

Mount Carmel Archives, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Finding Aid for

Archdiocese of Dubuque Collection

1913 - 2013, bulk 1913 - 1974

Finding Aid created by Jennifer A. Head, 2013

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**Creator:** Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Extent:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**Abstract:** The Archdiocese of Dubuque collection consists primarily of correspondence by and between the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Mary and the Archbishop of Dubuque and/or his representatives.

**Language:** The collection is in primarily in English, with the exception of documents from the Vatican which are written in Latin. These Latin documents are not translated, but are usually summarized in the accompanying correspondence.

**Acquisition Information:** These materials were deposited in the Mt. Carmel Archives in 2013. These records were previously held in the Office of the Secretary of the Congregation.

**Access Restrictions:** The record group is open to research.

**Copyright:** The Mt. Carmel Archives does not claim copyright to materials produced outside of the Congregation in this collection. Copyright remains with the Archdiocese of Dubuque and/or the authors of the materials. Researchers are responsible for locating and obtaining copyright permission from the original creating entity.

**Preferred Citation:** [item], folder, box, Archdiocese of Dubuque Collection, Mt. Carmel Archives, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**History:**

The Diocese of Dubuque was established on July 28, 1837. Mathias Loras was consecrated Bishop of Dubuque on December 10, 1837. After a trip to Europe in search of funds and personnel, he arrived in Dubuque in 1839. At the time of its creation the diocese stretched as far west as the Dakotas. Over time, various portions of the Diocese have been split off into other dioceses. It currently comprises 17,403 square miles and 199 parishes in the northeast quarter of the state of Iowa. It was elevated to an Archdiocese in 1893 and is the only Archdiocese in the United States located outside of a major metropolitan area.

## Bishops and Archbishops of Dubuque<sup>1</sup>

Most Rev. Mathias Loras, D.D., named Bishop of Dubuque on July 28, 1837; installed December 10, 1937; served until his death on February 20, 1858.

Most Rev. Clement Smyth, OCSO, D.D., named Coadjutor Bishop on January 9, 1857; installed May 3, 1857; succeeded February 19, 1858; served until his death on September 22, 1865.

Most Rev. John Hennessey, D.D., named Bishop on April 24, 1866; installed September 30, 1866; elevated to Archbishop June 16, 1893; served until his death on March 4, 1900.

Most Rev. John J. Keane, D.D., named Titular Archbishop January 29, 1897; became Archbishop on July 24, 1900; resigned April 3, 1911; died June 22, 1918

Most Rev. James J. Keane, D.D., served as Archbishop of Dubuque from August 11, 1911 to his death on August 2, 1929.

Most Rev. Francis J. L. Beckman, S.T.D., served as Archbishop of Dubuque from January 17, 1930; resigned November 11, 1946; died October 17, 1948.

Most Rev. Henry Rohlman, D.D., appointed Coadjutor Archbishop and Apostolic Administrator on June 15, 1944; installed September 12, 1944; succeeded November 11, 1946; resigned December 2, 1954; died September 13, 1957.

Most Rev. Leo Binz, D.D., appointed Coadjutor Archbishop October 15, 1949; succeeded December 2, 1954; appointed Archbishop of Saint Paul, MN December 16, 1961; died October 9, 1979.

Most Rev. James Byrne, S.T.D., appointed Archbishop of Dubuque March 19, 1962; retired August 23, 1983; died August 2, 1996.

Most Rev. Daniel Kucera, OSB, appointed Archbishop December 20, 1983; installed February 23, 1984; retired October 16, 1995.

Most Rev. Jerome Hanus, OSB, S.T.L., appointed Coadjutor Archbishop on August 23, 1994; welcomed October 27, 1984; succeeded October 16, 1995; retired April 8, 2013.

Most Rev. Michael Jackels, S.T.D., appointed April 8, 2013; installed May 30, 2013. He is the current Archbishop.

**Scope and Content:** Documents are arranged chronologically, newest to oldest, within the tenure of each individual Archbishop, regardless of whether the documents were authored by the Archbishop or one of his representatives. Documents pertaining to an individual named Coadjutor Bishop are found in that individual's file, regardless if they were created prior to his installation as Bishop. At this time, this collection does not include material relating to Bishops Loras, Smyth, Hennessey or John J. Keane.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Website for the Archdiocese of Dubuque: <http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/Administration/History.html>

File material generally contains routine correspondence such as invitations and acceptances to conduct canonical inquiries, preside at the Reception of Postulants and Profession of Novices, or attend various other functions. It also includes correspondence regarding financial donations to various Church enterprises, assignments of priests to serve as chaplains at Mount Carmel or Clarke College (now Clarke University), staffing at schools and letters of condolence. In most cases, correspondence from an Archbishop is paired with a carbon copy of the letter from the BVMs that precipitated the correspondence and/or a response(s) to the Archbishop's letter. Unique or historically significant correspondence is noted specifically in each folder description.

