

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

(EST. 1976)

AOH central administrative office since 1976 - professionally managed since 2001

AOH ARCHIVES TIMELINE

1974

November 22

- *A Document on Ecclesiastical Archives* issued by National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now the USCCB)
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1975

Early 1975

- Organizational committee for the Archdiocesan Archives formed by Archbishop John F. Whealon

October 31

- Proposal plan for Archdiocesan Archives drafted and submitted by Sr. Dolores A. Liptak, RSM, and Vivian R. Stephenson
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1976

Early 1976

- Proposal plan approved by Archbishop Whealon and Office of the Archdiocesan Archives (AOH Archives) officially established (Archivist reports to Archbishop)

- Sr. Dolores (Historian/ Archivist) and Vivian Stephenson (Research Assistant) staff Archives part-time
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1977

February 25

- First official interview of Archives staff - *The Catholic Transcript* newspaper
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1979

September 14

- Sr. Dolores appointed Archdiocesan Historian by Archbishop Whealon
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1982

February

- 1st professional archives consultant hired (provides assessment and report for proper management of AOH Archives)
-

1985

Mid-year

- Sr. Dolores retires and is elevated to Emeritus Historian for Archdiocese by Archbishop Whealon

September 03

- Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, becomes first full-time Archivist
-

1988

August

- 2nd professional archives consultant hired (provides assessment and report for proper management of AOH Archives)

September 30

- Archivist Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, meets U.S. Vice-President, George H.W. Bush, during visit with Archbishop Whealon at Chancery (Hartford, CT)
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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

August 02

- Archbishop Whealon dies unexpectedly during surgery

December 10

- Bishop Daniel A. Cronin (Diocese of Fall River, MA) appointed Archbishop of Hartford
-

1992

January 28

- Bishop Cronin officially instated as 3rd Archbishop of Hartford (11th Bishop)
-

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

- Offsite storage facility contracted with Archives
-

1999

1999

- *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Leadership* published
-

2001

Mid-year

- Sr. Marjorie Fallon, RSM, retires as Archivist
- AOH Administration, under episcopacy of Archbishop Cronin, transitions Archives to professional management (Archivist reports to Chancellor)

July 02

- F. Maria Medina, MLS, hired as first full-time professional Archivist (Msgr. Thomas M. Ginty, Chancellor - appointed in 1998 by Archbishop Cronin)
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2003

2003

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

October 20

- Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin announces 2003 retirement
- Bishop Henry J. Mansell (Diocese of Buffalo, NY) appointed Archbishop of Hartford

December 18

- Archbishop Cronin officially retired
 - Bishop Mansell officially instated as 4th Archbishop of Hartford (12th Bishop)
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2005

2005

- Fr. John J. McCarthy appointed Chancellor by Archbishop Mansell
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2007

Mid-year

- HVAC humidity system installed in Archives
 - Archives vault partially outfitted with compact shelving
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2013

October 29

- Archbishop Mansell announces 2013 retirement
- Bishop Leonard P. Blair (Diocese of Toledo, OH) appointed Archbishop of Hartford

December 16

- Archbishop Mansell officially retired
 - Bishop Blair officially instated as 5th Archbishop of Hartford (13th Bishop)
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2014

February 21

- F. Maria Medina, MLS, resigns as Archivist

March 24

- Stephanie Gold, MLS, hired as Archivist (professional, full-time)
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2015

March 19

- Stephanie Gold, MLS, resigns as Archivist

September 14

- Emily Bartram, MLS, hired as Archivist (professional, full-time)
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2016

2016

- Fr. George S. Mukuka appointed Chancellor by Archbishop Blair

November 04

- Emily Bartram, MLS, resigns as Archivist

November 05

- Vacancy ensues and Archives is closed indefinitely by order of the Chancellor
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2017

September 18

- Bridgette A. Woodall, M.Div, MLIS, hired as Archivist (professional, full-time)

Late 2017

- Limited service resumes in Archives
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2018

2018

- Fr. Ryan M. Lerner appointed Chancellor by Archbishop Blair (while also serving as Secretary to the Archbishop)

January 15

- Archivist Bridgette A. Woodall interviews with *The Hartford Courant* newspaper

March 12

- Meriline Sarkar hired as Archives Assistant (part-time)

Mid-March

- Humidifying component of HAVC system replaced

May 09

- Collaboration with O'Brien Library begins in conjunction with library relocation project

Mid-June

- Archives closed for long-term restructuring process by order of the Chancellor (limited service provided to AOH Administration only - closed to external researchers)

June 22

- Collaboration with O'Brien Library suspended indefinitely following departure of Library Director

June 29

- Vault in Archives retrofitted with security lock upgrade

June - December

- Internal Archdiocesan Records Center completed and Records Management Program launched
- Additional storage space secured in Chancery for Archives by Vicar General/ Moderator of the Curia and the Chancellor

