

**Rosemary Drown Archdiocese of New Orleans
and School Integration Collection**

1950-1960s

**Special Collections & Archives
J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library
Loyola University New Orleans**

Collection 43

Rosemary Drown Archdiocese of New Orleans and School Integration Collection

Reference Code

Collection 43

Name and Location of Repository

Special Collections and Archives, J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans

Title

Rosemary Drown Archdiocese of New Orleans and School Integration Collection

Date

1942-1978, Bulk:1955-1964

Extent

3 boxes, 3 linear feet

Name of Creator

Drown, Rosemary, 1917-1986; Riley, Janet Mary, 1915-2008; Rummel, Archbishop, 1876-1964; Cooper, Harold, S.J, 1916-1997

Administrative/Biographical History

Rosemary Drown was an employee of the New Orleans Catholic Bookshop for over 40 years. The Drown Collection was donated by Janet Mary Riley, women's rights advocate and the first female law professor in New Orleans, who had this to say about Ms. Drown: "Collected by late Rosemary Drown, employee of Catholic Bookstore, integrationist, friend of Ms. Riley."

Included is a 1962 letter from the Catholic Council on Human Relations of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to Ms. Drown regarding her contribution "to the worthy cause of helping a Catholic Negro family keep their child in a Catholic school."

Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel, in the 1953 Pastoral Letter "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" called for an end to segregation within the New Orleans Archdiocese. Resistance and opposition to the idea of integration by some Catholics were strong and increased after the Supreme Court's ruling in the 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* found the segregation of public school students unconstitutional. Soon after, two major anti-integration organizations, the Association of Catholic Laymen and the

White Citizen's Council of Greater New Orleans were established. With the support of Orleans Parish School Board member Emile Wagner, these groups sought directly to counter Archbishop Rummel's call for integration. In 1956, Archbishop Rummel wrote another Pastoral Letter, "The Morality of Racial Segregation" which clearly and plainly identified segregation as "morally wrong." For nearly a decade, anti-integration organizations continuously challenged Archbishop Rummel, even after Catholic School segregation officially ended at the beginning of the 1962-1963 school year.

Scope and Content

The Drown collection includes photostat copies of correspondences, addresses, and pastoral letters by Archbishop Rummel and other clergy primarily relating to the New Orleans Archdiocese's intent to end segregation in parochial schools and fierce response by local opposition groups. Materials also include correspondence and newsletters from supporting local Catholic organization's and articles from local and national newspapers on the debate. There are also numerous journals, pamphlets and studies from the period on general civil rights and race relations, circa 1942-1978

System of Arrangement

The arrangement of this collection is alphabetical and arranged in two series. The arrangement scheme for the collection was imposed during processing in the absence of a usable original order.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Physical rights are retained by the J. Edgar and Louis S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans. Copyright is retained in accordance with U.S. Copyright Laws.

Language and Scripts of the Material

Collection is in English.

Related Archival Materials

Materials concerning Archbishop Rummel and parochial school integration may also be found in the Louis J. Twomey, S.J. Papers (Collection #2)

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Christine P. Horn, 2013

Series Description

Series I

Archbishop Rummel, Citizen's Council and New Orleans Catholic School Integration 1945-1969

Series I is comprised of photostat copies of Archbishop Rummel's "The Morality of Segregation" and subsequent commentaries by Orleans Parish School Board member and supporter of segregation, Emile Wagner. Additional clerical addresses within the Archdiocese in support of integration include Loyola University's Father Harold Cooper's 1959 "The Church and Integration." Series I also comprises New Orleans' materials in support of segregation, including the White Citizens' Council of Greater New Orleans' pamphlets, and other items associating integration with communism, as well as news clippings from the period relating to the school integration controversy. Also included are two pieces of election campaign ephemera, an advertisement in support of 1950 "Dixiecrat" mayoral candidate Alvin Cobb, and an announcement regarding Major John J. Spann's resignation from the New Orleans Police Department in order to run in the 1969 mayoral primary.

Series II

Civil Rights and Race Relations, journals, publications, pamphlets, 1942-1978

Series II comprises a large number of national journals, pamphlets, articles and studies related to both religious and secular thoughts on civil rights and race relations in general, including a large number of materials from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The series also includes the journals *Interracial Review*, *The Commonwealth*, and *Integrity*, and a copy of Vincent Harding's 1968 "Blueprint for National Renewal, The Uses of the Afro-American Past." There are two items specifically on Black Catholicism.

Container List

Series I

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Arch. Joseph Francis Rummel, "The Morality of Racial Segregation," and related, 1954-1959
	2	Catholic Committee of the South, Commission on Human Rights, New Orleans
	3	Citizen's Council pamphlets
	4	Cooper, Harold S.J., Response to Lapeyre and related, "The Church and Integration," 1959
	5	Integration as "Communist Conspiracy," 1946-1959
	6	League of Women Voters of Louisiana, Public School Background Material, Segregation and Desegregation, 1960
	7	Save our Schools, Inc. New Orleans
	8	Segregation and the Catholic Schools: A Study, circa 1954-1955
	9	Sermons and addresses on segregation by New Orleans Catholic Clergy, 1949-1956
	10	Statement of the Bishops of the United States, 1945-1958
	11	Wagner, Emile, response to Arch. Rummel, and related, 1955-1959
	12	Miscellaneous, 1962 Catholic Council on Human Relations of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to Ms. Drown regarding her contribution "to the worthy cause of helping a Catholic Negro family keep their child in a Catholic school." New Orleans integration, and Spann for Mayor, 1969
2	1	Association of Catholic Laymen respond to Father Twomey regarding the Right to Work bill, advertisement, 1954
	2	Catholic Action of the South, news clippings, 1955
	3	Citizen's Council and Archbishop Rummel, Integration and Catholic Schools, 1956-1960
	4	Cobb, Alvin, campaign poster, 1950

Series II

Box	Folder	Description
3	1	Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith pamphlets, 1956-1960
	2	Anti-Semitism and Christianity pamphlets, 1938-1963
	3	Black Catholics Concerned, 1962
	4	Catholic Negro Bishops: A Brief Survey of the Present and the Past, 1961
	5	Catholicism and Race Relations pamphlets, 1942-1956
	6	Catholicism and Race Relations pamphlets, 1969-1978; undated
	7	Commonweal, The, 1945-1961
	8	Harding, Vincent: copy of "Blueprint for National Renewal, The Uses of the Afro-American Past," 1968-1969
	9	Integrity, 1950-1954
	10	Interracial Review: A Journal for Christian Democracy, 1955-1956
	11	President's Committee on Civil rights, 1946-1950
	12	Reaction, 1968
	13	Secular Materials on Civil Rights and Desegregation, 1942-1957
	14	Southern Regional Council, 1948-1959

Works Cited:

Fairclough, Adam. *Race & Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915-1972*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995. Print.

McMillen, Neil R. *The Citizens' Council: Organized Resistance to the Second Reconstruction, 1954-64*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1971. Print.

Smestad Jr., John. *The Role of Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel in the Desegregation of Catholic Schools in New Orleans*. <http://www.loyno.edu/~history/journal/1993-4/Smestad.html>