

## **Chicago Inter-Student Catholic Action (CISCA) Collection**

**Dates:** 1928-1998, Undated

**Creator:** Grace, Brother Michael, S.J. (1932-2002)

**Extent:** 6.5 linear feet

**Processor:** Dorothy Hollahan, BVM, July 14, 2003; updated by K. Young, 2016

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** Consult Archivist

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago Archives. CISCA Collection, 1928-1998. Box #, folder #.

**Provenance:** Materials collected by Br. Grace, S.J.

**Separations:** 1.5 linear feet

**See Also:** Bound volumes of *Today*, 1938-1944 volumes 50-53, 62-63;

### **Administrative History**

CISCA (Chicago Inter Student Catholic Action), was originally founded as Ciscora (Chicago Catholic Student Conference on Religious Activities) in 1927 by Father Joseph Reiner, S.J., at Loyola University in Chicago. Its purpose was to interest and educate high school and college students in Catholic Action. In 1935 Father Martin Carrabine, S.J., was appointed moderator to succeed Father Reiner who died in 1934. CISCA became a very important intellectual and spiritual focus for many high school and college students in the following years. In 1957, CISCA, then identified as a full-fledged Catholic Action program, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with Samuel Cardinal Stritch giving the sermon and blessing. By then CISCA had become mainly a high school organization. CISCA published the CISCA NEWS which had a weekly circulation of fifteen thousand in 1957. There are no CISCA office records in the collection, but a 1965 retrospect indicated that CISCA no longer existed as an organization.

### **Scope and Content**

The CISCA Collection exists due to the efforts of Brother Michael Grace S.J., Loyola University Chicago archivist. In 1979 he wrote to former CISCANS to ask for material for a CISCA collection. In the same year, a group of former CISCANS planned a memorial birthday party for Martin Carrabine S.J. and contributions for the collection began.

The collection spans the years from 1926 to 1999 and reports the beginnings of Ciscora (later changed to CISCA) in 1927. CISCA's roots were in the Sodality of Our Lady, "an organized apostolate to encourage personal holiness and active Catholicism".

Both the founder of CISCA, Joseph Reiner S.J. (d. 1934) and Martin Carrabine S.J., moderator from 1935 to 1950, were deeply involved in encouraging college and high school students to become educated Catholics living Christ-like lives.

The collection includes the founding of CISCA and the history of its growth and organization until the late 1950s. Often the records are incomplete. The collection includes CISCA publications and the work of the CISCA Alumni. Also included is the correspondence of Sister Cecilia Himebaugh O.S.B. with Father Carrabine about planning CISCA weekly meetings.

Carrabine was appointed the Midwest Regional Secretary of the Sodality of Our Lady in 1950 and left CISCA as moderator. Monsignor Peter Meegan was appointed as moderator by

Bishop Sheil to replace Carrabine. In 1957 there was a thirty-year anniversary of CISCA with Cardinal Stritch and Bishop Sheil in attendance.

In the collection there is no formal end of CISCA. Other moderators were appointed by Bishop Sheil. However one's impression is that in the memories and minds of former CISCANS Martin Carrabine and CISCA are synonymous terms. The collection has been divided into eleven series as described below.

## **Series**

### **Series 1: History of CISCA, 1938-1998, Box 1**

Contains biographical information on Joseph Reiner S.J. founder of CISCA in 1927 and Martin Carrabine S.J. moderator from 1935 to 1950. A 1935 publication "Crusaders In Student Catholic Action" is a tribute to Reiner and a history of the founding of CISCA, originally called Ciscora, Chicago Catholic Students' Conference on Religious Activities. The name was changed to CISCA-Chicago Students Catholic Action-in 1934 and later became Chicago Inter-Student Catholic Action.

