Finding Aid to the
George J. Mehok Research Notes on Fargo Catholicism

Mehok, George J., 1912-1994
George J. Mehok Research Notes on Fargo Catholicism, 1880-1935
.5 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 26

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding Aid to the George J. Mehok Photograph Collection
Finding Aid to the George J. Mehok Papers, 1912-1994

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BIOGRAPHY

Father George John Mehok Jr. was born on April 16, 1912 in Dresden, North Dakota to Teresa and George Mehok. His parents were born in Czechoslovakia and immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Father Mehok was the oldest of three sons, all of whom went into the ministry. His brothers, William and Charles, became members of the Jesuit order.
Father Mehok attended school in Dresden and Langdon North Dakota and graduated from high school in 1931 from Nazareth Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota. After graduation, he attended St. Paul Seminary from 1931 to 1937 and later pursued an advanced degree in history at Notre Dame and Columbia University in New York.

On May 22, 1937, Father Mehok was ordained at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo, N.D., by Aloisius Cardinal Muench. The next day he offered his first mass in his hometown of Dresden, N.D. Following ordination, Father Mehok served at the St. Anthony of Padua, Fargo congregation from 1937 to 1938 and St. Mary’s Cathedral from 1938 to 1941. While serving the two Fargo congregations, he also taught courses at the Sacred Heart Academy (now known as Shanley High School). From 1941 to 1948 he served as pastor for St. Agatha’s Church in Hope, N.D., and Sacred Heart, the mission church in Aneta, N.D. Father Mehok ended his career at St. John’s in Wahpeton, N.D. where he served for 39 years (1948-1987). In addition to his pastoral appointments, Reverend Mehok was Assistant Editor for The Catholic Action News from 1938 to 1951. After his retirement in 1987 he moved to Fargo, N.D. George Mehok died on May 28, 1994 in Fargo.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Father George Mehok, parish priest at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church at Wahpeton, North Dakota, researched the two main Fargo newspapers, Argus and Fargo Forum, covering the period of 1880 to 1935 for articles related to Catholicism. The early period (1880-1900) appears very thoroughly covered and contains a wealth of information on various topics. The collection is organized by subject as developed by Father Mehok.

The collection has been broken into four series: Diocese of Fargo, St. Anthony's Church, St. Mary's Church, and Catholic related institutions in Fargo. Therein there are subject files arranged chronologically. Among the largest files are Bishops James O'Reilly and John Shanley, priests, social life, St. Mary's Parish, religious services, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Academy, St. John's Hospital and St. John's Orphanage. These research notes include, in many cases, transcribed portions from the original texts with complete citations. This index makes available historical material found in un-indexed and voluminous newspapers. Abbreviations used are FFR for Fargo Forum and Daily Republican, and DA for Daily Argus.

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