



Archdiocese of Saint Louis Archives and Records

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis Records, 1895-2015

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Office of the Archbishop, Chancellor's Office

Title: Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis Records

Dates: 1895-2015

Abstract: The records include records regarding parochial operations and the planning, construction and renovations of the physical building.

Extent: 5 linear feet (6 boxes)

Language of Materials: English

Record Group Number: RG 04 B 02

Access

Series 1 and 6 are restricted for 75 years from the date of creation. Some records outside this timeframe may be restricted indefinitely due to individuals' or families' private information, or personnel information. Please make an appointment to research at the archives. See our website at <http://archstl.org/archives>.

Historical Note

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis is affectionately called the New Cathedral, as it was second to the first cathedral (and parish) in the Archdiocese called Basilica of Saint Louis, King. The latter is fondly referred to as the Old Cathedral. The New Cathedral was designed and built under the guidance of Archbishop John Joseph Glennon. A new cathedral was actually the forethought of Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick in the 1870s when he began the New Cathedral Fund. Later, Archbishop John Joseph Kain acquired the current property at Lindell and Newstead with his own estate. The funds had been depleted assisting victims of the great tornado of 1896.

When Archbishop Glennon received the Palium in 1905, the Cathedral was his first goal. He launched a campaign to raise money and formed a committee to judge architect's proposals. In 1906, the architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes & Barnett was chosen to design the new Cathedral. The groundbreaking occurred on May 1, 1907 and the cornerstone was laid October 10, 1908. Built in the Byzantine style with Romanesque elements, the main edifice of the Cathedral was finished in 1914, enough for first mass to be held on October 18. It was consecrated on June 29, 1926. In 1997, the Cathedral was elevated to a Basilica by Pope John Paul II.

One of the most recognizable features of the Cathedral Basilica is the mosaics that cover the interior. The installation of mosaics began in 1912 with designs by George Barnett and installed by Gorham Company of New York. Professor. Over the years, other artists were commissioned to design mosaics, resulting in a variety of themes, depictions and motifs.

Scope and Content

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis Records contain information on parochial operations and the planning, construction and renovations of the physical building. The collection is organized into 6 series.

Archdiocese of Saint Louis Archives and Records

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Series 1: Parochial Operations includes administrative materials pertaining to the life and functions of the parish, such as correspondence, photographs, event programs and parish bulletins. Materials range from 1906 to 2015.

Series 2: Planning and Construction contains materials from 1895 to 1984 related to the funding, design and early construction of the new Cathedral. Of interest are the Rules posted for the architectural design competition, and early correspondence with Barnett, Haynes & Barnett. Also included are specifications for the design of the organ and marble work, and receipts from contractors.

Series 3: Mosaics contains correspondence and photographs from 1923 to 1991 regarding the design, cost and installation of the interior mosaics. Of interest are the planning materials and photographs of mosaic prototypes and progress provided by Revenna Mosaic Company and artist Mary Reardon.

Series 4: Building Renovation and Maintenance includes ongoing correspondence, photographs and financial information related to the improvements and repairs of the Cathedral plant, including the church building, convent, rectory and school. Major property improvements occurred in the 1960s and then again in the 1980s. The 1980s renovations included furnishing the lower level museum. The series is arranged in rough chronological order.

Series 5: Publications and Memorabilia contains booklets and news articles on the history, architecture and mosaics of the Cathedral Basilica, as well as souvenirs.

Series 6: Addendum consists of additional files dating 1990 to 2008 that were accessioned from the Chancellor's Office. The files contain correspondence, invitations, building information and finances. Also included is information regarding the Angel of Harmony statue installed in 1999, and the operations of Friends of the New Cathedral.

