

Title: Protestant Evangelical Mission to the Italians Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1103

Inclusive Dates: 1916 – 1969

Quantity: 0.23 cu. ft. total

Location: RC8, Sh. 003 (0.2 cu. ft.)
Sm Mss (0.03 cu. ft.)

Abstract: The Protestant Evangelical Mission to the Italians was established in Milwaukee ca. 1908. A Mr. Fonzoni had been distributing Bibles to the Italians in the Third Ward, but the mission stood on firmer ground when Katherine Eyerick arrived in May 1908. A congregation was formed in 1909, and a Sunday school was launched. Eyerick was granted a leave in 1910 to go to Italy to become better acquainted with the Italian people. There she met Reverend Auguste Giuliani, who followed her to Milwaukee to assist her efforts. A new chapel on Van Buren Street was dedicated in 1911, and Katherine and Giuliani were married about that same time. Katherine died in 1916, and Giuliani carried on the work. His efforts to extend the mission to the Italians in Bay View proved to be controversial and led directly to riots in 1917 and a bombing of the downtown police station. Nevertheless, the mission continued to expand, establishing churches in West Allis and on Astor Street.

Scope and Content: the collection consists of correspondence (1916-1938), bulletins (1955-1969), a newsletter (1969), handbills of open air drive-in church at Bluemound Drive-In Theater, September 1932 issue of *True Detective* magazine that includes an article by G.L. McDonough on the police station bombing, and a scrapbook with clippings, letters, programs, and photos.

Access and Use: Patrons must use photocopy of the *True Detective* article.

Language: English

Notes: Photos, see Churches – Evangelical – Italian Evangelical.