Bishop Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Chicago Archdiocese had been appointed Director General of CISCA and had accepted CISCA as the official organization of student Catholic Action in the Archdiocese. Reiner in 1927 with Loyola students planned a meeting of college and high school students. Ninety-six representatives of schools met and Ciscora began. Reiner four-ply plan of organization was used. Carrabine used the same framework. Carrabine, in November 1935, planned a Catholic Action School where there was a re-motivation of the original organization. The ultimate aim of CISCANS was ". to think and act as Christ would think and act." CISCANS were to retain to act in this way to their families, schools, and parishes. The series also contains other historical accounts of CISCA and reports of the CISCA reunions from 1979 to 1998. These meetings included a Golden Jubilee celebration for Carrabine in 1963 and a memorial at his death in 1965. Newspaper clippings and articles on CISCA are also included.

### **Series 2: Purpose and Organization of CISCA, 1933-1948, Box 3**

Contains incomplete and sometimes worn material on weekly meeting plans, agendas for these Saturday meetings and agendas for the quarterly general meetings. A copy of the prayer of Cardinal Newman adopted in 1936 as the official CISCA prayer is in the file. This prayer was used before every CISCA meeting. The agendas for the general meetings where date from 1931 as Ciscora to 1948 as CISCA and are from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 59<sup>th</sup> general meeting. CISCA celebrated its fifth anniversary at the 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting. The weekly meeting agendas date from 1940 to 1942. Lessons on the Mystical Body as background for the weekly agendas are included. Included also are copies of the CISCA News, correspondence on Crusaders of Catholic Revolution and copies of "The Parish Turns Red" written in 1944 by Carrabine and S.Cecilia Himebaugh.

### **Series 3: The Sodality Of Our Lady/Summer Schools of Catholic Action, 1932-1947, Box 3**

Contains Sodalite Newsletters that reflect much CISCA participation. Programs for the Student Leadership Conventions in Chicago from 1932 to 1938 are included. Summer Schools of Catholic Action (S.S.C.A.) under Sodality leadership involved many CISCANS when there were Chicago meetings and course outlines from 1937 to 1940 are in the file along with S.S.C.A. News Bulletins from 1937-1947.

**Series 4: CISCA Alumni /Collection of CISCA Skits and Plays, 1939-1965, Boxes 3-4**

Includes the 1937 organization of the CISCA Alumni whose constitution states that the Board of Directors of 12 would have six male and six females members. Along with correspondence there are detailed plans for a Catholic Social Action Guild, which later became the Bishop Sheil School of Social Studies. Alumni publications-The Colyum and The Alumnique- from 1939 to 1942 are included. There is also a "Collection of CISCA Letters From Its Servicemen" written from 1941 to 1943. Alumni activities were many including a speaker's bureau, a creative writing course, the Catholic Labor Alliance and drama groups. The war in 1941 took many alumni away from Chicago and meetings. CISCA encouraged creative writing and the arts. This series contains numerous skits and plays written and produced by CISCAns to be presented at meetings. Included also are some CISCA memorabilia and a Variety show program. The skits and plays are often listed on meeting agendas.

**Series 5: The Catholic Youth Senate/ Catholic Youth Congress, 1938-1976, Box 5**

Contains general information on the American Youth Congress and detailed information on the Catholic groups. The Catholic Youth Senate was begun under the direction of Bishop Sheil as a coordinating agency of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) "to present a united front in matters of general concern, spiritual, intellectual and social and to formulate definite plans of action for mutual assistance' as stated in its constitution. Some correspondence is included along with the Gallery, a 1938 publication on current events including world issues and problems. The threat of a war is very evident in the articles. At the request of Bishop Sheil the Catholic Youth Senate planned a Catholic Youth Congress that was held October 4-6, 1940 in Chicago. John Langdon as CYS president gave the opening address. The program, a detailed report and resolutions from the Congress, show careful planning with prior educational preparation for the high school and college participants. The final report reflects some disappointment with the attendance and the impact of the Catholic Youth Congress. Also included in this series is a June 1976 Catholic Worker article on the death of John Cogley who was the founding editor of TODAY magazine. This was a magazine begun by CISCA and aimed at young Catholic students.

