

**College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number: **SC2000-50**

Collection Name (Title): **St. Bernard's Church-Fitchburg, MA, Account Book**

Dates of Material: **1850-1863**

Size of Collection: **1 Volume**

Arrangement:

Restrictions:

Related Material: **Gift of Thomas J. Price, '31**

Preferred Citation:

Processed on:

Biography/History:

St. Bernard's was the first Catholic Church erected in Fitchburg, MA and one of the first parishes founded in Worcester County. A temporary church was erected by Rev. M.W. Gibson in the town in 1848, which was the forerunner to St. Bernard's Church. Construction on a new church began almost immediately and on September 12, 1852, St. Bernard's was officially dedicated by Right Rev. John Bernard Fitzpatrick, the bishop of Boston at the time. The congregation grew to a point where the first church became insufficient and Rev. Cornelius M. Foley set out to build a new church in 1866. After purchasing enough land work began on the foundation of the new church in 1869, with the corner stone laid on August 22, 1869. The basement of the church was finished by the winter and the church was completed early the next year. The church of St. Bernard's is still located on Water Street in Fitchburg.

Scope and Content Note:

The account book contains a record of expenses from 1850-1856, recorded by Rev. M.W. Gibson, pastor containing lists of expenses for building and furnishing a temporary chapel in 1850. The volume also contains the accounts of Rev. J. Boyce from 1856-1862, Rev. N. Noisseux. Asst. pastor in charge of mission in West Boylston and the French in Worcester and Rev. P.J. O'Reilly, asst. pastor at St. John's from 1857-59.

Box and Folder List: