

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

HISTORY

~AOH Archives Timeline of Events~

The Archdiocesan Archives (est.1976) is an administrative office of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford (AOH)

1974

- November 22 *A Document on Ecclesiastical Archives* issued by National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now the USCCB)

1975

- Early 1975 Organizational committee for the Archdiocesan Archives formed by Archbishop John F. Whealon, D.D., S.S.L., S.T.L.
- October 31 Proposal plan for Archdiocesan Archives drafted and submitted by Sr. Dolores A. Liptak, RSM, and Vivian R. Stephenson

1976

- Early 1976 Proposal plan approved by Archbishop Whealon and the Office of the Archdiocesan Archives officially established
- Early 1976 Sr. Dolores A. Liptak, RSM, and Vivian R. Stephenson staff Archives part-time as Archivist and Research Assistant (respectively)

1979

- September 14 Sr. Dolores appointed Archdiocesan Historian by Archbishop Whealon

- 1985**
- Mid-year Sr. Dolores retires and is elevated to Emeritus Historian for the Archdiocese by Archbishop Whealon
- 1985**
- September 03 Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, becomes first full-time Archivist
- 1990**
- Mid-year Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, resigns as Archivist and is appointed Archivist for her congregation in Pittsburgh, PA.
 - September 04 Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND, becomes second full-time Archivist
- 1991**
- August 01 Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, appointed Assistant Archivist
- 1994**
- 1994 *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Parishes* published
 - December Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND, resigns as Archivist
- 1995**
- June 01 Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, becomes Archivist (part-time)
- 1996**
- April 25 Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, appointed Assistant Archivist
 - June Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, resigns as Archivist
 - July 01 Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, becomes Archivist (part-time)
- 1998**
- August Contract with offsite storage facility initiated
- 1999**
- 1999 *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Leadership* published
- 2001**
- Mid-year Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, retires as Archivist
 - July 02 F. Maria Medina, MLS, hired as first full-time professional Archivist

2003

- 2003 *Lift High the Cross: The History of the Archdiocese of Hartford* published

2007

- Mid-year HVAC system and compact shelving installed in vault

2014

- February 21 Maria Medina, MLS, resigns as Archivist
- March 24 Stephanie Gold, MLS, hired as Archivist (professional, full-time)

2015

- March 19 Stephanie Gold, MS, resigns as Archivist
- September 14 Emily Bartram, MLS, hired as Archivist (professional, full-time)

2016

- November 04 Emily Bartram, MLS, resigns as Archivist
- November 05 Vacancy ensues and Archives is closed indefinitely by order of the Chancellor

2017

- September 18 Bridgette A. Woodall, M.Div, MLIS, becomes Archivist (professional, full-time)
- Late 2017 Limited services resumes

2018

- March 12 Meriline Sarkar hired as Archives Assistant (part-time)
- Mid-March Humidifying component of HAVC system replaced
- Mid-2018 Archives closed for long-term restructuring process by order of the Chancellor (limited service provided to AOH administration only; closed to external researchers)
- May 09 Collaboration with O'Brien Library begins in conjunction with library relocation project
- June 22 Collaboration with O'Brien Library suspended indefinitely following departure of Library Director

- June 29 Vault security system upgraded
- June - December Archdiocesan Records Center and Records Management Program organized (part of restructuring process); additional storage space acquired
- June- November 2019 First full-scale inventory of Archives holdings conducted
- August 28 Meriline Sarkar leaves post as Archives Assistant
- November - July 2019 Official AOH “Hold Order” issued by Chancellor (access to Archives & Records Center restricted)
- November 28 - September 2019 AOH 175th Anniversary Celebration observed (Archives Time Capsule/ Memorabilia Project launched in conjunction with Office of Communications)

2019

- January 02 Nicole Besseghir, CA, MSLIS, hired as Archives Assistant (professional, full-time)
- Mid-January First institutional history of AOH Archives prepared (posted to website)
- February Archives website revamped and relaunched; Sr. M. Clare Millea, ASCJ, appointed Assistant Chancellor (in preparation to becoming new Chancellor)
- March – August AOH Central Administrative Offices relocate from Chancery to Pastoral Center (Archives staff assist with office moves and records collection)
- June – July Archives collaborates with Office of Property and Assets on landscaping project relating to the Cathedral Campus Revitalization Project
- July 15 Official AOH “Hold Order” partially lifted by Chancellor (access to Archives records lifted but, with restrictions)
- September First Location Guide for Parish Sacramental Records completed (posted to website)
- December 13 Nicole Besseghir resigns as Archives Assistant

2020

- March 17 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) close due to COVID-19 (all operations suspended)
- June 01 - May 2021 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) start “soft re-opening” and begin hybrid work model; Archives operates on a modified schedule and enacts COVID-19 protocols and quarantine guidelines (delays in service and workflow)
- June 20 Sr. M. Clare Millea, ASCJ, resigns as Assistant Chancellor to serve her Apostle mission in Ireland; Fr. Ryan M. Lerner retains position as Chancellor

2021

- January – February Archives engages major records transfer project with Pastoral Center (relates to 2019 relocation of AOH Central Administrative Offices to Pastoral Center); additional storage space acquired
- February – May Archives collaborates with Hartford Bishops’ Foundation on signage project for Cathedral Campus Memorial Garden
- April 03-25 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) disrupted by cyber-attack (temporary loss of all IT services - delays in service and workflow)
- May 19 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) return to new COVID-19 work schedule (full work week, but shortened hours; AOH Archives COVID-19 protocols remain in effect)
- Late June Archives re-starts conversations with O’Brien Library
- July 01 Archives resumes limited service to AOH Administration and external researchers while continuing internal restructuring process and navigating ongoing COVID-19 issues
- Late August Review and updating of departmental policies begins along w/ collection processing of backlog material (part of restructuring process); Records Management Program re-started (halted in 2020 due to COVID-19)

- September 13 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) return to pre-pandemic (COVID-19) work schedule with new work hours (Archives maintains necessary COVID-19 restrictions)
- October 05 - November 15 AOH Central Administrative Offices (includes Archives) disrupted by 2nd cyber-attack (temporary loss of all IT services and phone systems; Archives digital files compromised; cooperation with O'Brien Library halted – delays in service and workflow)
- December 01 Change in Chancellor – Fr. Ryan M. Lerner (Chancellor, 2014-2021) reappointed to new position in New Haven by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D.

2022

- January 05 Fr. Christopher Ford begins appointment as new Chancellor
- February AOH IT restructuring process begins across AOH (includes Archives) – results in periodic disruptions of IT services (delays in service and workflow)
- March – October Compromised Archives digital files reconstructed
- August Archivist begins preliminary record transfers with Finance Department prior to Finance's relocation to Pastoral Center
- Late September Collaboration with O'Brien Library resumes and rare book preservation project launched
- November 03-04 Archivist assist Finance Department with final record transfers during Finance's relocation to Pastoral Center

2023

- January (ongoing) Policies and procedures review and update continues; processing of collection backlog continues; rare book preservation project with O'Brien Library continues; general services continue
- June 26 Archbishop Leonard P. Blair announces retirement in 2024; Bishop Christopher J. Coyne (Diocese of Burlington, VT) appointed Coadjutor of Hartford