



The following is the finding aid for the St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Milwaukee 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.

[Genealogists should consult our genealogical resources guide.](#)

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

St. Benedict the Moor Congregation (Milwaukee, Wis.)

Records, 1912-2002

MC 163

Volume

3.15 cubic feet

Access

Boxes 1-8 are restricted. Box 9 is open/unrestricted.

Historical Note

In June of 1909 the mission of St. Benedict the Moor was established on Milwaukee's near north side to serve the small community of African American Catholics located in that neighborhood. In 1911 the Capuchins came to the mission and the present church was built. By 1912 they opened the country's first African American Mission School. The school would eventually encompass a boarding, day school, and high school. In 1931 the capuchins opened St. Anthony's Hospital – Milwaukee's first integrated hospital - and ran it until 1980. The parish and school continued to thrive until the construction of a new freeway cut through the elementary school's playground – forcing it to close. The freeway fractured the parish's neighborhood as well and many had to relocate when their homes were razed.

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

The registration cards in boxes 1-8 typically include an individual's: name, birthplace and date, where and when various sacraments were received. Dates cover people born as early as 1912 through confirmations in the 1980s. Box 9 includes an incomplete run of "The Good News" newsletters related to St. Ben's Meal Program from 1972-2002 as well as a few pamphlets and newspaper articles related to the meal program.