

# Agnes Ward Amberg Club Collection (SC173)

## *Introduction*

The Agnes Ward Amberg Club Collection contains newspaper and magazine clippings, a pamphlet, and two annual reports relating to the organization.

## *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: The Agnes Ward Amberg Club

Title: The Agnes Ward Amberg Club Collection

Dates: 1919-1944

Size: .03 linear feet, 3 folders

Collection Number: SC173

## *Donor Information*

Found in collection.

## *Citation Note*

The Agnes Ward Amberg Club Collection (SC173), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: Manuscript File: Gallagher, Dorothy – A Case Study of the Agnes Ward Amberg Club of Kansas City, Mo.; SC20 Guadalupe Center Collection

## *Biographical/Historical Sketch*

Beginning in the 1890s, Agnes Ward Amberg and other members of her family began working to establish a Catholic Sunday school, a library, and other charitable efforts designed to encourage the Americanization of recently arrived Italian-American immigrants to Chicago, Illinois.

Inspired by their work, the Agnes Ward Amberg Club was established in 1916 by a group of Catholic women who wished to serve immigrants then living in the Northeast area of Kansas City, Missouri. As stated in their constitution, the organization's mission was "to acquire a broader knowledge of Catholic social problems and to work toward their solution." In 1918, the club expanded its services to the Westside of Kansas City after they recognized a need for a summer school to serve the children of the area's Mexican-American population. In addition to their summer school, club members organized a night school for people of all ages, a sewing school, a Sunday school, various entertainments, a hospital committee, a center for Catholic instruction, music classes, and social service lectures.

On January 1, 1926, the club opened the Guadalupe Center to serve as a social service agency for Latin American immigrants. During this same time period the club helped several Italian-American women organize the Rosary Club, an organization devoted to helping new immigrants preserve their heritage while adapting to American culture. The Agnes Ward Amberg Club ceased to exist in June of 1945 when the Guadalupe Center was incorporated as a social services organization and a board of directors was elected with the help of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

### *Scope and Content Note*

This is an artificial collection consisting of materials related to the Agnes Ward Amberg Club found in Missouri Valley Special Collections. Materials in this collection are arranged by type and chronologically by date.

#### **Series 1: Research File**

This series includes a research file containing newspaper and magazine clippings from the years 1919-1944 concerning the Agnes Ward Amberg Club and its activities.

#### **Series 2: Pamphlets**

This series contains one pamphlet that documents various activities of the club.

#### **Series 3: Annual Reports**

This series contains two annual reports printed to document club activities and expenditures.

### *Collection Inventory*

#### **Series 1: Research File**

f.1 Research File, 1919-1944

#### **Series 2: Pamphlets**

f.2 The Amberg Club and Its Related Charities, September 1, 1922-September 1, 1923

#### **Series 3: Annual Reports**

f.3 Agnes Ward Amberg Club Annual Report, 1929  
Agnes Ward Amberg Club Annual Report, 1930

**Processed by Michael Wells, Special Collections Associate, April 2014**