



Archdiocese of Hartford Archives

A Brief History of the Archdiocesan Archives

January 2019

In preparation for the 1976 United States Bicentennial celebration, the National Council of Catholic Bishops (now the United States Council of Catholic Bishops) issued *A Document on Ecclesiastical Archives*. The 1974 document urged dioceses across the United States to establish an archives program, if one did not already exist in their own diocese. Archbishop John F. Whealon heeded the call for Hartford and an organizational committee was formed in 1975.

In October of 1975, a formal proposal for the organization of the Archdiocese of Hartford Archives was prepared by Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM, and Vivian Stephenson. The proposal was approved by Archbishop Whealon and in 1976, the Office of the Archdiocesan Archives was officially established.

The Archives was staffed by Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM, who served as Historian and Vivian Stephenson who served as Research Technician. Other temporary staff members included Mary A. Caffrey, Coordinator; Harriet Foley, Typist/Transcriptionist; Alice Angelo, Typist/Transcriptionist; Jay Griffith, Seminarian Assistant (summer 1976); Sr. M. Sarah, RSM, Latin translator; and Msgr. John V. Horgan, French translator.

The initial holdings of the Archives comprised eight file drawers of unclassified correspondence and records. A budget of \$2,500 was allocated to the Archives, which covered the cost of educational expenses, resource books, membership fees, supplies, and a salary for Sr. Dolores.

The record is unclear but, Sr. Dolores eventually assumed charge of the Archives on a part-time basis. Vivian Stephenson and Janet Schmalt, a graduate of St. Joseph College (now the University of St. Joseph), worked as her assistants.

Since its inception, the Archives has primarily functioned as a part-time, one-person office (on occasion as a two-person office). In 2001, the Archives was officially staffed with its first full-time, professional Archivist. Today, the Archdiocesan Archivist manages both the Archdiocesan Archives and the Archdiocesan Records Center.

TIMELINE

NOV 22, 1974	<i>A Document on Ecclesiastical Archives</i> issued by National Conference of Catholic Bishops
EARLY 1975	Organizational committee for the Archdiocesan Archives is formed by Archbishop John F. Whealon
OCT 31, 1975	Proposal for the organization of the Archdiocese of Hartford Archives drafted and submitted by Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM, and Vivian Stephenson
EARLY 1976	Proposal approved by Archbishop Whealon
EARLY 1976	Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM, and Vivian Stephenson staff the Archives
SEP 03, 1985	Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, becomes first full-time Archivist
MID - 1990	Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, resigns and is appointed Archivist for her congregation in Pittsburgh, Penn.
SEP 04, 1990	Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND, becomes Archivist
AUG 01, 1991	Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, appointed as Assistant Archivist
DEC 1994	Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND, resigns
JUN 01, 1995	Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, becomes Archivist (part-time)
APR 25, 1996	Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, appointed as Assistant Archivist
JUN 1996	Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, resigns
JUL 01, 1996	Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, becomes Archivist (part-time)
MID 2001	Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, retires
JUL 02, 2001	Maria Medina, MLS, becomes first full-time professional Archivist

FEB 21, 2014	Maria (Medina) Paxi, MLS, resigns
MAR 24, 2014	Stephanie Gold, MS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time); March 19, 2015 - resigns
SEP 14, 2015	Emily Bartram, MLS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time); November 04, 2016 - resigns
NOV 05, 2016	Archdiocesan Archives closed by order of the Chancellor
SEP 18, 2017	Bridgette A. Woodall, M.Div, MLIS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time)
2018-present	Archives remains closed for long-term restructuring and renovation
MAR 12, 2018	Meriline Sarkar hired as Archives Assistant (part-time); August 28, 2018 - leaves
JUN - DEC 2018	Archdiocesan Records Center and formal Records Management Program organized
JAN 02, 2019	Nicole Besseghir, CA, MSLIS, hired as Archives Assistant (professional, full-time)

ARCHIVISTS

- **1st** Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM (1976-1985)
- **2nd** Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF (1985-1990)
- **3rd** Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND (1990-1994)
- **4th** Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS (1995-1996)
- **5th** Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM (1996-2001)
- **6th** Maria Medina, MLS (2001-2014)
- **7th** Stephanie Gold, MS (2014-2015)
- **8th** Emily Bartram, MLS (2015-2016)
- **9th** Bridgette A. Woodall, M.Div, MLIS (2017-present)