

## **Background**

This finding aid focuses on material related to the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) and the Cristero War (1926-1929) and the exile of Catholic clergy and laity to the United States, specifically San Antonio, Texas.

The Mexican Revolution is a series of smaller regional conflicts that coalesced into a larger long-scale period of civil and political strife in Mexico. The revolutionary period began with the jailing of Francisco I. Madero, the chief political rival of then President Porfirio Díaz. After his arrest, Madero called for an armed uprising against Díaz. A short period of conflict broke out across northern Mexico, resulting in the resignation and exile of Díaz and the creation of an interim government. Madero was elected in November 1911, however an armed revolt in Morelos quickly followed under the leadership of Emiliano Zapata. In February 1913, army generals from the Díaz regime forced both Madero and his Vice President to resign. Both men were subsequently assassinated under orders from President Victoriano Huerta. Several factions rose in northern Mexico that opposed the anti-revolutionary regime led by Huerta. Governor of Coahuila Venustiano Carranza led the Constitutionalist army, and Zapata and his supporters continued their rebellion. The federal armies were eventually defeated by revolutionaries, however after this defeat, the revolutionary factions turned on one another, leading the Carranza faction to defeat their former ally Francisco "Pancho" Villa. Carranza consolidated power and enacted the Mexican Constitution of 1917 and reigned over Mexico until 1920 before he was killed during a revolt by the former revolutionary generals after Carranza attempted to install a civilian successor.

In late 1914 many Mexican Catholics sought refuge with their American counterparts in the United States. The Archdiocese of San Antonio (then Diocese of San Antonio) under the direction of Bishop Shaw took in many Mexican Catholic hierarchy and laymen. With aid from the Catholic Extension Society, the Diocese of San Antonio housed and operated facilities on behalf of the exiled hierarchy. Notable exiles included Most Rev Jose Mora y del Rio (1908-1928), Archbishop of Mexico, Most Rev Leopoldo Ruiz y Flores (Nov. 1911- Dec. 1941), Archbishop of Michoacan, and Most Rev Francisco Plancarte y Navarrete, Archbishop of Linares. The exiles remained in the diocese until early 1916 before they began to return to Mexico or departed to South America.

Throughout the period of 1920-1930, Mexico underwent another series of violent conflicts. While supposedly a time of revolutionary consolidation, the various revolutionary generals instead began infighting over who should succeed. Later in this period the anticlerical provision of the 1917 Mexican Constitution was enforced more heavily at the direction of Mexican President Plutarco Elías Calles leading to a large-scale uprising by Catholics known as the Cristero War throughout 1926-1929.

As a result of the active enforcement of anticlerical policies, the Mexican Catholic hierarchy again sought refuge within the Diocese of San Antonio. Under the direction of Archbishop Drossaerts, accommodations were made with the aid of the Catholic Extension Society, and unlike the previous period of their stay, the exiled Mexican clergy took a more active role within the diocese. This period of exile is more strongly characterized by the violence against clergy committed by the Mexican government.

## Reverend Alois J. Morkovsky papers

Series: Photographs (RB/2018/733)

This box contains personal papers belonging to Morkovsky, which specifically includes photographs of the St. John Seminary and the San Jose Mission. Additionally, there are several folders containing undated photographs of individuals from the St. John Seminary. For those who wish to research Cristero exiles, this box of photographs may only be useful if the researcher knows who they are looking for. The photographs roughly span 1915-1966, with the majority taken in 1925-1926.

## Records of the Chancery, Historical Period 1

Series: Councils/Boards/Commissions (RB/2018/492)

Sub-series: Archdiocesan Consultors Meeting Minutes Journal

Journal primarily contains Archdiocesan consultors meeting minutes. Including administrative, executive, and charity discussions amongst consultors. The meeting minutes span Archbishop Drossaerts early years (1920-1925)

## Records of the Chancery, Historical Period 1

Series: Councils/Boards/Commissions, Diocesan Sub-Series: Consultors' Meeting Minutes (RB/2018/492)

According to the meeting minutes from December 3rd, 1924, the Archdiocesan Consultors discussed the situation of the Hijas Mínimas de María from the Diocese of Leon, and the Sisters of the Eucharistic Apostate from the Diocese of Mexico City.

## Records of the Chancery, Historical Period 1

Series: Archdiocesan Financial Ledgers Sub-Series: Special Funds (RB/2018/388)

The Mexican Refugees Work Fund journal information regarding the collection and use of funds intended for Mexican refugees in San Antonio (Pg 8-28), including the source of collected funds and to whom funds were sent. There are also records of Mexican refugees who individually received funds and where in San Antonio they resided at the time. This journal also contains information about the Saint Joseph Orphanage Special Fund (Pg50-52).

Series: General Ledgers (RB/2018/391)

Misas Recibidas (Mass Register) for exiled Mexican Bishops, 1906-1929, [J-154]

Series: General Ledgers (RB/2018/388)

*Saint Joseph's Orphanage (Special Fund), including Mexican Relief Fund 1928-1929 [J-105]*

The Mexican Refugees Relief Fund contains information regarding money given to refugees in San Antonio and includes the current address of the refugees. This information can be cross-referenced using the Bexar County public search and city directories.

