Newspaper Editorials	1980	6	16
Labor Relations/ Unionization	1981-1984	6	17

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 8: Houses/ Communities			
House Consultors - Instructions	1981	7	1
House Histories – Boston College Jesuit Community (St. Mary's)	1980-1982	7	2
House Histories – Campion Residence and Renewal Center, Weston, MA	1980-1981	7	3
Houses - Maintenance	1983	7	4
Bishop Connolly High School/ Fall River, MA	1979-1985	7	5
Bishop Connolly High School/ Fall River, MA – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector	1981-1982	7	6
Boston College/ Chestnut Hill, MA	1979-1985	7	7
Boston College/ Chestnut Hill, MA – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector	1982	7	8
Boston College/ Chestnut Hill, MA – Articles Regarding	n.d.	7	9
Boston College/ Chestnut Hill, MA – Jesuit Community	1979-1985	7	10
Boston College/ Chestnut Hill, MA – Weston Observatory	1982	7	11
Boston College High School/ Dorchester, MA	1980-1985	7	12
Campbell House/ 418 Beacon St., Boston, MA	1979-1983	8	1
Campion Residence and Renewal Center/ Weston, MA	1979-1982	8	2
Campion Residence and Renewal Center/ Weston, MA	1983-1985	8	3
Center for Religious Development/ 39-42 Kirkland St., Cambridge, MA	1979-1984	8	4
Cheverus High School/ Portland, ME	1979-1984	8	5
Cheverus High School/ Portland, ME – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector	1982	8	6
Cranwell Renewal Center/ Lenox, MA	1979-1985	8	7
Fairfield University, College Preparatory School, Jesuit Community/ Fairfield, CT	1979-1985	8	8
Fairfield University, College Preparatory School, Jesuit Community/ Fairfield, CT – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector	1983-1984	8	9
Fairfield University/ Fairfield, CT – The Jesuit Community's Corporate Commitment to the Apostolate of Higher Education	1981	8	10
Gonzaga Hall/ Eastern Point Retreat House/ Gloucester, MA	1979-1985	9	1
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA	1979-1984	9	2
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA – Jesuit Community	1979-1981	9	3
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA – Jesuit Community	1982-1985	9	4
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA – Jesuit Community – Consultor Meetings	1981-1984	9	5
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA – Jesuit Community – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector – 1 of 2	1982-1983	9	6
Holy Cross, College of the/ Worcester, MA – Jesuit Community – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector – 2 of 2	1982-1983	9	7
Created: June 1, 1999	RG 1.10 O'Flaherty	6	
Updated: March 10, 2015	Box-Folder List		

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 8: Houses/ Communities			
Immaculate Conception Church/ 761 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA	1979-1985	9	8
James Leo Burke House/ 57 Orchard Street, Jamaica Plain, MA	1985	9	9
Loyola House/ 297 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA	1980-1984	9	10
Loyola House/ 297 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Superior	1983	9	11
Maine Parish Apostolate – St. Joseph's Parish/ Eastport, ME, St. Ann's Mission/ Pleasant Point Indian Reservation/ Perry, ME	1980-1982	10	1
Provincial Offices/ 761 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA	1981-1985	10	2
St. Andrew Bobola House Novitiate/ 300 Newberry Street, Boston, MA	1980-1985	10	3
St. Ignatius Church/ Chestnut Hill, MA	1980-1983	10	4
St. John's Church/ Bangor, ME	1981-1985	10	5
St. Joseph Center/ The Jesuit Center/ Charlestown, MA	1980-1984	10	6
Sts. Peter and Paul Church/ Norwich, CT	1981-1985	10	7
Shadowbrook/ Lenox, MA	1979-1980	10	8
Shadowbrook/ Lenox, MA	1981-1983	10	9
Shadowbrook/ Lenox, MA – John F. Costelloe	1981	10	10
Weston School of Theology/ Cambridge, MA – <i>see also Jesuit Conference</i>	1980-1984	10	11
Weston School of Theology/ Cambridge, MA – <i>see also Jesuit Conference</i>	1985	10	12
Weston Jesuit Community/ Cambridge, MA – <i>see also Jesuit Conference</i>	1980-1984	10	13
Province Properties – Architecture	1981	10	14

