McGrath Sacred Music Collection

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California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, California 90032-8300
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2019
Descriptive Summary

Title: McGrath Sacred Music Collection
Dates: 1908-1985
Collection Number: 1992.001
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 4 linear ft.
Repository: California State University, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California 90032-8300
Abstract: Geraldine Biggs McGrath was born in October 8th, 1929 to Richard Keys Biggs, a prominent organist and composer, and Lucinne Gourdon Biggs. Her parents were pioneers in bringing traditional Roman Catholic Church music to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. They moved to California, where the rich church music environment influenced McGrath into pursuing choir and Gregorian chant. She graduated from Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles in 1951 with a bachelor of music degree in choral conducting and became music director at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in Granada Hills. Through her lifetime, she taught at the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Seminary of Our Lady Queen of Angels, was appointed to the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Music Commission, and was a founding member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, as well as a recipient of the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontific awarded by Pope Benedict XVI. She also campaigned for keeping traditional music, such as chant, in modernizing churches. The collection is rich in information concerning Gregorian chant and Catholic liturgical music composed for the organ.
Language of Material: English

Access
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Preferred Citation
McGrath Sacred Music Collection. California State University, Los Angeles

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection was donated on July 30th, 1992 by Geraldine Biggs McGrath from the estate of MSGR Robert E. Brennan, in honor of McGrath's parents (Richard Keys Biggs and Lucienne Gourdon Biggs).