

Notre Dame Santa Barbara

Short History

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur first went to Southern California in 1906 to serve two parishes, Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Over the years the schools both expanded, contracted, and merged. Our Lady of Sorrows parish was predominately Anglo European and the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe were primarily Hispanic.

Convent Records

Historical Data, 1920s-2004. 2 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Box 1

Arranged by archival filing plan.

This series includes a written history of the sisters in Santa Barbara, highlighting the sisters' teaching children in two parishes. The two schools merged in 1931, changing the name to the Notre Dame School of Santa Barbara. Other files contain publications about the city of Santa Barbara and two parish histories on the 25th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows and the 150th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There are 3 student histories written by former students when much older. The sisters moved into new buildings after the 1925 earthquake and after leaving a co-ed high school.

Annals, 1932-1974. 3 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Box 1

Arranged chronologically by dates of entry.

These annals start when the sisters settled into a new convent and school buildings after the 1925 earthquake. The significant events recorded are provincial and Mother General visitations, Franciscan jubilees and events at the Santa Barbara Mission, school openings and closings, school fundraising events, sacramental celebrations, and sisters' jubilees, illnesses, funerals and local disasters. The annals also record the comings and goings of the convent sisters for vacations, summer school and new assignments. A new convent was built in 1964. A local custom was to have parish and school mothers give a "shower" of food and pantry items around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Other events noted were major holidays, celebrations, honors for the school such as war stamps awards in 1940s, epidemics of measles, changes brought on by Vatican II and finally the merger of the two parishes and the Notre Dame school for 4 parishes.

Journals, 1931-1971. 5 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Box 2

The journals recorded holiday recreations at meals, visits, and special masses by visiting priests, and doctor's and banking visits. Due to the proximity of the Franciscan and Jesuit houses, the sisters had many visits from overseas missionaries and help from local men for major projects. Special Days of Recollection and parish and mission celebrations added to the spiritual enrichment of this convent's sisters. Also noted were the significant donations of food and

household items over the years by the mothers and pastor. Also noted before Vatican II, were visits to dying parents and funerals. After Vatican II, attendance at professional conferences and evening events were noted as well.

Community Council Meetings Minutes, 1924-1993. 2 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Box 3

Arranged chronologically by date of entry.

The community council consisted of the convent superior, the treasurer and one elected member. They meet monthly to review and approve the finance report to be sent to the provincial office. Other topics included school needs for the classrooms, improvements to the convent and the schools, retreat times and places, vow renewals, summer school assignments, housekeeping needs, and social events.

After 1966, the entire community were part of the council. These meetings reflect more horizontal living responsibilities. The topics covered include schedules for prayers and discussions of theological subjects, joint holiday planning, planning, and scheduling of meals, and other tasks. There is a gap from 1974-1990.

Internal Convent Records, 1918-1998. 6 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 Boxes 3, 6

Arranged by archival filing plan.

These records document the business of running a convent such as doing the finances, paying county taxes, writing up financial reports to the provincial office and correspondence with local official about new convent and school construction plans and taxes. Other records include sisters' biographical information sheets, appointments of superiors and councilors, visitation records, jubilee and other celebration preparations, property plans for water and sewer lines and the closing of the convent and the inventory records.

Capital Holdings and Legacy Records, 1917-1977. 4.5 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Box 4

Arranged by the archival filing plan.

These are the local records of the donations and of real property that local families gave to the sisters. These files document these donations, the maintenance of the property and eventual sale of the excess property as the sisters began the merger of the two schools. These documents include the wills directing the donations to the sisters, some maintenance records, the final sales documents, and the distribution of the proceeds.

School Related Records, 1910-1986. 4 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 11 B Boxes 5 and 6

These are selected files that relate the mergers of the schools over the years, the alumnae of the schools and some administration activities. There are no student academic records within this collection. They include alumnae lists, graduation lists for the Catholic Girls' High School, statistical reports to the Los Angeles Chancery Office for both schools and convents, contracts,

and handbooks for the merged school in later years, Our Lady of Guadalupe school correspondence and the elementary schools' correspondence. Also included is the 1931 yearbook for Catholic Boys High School.

Photographic Records, 1910-1990. 270 items [From 2'x2' to 8'x 10' sizes]. R2 Unit 11 B Boxes 5-6

Arranged by archival filing plan.

These photographs document the events and sisters at the convent with most of the photographs covering Our Lady of Sorrows School. The main subjects of the photographs are:

Convent construction and renovations; student photographs; early graduation events at the Dolores Elementary and Girl's High school; a photo album on the Mass for training purposes; and a photo album of Mother of Sorrow's students on summer adventures with sister students from the College of Notre Dame. In addition, there are two rolled photos of all the students from Mother of Sorrows and Girl's High School.

There are a few scrapbook pages of photos along with some clippings.