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UA1982.23

Francis L. Filas, S.J., Papers

Dates : 1931-1989, Undated

Creator: Filas, Francis L., S.J. (1915-1985)

Extent: 3.79 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Michael Predey, 1984; Terence P. Joyce, 1988; updated by Kirsten M. DeVries, February 21, 2006; updated by K. Young, 2024

Administration Information

Restrictions: No restrictions

Copyright: Consult the repository for information.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago Archives & Special Collections. Francis L. Filas, S.J., Papers, 1931-1989. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Materials were donated to the Loyola University Chicago Archives & Special Collections by Francis L. Filas, S.J., in 1982.

Language of materials: English

Separations: No separations

See Also: Francis L. Filas, S.J., papers addendum 1 (UA1997.32).

Biographical Sketch

Francis L. Filas, S.J., was born on June 4, 1915, in Cicero, IL, to Thomas M. Filas and Emily Francis Seery. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1932 at age seventeen and was ordained 1945. He received his B.A. and M.A., both in philosophy, from Loyola University Chicago in 1938 and 1943, respectively, and his Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD) in 1952 from the Bellarmine Pontifical University, West Baden Springs, IN (formerly West Baden College; later renamed the Jesuit School of Theology and relocated to Chicago).

Fr. Filas' teaching career began in 1939. He was an instructor of math, religion, and music at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, OH (1939-1941); math, English, Latin, and music at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy (1941-1942); religion at the University of Detroit (1946-1947). He joined the theology department as an assistant professor at Loyola University Chicago in 1950, became an associate professor in 1955, chaired the department from 1959 to 1967, was made a full professor in 1961, and an emeritus professor in January 1985.

The scope of Fr. Filas' scholarly interests and publications were extensive, centering around three main subjects: St. Joseph, sex education and family relationships, and the Shroud of Turin. He published seven books on the life of, theology of, and devotion to St. Joseph, and was one of the leaders of the movement to introduce St. Joseph's name into the Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Canon of the Mass. Fr. Filas was one of the pioneers of the Cana Movement (helping to found the Cana Conference Program in Detroit), published three books on sex and family education, gave



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hundreds of lectures all over the country on issues related to family life, and recorded seven LPs (The Family Life Guidance Recordings) of these lectures for consumer distribution. In later years, Fr. Filas focused on the Shroud of Turin, attempting to ascertain its authenticity. In 1979, he discovered imprints of Pontius Pilate coins on the eyes of the image in the Shroud. Fr. Filas also made fourteen filmstrips on Biblical locations and the Shroud of Turin for use in the classroom.

Fr. Filas' scholarship and activities garnered him numerous honors, including the *Shalom* and *Terra Sancta* awards, given by the State of Israel for interest in the Holy Land. His Good Friday documentary, "Shroud of Turin," aired regularly for over twenty years on Chicago television (1951-1974) and was chosen by TIME magazine as one of the outstanding programs of the 1959 Easter weekend. Fr. Filas was listed in *Who's Who* starting in 1967/1968; a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, the College Theological Society, the American Catholic Theological Association, and the Mariology Society of America; a charter member of the Research and Documentation Center, St. Joseph's Oratory, Montreal; and vice-president of the Holy Shroud Guild, of the North American Society of Josephology, and of the St. Joseph Research and Documentation Center. For his contributions to the study of the Shroud, the Peace International Center of Brussels and Turin awarded him the *Diplome Ateneo Pro Pace* in 1982.

Fr. Filas died on February 15, 1985.

Scope and Content

The papers of Francis L. Filas, S.J., spanning the years 1931 to 1989 consist of 3.79 linear feet of records arranged chronologically. Materials include correspondence, newspaper clippings, book reviews, articles for publication, press/news releases, speaking engagements, lecture scripts, Shroud of Turin publications, bulletins and pamphlets, prayers, and photographs. Subjects covered include the Shroud of Turin, sex and family education, marriage and divorce, abortion and birth control, St. Joseph, Jews and Christians, and Israel.

Notes

Description: Finding aid updated to new format in 2024.

Subjects

Filas, Francis L.
Turin, Shroud of
Theology
St. Joseph
Family education
Sex education
Jews and Christians
Israel



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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Shroud of Turin: Articles and Miscellaneous	1931, 1951-1953, 1955-1956, 1964- 1965, 1967, 1973, 1978-1979, 1980
1	2	Shroud of Turin: Articles and Miscellaneous	1981
1	3	Shroud of Turin: Articles and Miscellaneous	1982-1985, 1987- 1988, undated
1	4	Pamphlets, Bulletins, and Notices	1935, 1952-1954, 1957-1958, 1963- 1965, 1971, undated
1	5	Theology and Modern Issues: Articles, Prayers, and Notes	1944, 1951, 1956- 1959, 1960-1967, 1971-1973, undated
1	6	Abortion, Birth Control, and Sex Education	1951, 1955-1957, 1960, 1962-1968, 1971-1972, undated
1	7	Book Reviews and Articles	1951, 1960-1961, 1963-1968, undated
2	1	Correspondence	1952, 1962-1967, 1983, undated
2	2	Shroud of Turin: Correspondence	1953, 1972, 1979- 1981, undated
2	3	St. Joseph	1955, 1957, 1961- 1964, 1971, 1984, undated
2	4	Marriage and Divorce	1961, 1963-1965, 1971, undated
2	5	Sex and Family Education: Press Releases and FAQ Responses	1963, 1965, 1970, undated
2	6	Lecture Scripts	1963, 1967, undated
2	7	Newspaper Clippings: Book Reviews and Articles	1963-1969, undated
2	8	News Releases	1965-1966, 1973- 1975, 1977, undated
2	9	Israel; Jews and Christians	1965-1967, 1972, 1974, 1978, undated
2	10	Speaking Engagements	1966-1967, 1969- 1971, undated



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3	1	Shroud of Turin: Non-English Language Articles and Publications	1978, 1980, undated
3	2	<u>The Dating of the Shroud of Turin from Coins of Pontius Pilate</u>	1980, 1982,
3	3	Shroud of Turin: Dating and Image Analysis	1980, 1983-1984
3	4	<u>Analysis of Digital Images of the Shroud of Turin</u>	1983
3	5	The "Diplome" of the Ateneo	1983
3	6	Shroud of Turin: Calendar	1985
4	1	Scrapbook: Viewers' Responses to the <u>Shroud of Turin</u> Telecasts	1952-1953, undated
4	2	Scrapbook: Book Reviews and Articles	1953, 1956, 1958-1966, undated
5	1	Scrapbook: The Shroud of Turin Telecasts: Articles, Correspondence, Scripts	1931, 1937, 1952-1954, 1956, undated
6	1	Scrapbook: Book Reviews and Articles	1936-1938, 1943-1958, 1964, 1967, undated