



The following is the finding aid for the Archbishop William E. Cousins 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.](#)

William E. Cousins, 1902-1988
Papers, 1901-1988
MC 28

Volume
12.35 cubic feet

Access
Open/unrestricted

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

The general file series contains biographical information, Catholic Herald "From the Archbishop's Desk" columns (1972-1988), coat of arms information, correspondence (1959-1988), death/funeral materials (1988), golden jubilee of ordination to the priesthood materials (1976-1977), honorary doctorates (1959, 1965), materials from installation as archbishop (1959), sermons, statements, and talks (1950-1976), twenty-fifth anniversary of Episcopal ordination materials (1973-1974), and several miscellaneous folders.

The appointment series includes two boxes (Boxes 4-5) of correspondence (1978-1987) relating to Cousins' appointments. Boxes 6-7 contain Cousins' appointment books (1959-1986). This series also includes a card file of parishes, institutions, and organizations noting when and why Cousins visited.

The press clippings series (Boxes 9-15) contains newspaper clippings (1948-1988).

The Vatican II documents (Boxes 20-27) consist of several subseries. Most notable are the subseries of materials that the bishops worked on during the course of Vatican II. This series is organized by document in order of publication and all of these documents are in Latin. While each of the 16 documents had a formal name in draft form they are listed in the finding aid under their colloquial published name (i.e. *Gaudium et spes*). The materials for each document varies but there may be copies of drafts (schema), interventions (relatio), amendments (emendations), etc. There is a final copy of each document. Included in some instances are translations of various drafts and documents as well as remarks and commentaries by bishops and lay professionals, many of which were published by the US Bishop's Council. Also included are materials used by Cousins as he sat on the 5th subcommission of the document *Apostolicam Actuositatem*. The vast majority of this material are copies that Cousins received but there occasionally handwritten notes by Cousins. Also included are copies of Council Digest, a publication that gave continuous updates of the workings of the Council, orders of worship from a few Masses, and some documents that were discussed but ultimately not accepted.

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

Biographical Note

William E. Cousins was born on August 20, 1902, in Chicago, and was a member of the first class to graduate from Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, where he was ordained to the priesthood on April 23, 1927. Cousins was known for his affable presence and spirit. Pope Pius XII named Cousins to the episcopacy on Dec. 17, 1948, and he served as an auxiliary bishop to then Archbishop Stritch. He was named bishop of Peoria and installed in that post on July 2, 1952.

After six years as Bishop of Peoria, Cousins was assigned to be the eighth archbishop of Milwaukee on December 18, 1958. Marking Cousins' time as archbishop was Pope John XXIII's announcement of the Second Vatican Council. During the council, Cousins was a member of the Commissions on Communications Media and the Lay Apostolate. He also served on several commissions before and after the council.

During his time as archbishop, Cousins worked to implement the changes directed by the council in one of the most uncertain times in the history of the archdiocese. It is speculated that his even hand spared the archdiocese the level of polarization experienced in other American dioceses of the post-conciliar time. Cousins saw the social upheaval of the civil rights and peace movements during his episcopacy. The civil rights marches led by Fr. James Groppi resulted in much pressure on Cousins to sanction the priest and others involved. Throughout the controversy, however, he maintained his even-handed nature. Cousins strongly supported open housing and affirmed the efforts of those working on the issue, though he did not condone all of their tactics.

Cousins approved major changes in archdiocesan offices, and was known for giving priests and laity the latitude to creatively initiate programs aimed at solving the problems of the day. He also ordained the first group of permanent deacons and was a member of the Board of Governors of the Catholic Church Extension Society, Episcopal Advisor to Serra International, and served on many committees of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Archbishop Cousins retired in 1977 and continued to maintain a schedule of episcopal duties until his health began to fail. He died on September 14, 1988, in Milwaukee.

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. "B" is an abbreviation for box, and "F" is an abbreviation for folder. Due to the size of the collection, the folders have been organied into series, and the folders are listed alphabetically in the following series: General Files (Boxes 1-3; 16-19), Appointment Materials (Boxes 4-8), and Press Clippings (Boxes 9-15), and Vatican II (Boxes 20-27).*

Box	Folder	Folder Title
<i>Series I: General Files</i>		
B 19		16 mm film of Archbishop Stritch, Departure to Rome, Arrival in Chicago, Solemn Funeral Mass, Internment Service/Sound tape of Funeral oration
B 1	F 1	Art Purchases
B 1	F 2	Biographical Information
B 1	F 3	<u>Catholic Herald</u> "From the Archbishop's Desk" columns, October 1972 - April 1974
B 1	F 4	<u>Catholic Herald</u> "From the Archbishop's Desk" columns, May 1974 - January 1976
B 1	F 5	<u>Catholic Herald</u> "From the Archbishop's Desk" columns, February 1976 - March 1986, 1988
B 1	F 6	Christmas cards, nd., 1960-1987
B 16	F 1-9	Circular Letters, 1958-1970

