



*The following is the finding aid for the Missionary Association of Catholic Women collection located at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Archives. A finding aid is a tool used in archives that briefly describes the material found in a collection. These records are not available digitally unless otherwise noted.*

[Researchers must make an appointment with an archivist to view the material.](#)

**Missionary Association of Catholic Women  
Records, 1920-2001  
AS 307**

**Volume**  
0.2 cubic feet

**Access**  
Open/unrestricted

**Arrangement**  
Alphabetical

**Historical Note**

Mary Gockel founded the U.S. branch of the Missionary Association of Catholic Women (MACW) in 1916, helping it become a state-recognized organization in 1920. In Milwaukee around 1914, Gockel organized a sewing circle in honor of Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus, better known simply as Little Flower. This was the first action of the group that would eventually found the U.S. branch of MACW. While MACW began as little more than a charitable sewing circle, the organization—once officially recognized—held as its goal to provide monetary and spiritual support to all Roman Catholic missions at home and abroad, as well promoting religious charity and education more generally. The first public MACW meeting was held in St. Francis hall on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1916, coinciding with the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Over the years, MACW, with its national headquarters in Milwaukee, grew rapidly in terms of members and funding, providing charitable donations to missions as nearby as the south side of Milwaukee and as far off as those in Brazil, India and Uganda, among others. The MACW dissolved in 1986, but continued its work through the Society of the Propagation of Faith.

**Scope and Content** *a brief description of the types of materials in the collection.*

This collection contains administrative records of the Missionary Association of Catholic Women in Milwaukee, including financial reports, board meeting agendas and minutes, board of directors meetings, information about board members, as well as their correspondences. These administrative records span from 1943-2001. Also included is a folder of historical documents pertaining to the early creation and development of the MACW, including a short biography of founding member, Mary Gockel, legal paperwork and articles of organizations and by-laws. Another small softbound book contains a collection of photographs from MACW-organized Archdiocesan Conventions in the mid-1920s. The rest of these historical documents also date from 1920-1926.

| Box | Folder | Folder Title                                        |
|-----|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| B 1 | F 1    | Annual Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes, 1987-1995 |
| B 1 | F 2    | Board of Directors Meetings, 1943-1986              |
| B 1 | F 3    | Board Members, 1987-1994                            |
| B 1 | F 4    | Correspondences, 1977-1999                          |

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>          |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| B 1        | F 5           | Financial Records, 1986-2001 |
| B 1        | F 6           | Historical Documents         |