Administrative Information

Provenance: Chancellor's Office

Accession: unknown, 2014-076



Records Inventory

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Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7121	Series 1
Parish - History - Cornerstone Laying 1908			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7122	Series 1
Parish - History - Consecration 1926			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/11114	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - New Cathedral, circa 1915- circa 1980			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/916	Series 1
Parish - News Clipping - New Cathedral, General			Container A2435
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7123	Series 1
Parish - History - Historical notes, no date			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7125	Series 1
Parish - History - Homilies and Speeches 1950, 1958, no date			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/11115	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Building and Events, circa 1906-1967			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/917	Series 1
Parish - News Clipping - 1914-1990			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7126	Series 1
Parish - History - Percy Green vs. Rowland Gannon Litigation 1969-1971			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/7127	Series 1
Parish - History - Priests, Boundaries, Reports and Relics 1920-2015			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/11980	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - New Cathedral 1984-2002			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/22716	Series 1
Parish - Combined Records - Elevation to Basilica and Umbrellino 1997			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/22717	Series 1
Parish - Combined Records - Umbrellino Documentation and Sketches by Stadelmaier Nijmegen 1997			Container A438
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/145181	Series 1
Parish - Publication - Publications - Mass Programs 1983-1991			Container A2434
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/1401097	Series 1
Parish - Publication - Bulletin - Oriflamme Monthly Bulletins (1917-1948) and Newsletter (1966)			Container A2434
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/145182	Series 1
Parish - Publication - Publications - Mario Salvador Concert Series 1984-1992			Container A2434



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Folder	Record Number	PRSH/14392	Series 1
Parish - Publication - Parish Directory - Pictorial 1999			Container A2434
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111111	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Aerial of Cathedral and Chancery building 1962			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111119	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Construction 002			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111120	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Construction 003			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111122	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Construction 004			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111129	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Exterior 005			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111136	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 008			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111137	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 009			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111138	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 010			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111139	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 011			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111140	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 014			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111141	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 015			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111146	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Dome and Arch Mosaics 1974			Container A2437
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111147	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Dome and Arch Mosaics 1974			Container A2437
Folder	Record Number	PRSH/103414	Series 1
Parish - Organization or Council - Meeting Minutes - Friends of the New Cathedral 1993-1999			Container A438
Photograph/Image	Record Number	PRSH/111346	Series 1
Parish - Photographic Materials - Cathedral boys marching band circa 1940			Container A2437



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Photograph/Image Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 016	Record Number PRSH/111347	Series 1 Container A2437
Photograph/Image Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 017	Record Number PRSH/111348	Series 1 Container A2437
Photograph/Image Parish - Photographic Materials - Interior 018	Record Number PRSH/111349	Series 1 Container A2437
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Quit-Claim Deed and Ordinance 1899, no date	Record Number PRSH/13287	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Correspondence with Architects Barnett, Haynes and Barnett 1906-1924	Record Number PRSH/13288	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Organization or Council - Reports and Ledgers - Receipts and Disbursements Ledger 1895-1901	Record Number PRSH/10529	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Organization or Council - Reports and Ledgers - Parochial Subscriptions to the New Cathedral 1908	Record Number PRSH/10530	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Organization or Council - Reports and Ledgers - Financial Reports 1901-1933	Record Number PRSH/10531	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building Association 1908, 1936	Record Number PRSH/13289	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Marble 1923-1929	Record Number PRSH/13293	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Organ 1914-1984	Record Number PRSH/13294	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Contractors and Labor 1912-1930	Record Number PRSH/23272	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Architect Competition Rules, circa 1904	Record Number PRSH/23444	Series 2 Container A438
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Frescoes Conrad Schmitt Studios 1947-1949	Record Number PRSH/23445	Series 2 Container A438
Document Parish - Property Matters - ... of Architectural Advice on a formation Scheme for the Proposed New Cathedral of the city of St. Louis to the Most Reverend John J. Kain, circa 1900	Record Number PRSH/13570	Series 2 Container A2437



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Folder Parish - Property Matters - Mosaics - Mary Reardon Notes on Resurrection Mosaic Progress 1982-1986	Record Number PRSH/13290	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Photographic Materials - Mosaic Cartoons 1931-1967	Record Number PRSH/11111	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Photographic Materials - Mosaics - Ravenna Mosaic Company (Folder 1 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/11112	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Photographic Materials - Mosaics - Ravenna Mosaic Company (Folder 2 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/11113	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - News Clipping - Mosaics Articles 1970-1988	Record Number PRSH/915	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Mosaics 1986-1989	Record Number PRSH/23270	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Mosaics 1981-1985	Record Number PRSH/23271	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Photographic Materials - Ravenna Mosaic Company, Cartoons and mosaic progress 1984-1991	Record Number PRSH/11981	Series 3 Container A849
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Mosaics 1923-1932	Record Number PRSH/23446	Series 3 Container A438
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Mosaics 1954-1970	Record Number PRSH/23447	Series 3 Container A438
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Air Conditioning 1963-1964	Record Number PRSH/13295	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Boiler and Electrical 1962-1963	Record Number PRSH/13296	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - School Building Improvements 1964 (Folder 2 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/13297	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - School Building Improvements 1964 (Folder 1 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/13298	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Maintenance and upkeep receipts 1960-1967	Record Number PRSH/13299	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building and property improvements 1966-1969 (Folder 3 of 3)	Record Number PRSH/13300	Series 4 Container A850



