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

St. Mary Congregation (South Milwaukee, Wis.)

Records, 1893-2003

MC 240

Access

Open/unrestricted except for student transcripts, prenuptial files, and other files as noted in the box and folder list.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by series.

Historical Note

With no catholic parish in the Village of South Milwaukee, incorporated in 1892, residents of the village met on May 22, 1893, along with Rev. Stemper of Sacred Heart Parish in St. Francis, and decided to incorporate themselves as a parish by the name of St. Mary's Congregation. In July of 1893, St. Mary's received their first resident pastor, Rev. John H. Kessler. On April 11, 1894, a two-story brick church, with four classrooms on the first floor and an auditorium for mass on the second, was completed and consecrated for parish use.

St. Mary's School, under the tutelage of Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi, opened in those four rooms on the first floor of the church in 1898, for grades first through eighth. In 1910 a church hall for a community and gathering space was constructed. Then in 1926 the church broke ground on a two-story four room addition to the school.

Twice delayed, in 1944 and 1948, due to increased cost of materials caused by World War II, St. Mary's laid the cornerstone of a new church building on August 15, 1954. The altar of the new church was consecrated on May 30, 1955. A church rectory was added in 1960 followed by a home for the Franciscan Sisters in 1962. The last new construction of the parish was a new and expanded school completed and opened in 1978.

St. Mary's was an active parish with regular events like Bazaars, Parish Festivals, Chili Run/Walks, and many co-events with the school such as talent shows, art shows, and plays. The parish had numerous social clubs as well, such as the Parish Choir and an extensive Christian Mothers' Society. St. Mary's celebrated their Centennial Anniversary with a Centennial Mass on May 23, 1993, followed by special events over the course of a calendar year and ending with a special closing mass on April 24, 1994.

In the year 2000, St. Mary's began a sharing of a parish priest with St. John's in South Milwaukee. This collaboration led to the eventual merger of all four Catholic parishes of South Milwaukee: St. Mary's, St. John's, St. Adalbert's, and St. Sylvester's in 2003 to form Divine Mercy Parish. The separate Catholic schools also merged at this time. For a brief period, the masses of Divine Mercy rotated between the

former parishes' facilities. The last mass that took place at the former St. Mary's was on September 24, 2011.

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

The collection has six series: Administrative, Building Information, Financial, Historical, Merger, and School Records. Administrative records include parish censuses and directories, parish council information, Status Animarum, parish events paperwork and ledgers, and parish organizational records. This includes extensive ledgers, communication and even a scrapbook put together specifically for the Christian Mothers Society at St. Mary's. Building information includes blueprints, building specifications, contracts, communications, proxies, sales of land, information regarding the church organ and bell, as well as photographs of the various buildings utilized by the parish and their construction. Financial Records include several church ledgers, financial statements, loan repayments by the church, insurance information, workman's compensation files, pension plans, and the wills and bequests. Within the Historical Records are church bulletins from 1941 up until 2002, information on the various priests that served the parish, various histories written about the church including important events and anniversaries, as well as an extensive scrapbook and photograph collection. Many of the scrapbooks were put together by Father Joseph Conley during his time at the parish (1968-1992). Photographs vary within this series from parish events to various lay and clergy members of the parish to a series of Centennial celebratory events. VHS tapes of centennial events are also included. The Merger series contains various census, statistics, plans, timelines, committee member information, and their meeting minutes for the collaboration committee between St. Mary's and St. John's, the quad parish collective, and the joint school committee. School records contain yearbooks, directories, staff information, school financials, news clippings, administrative paperwork, a VHS collection, and photo collections both print and slides. The VHS tapes cover multiple school Christmas programs, a talent show, and an art show.