June 2018 - November 2019

- First full-scale inventory audit of Archives general holdings conducted

Mid-July

- Two small dehumidifiers allocated to Archives

August 28

- Meriline Sarkar leaves post as Archives Assistant

Late October 2018

- Official AOH-wide “Litigation Hold Order” issued by order of the Chancellor, in conjunction with AOH Legal Counsel, on all diocesan records and release of information - response to resurgence of clergy sex abuse allegations (internal access and use of Archives holdings restricted – closed to external researchers)

November 28, 2018

- 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 Archives website)

February

- AOH Archives website revamped and relaunched

- Sr. M. Clare Millea, ASCJ, appointed Assistant Chancellor (in preparation to becoming new Chancellor) – Archivist begins reporting to Sr. Clare as Fr. Lerner engages other AOH responsibilities

March – August

- AOH Central Administrative Offices relocate from Chancery (Hartford, CT) to Pastoral Center (Bloomfield, CT) - Archives remains at Chancery and assists relocated offices with packing and transferring of official records to Archives

June – July

- Archives provides research assistance to Office of Property and Assets for landscaping project (part of 2018 Cathedral Campus Revitalization Project)

July 15

- Official 2018 AOH-wide “Litigation Hold Order” lifted by Chancellor (new restrictions applied to AOH Archives by AOH Administration and AOH Legal Counsel)

September

- First Location Guide for Parishes & Sacramental Records completed (posted to Archives website)

December 13

- Nicole Besseghir, CA, MSLIS, resigns as Archives Assistant

2020

March 11

- World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, declares COVID-19 a pandemic (Vatican City begins closure on March 08, 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

June 20

- Sr. M. Clare Millea, ASCJ, resigns as Assistant Chancellor to serve her Apostle mission in Ireland - Fr. Ryan M. Lerner remains as Chancellor
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2021

January - February

- Archives engages major records transfer project with Pastoral Center (continuation of 2019 relocation of AOH Central Administrative Offices)
- Additional storage and work space secured in Chancery for Archives by Vicar General/ Moderator of the Curia and the Chancellor

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)

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

- AOH Archives re-starts conversations with O'Brien Library regarding rare book preservation project

July 01

- AOH 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 with processing of accessions backlog
- Internal Records Management Program re-started (halted in March 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, emails, and phone messages compromised (all Archives services suspended and cooperation with O'Brien Library halted as damage is assessed – digital files, emails, and phone messages deemed lost and/or irretrievable by IT Dept.)

December 01

- Fr. Ryan M. Lerner, Chancellor, appointed to new position in New Haven by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair (Chancellor position vacant until January 2022)

2022

January 05

- Fr. Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L, begins appointment as new Chancellor

January – October

- Inventory recovery audit of Archives general holdings conducted (result of compromised digital files from 2021 cyber-attacks)

February

- AOH IT restructuring process begins across AOH (includes Archives) – results in periodic disruptions of IT services (delays in Archives services)

March – October

- Majority of compromised Archives digital files manually reconstructed by Archivist

August - November 04

- Finance Department relocates from Chancery (Hartford, CT) to Pastoral Center (Bloomfield, CT) – Archives remains at Chancery and assists Finance Department with packing and transferring of official records to Archives

Late September

- Collaboration with O'Brien Library resumes and rare book preservation project launched
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2023

February – November

- Repair work on vault ceiling in Archives

June 26

- Archbishop Blair announces 2024 retirement
- Bishop Christopher J. Coyne (Diocese of Burlington, VT) appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Hartford

August

- AOH Archives website refreshed

October

- High-density industrial dehumidifier installed in Archives

November

- AOH 175th Anniversary Time Capsule (2018-2019) completed and located in Archives (open in 2093 or 2143 - by AOH 200th or 300 Anniversary, respectively)
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2024

March 01-31

- Archives closed for office and Reading Room repairs (internal and external services suspended)
- Second full-scale inventory audit of Archives general holdings conducted

April 01 – May 31

- Archives remains closed to accommodate nearby service elevator repairs (limited service provided to AOH Administration and Parish offices only – closed to external researchers)
 - Restructuring of Archives space for improved storage, workspace, and workflow
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- Processing of accessions backlog and collection preservation assessment continues

May 01

- Archbishop Blair officially retired
- Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne officially instated as 6th Archbishop of Hartford (14th Bishop)

June 01

- AOH Archives re-opens and resumes essential internal services

July 24 – August 02

- Office of Property & Assets transitions to new management role and relocates from Chancery (Hartford, CT) to Pastoral Center (Bloomfield, CT) – Archives remains at Chancery; new protocols enacted at Chancery
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