**Series 6: Material Collected and Contributed by Significant Persons Involved In CISCA, 1934-1999, Box 6**

Contains death information on John Langdon and Mary Margaret Mitchell Langdon (Megs) who were very active in CISCA and CISCA Alumni. The Langdons and others (see 1963 Golden Jubilee celebration and 1965 Memorial Mass files) planned the jubilee celebration for Carrabine in 1963 and the Memorial Mass in 1965. Correspondence of John Langdon and Joe Golden with Carrabine and others is included. The series also has a file from Joe Golden of letters from Carrabine to CISCAns in military service, 1943-1945. Also included are contributions from Nina Polycn Moore and Sister Katherine Forsyth BVM on Catholic lay activity.

**Series 7: Correspondence of Sister Cecilia Himebaugh OSB, 1932-1977, Box 7**

Contains material almost all of which is from the St. Scholastica Priory Archives in Chicago. Sister Cecilia was a CISCA faculty moderator at St. Scholastica High School worked with both Reiner and Carrabine. The newspaper death notice refers to S. Cecilia as co-organizer with Carrabine of CISCA. Much of the correspondence is about meeting plans and agendas. Following the 1977 obit/memorial the series contains extensive correspondence between Carrabine and S. Cecilia. S. Cecilia was responsible for the "Oratre Fratres" 1935 article about the CISCA Plan. She also wrote on the Mystical Body for CISCA meeting agendas and study. Carrabine with her help in

1935 secured an Imprimatur from Virgil Michel OSB so the Mystical Body study could be written and distributed for use in the CISCA Saturday meetings.

There is also much correspondence between S.Cecilia and liturgists, Virgil Michel,OSB; Godfrey Diekmann,OSB; and Gerald Ellard ,SJ. S. Cecilia's relationship with Carrabine was warm and friendly and their letter writing did not end when he left as moderator in 1950 but continued until 1963.

**Series 8: Martin Carrabine S.J. Golden Jubilee Celebration, 1963, Box 8**

Contains correspondence between John Langdon and James McQuade, S. J. about plans for a CISCA celebration of Carrabine's Golden Jubilee at Madonna Della Strada in Chicago on June 29, 1963.Lunch and a reception followed at Mundelein College. Monsignor Jack Egan, a CISCA alumnus, gave the homily. Included in the series are notes from the planning committee, the jubilee program, the homily and some news clippings. Many cards and letters of congratulations for Carrabine and thank you notes for the jubilee committee are also included. There are also numerous cards and letters to Carrabine from his Jesuit community celebration.

**Series 9: Death of Martin Carrabine, 1961-1991, Box 9**

Contains some biographical material. It also contains a Dorothy Day Catholic Worker report of a visit to Carrabine in 1965 in Michigan. There is some personal correspondence of Carrabine including a letter from Cardinal Stritch. Obits on Carrabine's death on August 17, 1965, from newspapers are included. CISCA had a Memorial Mass for Carrabine on October 9, 1965, with Monsignor Egan as celebrant and John Felton S.J. gave the sermon. In the letter announcing the memorial mass to former CISCAns the request was made for story material about Carrabine. The letter stated, "so great was Father Carrabine's impact on the Catholic vision in Chicago that the story someday will be told". Also in the series is a one page report on the Memorial Mass, some notes with no author on Carrabine's life and some brief correspondence on possible canonization of Carrabine.

**Series 10: Books and Periodicals Used In CISCA, 1928-1968, Box 10**

Contains material on theology, peace plans, Papal writings, marriage, civil rights and labor issues and other publications.

**Series 11: Newspapers, 1934-1976, Box 11**

Contains copies of the CISCA page of the THE NEW WORLD, archdiocesan paper from 1934 to 1939. The collection is incomplete. There are also copies of the Catholic Worker 1936 to 1938 and one issue of the Chicago Catholic Worker. The 1976 June Catholic Worker contains a story on John Cogley.

