

# ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



## OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

(EST. 1976)

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*AOH central administrative office since 1976 - professionally managed since 2001*

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### AOH ARCHIVES TIMELINE

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#### 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 (internal appointment system by Archbishop)

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

### **February 25**

- First official interview of AOH Archives staff appears in *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**

- 1<sup>st</sup> external archives consultant hired (provides assessment and report for proper management of AOH Archives)
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## **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
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## **1988**

### **August**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> external archives consultant hired (provides assessment and report for proper management of AOH Archives)

### **September 30**

- AOH 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
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## **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
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## **1992**

### **January 28**

- Bishop Cronin officially instated as 3<sup>rd</sup> Archbishop of Hartford (11<sup>th</sup> Bishop)
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## **1994**

### **1994**

- *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Parishes* published

### **December**

- Sr. Theresa McQueeney, SND, resigns as Archivist
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## **1995**

**June 01**

- Sr. Irene Fortier, DHS, becomes Archivist (part-time)
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## **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)
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## **1998**

**August**

- Offsite storage facility contracted with Archives
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## **1999**

**1999**

- *Hartford's Catholic Legacy: Leadership* published
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## **2001**

**Mid-year**

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

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Hartford (12<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Hartford (13<sup>th</sup> 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 services resume 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 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration observed (Archives Time Capsule/ Memorabilia Project launched in conjunction with Office of Communications)

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**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 assists Office of Property and Assets with its Cathedral Campus landscaping project (part of 2014 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

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## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

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## **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 (result of 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> cyber-attack)

**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 Reading Room

**November**

- AOH 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule (2018-2019) completed and located in Archives (open in 2093 for 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary or 2143 for 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
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## **2024**

### **March 01-31**

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

### **April 01 – May 31**

- Archives remains closed to accommodate building 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 ensues
- Processing of accessions backlog and collection preservation assessment continues

### **May 01**

- Archbishop Blair officially retired
- Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne officially instated as 6<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Hartford (14<sup>th</sup> 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 building access protocols enacted at Chancery

### **October 09**

- Sr. Dolores A. Liptak, RSM, (1<sup>st</sup> AOH Archivist) visits AOH Archives and officially donates her papers

### **November 20**

- Lindsey Restelli hired as Assistant Archivist (part-time)
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## 2025

### **January**

- Archives operations and services halted/delayed due to extenuating circumstances of ongoing IT technical problems and health issues affecting the Archives as well as implementation of new AOH Administrative protocols