Very Rev. Joseph Paul Dubreul, P.S.S., Papers

Biographical Note:
Born in the French village of St. Etienne in 1814, Rev. Dubreul was raised in a devout family and discerned his vocation to the priesthood at an early age with the support and encouragement of his mother. He was educated in the minor and major seminaries of the Diocese of Lyon until transferring to the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris, in 1836. He was given permission to enter the Society of St. Sulpice during his last year of training and completed his novitiate in 1839, when he was ordained to the priesthood. His first assignment was to the Seminary of Orleans, where he taught dogmatic theology until 1849, when the Superior General of the Society, Very Rev. Louis de Courson, selected Rev. Dubreul to serve at their seminary in Baltimore. Rev. Dubreul arrived at St. Mary's in the spring of 1850, where he remained until his death in 1878. Initially, he held a joint appointment at the seminary and St. Mary's College (1799-1852), the lay college operated by the Sulpicians on the campus. After the college closed, Rev. Dubreul assumed a greater role at the seminary, serving as treasurer and being placed in charge of deacon formation, in addition to his duties of teaching pastoral theology and canon law. Following the death of Very Rev. François Lhomme, P.S.S., in 1860, he was named Superior, a position he held for the next 18 years. He continued the reforms initiated by his predecessor and oversaw the transformation of St. Mary's into a regional seminary with a growing and increasingly diverse student body. He provided steady leadership for the community during the Civil War and oversaw the construction of a larger and grander seminary building that was completed the year before his death. He held the confidence of the Archbishops of Baltimore and served as Vicar General under Abp. James R. Bayley and Card. James Gibbons. This collection contains both official and personal papers, including correspondence with Sulpician confreres, diocesan officials, and alumni, his role as secretary for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Committee of the Holders of Titles of the Roman Debt in the United States, and course materials relating to his own education and the courses he taught as a member of the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary.

An abbreviation key can be found on the last page of the correspondence index.

Bibliography

Christopher J. Kauffman. *Tradition and Transformation in Catholic Culture: The Priests of Saint Sulpice in the United States from 1791 to the Present*. Macmillan, 1988.

Entry for Rev. Joseph P. Dubreul, *2019 Necrology of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.* Accessed online: http://sulpicians.org/project/dubreul-father-joseph/.

Extent: 1 records storage box; 4 document cases; 1-.5 document case

Date range: c. 1814-1878 [1850-1878]

Scope & Content:

<u>Series 1: Correspondence</u>
Subseries 1.1: General, c. 1841-1877, n.d. – 28 folders
This subseries contains general correspondence that covers almost all his priestly ministry and has been arranged alpha-chronologically by correspondent.

Subseries 1.2: Subject Files, c. 1855-1877 – 8 folders
This subseries contains correspondence placed in files organized by subject to centralize letters regarding a specific individual or organization, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Committee of the Holders of Titles of the Roman Debt, and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Series 2: Society of St. Sulpice
This series contains the files relating to the Society of St. Sulpice. The material has been organized by province and is comprised mainly of correspondence. Much of the correspondence is in French, which has been arranged alpha-chronologically by correspondent.

Subseries 2.1: Province of Canada, 1863-1877 – 1 folder
This subseries contains correspondence exchanged between the U.S. and Canadian Sulpician communities during the period that Rev. Dubreul was a priest and later superior of the U.S. Sulpician community.

Subseries 2.2: Province of France and Superior Generalate, 1851-1878 – 8 folders
This subseries contains correspondence between the U.S. and French Sulpician communities over the period, 18-1878, and is largely comprised of letters and documentation exchanged with the Superiors General of the Society (Very Revs. Joseph Carriere, Michel Caval, and Henri Icard) during the time that Rev. Dubreul was a priest and later superior of the U.S. Sulpician community. Much of the correspondence is in French. Correspondence is arranged alpha-chronologically by correspondent.

Subseries 2.3: Province of the United States, c. 1841-1878 – 15 folders
This subseries contains correspondence and subject files relating to the U.S. Sulpicians community during the time that Rev. Dubreul was a priest and later superior of the U.S. Sulpician community, including administration of U.S. Sulpician institutions and the relationship between St. Mary's Seminary and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Series 3: Personal
Subseries 3.1: General, c. 1814-1879 – 4 folders
This subseries contains personal and family records, including his baptismal certificate and papers regarding his personal estate.

Subseries 3.2: Clerical Studies, c. 1833-1878, n.d. – 1 records storage box, 1 document case, and 1-.5 document case
This subseries contains the files maintained by Rev. Dubreul that date from his time as a student through his assignments as a faculty member of St. Mary's Seminary, that includes course and lecture notes. In addition to teaching courses in philosophy, canon law, moral and pastoral theology, he was also in charge of deacon training and was appointed spiritual director of the seminary. The bulk of the materials is in French, with some Latin and English.

Note: Materials created by and relating to Rev. Dubreul can be found in the three collections that comprise the Associated Archives at St. Mary's Seminary & University.