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 9: Missions, International Apostolates, and Special Apostolates			
International Ministries, Director of/ Assistant for International Apostolate	1980-1984	11	1
Jesuit Foreign Missions of New England	1980-1985	11	2
Jesuit Foreign Missions of New England – Financial Statements	1979-1981	11	3
Jesuit Foreign Missions of New England – Financial Statements	1982-1984	11	4
Mission Contracts	1982-1983	11	5
Brazil Apostolate – Bahia Vice Province	1980-1984	11	6
Brazil Apostolate – History of Mission 1964-1980	1980	11	7
Eastern Africa Region	1979-1981	11	8
Eastern Africa Region – Newsletter	1979-1981	11	9
Jamaica Region	1979-1985	11	10
Jamaica Region – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Superior	1984	11	11
Jamaica Region – St. George's College/ Kingston – Superiors – Selection – Candidate Nominations (Terna), Assessments of Aptitude for Governing (Apti Ad Gubernandum) – Rector	1982-1983	11	12
Jamaica Region – Archbishop of Kingston, Samuel E. Carter, S.J.	1982-1983	11	13
Jamaica Region – Bishop of Nassau, Lawrence A. Burke, S.J.	1982	11	14
Jamaica Region – Superior, Circular Letters, <i>see</i> RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission/Region, Superiors' Correspondence, Circular Letters	1979-1985	11A	1
Jamaica Region – Superior, Correspondence	1979-1985	11A	2
Jamaica Region – Consultors Meetings RESTRICTED	1979, 1981-1985	11A	3
Jamaica Region – Jamaica Centre for Religious Development (JCRD), Newsletter	1980	11A	4
Jamaica Region – St. George's College, Kingston	1980-1985	11A	5
Jamaica Region – Visitation RESTRICTED	1984	11A	6
Missionaries – Age Distributions	1979, 1980, 1984	11A	7
Missionaries – Directory of Jesuits Who Have Served on Foreign Missions...Listed in New England Province Catalogues, 1927-1985	1984	11A	8
Near East Apostolate – Near East Province	1979-1985	11A	9
Near East Apostolate – Near East Province, Amman, Jordan	1982-1985	11A	10
Near East Apostolate – Near East Vice Province, Center for the Study of the Modern Arab World (CEMAM)	1979-1985	11A	11
Near East Apostolate – Near East Vice Province, Center for the Study of the Modern Arab World (CEMAM), Meetings and Reports	1979-1981	11A	12
Near East Apostolate – Near East Vice Province, Center for the Study of the Modern Arab World (CEMAM), Meetings and Reports	1982-1985	11A	13
Near East Apostolate – Louziae Center of Higher Education, Beirut, Lebanon	1980	11A	14

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 10: Curia, Rome			
Documents Sent to Curia, Rome – Annual Statistics – Personnel Statistics (Statisticæ Personarum) – 1979-1985	1979-1985	11A	15
Documents Sent to Curia, Rome – Annual Statistics – Personnel Statistics (Statisticæ Personarum) – Forms	1981-1982	11A	16
Numbered Protocol Letters received from the Curia in Rome, <i>see RG 2.3: Curia Correspondence</i> RESTRICTED	1979-1985		
Numbered Protocol Letters sent to the Curia in Rome, <i>see RG 2.3: Curia Correspondence</i> RESTRICTED	1979-1985		
Father General Pedro Arrupe, Peter Hans Kolvenbach, Papal Delegate Paul Dezza, Fr. Secretary, et. al. – Numbered Circular letters and Notices – with index	1979-1985	11A	17
Father General Pedro Arrupe	1980-1981	12	1
Father General Pedro Arrupe – Addresses, Talks: <i>see also: SJ Documentation in RG 14: Publications</i>	1980-1981	12	2
Father General Pedro Arrupe – Health and Intended Resignation	1980-1981	12	3
Father General Pedro Arrupe – Meetings with Provincial Edward M. O'Flaherty, American Assistance Provincials – December 1980	1980	12	4
Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenback – Finances – Status Temporalis Annuus	1984	12	5
Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenback – Maria Luisa Diaz	1984-1985	12	5a
Papal Delegate Paul Dezza – Appointment	1981-1982	12	6
Papal Delegate Paul Dezza – Meeting with Provincials – Villa Cavaletti, February-March 1982	1981-1982	12	7
Papal Delegate Paul Dezza	1983	12	8
Papal Delegate Coadjutor Joseph Pittau	1982	12	9
Father Secretary Louis Laurendeau, Johann Gunter Gerhartz	1982-1984	12	10
General Treasurer Eugen Hillengass	1979-1982	12	11
American Assistant Gerald R. Sheahen, S.J. and staff	1980-1984	12	12
President Jesuit Conference John O'Callaghan	1981-1985	12	13
Various Offices and Officials	1979-1985	12	14
Consortio Universitario (Gregorian)	1981-1984	12	15
FACSI (Charitable and Apostolic Fund of the Society of Jesus)	1979-1981	12	16
<i>Letters on the Service of Faith and New Cultures</i>	1980, 1982	12	17

