

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 453

Title: Open House Community

Extent: 3 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1974-1979

Language: English

Geographic Location: Lake Charles, Louisiana

Abstract: This collection consists of newsletters and general information about the community.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Collective Settlements; Christian life; Christian ethics

Historical Notes: The Open House Community was established in 1970 as a noncanonical, charismatic Roman Catholic experiment. Three families sold their possessions and began to build simple homes and a common building on a tracked of wooded land outside Lake Charles, Louisiana. Members are dedicated to simple living, seeking to build a new society on Christian principles. The community's rural landholding encompasses 60 acres. In the mid-1970s Open House averaged 24 residents, not all of them full members. In 1988 it reported an overall membership of 33 adults and 41 children. The community has sometimes been called Holy City. (Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015, p. 329)

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
<i>Community Bulletin</i> . Lake Charles, LA: Open House Community. (March 1977)-(April/May 1978), (Sept./Oct. 1978)-(Nov. 1979)	1977-1979	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 15-E
Thompson, Paul. "How It Feels to Give It All Away." June 1, 1974	1974	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 15-E
Miscellaneous information	n.d., 1977	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 15-E