#### Box 1

The *Keane, James J.* file ranges from October 3, 1913 to May 30, 1928. This folder includes routine correspondence regarding postulants and novices, renewal of temporary vows, staffing of schools and transmittals of correspondence with the Holy See. It includes a letter dated June 22, 1912 granting permission for the BVMs to resume teaching boys in locations where a boys high school is not available and related correspondence. It also includes a letter dated March 21, 1912 confirming Mary Ascension Lilly as Mother General.

The *Beckman, Francis* file ranges from January 24, 1929 to April 17, 1939. The majority of the correspondence dates from 1938 and 1939. This folder contains routine correspondence regarding finances, commemoration of Pope Pius XI's seventy-fifth birthday and a description of the 1932 Eucharistic Congress held in Dublin. This folder also includes correspondence regarding a change in timing for Sisters making perpetual vows, as well as permission to modify the constitution of the Congregation regarding temporary vows.

The *Rohlman, Henry* file ranges from August 3, 1944 to December 23, 1949. This folder contains routine correspondence regarding Clarke College, payment to priests serving as chaplains to religious communities, invitations to the Bishop to preside at the reception and profession of postulants and novices, and invitations to the Sisters to teach vacation bible schools.

The *Binz, Leo* file ranges from November 25, 1949 to December 26, 1960 (Folder 2) and January 16, 1961 to February 25, 1962 (Folder 1). It includes correspondence dated February, April and August 1959 regarding the proposed modification of the BVM habit. It also includes correspondence regarding the secularization of various BVMs. Archbishop Binz was the first Archbishop to address a significant number of requests for secularization. Other correspondence topics include a request to observe the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a first class feast, permission for Sisters taking classes to read forbidden books, and information regarding the opening of a second novitiate.

#### Box 2

The *Byrne, James* file ranges from March 8, 1962 to December 31, 1963 (Folder 4); January 5, 1964 to December 29, 1967 (Folder 3); January 5, 1968 to October 30, 1974 (Folder 2); January 17, 1975 to November 4, 1982 (Folder 1). It includes correspondence regarding tax exempt property, a request for an article about Vatican II from the Archbishop for VISTA magazine, permission to withdraw from the

Clermont School, construction of the new administration building (BVM Center) at Mt. Carmel, Vatican II and its reforms, requests for indults of secularization and data regarding the number of BVMs serving in the Dubuque Archdiocese.

The *Kucera, Daniel* file consists of materials relating to his installation as Archbishop of Dubuque in 1984.

The *Hanus, Jerome* file consists of materials relating to his retirement as Archbishop of Dubuque in 2013.

The *Jackels, Michael* file consists of materials relating to his installation as Archbishop of Dubuque in 2013.

**Related Materials:**

Researchers may wish to consult the following resources in the Mt. Carmel Archives:

Office of the Mother General/President – many of the files for each Mother General/President include correspondence with the Bishop/Archbishop. The files for Mary Frances Clarke and Father Terence J. Donaghoe include correspondence from Bishop Mathias Loras.

Other materials in the Mt. Carmel archives may relate to this topic. Please see the archivist for further assistance.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder Number	Title
1	1	Keane, James J.
	2	Beckman, Francis
	3	Rohlman, Henry
	4	Binz, Leo (Folder 1) Jan. 16, 1961 – Feb. 25, 1962
	5	Binz, Leo (Folder 2) Nov. 25, 1949 – Dec. 26, 1960
2	1	Byrne, James (Folder 1) Jan. 17, 1975 – Nov. 4, 1982
	2	Byrne, James (Folder 2) Jan. 5, 1968 – Oct. 30, 1974
	3	Byrne, James (Folder 3) Jan. 5, 1964 – Dec. 29, 1967
	4	Byrne, James (Folder 4) Mar. 8, 1962 – Dec. 31, 1963
	5	Kucera, Daniel
	6	Hanus, Jerome G.
	7	Jackels, Michael