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 11: General, Procurators', and Provincial Congregations			
General Congregations	1980	13	1
General Congregation XXXII – <i>National Jesuit News Series</i>	1982	13	2
General Congregation XXXIII	1982	13	3
General Congregation XXXIII	1983 January-August	13	4
General Congregation XXXIII	1983 September	13	5
General Congregation XXXIII	1983 October-1984	13	6
General Congregation XXXIII – Commissions	1983	13	7
General Congregation XXXIII – Final Documents	1983	13	8
General Congregation XXXIII – Ordo Agendorum	1983	13	9
General Congregation XXXIII – Proceedings (Acta)	1983	13	10
General Congregation XXXIII – Also see: MS Collection of Rev. William G. Guindon, S.J.			
Procurator General – Definition/Explanation of	1984	14	1
Provincial Congregation – Formula for	1982	14	2
Provincial Congregation – 1983	1982-1983	14	3
Provincial Congregation – Regulations and Procedures [booklets]	1969-1977	14	4
Provincial Congregation – Regulations and Procedures	1982	14	5
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Election of Delegates	1983	14	6
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Minutes	1983	14	7
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Other American Provinces	1982-1983	14	8
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Petitions (Postulata)	1983-1984	14A	1
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Procedures and Regulations	1983	14A	2
Provincial Congregation – 1983 – Delegates Packet	1983	14A	3
Provincial Congregation – 1984 – <i>A Guide for Delegates to a Province</i> <i>Congregation Preceding a Congregation of Procurators, Rome, 1984</i>	1984	14A	4

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 12: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: American Assistancy			
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1979-1980	15	1
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1981	15	2
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1982	15	3
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1983	15	4
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1984	15	5
Jesuit Conference – Memos, Correspondence, Reports	1985	15	6
Jesuit Conference – Orientation Booklet [history and rationale]	1979, circa	15	7
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting	1979, October	15	8
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 1 of 4	1979, May	15A	1
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 2 of 4	1979, May	15A	2
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 3 of 4	1979, May	15A	3
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 4 of 4	1979, May	15A	4
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1980, February	15A	5
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1980, May	15A	6
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 1 of 2	1980, October	15B	1
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material, Folder 2 of 2	1980, October	15B	2
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Index of Minutes: February, May and October 1980	1980	15B	3
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1981, February	15B	4
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1981, May	15B	5
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1981, October	15B	6
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Index of Minutes: February, May and October 1981	1981	15B	7
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1982, February	15B	8
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1982, May	15B	9
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Meeting material	1982, October	15B	10
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Meeting material [Ballots]	1983, February	15C	1
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1983, May	15C	2
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1984, February	15C	3
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Meeting material	1984, May	15C	4
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1984, October	15C	5
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Index of Minutes: February, May and October 1984	1984	15C	6
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1985, February	15C	7
Jesuit Conference – Board Meeting – Minutes and meeting material	1985, May	15C	8
Jesuit Conference – American Assistancy Annual Survey – Number and Origin of Novices	1979-1983	15D	1