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
<i>Series 1: Administrative Records</i>		
B 1	F 1	Bazaar, event files, c. 1910s-1930s
B 23	F 1	Bazaar, event ledger, 1913
B 22		Census, 1957
B 1	F 2-5	Census, 1997
B 2	F 1	Christian Mothers' Society
B 2	F 2	Christian Mothers' Society, cookbooks
B 2	F 3	Christian Mothers' Society, meeting minutes, 1900-1935
B 23	F 2-3	Christian Mothers' Society, meeting minutes, 1925-1952
B 25	F 1-3	Christian Mothers' Society, meeting minutes, 1952-1982
B 25	F 4-5	Christian Mothers' Society, membership dues ledger, 1945-1961
B 2	F 4-5	Christian Mothers' Society, scrapbook
B 23	F 4-6	Christian Mothers' Society, treasurer's ledger, 1962-1996
B 3	F 1	Official Catholic Directory, 1999-2002
B 3	F 2	Parish Announcements
B 3	F 3	Parish Council, communications, 1963-1992
B 3	F 4	Parish Council, constitution
B 3	F 5	Parish Council, directories, 2000-2003
B 3	F 6	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1981-1992

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 3	F 7	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1995-1999
B 3	F 8	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 2000-2001 May
B 3	F 9	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 2001 June – 2003
B 4	F 1	Parish Directory, 1991
B 4	F 2	Parish Directory, 1997-1999
B 4	F 3	Parish Directory, 2000
B 4	F 4	Parish Events
B 4	F 5	Parish Festivals, 1930-1986
B 4	F 6	Parish Organizations, directories
B 4	F 7	Parish Trustees and Consultors, meeting minutes, 1925-1961
B 4	F 8	Religious Education and Youth Ministry, reports
B 4	F 9	Social Committee, 1930
B 28	F 3	St. Vincent de Paul Society, minute and record book, 1944-1946 (restricted)
<i>Series 2: Building Records</i>		
B 26	F 1	Abstract of Title, No. 431719
B 4	F 10	Appraisals, 1961, 1976, 1980, 1994
B 4	F 11	Asbestos Management Plan, 1993
B 5	F 1	Asbestos, tests and certifications
B 5	F 2	Church bell and organ information
B 5	F 3	Fire damage, insurance and rebuild, 1968
B 5	F 4	Hall renovations, 1973-1974
B 5	F 5	Insurance, audit, 1933
B 5	F 6	Insurance, certificates
B 5	F 7	Insurance, reports, 1962-1985
B 5	F 8	Plot maps
B 26	F 2	Property purchase documents
B 6	F 1	Proxies
B 6	F 2	Renovations
B 6	F 3	Sale of Convent, 1994
B 6	F 4	School construction
B 6	F 5	School construction, contracts
B 26	F 3	Specifications, church
B 6	F 6	Specifications, church remodel
B 6	F 7	Specifications, convent (folder 1 of 2)
B 7	F 1	Specifications, convent (folder 2 of 2)
B 7	F 2	Specifications, hall remodel
B 7	F 3	Specifications, school building
B 7	F 4	Water testing, 1992
B 26	F 4	Wisconsin Electric (WE Energies), easements, 1961-1962
<i>Series 3: Financial Records</i>		
B 26	F 5-6	Annual reports, 1930-1967
B 7	F 5	Appraisal, 1961
B 7	F 6	Appraisal, 1998
B 7	F 7	Bequests and estates
B 7	F 8	Building Fund, pledges, 1928
B 28	F 1-2	Cash ledgers, 1911-1922
B 7	F 9	Finance committee, 1930-1931