## Records of the Chancery, Historical Period 1

Series: Archdiocesan Sub-Series: Mexico, Revolutionary Period, 1910-1926 (RB/2017/187)

During the period between 1914 and 1926, the Extension Society, a Catholic organization, worked to provide aid and support to Mexican refugees who were fleeing their country amid a period of political unrest. The box is divided into several folders.

Mexico revolutionary period folders:

- Reference – Apostolic Delegates expelled 1926-1928
- Bishop Echavarria y Aguirre Saltillo: Cause for canonization – Spanish
- Mexican Revolutionary period reference – General Manuel W. Gonzalez – Spanish
- Mexican Revolutionary period reference – Correspondence photocopies from books
- Mexican Revolutionary period reference – Apostolic delegate expelled – Father Miguel Austin Pro Mexico Revolution – Mexican Seminary at Castroville 1915-1916
- Mexican Revolution Refugee Priests – 1917-1918
- Mexican Revolution Refugee Priests – 1915
- Mexican Revolution Refugee Priests – 1916
- Mexican Revolution Refugee Priests – 1910-1913
- Correspondence between Mexican Archbishops/Bishops - Spanish Newspapers

Series Archdiocesan; Sub-series: Extension Society, Catholic (1907-1937)  
(RB/2017/187)

Separated into three boxes. The first box is Extension Society records spanning the periods from 1910-1914, 1915, 1916-1920, 1925-1937, and the Extension Society Magazine ranging from 1907-1920. It contains information regarding the St. Philip of Neri Seminary in Castroville, Extension Society donations, Father Tierney and his efforts to provide aid to the lay refugees, the creation of the Mexican Relief Fund, and information regarding the use of donations and intentions from the Extension Society and other dioceses. The next box contains information from the Mexican Revolutionary period. Specifically, the expulsion of the Apostolic Delegates in the 1926-1928 period, Bishop Echavarria y Aguirre Saltillo: Cause for canonization in Spanish, a Mexican Revolutionary period reference on General manual W. Gonzalez in Spanish, a Mexican Revolutionary period reference containing correspondence photocopies from books, and records about Father Miguel Austin, Pro Mexico Revolution, and the Mexican Seminary at Castroville in the 1915-1916 period, as well as folders exploring the Mexican Revolution Refugee Priests in the 1910-1913, 1915, 1916, and 1917-1918 periods. The last box contains the correspondence between Mexican Archbishops/Bishops across the 1910-1926 period and Spanish Newspapers across the 1930-1939 period, most information in this box is in Spanish, occasionally in Latin.

- Extension Society, Catholic – 1925-1937
- Extension Society, Catholic – 1916-1920
- Extension Society, Catholic - Magazine – 1907-1920
- Extension Society, Catholic – 1915
- Extension Society, Catholic – 1910-1914

## Bishop John W. Shaw, D.D. Papers

This box contains administrative and correspondence records from Bishop Shaw spanning 1911-1915 divided into folders containing quarterly (approx. 3-month time span) records. It details records regarding the use of funds from intentions and donations from the Extension Society, one expense report from the St. Philip of Neri seminary, communications between Shaw and the Apostolic Delegate and other Diocese, a list of all exiled Clergy and Hierarchy in San Antonio and around the country known to Archbishop Rev Eulogio Gillow of Oaxaca within the May-Aug 1915 folder. For research into the Cristero exiles, it is best to start in the latter half of 1914.

Correspondence, 1910, 1911-1915(RB/2022/145)

Correspondence and records from the early 20th century, related to efforts to care for refugees by American clergy and religious orders.

Correspondence, Jan 1, 1916 – Dec 31, 1932 (RB/2020/17)

Bishop Shaw's Correspondence with several individuals and organizations related to the function of the Diocese. There is a list of Mexican hierarchy in the Shaw Administrative files – May-Aug 1915 folder for those who are interested in a specific individual.

Folders:

- Correspondence Jan-Apr 1916
- Correspondence May-Aug 1916
- Correspondence Sept-Dec 1916
- Correspondence Jan-Apr 1917
- Correspondence May-Aug 1917
- Correspondence Sept-Dec 1917
- Correspondence Jan-Dec 1918
- Correspondence 1919-1932

Correspondence, Tierney R.H. 1914-1915 (RB/2020/17)

## Most Reverend Arthur J. Drossaerts, D.D. Papers

Series: Correspondence, 1917-1927 (RB/2020/26)

Archbishop Drossaert's correspondence with several individuals and organizations related to the function of the Diocese. Only a few are related to the Mexican exiles but may be of interest to those who are looking into Dominican exiles.

## The Official Catholic Directory (Kenedy Publishing), 1916 & 1917

The Catholic Directory serves as a quick way to gain information regarding the location of clergy within the San Antonio diocese and the location of schools and parishes. The Mexican exiles are not listed in the list of U.S. Clergy, but they are listed in the list of Mexican Clergy.