

Mother Mary Augustine Decount Finding Aid

Archives of the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

2023



Creator:	Decount, Mother Mary Augustine, 1786-1870
Title:	Mother Mary Augustine Decount
Dates:	1817-1975, bulk 1827-1870
Extent:	1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Identification:	RG 9-0-2
Language:	English
Subjects:	Decount, Mother Mary Augustine Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Emmitsburg Province Saint Joseph's College and Academy (Emmitsburg, Md.)

Biographical Note

Mother Mary Augustine Decount was born in Philadelphia in 1786. Although details of her early life are often unknown, she was known to have a talent for music. She first met Sister Rose White (late Mother Rose White) when she led a group of Sister of Charity of St. Joseph's to manage St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum in 1814. She joined the Community in 1817, where she became a music teacher at St. Joseph's Academy in Emmitsburg. She began serving on the Council in the position of Procuratrix in 1820.

In 1825, Sister Mary Augustine began serving as the first Sister Servant at St. Vincent's School in Washington, DC, which later became both a school and orphan asylum. Two years later, she was elected to succeed Mother Rose White as Superioress of the Community, where she served for six years. During her time in office, the Community opened 18 houses in 15 cities, expanded the curriculum of St. Joseph's Academy, and sent Sisters to serve and nurse during some of the worst cholera epidemics of the early 19th century in seaport cities. Her time in office also saw the Sisters enter new parts of the country, including the first ministries in New England, the Deep South, and west of the Mississippi River.

Upon the completion of her term of office in 1833, Mother Augustine served at St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum in Philadelphia, before being recalled to once again teach music in Emmitsburg. At the age of 60, she was missioned to Mobile, Alabama in 1847 to manage St. Mary's School and Asylum. In 1855, she began her retirement in Emmitsburg before she passed away in 1870 at the age of 84.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials related to the life of Mother Mary Augustine Decount and her time as Superioress of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's from 1827-1833. It contains several cross-reference documents to materials held in the Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives.

System of Arrangement

Loosely arranged by material type

Conditions Governing Access

No access restrictions.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission for any type of publication of archival materials, including text, photographs, video, or audio must be secured from the Daughters of Charity Communications Director before publication. Contact archives staff for appropriate forms and contact information.

Custodial History

Collection was created from other pulled materials and references to materials on the life and Superiorship of Mother Mary Augustine Decount.

Preferred Citation Format

Document/File Name, RG #, Collection Name, Daughters of Charity Archives,
Province of St. Louise, Emmitsburg, MD

Related Archival Materials

See other collections: RG 9-0-1 Mother Rose White; 11-4 Emmitsburg, MD - St. Joseph's Provincial House; and 11-3 Washington, D.C. - St. Vincent's Asylum & School

Inventory

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List of her correspondence located in Early Correspondence, 7-10	1	6	1828	1833
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