

Archives of the Diocese of Manchester

Located in the Rectory of Saint Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell Street, the Diocesan Archives are a resource for the history of our Diocese, and all of the faithful.

The Archives of the Diocese of Manchester collects, preserves, and makes available records of significant value that pertain to the Catholic Church in New Hampshire, primarily those materials pertaining to the Bishops of Manchester and to the Diocesan Administration Office. The repository contains materials on bishops, clergy, devotions, laity, men and women religious, missions, parishes, priestly formation, schools, vocations, war veterans, and more.

Materials in the Archives are subject to the prescriptions of canon law as well as civil law. Certain records contained in the Archives are confidential, including sacramental records, which are only available to be viewed by the person named in the record or his or her close relatives, and student (school) records. Some materials may also be restricted due to privacy issues, confidentiality, local policy, and/or the mandates of the donors of documents or other materials.

Research in the archives is available by appointment. Please contact the Archive Office at archives@rcbm.org or (603) 663-0190.

The Archives contain the following Record Groups:

Art

Engravings; oil and water color paintings including portraits of bishops, prelates, priests, seminarians; bishops' coats of arms

Artifacts

Altars; sacred vessels; vestments; medals, trophies and awards; bell collection; war memorials

Audiovisual

Audiocassettes; glass negatives; copper and metal plates; videotapes; film; slides; postcards

Bishops: 1855 - 1997

Annual Directives; biographies; correspondence; diaries; administrative and financial records; memory books; and photographs of:

Right Reverend James Augustine Healy	1875 - 1884
Right Reverend Denis Mary Bradley	1884 - 1903
Right Reverend John B. Delany	1904 - 1906
Right Reverend Albert Guertin	1907 - 1931
Bishop John B. Peterson	1932 - 1944
Bishop Matthew F. Brady	1945 - 1959
Bishop Ernest J. Primeau	1960 - 1974

Bishop Odore J. Gendron	1975 – 1990
Bishop Leo O’Neil	1990 – 1997

Books

Illustrated bibles and catechisms; bishops’ publications; journals; series of religious works, Catholic reference books; art; poetry

Clergy: 1884 – 2000

Biographies; formation; ordinations; parish assignments; seminarians; homilies; accomplishments and awards; necrology; professions of faith; publications; photographs

Catholic Education: Schools, (Pre-School/Day Care, Elementary, Secondary and College)

History of Catholic education: superintendents; student enrollment cards; teacher assignments; high school and college yearbooks, Monsignor Wilfred Paradis papers (as National Director of Catholic Education); National Catechetical Directory; Saint Mark’s Early Education Program history; diocesan camps

Catholic War Veterans

Chaplains; citations; correspondence; diaries; Sheridan Guard; annual convention minutes and programs; medals.

Catholic Youth

CYO; Youth Ministries

Devotions

Confraternities of the Holy Rosary; holy cards; liturgies; faith formation; prayer books; lives of saints

Diocesan Administration

Planning; annual reports; diocesan organizational charts; statistical summaries; services and ministries offered by the Diocese of Manchester; deaneries and deans; parishes and missions; lay organizations; residences of women religious; residences of men religious

Diocesan institutions: social and medical; First Diocesan Synod; Second Diocesan Synod; Second Vatican Council

Diocesan Publications

The Guidon	1900 – 1910
Chancery Bulletins	1960’s
Concern	1972 - 1987
Internos	1978 - 1990
Tidings	1988 - 1993
Parable	2006 -2016
French Newspapers	1890 - 1945

Laity

Council of Catholic Women; Christian Faith Centers; Irene Farber papers; Knights of Columbus; Equestrian Knights of the Holy Sepulcher

Manuscripts

Histories of the Diocese; History of Catholic Education in New Hampshire by Sister Mary of St. Laure Kegresse C.S.C.; History of Catholic Education in New Hampshire by Reverend John Redden

Men Religious

Communities of men religious serving the diocese: foundations; correspondence; missions; spirituality; histories

Missions

The Manchester Mission in Cartago, Columbia, 1965-present; other missions associated with parishes

Parish Histories: 1848 - 2000

Anniversary books; correspondence, clergy assignments; dates of founding; missions; parish associations; pastors; lay leadership; Spiritual Reports; mergers; closures; photographs; Christian Faith Centers

Pastors and Rectors of Saint Joseph Cathedral

1869 – 2016

Relics

Documentation authenticating relics given to Bishops and distributed to parishes throughout the diocese.

Sacramental Records

Note: With the exception of the records listed below, each parish in the Diocese of Manchester maintains its own records of baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, and deaths. An [online directory](#) is available to search for parishes and their affiliated churches. Churches that have been merged with another parish are listed in the online directory under "Churches" and will indicate where the sacramental records are kept (namely, in the unified or merged parish). Churches that have closed are listed [here](#).

The Archives contain some sacramental and other records from the following parishes:

Infant Jesus De St. Joseph	Nashua	Marriages	1909-1977
St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace	Salem	Marriages	1910-1977
Blessed Sacrament	Manchester	Marriages	1903-1992
Blessed Sacrament	Manchester	Burials	1938-1992

Sainte Marie	Manchester	Marriages & Deaths	1880-1975
Holy Family	Gorham	Marriages	1876 - 1977
St. Benedict	Cascade	Marriages	1946 -
St. Joseph	Berlin	Marriages	1941
St. Mary	Rollinsford	Marriages	1856-1972
All Saints	Lancaster	Marriages	1851- 1981
St. Leo	Gonic	Marriages	1892-1977
St. Mark	Newmarket	Marriages	1878-1977
St. Mary	Claremont	Marriages	1873-1980
St. Joseph	Claremont	Marriages	1920-1980
St. George's	Manchester	Marriages	1890-1975

Seminaries

Canadian seminaries and seminarians; diocesan seminarians; Bishop Peterson's lectures, class notes, curriculum – St. John Seminary; bishops' correspondence

Shrines

Our Lady of the Mountains; Old Saint Mary's Claremont

Women Religious

Correspondence; Sisters' Council Minutes; National Assembly of Women Religious to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; communities of women religious serving the diocese: foundations; correspondence; histories; spirituality