



## **Archdiocese of Hartford Archives**

### **A Brief History of the Archdiocesan Archives**

**January 2020**

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. In 1976, Archbishop Whealon approved the proposal and the Office of the Archdiocesan Archives was officially established.

The new Archdiocesan office was staffed by Sr. Dolores Liptak, RSM, who served as Historian and Vivian Stephenson who served as Research Technician. Other early 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.

Eventually, Sr. Dolores 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.

Initially, the Archdiocesan Archives was headed by a series of religious women from different orders across the Archdiocese. In 2001, the Archdiocesan administration committed to operating a professionally managed Archives and hired its first full-time, professional Archivist. Today, the Archdiocesan Archivist manages both the Archdiocesan Archives and the Archdiocesan Records Center.

### TIMELINE

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

<b>FEB 21, 2014</b>	Maria (Medina) Paxi, MLS, resigns
<b>MAR 24, 2014</b>	Stephanie Gold, MS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time); March 19, 2015 - resigns
<b>SEP 14, 2015</b>	Emily Bartram, MLS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time); November 04, 2016 - resigns
<b>NOV 05, 2016</b>	Archdiocesan Archives closed by order of the Chancellor
<b>SEP 18, 2017</b>	Bridgette A. Woodall, M.Div, MLIS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time)
<b>2018-present</b>	Archives remains closed for long-term restructuring process
<b>MAR 12, 2018</b>	Meriline Sarkar hired as Archives Assistant (part-time); August 28, 2018 - leaves
<b>JUN - DEC 2018</b>	Archdiocesan Records Center and formal Records Management Program organized
<b>JAN 02, 2019</b>	Nicole Besseghir, CA, MSLIS, hired as Archives Assistant (professional, full-time); December 13, 2019 - resigns

### ARCHIVISTS

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