

Guide to the Richard Burtzell Papers
Collection Number 022.001



Guide to the Richard Burtzell Papers
Archives of the Archdiocese of New York
Collection 022.001

Finding Aid Prepared by Kate Feighery

Archives of the Archdiocese of New York
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Summary Information

Creator: Richard Lalor Burtzell (1840-1912)

Title: Richard Burtzell Papers

Date: 1865 - 1912

Extent:

Language: English

Access Restrictions: Collection is open to researchers at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Richard Burtzell Papers, Collection Number 022.001; box number, folder number. Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

Location of Related Materials: Materials related to Richard Burtzell can be found in the parish history files, particularly the churches of Epiphany (Manhattan), St. Ann's (Manhattan), and St. Mary's (Rondout, Ulster County).

Biographical/Historical Note

Richard Burtzell was born in New York City on April 13, 1840. He began to study for the priesthood at the Sulpician Seminary in Montreal in 1851, and two years later traveled to Rome to study at the Urban College of the Propaganda. He was ordained in Rome on August 10, 1862, and assigned to associate pastor at St. Ann's Church on East 8th (later East 12th) Street in Manhattan (now closed). It was during his time at St. Ann's that Burtzell began to keep a daily diary of his life, which makes up the bulk of this collection. In 1867, Burtzell was asked by Archbishop McCloskey to found a new parish, the Church of the Epiphany on East 21st Street.

Although Burtzell did not have a formal degree in canon law, he had taught himself and was well regarded in the field. He often represented fellow priests in canonical cases. In 1866, he began attending meetings of a group of priests known as the "New York Accademia," which discussed political and theological topics of the day. Led by Fr. Thomas Farrell of St. Joseph's Church on Sixth Avenue, here Burtzell again encountered Edward McGlynn, whom he had known in the seminary. One of his most well-known cases was when he represented Rev. Edward McGlynn in his case against Archbishop Corrigan. The original ruling was against McGlynn; Burtzell and McGlynn appealed, but Rome still sided with Corrigan. McGlynn was excommunicated (later lifted) and Burtzell was removed from Epiphany by Archbishop Corrigan and sent to the upstate New York parish of St. Mary's in Rondout, in Ulster County in 1889. Prior to this, in 1887, Burtzell had published a serial article titled *The Canonical Status of Priests in the United States* in the *New York Tablet*, which argues for the rights of pastors in not being arbitrarily removed from their parishes. Although Burtzell canonically challenged Corrigan's authority in removing him from a church that he had founded, he was unsuccessful. Burtzell remained at St. Mary's for the rest of his life. He was named monsignor by Archbishop Farley in 1904, and passed away in Kingston, New York on February 4, 1912.

Scope & Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of the daily personal diaries kept by Richard Burtzell between 1865 and 1912. For the most part, at least part of each of these years are covered in the diaries, although there is a major gap between 1878 and 1880. The diaries cover events in Burtzell's personal life, his work as a religious leader, and his involvement in church politics as well as larger world religious and political events. In addition to the diaries, the collection also includes Burtzell's writings, sermons, and publications. There is also one ledger that contains copies of letters sent to and from Burtzell during his involvement with the case of Rev. Edward McGlynn.

Arrangement

The contents of this collection are arranged in a single series. The items within the series are arranged chronologically. Because of the small size of the collection, as well as the fact that the majority of the material was writings by Richard Burtzell, it did not make sense to try to split the material into further series.

Administrative Information

Access and Use: Collection is open to researchers at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

Reproduction and Use: Permission to reproduce any material in this collection not in the public domain must be obtained from the Archives and the copyright holder.

Language: English

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Processing Note: Some of the ledger books had loose pages stuck inside the cover. This material was removed and put into acid free folders and boxes. The folders titles indicate from which ledger book the material was removed. The rest of the material was arranged chronologically and placed in acid free boxes.

Related Materials: Materials related to Richard Burtzell can be found in the parish history files, particularly the churches of Epiphany (Manhattan), St. Ann's (Manhattan), and St. Mary's (Rondout, Ulster County).

Separated Materials: None.

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Collection

Box Number	Folder Number	Description	Date Range
1		Diary: January 31, 1865 - December 31, 1865	1865
8	1	Burtzell Sermons	1856-1860s
8	2	Burtzell Sermons	1858-1866
8	3	Burtzell Sermons	1863-1872
2		Diary: November 25, 1866 - December 28, 1873	1866-1873
1		Diary: January 1, 1874 - December 31, 1878	1874-1878
2		Diary: January 1, 1880 - December 31, 1884	1880-1884
3		Diary: December 16, 1880 - March 30, 1883	1880-1883
3		Diary: January 1, 1885 - December 31, 1887	1885-1887
8	4	1885-1887 Burtzell Diary Inserts	1885-1887
7		The Canonical Status of Priests in the United States (from the <i>New York Tablet</i>)	1887
7		Ledger: Copies of Letters to and from Richard Burtzell regarding the Case of Rev. Edward McGlynn	1887-1893
4		Diary: January 1, 1888 - October 31, 1890	1888-1890
4		Diary: November 1, 1890 - November 30, 1892	1890-1892
4		Diary: December 1, 1892 - May 13, 1894	1892-1894
8	5	1892-1894 Burtzell Diary Inserts	1894
5		Diary: March 1, 1895 - September 30, 1900	1895-1900
5		Diary: October 1, 1900 - December 31, 1903	1900-1903
6		Diary: January 1, 1904 - November 6, 1904	1904
6		Diary: July 1, 1907 - October 31, 1908	1907-1908
6		Diary: April 15, 1910 - January 29, 1912	1910-1912
7		Address Book	undated