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 24	F 1-2	Financial ledgers, 1928-1945
B 31		Financial ledgers, 1970-1987
B 7	F 10	Financial Statements, 1952-2003
B 26	F 7	Mortgage documents
B 7	F 11	Status Animarums, 1998-2002
B 26	F 8	<i>St. Mary's Messenger</i> , Justithe Plan, 1962
B 7	F 12	Workmen's Compensation, policies
<i>Series 4: Historical Records</i>		
B 8	F 1-14	Bulletins, 1941-1954
B 9	F 1-5	Bulletins, 1955-1959
B 26	F 9	Bulletins, 1971-1972
B 27	F 1-3	Bulletins, 1973-1977
B 10	F 1-5	Bulletins, 1983-1984, 1986-1988
B 11	F 1-5	Bulletins, 1989-1993
B 12	F 1-4	Bulletins, 1994-1997
B 13	F 1-4	Bulletins, 1998-2002
B 9	F 6	Centennial Committee, communications, 1992-1993
B 9	F 7	Centennial Committee, meeting minutes, 1993-1994
B 9	F 8	Centennial, events, 1993-1994
B 9	F 9	Centennial, Mass, 1993
B 9	F 10	Centennial, miscellaneous
B 21		Centennial, video (VHS) (2 copies)
B 9	F 11	News clippings
B 30		Organ Dedication, cassette tape, 1996 November 24
B 9	F 12	Parish Guidebook, n.d.
B 9	F 13	Parish histories
B 14	F 1	Parish history, scrapbook
B 14	F 2	Photographs, buildings
B 14	F 3-4	Photographs, centennial events, 1993-1994
B 30		Photographs, church, c. 1920s
B 14	F 5	Photographs, clergy
B 14	F 6	Photographs, Confirmation, c. 1990s
B 14	F 7	Photographs, Conley (Fr. Joseph) farewell party
B 14	F 8	Photographs, First Communion
B 30		Photographs, First Communion, 1925
B 30		Photographs, May Crowning, c. 1920s
B 15	F 1	Photographs, Mission trip to South Dakota, c. 1990s
B 15	F 2	Photographs, parish events
B 15	F 3	Scrapbook, 1981
B 15	F 4	Scrapbook, 1998
B 15	F 5-8	Scrapbooks, Fr. Joseph Conley, 1977-1980
B 16	F 1-10	Scrapbooks, Fr. Joseph Conley, 1982-1991
<i>Series 5: Merger Records</i>		
B 17	F 1	Christian Formation and Unity Committees, 2001-2002
B 17	F 2	Communications Committee, 2002
B 17	F 3	Community Building Sub-committee, 2001
B 17	F 4	Education Collaboration Committee, 1994

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 17	F 5	Liturgy Committee, 2000-2003
B 17	F 6	Merger Committee, 2002-2003
B 17	F 7	Personnel Committee, 2001
B 17	F 8	Quad-Parish Collaborative, 2000-2002
B 17	F 9	Social Issues Committee, 2000-2002
<i>Series 6: School Records</i>		
B 17	F 10	Class Lists, 1965-1972
B 17	F 11	Class Lists, 1980-1994
B 18	F 1	Class directories, 1971-1979, 1991-1993
B 18	F 2	Class photos, 1936
B 18	F 3	Class photos, school year 1963-1964
B 18	F 4	Class photos, school year 1964-1965
B 18	F 5	Class photos, school year 1965-1966
B 18	F 6	Class photos, school year 1966-1967
B 18	F 7	Class photos, school year 1967-1968
B 18	F 8	Class photos, school year 1968-1969
B 18	F 9	Class photos, 1970-1972 (incomplete)
B 18	F 10	Graduation, class lists, 1924, 1954-1994
B 29		Graduation, class photos, 1911-1929
B 30		Graduation, class photos, 1930-1933, 1968-1972
B 18	F 11	Graduation, class photos, 1933-1955
B 18	F 12	Graduation, class photos, 1956-1962
B 18	F 13	Miscellaneous school records
B 19	F 1	NCEA, reports, 1971-1994
B 19	F 2	News clippings, school
B 19	F 3	New school building, scrapbook
B 19	F 4-5	Photographs, school activities
B 19	F 6	School enrollment statistics, 1960-1993
B 19	F 7	School financial statements, 1970-1985, 1993
B 30		Slides, school activities, 1982-1996
B 19	F 8	South Side Education Commission, 1988-1994
B 20	F 1	Staff Lists, 1964-1994
B 21		VHS Tape, Art Show, 1989e
B 21		VHS Tape, Christmas Program, 1986
B 21		VHS Tape, Christmas Program, 1989
B 21		VHS Tape, Christmas Program, 1990 (2 copies)
B 21		VHS Tape, Christmas Program, 1993
B 21		VHS Tape, Talent Show, 1990
B 20	F 2-4	Yearbooks, 1977-1994