Accession Number: **SC2004-32**

Collection Name (Title): **O’Callahan, Rev. Joseph T. S.J. Papers**

Dates of Material: **1945 – 2003**

Size of Collection: **6 Boxes: 1 Oversize Box**

Arrangement:

Restrictions: None

Related Material:

Preferred Citation:

Processed on: **Nov. 2003**

**Biography/History:**

Joseph O’Callahan was born on May 14, 1905, a son of Cornelius J. and Alice (Casey) O’Callahan in Boston, MA. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1922 at St. Andrew-on-Hudson and was ordained at Weston College on June 20, 1934. O’Callahan received his M.A., Ph.D., S.T.L. and Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Georgetown University. He taught at Holy Cross from 1938 to 1940 and was head of the Mathematics department when he entered the Navy as a chaplain in 1940. He served as chaplain aboard the U.S.S. Franklin when it was attacked off the Japanese coast. His bravery and devotion earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first one earned by a chaplain. He wrote a book about his experiences entitled, *I was Chaplain on the Franklin.* A movie was produced about his experience titled, *Battle Stations.* After he left the Navy he returned to teach philosophy at Holy Cross. He died on March 18, 1964.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains correspondence, personal material, citations, awards, other manuscript material, newspaper clippings and obituaries. There are books, magazine articles and booklets about O’Callahan and the manuscript for *I Was Chaplain on the Franklin.* Memorabilia includes O’Callahan’s Medal of Honor, plaques and material related to the USS O’Callahan.
Scope and Content Note:
The collection spans the period 1945 –2002 and includes 3 boxes of records and 2 boxes of memorabilia.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1:
Folder 1: Personal Papers Given to Holy Cross by Rev. O’Callahan’s sister, Undated; 1945-1977
Folder 2: Correspondence, Undated; 1950-1963
Folder 3: Personal Material, Records of Ceremonies, Address Book, Undated; 1945-1963
Folder 4: Medal of Honor Citation, undated
Folder 5: Obituaries, Eulogies, Death Records, Undated; 1964-1965
Folder 7: Awards and Citations, 1945-1964; undated
Folder 8: Memorials and Awards, 1964-1996
Folder 9: Publication Entitled “The Priest Goes to War”, 1945 (2 copies)
Folder 10: Miscellaneous Publications, 1945-46
Folder 11: Miscellaneous Publications, 1956-2002
Folder 12: Commemorative Envelopes, 1995
Folder 13: News clippings, Undated; 1945-1964
Folder 14: News clippings Undated; 1965-1989
Folder 15: News clippings, 1990-present

Box 2: The U.S.S. Franklin and the U.S.S. O’Callahan
Folder 1-5: U.S.S. Franklin (News clippings)
Folder 7: U.S.S. O’Callahan, Commissioning records, 1966-1968
Folder 8: U.S.S. O’Callahan, Commissioning newspaper clippings, 1966-1968
Folder 9: U.S.S. O’Callahan, Decommissioning of (Programs), 1988
Folder 10: Jay O’Callahan, “Father Joe”

Box 3: Manuscript of *I Was Chaplain on the Franklin*
Folder 1: Publicity
Folder 2: Chapters 1-3, Copy 1
Folder 3: Chapters 4-6, Copy 1
Folder 4: Chapters 7-9, Copy 1
Folder 5: Chapters 1-3, Revision
Folder 6: Chapters 4-6, Revision
Folder 7: Chapters 7-9, Revision

Box 4: Memorabilia
Folder 1: Sacred heart Medal
Folder 2: Medal of Honor extra ribbon and buttons
Folder 3: Medal of Honor Box

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Box 4: Memorabilia
   Folder 4: Medal of Honor replica
   Folder 5: Dogtag
   Folder 6: Bullet shell fired at funeral
   Folder 7: Catholic War Veterans of Schenectady plaque

Box 5: Memorabilia
   Folder 1: USS O’Callahan seal
   Folder 2-3: USS O’Callahan Commissioning memorabilia

Box 6: Medal of Honor

**Oversized Box 1: Miscellaneous Award Material**
   Folder 1: Testimonial Dinner by the BC High School Alumni Assoc. Photograph, 1946
   Folder 2: Testimonial from the Mass. Committee of Catholics, Protestants and Jews, 1946
   Folder 3: Knights of Columbus Testimonial, 1947
   Folder 4: City of Milwaukee, Testimonial, 1947

**Bookshelf**

*I Was Chaplain on the Franklin* by Rev. Joseph T. O’Callahan, 1961 (2 copies)
*The Franklin Comes Home* by A. A. Hoehling, 1974
*U.S.S. Franklin – The Ship That Wouldn’t Die*, 1989
*Big Ben, The Flat Top – The Story of the U.S.S. Franklin CV-13*, 1990 (2 copies)
*Battlefield Chaplains: Catholic Priests in World War II* by Donald F. Crosby, S.J., 1994

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