



The following is the finding aid for the Archbishop Albert Meyer 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 unless otherwise noted.
[Researchers must make an appointment with an archivist to view the material.](#)

Albert Gregory Meyer, 1903-1965
Papers, 1930-1965
MC 21

Volume
1.35 cubic feet

Access
Open/unrestricted

Biographical Note

Born on March 9, 1903, in Milwaukee, Albert Gregory Meyer was educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Old St. Mary's School and attended Saint Francis Seminary. He was ordained a priest on July 11, 1926, in Rome. He was the first archbishop of Milwaukee who was born, raised and educated in his own archdiocese.

After completing his education in Rome with a licentiate in sacred scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Meyer returned to Milwaukee. There he served one year as an associate pastor in Waukesha and then accepted an appointment to teach dogma and ascetical theology at Saint Francis Seminary.

Meyer was appointed bishop of the Superior Diocese in Wisconsin and was consecrated bishop in 1946. During his time in Superior, he produced a set of sermon outlines that were used by priests statewide.

He was appointed archbishop of Milwaukee on July 21, 1953, and returned to Milwaukee as it was approaching a period of the most dramatic growth in its history. Over 100,000 new Catholics came into the diocese, and Meyer launched a \$3,230,000 building program, which included improvements to the facilities of Saint Francis Seminary.

Building projects during his episcopacy produced the greatest building activity in the history of the diocese. During the five years of Meyer's episcopate, 17 new parishes were established and five missions were converted to parish status. He initiated a statewide Catholic census and religious information program that resulted in many converts. He also paid particular attention to the growing black population in Milwaukee and fought city authorities to preserve Blessed Martin Parish. During Meyer's tenure as archbishop, lay participation in the work of the Church increased. In 1958 he established a Council of Catholic Men to complement the existing Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. He also emphasized the need for proper dress in his 1956 pastoral letter on "Decency and Modesty."

Appointed to succeed Cardinal Stritch in Chicago, Meyer left Milwaukee on September 24, 1958, and was installed as archbishop of Chicago on November 16, 1958. There he worked with problems such as racial discrimination in parishes and schools. Meyer was made cardinal on December 14, 1959.

At the Second Vatican Council, Meyer was a leading prelate (theological expert) due to his outstanding knowledge of Latin and other languages, as well as his appreciation for newer trends in biblical and historical theology.

Cardinal Meyer died in Chicago from a brain tumor, on April 9, 1965.

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

This collection of Milwaukee's seventh archbishop (1953-1958) contains: biographical information; consecration preparation and program materials (1946); personal correspondence (1937-1938); a file of correspondence (1930-1945) while rector (1937-1946) at St. Francis Seminary, which includes correspondence of Aloisius J. Muench, rector prior to Meyer's appointment; farewell/departure from Milwaukee materials (1958); funeral program (1965); programs from installation as Archbishop of Chicago (1958); preparation materials and programs from installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee (1953); materials from installation as Bishop of Superior (1946); newspaper clippings (1938-1965); pastorals (1956, 1964); and a folder of miscellaneous materials (1926-1960). Box 2 contains The Church in the Modern World: in the Words of Albert Cardinal Meyer, and a scrapbook. Box 3 was added in 2009 and primarily contains circular letters written by Meyer, 1953-1958

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

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 If using a table, use the following table template. Otherwise, delete.*

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 1	F 1	Biographical Information
B 3	F 2	Circular Letters, Chicago, 1963-1964
B 3	F 3-7	Circular Letters, Milwaukee, 1953-1958
B 1	F 2	Coat of Arms
B 1	F 3	Consecration, Preparations, 1946
B 1	F 4	Consecration, Programs, 1946
B 1	F 5	Correspondence, Personal, n.d., 1937-1938
B 1	F 6	Correspondence while Rector at St. Francis Seminary, 1930-1945
B 3	F 1	Correspondence, with Archbishop Cousins, 1960-1964, n.d.
B 1	F 7	Farewell/Departure from Milwaukee, 1958
B 1	F 8	Funeral, Program, 1965
B 1	F 9	Installation as Archbishop of Chicago, Programs, 1958
B 1	F 10	Installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee, Preparations, 1953
B 1	F 11	Installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee, Programs, 1953
B 1	F 12	Installation as Bishop of Superior, 1946
B 1	F 13	Miscellaneous, n.d., 1926-1960
B 1	F 14	Newspaper Clippings, n.d., 1938-1965
B 1	F 15	Pastorals, 1956, 1964
B 2	F 1	Publication, <u>The Church in the Modern World</u> , 1968
B 2	F 2	Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbook, n.d.