



The following is the finding aid for the Archbishop Moses Kiley collection located at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Archives. A finding aid is a catalog tool used in archives that briefly describes the material found in a collection. These records are not available digitally.

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

Moses Elias Kiley, 1876-1953

Papers, 1906-1961

MC 18

Access

Open/unrestricted

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

This collection of Milwaukee's sixth Archbishop (1940-1953) contains: biographical information; a small amount of correspondence (1912-1949); preparation and program materials for installation as archbishop of Milwaukee (1940), and as bishop of Trenton, NJ (1934); funeral cards and preparation materials (1953); legislation (1940-1961) affecting the church, including correspondence; newspaper clippings (1934-1953); sermons and conference materials (1913-1934); and a folder of miscellaneous items (1906-1953). In 2009 some of Kiley's Circular Letters (1940-1953) were added to the collection.

The records in this collection relate directly to Archbishop Kiley. Additional records from the time period when he was in office may be located in other collections. Consult an archivist for details.

Biographical Note

Moses Elias Kiley was born on November 13, 1876, in Margaree, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He was ordained a priest on June 10, 1911, in Rome. Kiley's studies for priesthood in Rome left him with a strong sense of central authority, which he brought to Milwaukee.

Before coming to Milwaukee, Kiley served in Chicago as an associate pastor in a Chicago parish and director of a mission for homeless men. There he gained the attention of Archbishop Mundelein who taught him the skills needed to be a bishop. In the 1920s, Kiley was appointed the spiritual director of the North American College in Rome. His experience on several curial commissions earned him an appointment as the bishop of Trenton, New Jersey. After six years in Trenton, Kiley was chosen to head the Archdiocese of Milwaukee after Archbishop Samuel Stritch was transferred to Chicago. He was consecrated to the episcopacy on March 28, 1940.

The diocese celebrated its centennial under Kiley in 1943. Due to the centennial celebration, he was charged with restoring the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, which had been gutted by a major fire in 1935. Kiley also rebuilt the St. Aemillian orphanage, which had also suffered major fire damage in the 1930s. Additionally, he renovated Saint Francis Seminary, and converted Pio Nono High School into Saint Francis Minor Seminary. Despite these changes, however, the budget-minded Kiley was reluctant to spend money on other projects, which left a large task for his successor.

The Second World War marked Kiley's episcopacy, as chaplains were needed for the millions entering the armed forces. About 25,000 Catholics from the archdiocese joined the Armed Forces, and 30 priests from the archdiocese volunteered as chaplains.

In a period also marked by a surge in Catholic devotionism, the growing number of Catholic families led Kiley to establish a Catholic Family Life Bureau in 1948. Archbishop Kiley was eventually immobilized by his deteriorating health, and Auxiliary Bishop Roman Atkielski took on more of his duties. Kiley died on April 15, 1953, in Milwaukee. His motto was: Ut Sim Fedelis. "That I Might Be Faithful"

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged alphabetically. "B" is an abbreviation for box and "F" is an abbreviation for folder. This list will help the researcher narrow down exactly what folder they want to look at.*

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 1	F 1	Biographical Information
B 2	F 6	Circular Letters, 1940-1941
B 2	F 7	Circular Letters, 1942-1943
B 2	F 8	Circular Letters, 1944-1946
B 2	F 9	Circular Letters, 1947-1948
B 2	F 10	Circular Letters, 1949-1950
B 2	F 11	Circular Letters, 1951-1953
B 1	F 2	Coat of Arms
B 1	F 3	Correspondence, 1912-1949
B 1	F 4	Funeral, Cards, 1953
B 1	F 5	Funeral, Preparations, 1953
B 1	F 6	Installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee, Preparations, 1940
B 1	F 7	Installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee, Programs, 1940
B 1	F 8	Installation as Bishop of Trenton, Programs, 1934
B 1	F 9	Legislation, n.d., 1940-1945
B 1	F 10	Legislation, 1946-1961
B 1	F 11	Miscellaneous, n.d., 1906-1953
B 1	F 12	Newspaper Clippings, 1934-1953
B 1	F 13	Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbook, 1934
B 2	F 1	Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbook, 1934
B 2	F 2	Sermons and Conferences, While Spiritual Director at North American College, Rome, n.d.
B 2	F 3	Sermons and Conferences, While Spiritual Director at North American College, Rome, n.d.
B 2	F 4	Sermons and Conferences, 1913-1929
B 2	F 5	Sermons and Conferences, 1932-1934