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 12: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: American Assistancy			
Jesuit Conference – American Assistancy Theological Centers – <i>see also Weston School of Theology</i>	1981-1985	15D	2
Jesuit Conference – American Assistancy Theological Centers Budget	1982, September	15D	3
Jesuit Conference – American Assistancy Theological Centers – Ad Hoc Committee – <i>see also Weston School of Theology</i>	1983-1984	15D	4
Jesuit Conference – Context of Ministries, Province curial reports	1980, April	15D	5
Jesuit Conference – Context of Ministries, Background material	1980, May	15D	6
Jesuit Conference – Context of Ministries, Draft of report	1980, August	15D	7
Jesuit Conference – Context of Ministries, Study	1981, January	15D	8
Jesuit Conference – Context of Ministries, New England Province	1980-1982	15D	9
Jesuit Conference – <i>The Context of Our Ministries: Working Papers</i> , 3 copies	1981	15D	10
Jesuit Conference – The Context of Our Ministries, Varia	1981	15D	11
Jesuit Conference – English Translation of Father General's Letter on the Alienation of Goods	1985	15D	12
Jesuit Conference – Finances	1980-1984	15D	13
Jesuit Conference – Finances – Province Treasurer Meetings	1981-1983	16	1
Jesuit Conference – <i>The Global 2000 Report</i>	1980	16	2
Jesuit Conference – Goal 1 consultation, Agenda and Background Material	1980, January	16	3
Jesuit Conference and the National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries – <i>Building a Just Peace</i>	1985	16	4
American Assistancy Provinces – California Province	1979-1984	16	5
American Assistancy Provinces – Detroit Province	1984	16	6
American Assistancy Provinces – Detroit Province – 25 th Anniversary Symposium	1980	16	7
American Assistancy Provinces – Maryland Province	1983-1984	16	8
American Assistancy Provinces – Missouri Province	1979-1983	16	9
American Assistancy Provinces – Missouri Province – <i>A Remonstrance to the Very Reverend Fathers Provincial of the American Assistancy of the Society of Jesus Together With a Modest Proposal</i>	1980	16	10
American Assistancy Provinces – New Orleans Province	1980-1982	16	11
American Assistancy Provinces – New Orleans Province – Institute of Human Relations – <i>Blueprint for Social Justice</i>	1982-1985	16	12
American Assistancy Provinces – New York Province	1980-1984	16	13
American Assistancy Provinces – Oregon Province	1980-1984	16	14
American Assistancy Provinces – Wisconsin Province	1980-1985	16	15
American Assistancy – Organizational Mailings List	1981-1982	16	16
American Assistancy – Province Manpower	1981	16	17
American Assistancy – Theological Centers – Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley	1980-1985	16	18
American Assistancy Seminar on Jesuit Spirituality	1981-1982	16	19
American Provinces – Scholastics and Priests in Formation	1980	16	20
Apostolic Opportunities for Older Jesuits	1981	16	21
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities	1979-1980	16	22

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 12: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: American Assistancy			
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities – <i>College Enrollment Trends: Testing the Conventional Wisdom Against the Facts</i>	1981	16	23
<i>The Catholic College: Model for Justice</i> by William McInnes, S.J.	n.d.	16	24
Christian Life Communities	1982-1985	16	25
<i>Company Magazine</i>	1983-1985	16	26
Eastern Rite Apostolate in America	1980	16	27
Higher Education – General	1979-1985	17	1
Higher Education Meetings – American Assistancy Provincials, Rectors, and Presidents	1981-1984	17	2
Jesuit Association Vocation Survey 1972-1982	1983	17	3
Jesuit Brothers	1979-1983	17	3a
Jesuit Center for Social Studies/ Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.	1984	17	4
Jesuit Missions – American Assistancy National Office	1980-1983	17	5
Jesuit Refugee Service	1983-1984	17	6
Jesuit Retreat and Renewal Ministry (JRRM)	1980	17	7
Jesuit Volunteer Corps	1979-1985	17	8
Jesuit Secondary Education Association	1979-1982	17	9
Native North American (Indian) Ministry	1984	17	10
National Jesuit Brothers' Committee to American Jesuits – <i>The Jesuit Brother</i>	n.d.	17	11
<i>National Jesuit News, Special Supplement to</i>	1979	17	12
National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries – <i>Corresponding With Your Member of Congress</i>	n.d.	17	13
National Jesuit Peace Advocacy Network	n.d.	17	14
Secondary Education Apostolate – American Provinces	1979-1982	17	15
Visitation of Schools of Theology in the United States Mandated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, July 1985 – <i>Instrument Part One and Instrument Part Two</i>	1985	17	16

