



*The following is the finding aid for the Polish Church War 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.](#)

**Polish Church War  
Records, 1893-1987, [bulk 1904-1915]  
MC 38**

**Volume**  
0.45 cubic feet

**Access**  
Open/unrestricted

**Historical Note**

The Polish Church War refers to the conflict between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and Polish Catholic principally in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two rival newspapers debated Polish issues, particularly appointment of a Polish bishop. The Nowiny Polski (Polish News) was established by Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer. The Kuryer Polski (Polish Courier) was owned by Michael Kruszk, a Polish nationalist, and was condemned as forbidden reading for Polish Catholics on February 1, 1912. Rev. Wenceslaus Kruszk, a step-brother of Michael Kruszk, corresponded extensively on issues with Messmer.

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

The strife between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and Polish Catholic principally in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century is documented by correspondence from 1893-1949, biographical documents of Rev. Wenceslaus Kruszk, and other publications and legal documents. Included are a large amount of correspondence between Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer and Rev. Wenceslaus Kruszk (1901-1926) and personal notes of Messmer.

**Box and Folder List** *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged alphabetically. "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    | Correspondence, 1893-1907                           |
| B 1 | F 2    | Correspondence, 1908-1911                           |
| B 1 | F 3    | Correspondence January 15, 1912-February 15, 191    |
| B 1 | F 4    | Correspondence February 16, 1912-December 18, 1912  |
| B 1 | F 5    | Correspondence 1913-1920                            |
| B 1 | F 6    | Correspondence 1921-1942                            |
| B 1 | F 7    | Correspondence 1944-1949                            |
| B 1 | F 8    | Publications 1896-1913                              |
| B 1 | F 9    | Publications 1914-1982                              |
| B 1 | F 10   | Legal Documents 1915-1937                           |
| B 1 | F 11   | Wenceslaus Kruszk Biographical documents, 1905-1987 |