**Subjects:**

Carrabine, Martin, SJ  
CISCA  
Ciscora  
Cogley, John  
Doctrine of the Mystical Body  
Egan, John, Monsignor  
Felten, John, SJ  
Golden, Joe

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Grace, Michael, SJ  
Hamebaugh, S. Cecilia, OSB  
Hartnett, Robert, SJ  
Langdon, John  
Langdon, Mary Margaret Mitchell (Megs)  
Lord, Daniel, SJ  
Marciniak, Edward  
Michel, Virgil, OSB  
Reinert, Joseph, SJ  
Sheil, Bernard, Bishop  
Sheil School of Social Studies  
Sodality of Our Lady  
Today magazine  
Tordella, Louis  
Yore, James

**Creator:** Grace, Brother Michael, S.J. (1932-2002)

**Extent:** 6.5 linear feet

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Series 1: History of CISCA, 1938-1998</b>			
1	1	Letter of Brother Michael Grace to CISCAns and responses	1979
1	2	Other responses to Grace letter	1979-81
1	3	CISCA celebration of Carrabine's birthday	1979
1	4	Biography and tribute to Joseph Reiner	1933-1987
1	5	Biographical information on Martin Carrabine	1950-1987
1	6	Joseph Reiner's 4 Ply Program-A Program For Catholic Action	1933
1	7	Ciscora constitution	1933-34
1	8	Ciscora-Organization and Committee Structure	1933-34
1	9	Ciscora News	1933
1	10	CISCA constitution	1934
1	11	The History of CISCA	1926-1944
1	12	The CISCA Plan /published in Orate Fratres	1935
1	13	Tenth Anniversary Program and Agenda-CISCA In Retrospect - Letter from Hartnett, S.J.	1937
1	14	CISCA-The CISCA Organization: Pro and Con	undated
1	15	The Purpose of CISCA by Martin Carrabine	1939
1	16	CISCA-The West Point of Catholic Action	1939
1	17	The Origin of CISCA-by S. Cecilia Himebaugh OSB	1940
1	18	Catholic Action Bulletin	1941
1	19	CISCA Anniversary-Program with Mass and History	1957
1	20	History of CISCA-In Retrospect by S. Cecilia	1965
1	21	CISCA Memorial Mass for Carrabine and Mailing List	1986
1	22	CISCA Reunion-CISCA Archive Project	1998
1	23	CISCA Periodicals/Publications which report and explain CISCA activities	1936-1956
1	24	Newspaper clippings on CISCA	1937-1961
1	25	A Tribute To Father Carrabine-New World clipping-a letter from Joan Smith O'Gara	1991
<b>Series 2: Purpose and Organization of CISCA, 1933-1948</b>			
2	1	Sodality reports	1933-34
2	2	CISCA Miscellaneous Information-Originals	1935-1942
2	3	CISCA Miscellaneous Information-Xerox copies	1935-1942
2	4	Carrabine Correspondence	1936-1948
2	5	List of Faculty Moderators	1936-1937
2	6	CISCA Meeting Plans	1937-1938, 1941-1942

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2	7	CISCA Committee Agendas-Incomplete	Nov. 1938- Mar. 1939
2	8	Committee Meeting Agendas	Oct. 1939- May 1940
2	9	Lessons on the Mystical Body-Catholic School Journal	1940
2	10	Committee Meetings Agendas-Original and Xerox	Sept. 1940- May 1941
2	11	Committee Meeting Agendas-originals	Oct. 1941- May 1942
2	12	Committee Meeting Agendas-Xerox	Oct. 1941- May 1942
2	13	Committee Meeting Agendas-originals	Dec. 1942- April 1948
2	14	Committee Meeting Agendas-Xerox	Dec. 1942- April 1948
2	15	Day of Motivation	Nov. 1948
2	16	Board of Directors Meeting	1938/1942
2	17	Executive Committee meetings	Sept. 1937- Sept 1938
2	18	CISCA (Ciscora) General Meetings-Originals	1931-1948
2	19	CISCA (Ciscora) General Meetings –Xerox	1931-1948
2	20	CISCA Parents Meeting	1941/1942
2	21	CISCA News/ The CISCAn-originals	1941-1946
2	22	CISCA News/The CISCAn-Xerox	1941-1946
2	23	CISCA Writing Contest-Winning Papers	1936/1937
2	24	CISCA Crusaders of Catholic Revolution-Originals	1937-1946
2	25	CISCA Crusaders of Catholic Revolution-Xerox	1937-1946
2	26	Second College Forum-Agriculture-Originals	1939
2	27	Second College Forum-Agriculture-Xerox	1939
2	28	CISCA Summer Forums	1939-1941
2	29	“The Parish Turns Red “ a pamphlet by Carrabine and S. Cecilia	1944