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 13: Jesuit Jurisdictions and Organizations: International			
Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome	1979-1983	17	17
Pontifical Gregorian University Consortium	1981-1985	17	18
Caribbean Jesuits – Directories	1980-1982	17	19
<i>Human Rights and Religious Faith in the Middle East: Reflections of a Christian Theologian</i> by David Hollenbach, S.J.	1980	17	20
Ignatian Spirituality Center – Books Published by	1981	17	21
International Center for Jesuit Education	1980	17	22
JESCOM/ International Jesuit Center for Social Communication	1979-1980	17	23
Jesuit Historical Institute	1979	17	24
Jesuits of India – <i>Views and News</i>	1983	17	25
Provinces – African Provinces	1984-1985	18	1
Provinces – Central America Province	1979-1984	18	2
Provinces – East Asian Provinces	1983-1984	18	3
Provinces – European Provinces	1982	18	4
Provinces – South American Provinces	1983-1984	18	5
Provinces – Upper Canada Province	1983	18	6
World Federation of Christian Life Communities	1982	18	6a

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 14: Non-Jesuit Catholic Church Jurisdictions and Organizations			
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)	1979-1985	18	7
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) – Bulletins and Reports	1980-1985	18	8
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) – Legal Bulletins	1979-1985	18	9
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) – Region I/New England	1979-1985	18	10
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) – Statement of Support for USCC Statement on Central America	1981	18	11
Bishop/ Archbishop – Archdiocese of Boston	1979-1984	18	12
Bishop/ Archbishop – Archdiocese of Boston – <i>Sunday Liturgy, The Heart of the Parish</i>	1985	18	13
Bishop/ Archbishop – Archdiocese of Boston – Chancery Office	1980	18	14
Bishop – Diocese of Bridgeport, CT	1979-1983	18	15
Bishop – Diocese of Norwich, CT	1982-1985	18	16
Bishop – Diocese of Portland, ME	1981-1985	18	17
Bishop – Diocese of Springfield, MA	1979-1980	18	18
Bishop – Diocese of Worcester, MA	1983-1984	18	19
Bishops – United States	1980-1985	19	1
The Assumptionists (Augustinians of the Assumption)	1982	19	2
Bridge Over Troubled Waters	1983	19	3
Canon Law – Relationship with Civil Law	1985	19	4
Capital Punishment – Statement by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts	1982	19	5
Center of Concern	1979-1982	19	6
<i>Christopher News Notes</i> – Choosing Life: Some Questions and Answers on Abortion	1979	19	7
<i>CRUX of the News</i>	1981	19	8
Holy Ghost Fathers	1979	19	9
Holy See	1981	19	10
House of Affirmation	1979-1980	19	11
Interreligious Task Force on US Food Policy – <i>Identifying a Food Policy Agenda for the 1980s: A Working Paper</i>	1980	19	12
La Salette Justice – Province of Our Lady of Seven Dolores – Peace Alert	1980	19	13
Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)	1979-1980	19	14
Major Superiors Leadership Workshop	1980	19	15
Military Ordinariate	1979-1980	19	16
National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors of Men	1980	19	17
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	1979	19	18
Quixote Center	1980	19	19
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth	1980	19	20
United States Catholic Conference	1980	19	21
Washington Theological Union	1979	19	22

Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Series 15: Other Organizations, Individuals, and Issues			
Boys Hope	1983	19	23
Bread for the World	1980	19	24
Boston – City Council	1979	19	25
El Salvador	1980-1981	19	26
Ronald Hindelang	1979	19	27
<i>Living and Loving in Psychological Style</i>	n.d.	19	28
National Impact – <i>Update and Action</i>	1980	19	29
Provincial – Personal Letters	1984	19	30
Smith, S.J., Francis A. – Anniversary of Death	n.d.	19	31
Stewardship Services, Inc.	1980	19	32