



The following is the finding aid for the Archbishop Samuel Stritch 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.](#)

Samuel Alphonsus Stritch, 1887-1958

Papers, 1930-1958

MC 19

Volume

0.55 cubic feet

Access

Open/unrestricted

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

This collection of Milwaukee's fifth archbishop (1930-1940) contains: addresses (1946-1952); bingo/games of chance materials (1937-1940); biographical information; correspondence (1940-1956), a large part of it between Stritch, after he became Archbishop of Chicago, and Moses E. Kiley, his Milwaukee successor; farewell/departure from Milwaukee materials (1940); German refugee problem files (1937-1939); installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee programs (1930); medals (1946); newspaper clippings (1930-1958); and a folder of miscellaneous materials (1930-1950). In 2009 some of Archbishop Stritch's Circular Letters (1930-1940) were added to the collection.

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

Biographical Note

Samuel Alphonsus Stritch was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 17, 1887. Considered a child prodigy, Stritch entered college at age 16 and attended the North American College in Rome to complete his studies. He was ordained on May 21, 1910, in Rome. Before entering the episcopate, he served in Memphis and Nashville. He was made bishop of Toledo, Ohio, on November 30, 1921, at the age of 34. Stritch was transferred to Milwaukee and installed as archbishop on August 26, 1930. Stritch was known for his youth, kindness and idealism though most of his years were spent coping with the Great Depression.

In 1935, a fire destroyed the interior of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Stritch was sensitive to the devastating effects of the Depression on the people of Milwaukee, however, and postponed all restoration of the burned out cathedral. He also chose not to renovate Saint Francis Seminary for the same reason, though it was showing need for major repair.

Stritch called for the first National Catholic Social Action Conference, held in Milwaukee in 1938. He played a particularly important role in mobilizing support behind the Catholic Action movement sanctioned by Pope Pius XI. The movement invited the laity to participate in the apostolate of the hierarchy, and Stritch not only included important clerics in his inner circle, but also frequently consulted prominent laity.

Stritch founded the Catholic Youth Organization to care for the spiritual, cultural, social and athletic needs of youth. The organization soon grew to include over 30,000 boys and girls.

Stritch was transferred to the Archdiocese of Chicago on December 27, 1939, and was made cardinal on February 18, 1946. Cardinal Stritch served the people of Chicago until his death on May 27, 1958, in Rome. His motto was: Deus Meus Adjutor Meus. "My God, My Helper"

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	Addresses, n.d., 1946, 1952
B 1	F 2	Bingo/Games of Chance, 1937-1940
B 1	F 3	Biographical Information
B 1	F 12	Circular Letters, 1930-1931
B 2	F 1	Circular Letters, 1932
B 2	F 2	Circular Letters, 1933-1934
B 2	F 3	Circular Letters, 1935-1936
B 2	F 4	Circular Letters, 1937
B 2	F 5	Circular Letters, 1938
B 2	F 6	Circular Letters, 1939-1940
B 1	F 4	Correspondence, n.d., 1940-1956
B 1	F 5	Farewell/Departure from Milwaukee, 1940
B 1	F 6	German Refugee Problem, n.d., 1937-1938
B 1	F 7	German Refugee Problem, 1939
B 1	F 8	Installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee, Programs, 1930
B 1	F 9	Medals, "Samuel Cardinalis Stritch Archiep Chicagensis," 1946
B 1	F 10	Miscellaneous, n.d., 1930-1950
B 1	F 11	Newspaper Clippings, n.d., 1930-1958