**Series 3: Sodality of Our Lady/Summer Schools of Catholic Action, 1932-1947**

3	1	Sodalite Newsletter/ CISCA participants	1932-1937
3	2	Sodality-The Student Leadership Convention	July 1932/ 1934
3	3	Sodality-The Student Leadership Convention- Actionews Bulletin	July 1936
3	4	Sodality-Seventh Student Leadership Convention/Chicago (CISCA) Regional Session/Newsletter	March 1938
3	5	Sodality/General Publications-Ideals and Norms/Pope Pius XII 1945/ The Queens Work/	1938-1945
3	6	Sodality Retreat Bulletin	Jan. 1940
3	7	Sodality Parish Bulletin	1938
3	8	Sodality-Summer School of Catholic Action-Course Outlines	1937-1940
3	9	Sodality –Summer School of Catholic Action-News Bulletins/Today/ Scanning-Originals and Xerox	1938-1947

**Series 4: CISCA Alumni/CISCA Skits and Plays  
1937-1967**

3	10	CISCA Alumni Constitution	1947, undated
3	11	CISCA Alumni-General Information	1937-1940
3	12	CISCA Alumni Correspondence	1937-1941
3	13	Board of Directors ' Meetings/Committee work	1938-1941
3	14	Outline of Committees	1941
3	15	CISCA Alumni-Plans for a Catholic Social Action Guild	1941
3	16	CISCA Alumni publications: The Colyum/The Alumnique (News of CISCA Alumni)	1939-1942
3	17	"CISCA Letters From Its Servicemen"	1941-1943
4	1	CISCA memorabilia	1938-1965
4	2	The First Letter of Paul to the Chicagoans Extensive references to Catholic Action and to CISCAns Such as Carrabine, Marciniak, Cogley, Egan, Cantwell No author is identified	undated
4	3	CISCA Variety Show Programs	1944/1949
4	4	CISCA-Skits and Plays –used for CISCA meetings/a	Undated
4	5	CISCA –Skits and Plays-used for CISCA meetings/b	Undated

**Series 5: Catholic Youth Senate/Catholic Youth Congress,  
1938-1976**

5	1	Article on the death of John Cogley in Catholic Worker	June 1976
5	2	American Youth Congress	1939-1941
5	3	Correspondence on American Youth Congress	1940-1941
5	4	Catholic Youth Senate Constitution/By Laws/and a Proposed Constitution	Undated
5	5	Catholic Youth Senate/Member Organizations	1940
5	6	Catholic Youth Senate-Minutes	Feb.1940-June 1941
5	7	Catholic Youth Senate-Correspondence	1940-1941
5	8	Catholic Youth Senate /Gallery-a publication	May 1938- Sept. 1938
5	9	Catholic Youth Senate-Activities	1940
5	10	Catholic Youth Congress Planning Committee	1940
5	11	Catholic Youth Congress – Program	1940
5	12	Report of the First Catholic Youth Congress	Oct.4-6 1940
5	13	Resolutions of the First Catholic Youth Congress	1940
5	14	Catholic Youth Congress-miscellaneous information	Undated
5	15	Catholic Youth Organization-Parish Service Bulletins	Undated

**Series 6: This Material Collected and Contributed by  
Significant People Involved with CISCA  
1934-1999**

6	1	Obits for John Langdon and Mary Margaret Mitchell Langdon (Megs)	1988-1993
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6	2	Megs Langdon-CISCA material	1938-1940
6	3	Carrabine correspondence with Mary Catherine Langdon (sister of John)	1938-1954
6	4	John Langdon correspondence with Reiner, Carrabine, Ciscora—Originals and Xerox	1934-1940
6	5	John Langdon Correspondence –Original and Xerox	1940/1941
6	6	John Langdon correspondence –Restricted	1941
6	7	Joe Golden-Correspondence with Carrabine-Originals	1937-1949
6	8	Joe Golden-Correspondence with Carrabine-Xerox	1937-1949
6	9	Joe Golden-Variety of correspondence	1937-1942
6	10	Joe Golden-Letters from Carrabine to those in military service-Originals	1943-1945
6	11	Joe Golden-Letters from Carrabine to those in military service-Xerox	1943-1945
6	12	WORK-copy of July 1943 issue/published by Catholic Labor Alliance/Edward Marciniak	1943
6	13	Copy of Chicago Catholic Worker paper	1937-1938
6	14	Paper on John Cogley as a Catholic Layman by S. Katherine Forsyth, B.V.M.(SM St. Ida)	Undated
6	15	Interview with Nina Polycn Moore (St. Benet Bookstore) on Catholic Action in Chicago/CISCA related	1997-1999