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 17	F 1-6	Circular Letters, 1971-1977
B 1	F 7	Civil Rights, 1966-1973
B 1	F 8	Coat of Arms
B 1	F 9	Correspondence, n.d., 1959-1988
B 19		Cross
B 17	F 7	Death Condolences, 1988
B 17	F 8	Death Memorials, 1988
B 1	F 10	Death/Funeral, Press Clippings, September 1988
B 17	F 9	Funeral Planning Correspondence, 1988
B 17	F 10	Funeral Press Kit, 1988
B 2	F 1-2	Funeral, Programs, September 1988 (2 folders)
B 2	F 3	Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, Correspondence, 1976-1977
B 2	F 4	Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, Invitations and Programs, April 22, 1977
B 2	F 5	Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, Miscellaneous, 1977
B 2	F 6-7	Golden Jubilee, Reel to reel tape of mass, April 22, 1977 (2 copies)
B 19		Honorary Citizen Certificate, Baton Rouge, 1979
B 2	F 8	Honorary Doctorate, Cardinal Stritch College, 1959
B 2	F 9	Honorary Doctorate, Marquette University, 1959
B 2	F 10	Honorary Doctorate, St. Norbert College, 1965
B 3	F 1	Installation as Archbishop, Correspondence, January-February 1959
B 3	F 2	Installation as Archbishop, Invitations and holy cards, January 27, 1959
B 3	F 3	Miscellaneous
B 18	F 1	Notebooks, n.d.
B 18	F 2	Personal Documents, 1901-1988
B 18	F 3	Photographs, n.d., 1976-1988
B 19		Photograph Album, St. Mary's Cathedral, 1955
B 19		Photograph Album, n.d. (Seminary days, 1920s?)
B 3	F 4	Retreat Materials, n.d., 1981-1986
B 3	F 5	Sermons, Special Occasions, n.d., 1950-1967
B 3	F 6	Sermons, Statements, and Talks, n.d., 1959-1976
B 19		Serra International Award, 1979
B 19		Tape, Convention of Serra International, DC, n.d.
B 3	F 7	Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination, Cassette tape, March 7, 1974
B 3	F 8	Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination, Correspondence, 1973-1974
B 3	F 9	Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination, Friends who Called, March 7, 1974
B 3	F 10	Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination, Invitations and Programs, March 7, 1974
<i>Series 2: Appointment Materials</i>		
B 4	F 1-6	Appointments, Correspondence, 1978-1981
B 5	F 1-7	Appointments, Correspondence, 1982-1986
B 5	F 8	Appointments, 1987
B 6		Appointment Books, 1959-1971 (13 books)
B 7		Appointment Books, 1972-1986 (22 books)
B 8		Card File

Box	Folder	Folder Title
<i>Series 3: Press Clippings</i>		
B 9		Press Clippings, 1948 - August 1955 (5 folders)
B 15		Press Clippings, Scrapbook, 1952-1954
B 15		Press Clippings, Scrapbook, 1952 - 1959
B 10		Press Clippings, August 1955 - August 1958 (3 folders)
B 11		Press Clippings, August 1958 - February 1959
B 11		Press Clippings, 1958 – 1959
B 11		Press Clippings, February 1959 - August 1959 (2 folders)
B 12		Press Clippings, August 1959 - September 1961 (3 folders)
B 13		Press Clippings, 1961 - 1963 (3 folders)
B 14		Press Clippings, 1963 - 1964 (2 folders)
B 18	F 4	Press Clippings, 1964
B 15		Press Clippings, Sunday picture journal, June 1965
B 14		Press Clippings, 1967 – 1988
<i>Series 4: Vatican II Documents</i>		
B 20	F 1	<i>Sacrosanctum concilium</i> , Schema documents, 1963
B 20	F 2	<i>Sacrosanctum concilium</i> , Final Text, December 4, 1963
B 24	F 1	<i>Sacrosanctum concilium</i> , Translations & Memoranda, 1963
B 20	F 3	<i>Inter mirifica</i> , 1963
B 24	F 2	<i>Inter mirifica</i> , Notes & translation [1963]
B 20	F 4-5	<i>Lumen gentium</i> , Schema documents, 1963-1964
B 24	F 3	<i>Lumen gentium</i> , Translations, 1964
B 20	F 6	<i>Orientalium ecclesiarum</i> , 1963-1964
B 20	F 7	<i>Unitatis redintegratio</i> , 1963-1964
B 20	F 8	<i>Christus dominus</i> , Schema documents, 1963-1964
B 21	F 1	<i>Christus dominus</i> , Schema documents & final, 1965
B 24	F 4	<i>Christus dominus</i> , Translations, 1965
B 21	F 2	<i>Perfectae caritatis</i> , Schema documents & final, 1964-1965
B 24	F 5	<i>Perfectae caritatis</i> , Translations & Notes, 1965
B 21	F 3	<i>Opatam totius</i> , Schema documents, 1964
B 21	F 4	<i>Opatam totius</i> , schema documents & final, 1965
B 21	F 5	<i>Gravissimum educationis</i> , 1964-1965
B 21	F 6	<i>Nostra aetate</i> , 1964-1965
B 21	F 7	Documents, Final issued October 28, 1965
B 21	F 8	<i>Dei verbum</i> , Schema documents, 1963-1964
B 21	F 9	<i>Dei verbum</i> , Schema documents & final, 1965
B 24	F 6	<i>Dei verbum</i> , Translations & Commentaries, 1964-1965
B 22	F 1	<i>Apostolicam actuositatem</i> , Schema documents, 1962-1963
B 22	F 2	<i>Apostolicam actuositatem</i> , Schema documents, 1964-1965
B 22	F 3	<i>Apostolicam actuositatem</i> , Final, 1965
B 24	F 7	<i>Apostolicam actuositatem</i> , Translations, n.d. [1964-1965]
B 24	F 8-10	<i>Apostolicam actuositatem</i> , Drafts & Notes, n.d. [1964-1965]
B 22	F 4	<i>Dignitatis humanae</i> , Schema documents & final, 1964-1965
B 24	F 11	<i>Dignitatis humanae</i> , Translations & Remarks, 1964 & [1965]
B 22	F 5-6	<i>Ad gentes divinitus</i> , Schema documents, 1964-1965
B 22	F 7	<i>Ad gentes divinitus</i> , Final, December 7, 1965