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Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building and property improvements 1966-1969 (Folder 2 of 3)	Record Number PRSH/13301	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building and property improvements 1966-1969 (Folder 1 of 3)	Record Number PRSH/13302	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building and property improvements 1965 (Folder 2 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/13303	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Property Matters - Building and property improvements 1965 (Folder 1 of 2)	Record Number PRSH/13304	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building 1949-1986	Record Number PRSH/23273	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Exterior Caulking and Tuckpointing 1963-1967	Record Number PRSH/23274	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Interior (Sound, Lighting and Altar) 1986-1991	Record Number PRSH/23275	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Interior 1984-1991	Record Number PRSH/23276	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Museum and Crypt 1982-1991	Record Number PRSH/23277	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Repairs - 1947-1986	Record Number PRSH/23278	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Publication - Publications - Burks Associates Architects regarding East and West Half Domes, circa 1983	Record Number PRSH/145194	Series 4 Container A2435
Folder Parish - Publication - Publications - Investigation of the Granite Deterioration by Consulting Engineers Simpson Gumpertz and Heger Inc. 1978	Record Number PRSH/145195	Series 4 Container A2435
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Exterior Cleaning 1982-1986	Record Number PRSH/23448	Series 4 Container A850
Folder Parish - Correspondence - Building Renovations - Bells 1985-1986	Record Number PRSH/23449	Series 4 Container A850
Document Parish - Property Matters - Lower Level Plan (Museum and Crypts) by Burks Associates, 1990	Record Number PRSH/13569	Series 4 Container A2437



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Artifact	Record Number PRSH/2573	Series 5
Parish - Artifact - Pin with Ribbon - depicts New Cathedral and Fleur de Lis (Acc. 2007-038), no date		Container A3881
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145183	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Booklets on the Cathedral History 1919, 1926, no date		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145184	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Saint Louis Cathedral Photographic Sketch 1948		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145185	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Informational Handouts on Architecture and History, 1974, no date		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145186	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - The Cathedrals of St. Louis by Charles Souvay, no date		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145187	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - The Great Saint Louis Cathedral by William B. Faherty, S.J., 1972		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145188	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - The Great Saint Louis Cathedral by William B. Faherty, S.J., 1988		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145189	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - The Architecture and Mosaics of the Saint Louis Cathedral by Maurice B. McNamee, S.J., 1977		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145190	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - The Architecture and Mosaics of the Saint Louis Cathedral by Maurice B. McNamee, S.J., 1988		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145191	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Mosaics of the Cathedral of Saint Louis by Maurice B. McNamee, S.J., 1994		Container A2434
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145192	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Cathedral Basilica Souvenir Cards and Slides		Container A2435
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145193	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Cathedral Basilica Pamphlets and Articles		Container A2435
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145196	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Gorham Company Brochure of the High Altar and Baldachino 1916		Container A2435
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145197	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Structural Reinforced Concrete in the New Cathedral, circa 1911		Container A2435
Folder	Record Number PRSH/145198	Series 5
Parish - Publication - Publications - Programme of Ceremonies Commemorating Centennial of the Diocese and Consecration of the New Cathedral 1926		Container A2435



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Folder Parish - Combined Records - Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis	Record Number PRSH/22484	Series 6 Container A3847
Folder Parish - Combined Records - Friends of the Cathedral-Concerts	Record Number PRSH/22485	Series 6 Container A3848
Folder Parish - Combined Records - Cathedral grounds statue 'The Angel of Harmony'	Record Number PRSH/22486	Series 6 Container A3848
Folder Parish - Combined Records - Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis	Record Number PRSH/22487	Series 6 Container A3848
Folder Parish - Combined Records - Basilica -New Cathedral materal coat of arms	Record Number PRSH/22488	Series 6 Container A3848
Folder Parish - Combined Records - New Cathedral Sacred Heart mosaic	Record Number PRSH/22489	Series 6 Container A3848
Folder Parish - Combined Records - New Cathedral-Metropolitan Cross	Record Number PRSH/22490	Series 6 Container A3848