Loyola University Chicago
Rome Center for Liberal Arts
Records

Dates: 1962-1976, Undated
Creator: Rome Center for Liberal Arts (1962- )
Extent: 1.0 linear feet
Level of description: Folder
Processor & date: K. Young, 2023

Administration Information
Restrictions: None
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Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Archives & Special Collections. Rome Center for Liberal Arts records, 1962-1976, Undated. Box # - Folder #.
Provenance: Transferred to University Archives on 5/22/1986.
Language of Materials: English, Italian
Separations: Copies of Thomas Hogan, S.J., photograph transferred to portrait file; copies of Rome Center convocation programs put in Honorary Degrees – Rome file; duplicates of published materials were destroyed.

Administrative History
Founded in 1962, the Rome Center of Loyola University Chicago began as an idea of John Felice, SJ, then professor of Theology at Loyola, who envisioned a “Center of Humanistic Studies in Rome.” In 1962, Felice brought 90 students and seven faculty members to Rome for a semester of study. The program was housed at CIVIS (Centro Internazionale Viaggi Istruzione Studenti), a group of buildings originally constructed for the 1960 Rome Olympics. By August of 1962, the Rome Center had already expanded in scale with an increased number of students and faculty. In 1963, the program took over an entire building, rather than the two floors it had originally occupied. In two years the Rome Center had outgrown the facilities of CIVIS.

Following the end of the 1966 spring semester, the Rome Center moved to the Villa Tre Colli, property owned by the Vatican State. This began a five-year lease of the property that consisted of several buildings on 25 acres. Loyola added a student union, tennis courts, and basketball court to the grounds. From 1966 to 1972, student attendance increased exponentially, with a corresponding increase in faculty. The Rome Center’s tenure at the Villa ended in 1972, with a new location, the
Villa Maria Teresa, starting for the 1972-1973 academic year. In addition to changing locations, founder and director, John Felice, retired at the start of the 1972-1973 academic year and was replaced by John T. Dillon, SJ. Felice stayed on at the Rome Center as Dean of Students. Thomas L. Hogan, SJ, was appointed as director in 1976. Hogan combined the position of the director with that of Academic Dean. During this time the enrollment fell to a low of 158 students. In 1979 move occurred with the Rome Center in 1979 moving to its fourth location of Via Massimi 114/A, which was rented from the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna. Shortly after the move, John J. Kilgallen SJ, became the fourth director of the Rome Center. Enrollments increased steadily. The fifth director of the Rome Center, James Arimond, SJ, was named in 1981. By the 20th anniversary of the Rome Center in 1982, tuition had increased to $7000, there were 140 faculty members, 20 administrators and support staff, and over 85 American colleges represented each year in the student body. Classes usually taught at the Rome Center include Anthropology, Business, Classical Studies, Education, English, Fine Arts, History, Italian language, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Theatre, and Theology.

In 2006, Loyola purchased the Via Massimi location for a permanent Rome Center campus. In 2009 the Rome Center for Liberal Arts was renamed the John Felice Rome Center (JFRC).

**Scope and Content**
This 1.0 linear foot of Rome Center for Liberal Arts records span the years 1962 to 1976 and include correspondence, telegrams, programs, newspaper clippings, histories, reports, memos, and proposals.

Arrangement: Chronological

**Subjects**
Loyola University Chicago
Rome Center for Liberal Arts
John Felice Rome Center
Business Administration, School of
Convocations
Honorary degrees
Dell’Acqua, Cardinal A.
Gronchi, Giovanni
Segni, Antonio
Beaumont College (England)
Florence Flood
Accession No.: UA1986.20
Creator: Rome Center for Liberal Arts (1962- )

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