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 22	F 8	<i>Presbyterorum ordinis</i> , Schema documents, 1964-1965 (1 of 2)
B 23	F 1	<i>Presbyterorum ordinis</i> , Schema documents, 1965 (2 of 2)
B 23	F 2	<i>Presbyterorum ordinis</i> , Final document, December 7, 1965
B 25	F 1	<i>Presbyterorum ordinis</i> , Translations, [1964-1965]
B 23	F 3-5	<i>Gaudium et spes</i> , Schema documents, 1964-1965
B 23	F 6	<i>Gaudium et spes</i> , Final document, December 7, 1965
B 25	F 2	<i>Gaudium et spes</i> , Initial drafts, n.d.
B 25	F 3	<i>Gaudium et spes</i> , Translations & remarks, [1964-1965]
<i>Series 5: Vatican II Initial Drafts</i>		
B 25	F 4	<i>De beata Maria virgine matre ecclesiae</i> , 1963
B 25	F 5	<i>De clericis</i> , 1963
B 25	F 6	<i>De cura animarum</i> , 1963
B 25	F 7	<i>De matrimonii sacramento</i> , 1963
B 25	F 8	<i>De missionibus</i> , 1964
B 25	F 9	<i>De sacerdotibus</i> , 1964
B 25	F 10	<i>De sacrorum alumnis formandis</i> , 1963
B 25	F 11	<i>De scholis catholicis</i> , 1963-1964
B 25	F 12	<i>De statibus perfectionis acquirendae</i> , 1963
<i>Series 6: Vatican II Miscellaneous</i>		
B 25	F 13	Calendarium simplex et perpetuum, 1965
B 25	F 14	Commission Participants, n.d.
B 25	F 15	<u>Council Digest</u> , September-October 1963
B 26	F 1	<u>Council Digest</u> , November-December, 1963
B 26	F 2	<u>Council Digest</u> , October, 1964
B 26	F 3	<u>Council Digest</u> , November, 1964
B 26	F 4	<u>Council Digest</u> , September, 1965
B 26	F 5	<u>Council Digest</u> , October-November, 1965
B 26	F 6	Council Participants, 1964-1965
B 26	F 7	<i>Instructio Ad Exsecutionem Constitutionis de Sacra Liturgia Recte Ordinandam</i> , 1964
B 26	F 8	<i>De Laicorum Apostolatu organizato hodie toto in orbe terrarium diffuso</i> , 1963
B 26	F 9	Latin America, 1965
B 26	F 10	News Services in other languages, n.d.
B 26	F 11	Orders of Worship, 1962-1965
B 26	F 12	Ordo, 1963
B 27	F 1	Miscellaneous correspondence and reference materials, 1962-1965, n.d.
B 27	F 2	<i>De Motu Mariologico-Mariano et Motione Oecumenica Saeculis XIX et XX</i> , 1962
B 27	F 3	Orders of Worship, 1965
B 27	F 4	Papal documents, 1963-1965
B 27	F 5	<i>Peregrinatio Romana Ad Petri Sedem</i> , n.d.
B 27	F 6	<i>Radio, Television and the Church</i> , 1964
B 27	F 7	“Report to the Chairman of the US Bishop’s Committee for the Press Panel on the Operation of the Panel during the Second Session of the Second Vatican Council”, December 2, 1963
B 27	F 8	<i>De Sacrarum Indulgentiarum Recognitione</i> , 1965
B 27	F 9	Translations of Papal speeches, 1963-1965
B 27	F 10	Vatican Archive, First Vatican Council Records, 1964

