

**Rev. John W. Moore, C.M. Family Papers**  
1880-1925, 1983

2 boxes  
(0.5 cubic ft.)

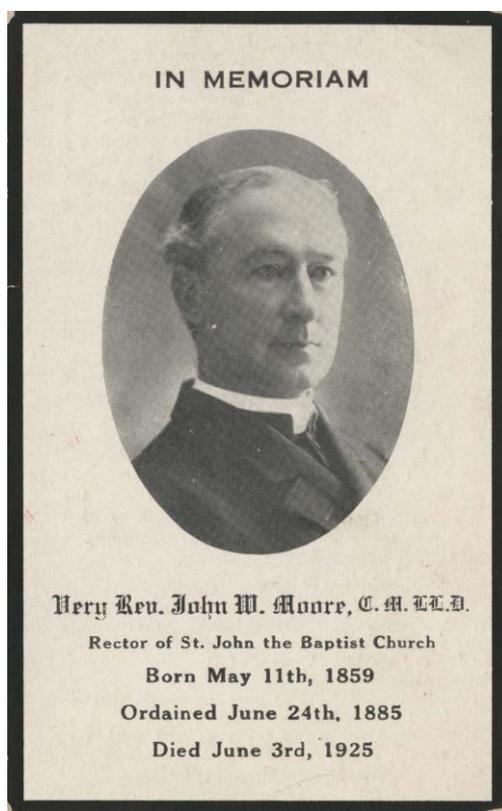
MC 26

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### Provenance

This collection was a gift from St. John's College and St. Vincent's Academy, Philadelphia in the 1970's.

### Biographical Note

John William Vincent Moore was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on May 11, 1859. He was educated in the schools of Cape Girardeau. He entered St. Vincent's Theological Seminary in Germantown, 1879; took his vows on August 15, 1881, and was ordained on June 24, 1885 in the Cathedral at Philadelphia.

After ordination, Fr. Moore was sent to Niagara University for six years where he was Assistant to the Prefect of Studies (1885-1886) and then Prefect of Studies (1886-1889). Following this assignment, he served as Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church in Baltimore for two years. In 1892 he was designated provincial procurator of the community in the United States. During this time he was responsible for administering a variety of building programs including churches, schools, halls and seminary buildings.

In 1906, Fr. Moore was sent to St. John's College to administer a college of 160 students which grew to 2,800 by the time of his death eighteen years later. In addition to this dramatic increase in enrollment, there was a change in the Charter granting the powers of a university (1906). Fr. Moore had the "distinction of establishing and developing modern educational criteria at St. John's." The following occurred during his tenure: a new credit system was developed called "Units of Credit;" the college added extension courses and commercial departments; establishment of a Conservatory of Music (1908), School of Pedagogy (1908), School of Ceramics (1909), and a civil engineering course (1909); High School Commercial Department began offering evening courses (1912); an Endowment Drive (1920) with a goal of one million dollars; the Ladies Auxiliary was founded; St. John's College became a member of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools in the Middle States and Maryland; a two-year pre-dental course and a pre-law course were added (1925); and the School of Law was founded (1925). [Hueppe. *Radiant Light.*]

Fr. Moore changed the colors of the College from *maroon and white* to *red and white* which he felt reflected the symbolic martyrdom and innocence of St. John the Baptist. The seal of St. John's was created by Fr. Moore and was unaltered until 1927. The "Alma Mater" was written as well as other college songs; the *College Chronicle* was published as a part of the Parish bulletin; the first yearbook, the *Vincentian* (1918) was published. The college sponsored teams for basketball, track, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, handball, and football. Student organizations included the special interests of drama, debate, literature, photography, music, as well as fraternities; a cadet battalion, and the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) established in 1918. Graduations were held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music followed by dinner for family and friends at the Astor Hotel. [Hueppe. *Radiant Light.*]

On June 3, 1925, Fr. Moore died following a lengthy illness at St. Agnes' Hospital in Baltimore.

### Scope and Content

The Moore Family Papers include correspondence between John William Vincent Moore, seventh president of St. John's University from 1906 to 1925, and various members of his family. Also included are several pieces of ephemera and a candlestick rumored to date from the Reformation, when it was used by priests who offered Mass surreptitiously, in secret chapels in the homes of Catholic Scots by the documentation provided. The letters from Fr. Moore detail his life as a seminary student in Germantown, Pennsylvania, his first time visiting St. John's College in Brooklyn (a temporary assignment before he eventually became President), visiting New York City and touring several churches and other famous sites in New York for the first time, including St. Patrick's Cathedral and "the Great Bridge of Brooklyn." He also writes about family life, including the death of his father, whose funeral he was not able to attend, and marriage advice for his sister. Letters from July and August 1914 provide information on Rev. John W. Moore in Europe (Germany, France, and Spain) at the breakout of World War One. A letter dated February 5, 1911 from "Bud," Fr. Moore's nephew, to his mother, Mary Weber, provides a description of his last months at the seminary in Germantown, and the reasons why he left to be with his uncle and study at St. John's College.

### Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	1	Two postcards with a view of St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri (one from Helen [?] to Mrs. William Burgess)	n.d.,1907
	2	Two photographs of Cape Girardeau, MO. One of a ferry boat in a port on the Mississippi river, another of St. Vincent's Church.	n.d.
	3	William Moore funeral notice	1882-07-21
	4	Rev. John W. Moore 25th ordination anniversary invitation	1910-06-24
	5	Correspondence: John W. Moore to his mother, Mrs. William Moore (5 letters)	1880-1884
	6	Correspondence: John W. Moore to his sister Mary Moore (later Mrs. John Weber) (18 letters); to his brother in law John Weber (1 letter); a note regarding a trip to New York [illegible], probably from Mary [1 letter]	1880-1914
	7	Correspondence: Moore, John W. to his niece (Marie) (1 letter)	1897
	8	Correspondence: Bud (John W. Moore's nephew) to his mother Mary Weber (1 letter)	1911
	9	John W. Moore funeral card. Correspondence and documentation about candlestick	1925, 1983
2		Candlestick	n.d.