**Series 7: Correspondence of Sister Cecilia Himebaugh, OSB  
1932-1977**

7	1	Obit and memorial for S. Cecilia	1977
7	2	S. Cecilia correspondence to Carrabine	1937-1959
7	3	Carrabine correspondence to S. Cecilia	1934-1963
7	4	S. Cecilia correspondence with Virgil Michel OSB on CISCA topics/ Letter from Martin Carrabine to Michel	1934-1958
7	5	Correspondence to S. Cecilia from Reiner, Carrabine, Fulton Sheen, John Cogley and many others	1932-1944
7	6	Correspondence of S. Cecilia with liturgical and spiritual writers, with prominent authors and prominent persons	1954-1976

**Series 8: Martin Carrabine –Golden Jubilee Celebration,  
1963**

8	1	Correspondence of John Langdon with McQuade, SJ on Carrabine Golden Jubilee celebration in Chicago	1963
8	2	Planning Committee for CISCA celebration	1963
8	3	Carrabine Golden Jubilee/News clippings, Egan Homily and thank you notes to committee	1963
8	4	Carrabine Golden Jubilee letters #1	1963
8	5	Carrabine Golden Jubilee letters #2	1963
8	6	Carrabine Golden Jubilee cards #1	1963

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8 7 Carrabine Golden Jubilee cards #2 1963

**Series 9: Martin Carrabine Death  
1961-1991**

9 1 Martin Carrabine SJ-Biographical materials/Dorothy Day article/  
Jack Egan 1991 article 1963-1991

9 2 Carrabine-personal correspondence/Letter from Archbishop  
Stritch 1935—1961

9 3 Correspondence of John Langdon about Christmas cards from  
Carrabine 1961-1965

9 4 CISCA Memorial Mass for Carrabine / Invitation and Summary  
of Homily by John Felten SJ 1965

9 5 CISCA Memorial Mass for Carrabine/ Correspondence, Thank  
you notes to John and Megs Langdon from Felten, Ray Wetzell,  
Louis Tordella, Joan O'Hara and others 1965

9 6 Notes on Carrabine's life/Unidentified writer Undated

9 7 Martin Carrabine –Canonization discussion 1986

**Series 10: Books/Periodicals Used in CISCA  
1928-1968, n.d.**

10 1 Articles used by CISCAnS to plan meeting agendas:  
Papal Peace Points 1939-1944  
A Lesson in Mystical Biology –Nihil Obstat by Virgil Michel,  
OSB  
The Land, n.d.  
Prelude to the Revolution, n.d.

10 2 Copy of Mr. Blue 1957

10 3 TODAY-National Catholic magazine published by CISCA March 1958

10 4 New City 1968

10 5 Journal of Religious Instruction 1934

10 6 Catholic Association For International Peace /  
Paul Hanley Furfey pamphlet 1928-1940

10 7 Pamphlets on Civil Rights/ Labor Laws 1929-1940

10 8 Collection of pamphlets-Legion of Decency/ Legion of Mary  
and others 1932-1939

10 9 Trappist publications 1939-1941

10 10 The Church and the Social Order/ Apostolate/Parish 1945

10 11 Marriage A Great Sacrament/Psalms 1945

10 12 Grailville pamphlet 1952

**Series 11: Newspapers-1934-1976**

11	1	The New World CISCA page—incomplete Papers are from Oct. 12, 1934 to May 12, 1939	1934-1939
11	2	The Catholic Worker-Chicago	Undated
11	3	The Catholic Worker –New York-incomplete	1936-1938/ 1976