

Guide to Researching the History of the St. Louis Area at the Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1	Perryville, MO.....	7
St. Louis (City of.....)	1	Pine Lawn, MO.....	7
Alton, IL.....	6	Sappington, MO.....	8
East St. Louis, IL.....	6		

Introduction

The Daughters of Charity arrived in St. Louis in 1828 at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M. in order to found a hospital in what was then the West. The Daughters quickly became deeply active and embedded in the Catholic and Civil community of the St. Louis area for the next 200 years, either owning or operating a number of schools, hospitals, social centers, primary/secondary schools, and one university. In 1910, the Daughters divided into two provinces, with their provincial house in Normandy, Missouri, just outside city limits. This continued to function as the seat of the province until 1969, when additional provincial realignment created the West Central Province.

In 2011, four provinces re-merged. While St. Louis became the seat of the new Province of St. Louise, the Archives were consolidated in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Thus, the Archives of the province contain a number of collections related to the St. Louis and Metro East areas.

For reference questions, including those for access, appointments, and, where possible, remote access, please contact archives@doc.org or 301-447-6067.

St. Louis (City of...)

Bishop Healy School Collection: Daughters of Charity were on staff from 1989 to 1994. Collection consists largely of newsletters, publications, and programs. Historically a Black school, though desegregated during the entirety of the Daughters service there. 1 Box.

Cardinal Ritter College Prep Collection: Cardinal Ritter Prep formed from the merger of Labouré High School (a Daughters' School) and DeAndreis High School in 1979. It was owned by the Archdiocese and operated by the Daughters of Charity. It was a historically African American School, although not a segregated one. The Daughters taught at the school from 1979 to 2008. 1 Box.

Caritas Center / Ladies of Charity Service Center Collection: Founded in 1959 as the Charity Guild at the Marillac Provincial House, Caritas Center / Ladies of Charity Service Center was reorganized and listed in 1975 as “Daughter of Charity Agency.” It incorporated as Caritas Center in 1994 and as Ladies of Charity Service Center in 1995/96. The members of the original Charity Guild joined the Ladies of Charity. A Daughter of Charity served as coordinator until 2007. Their self-stated goal was “To assist in meeting the needs of the poor to advance self respect.” 1 Box.

Catholic Charities Collection: This collection contains information about the Daughters of Charity and their relationship with Catholic Charities of St. Louis.

Cemeteries and Necrology Collection: The Daughters own the Marillac cemetery for the resting place of their Sisters in the St. Louis area. Daughters of Charity are also buried at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis; St. Mary of the Barrens in Perryville; and St. Patrick in Godfrey, IL.

Central Catholic Community School Collection: In 1970, Providence Junior High (girls and boys divisions) merged with St. Patrick’s School and St. Brigid’s School to form Central Catholic Community School. This was an Archdiocesan school with staff from the Daughters of Charity, Montfort Missionaries, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Diocesan priests. Daughters were on staff until 1988 and members of the Board of Directors until 1989. 2 Boxes.

Civil War Collection (also called Military Service – Civil War): The Civil War collection contains information about the Daughters and their service as nurses during the Civil War. The Civil War Annals, compiled in 1866 after the end of the War, contain portions that document their time at St. Louis Military Hospital and Prison and the House of Refuge. There are also letters exclusively detailing the Daughters’ experience at St. Louis Hospital. A more detailed finding aid for the Civil War Collection [can be found here](#).

Corpus Christi School Collection: Corpus Christi School was a longstanding school when several Diocesan school consolidated in 1973. Students from St. Louise de Marillac School were transferred to Corpus Christi. Several Daughters of Charity taught here until 1987. 1 Box.

DePaul Hospital Collection (Formerly called St. Louis Hospital and Malachy Hospital): The Hospital was founded and operated by the Daughters beginning in 1828 until it was sold to SSM Health Network in 1995. 46 Boxes. Also contains the DePaul Hospital School of Nursing (1894-1978) administrative records, yearbooks, and alumni information. It does NOT contain student transcripts. A complete finding aid [for this collection can be found here](#). Portions of this collection have been [digitized and made available through Missouri Digital Heritage](#).

Family Care Health Center Collection: Daughters of Charity were involved with this community health clinic from 1994 to 2016. 1 Box.

Fathers Support Center / Strengthening Families Collection: The Daughters became involved with this program in 1997 and continue to be involved as of this writing (2024). 1 Box plus born-digital records.

Guardian Angel Settlement Home Collection: The Daughters of Charity owned and operated this orphan home and settlement house from 1864 until 1964, when it was demolished to build a city park. It relocated and reorganized to provide aid to residents of public housing in the city and changed its name to Guardian Angel Settlement Association. Daughters of Charity continue to be involved today. A full finding aid for this collection [can be found here](#). 10 Boxes.

Inter-Community Housing Association / Pillar Place Collection: Cooperative project of several communities of women religious in the St. Louis area. Collection date range 1990-2011. 2 Boxes.

Kenrick Seminary: Today's Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is the seminary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, incorporated in 1869. Daughters of Charity taught at the seminary from 1969 to 2006. 1 Box

Kinloch Community Health Center Collection: St. Michael Lutheran Church of Kinloch, Missouri began offering clinic services beginning in 1968, with the Daughters of Charity assisting them. It dissolved in 1981. 2 Boxes.

Labouré High School Collection (Formerly North Side Catholic High School): Founded in 1942 as an Archdiocesan school operated by the Daughters. The name Labouré High School was adopted in 1947. Originally an all-white and girls-only school, the student body integrated in 1947 and became co-educational in 1953. Became Labouré Parish High School in 1959. Corpus Christi High and Rock High merged into Labouré in 1971. In 1979, the Archdiocese re-organized schools, with Labouré becoming part of Cardinal Ritter School. Records after 1979 are in the Cardinal Ritter School collection. 4 Boxes.

LIFE (Learning Individual and Family Encouragement) Collection: This is a parenting program aimed at supporting parents in raising children, active in the St. Louis area. The collection contains brochures, meeting minutes, and newsletters from the early 1980s. 1 Box.

Lillian Elizabeth Courtney Health Center Collection: The Lillian Elizabeth Courtney Health Center was a community health clinic for impoverished neighborhoods founded in 1971. The Daughters were involved in the founding and construction of the complex through 1977, and the collection contains records of its founding, initial governance, and constructions. Today, the site at 1707 Biddle Street is affiliated with Affinia Healthcare. 1 Box.

Marian Hall Agencies: Contains information on the history of Marian Hall Agencies. 1 Box.

Marian Middle School Collection: This is a shared ministry, operated by several religious communities in the St. Louis area, founded in 2000 and still operational today. 3 Boxes.

Marillac College Collection: Marillac College was an accredited university owned by the Western/St. Louis Province of the Daughters that sought to provide education and formation to women professed to religious and apostolic communities. With a campus alongside the Marillac Provincial House, the seat of the St. Louis Province, the initial plan was that Marillac would become a junior college of St. Louis University. The College opened in 1955, and, in 1957, it began operating as a four-year school in its own right until its closure in 1974. Its former campus now forms the core of the University of Missouri-St. Louis's campus. 30 Boxes.

Marygrove Collection (Formerly House of the Good Shepherd): Marygrove was founded by the Good Shepherd Sisters in 1849 as a program to help girls and young women in need through vocational and physical training. It took the name Marygrove in 1969. In 1983, it became a program of Catholic Charities. In 1989, it shifted toward a mental health and psychiatric home model. The Daughters were active here until 2002. 1 Box.

North Area Youth Program Collection: Program formed in 1976 by various parish youth moderators, formed to combat the reduction in youth-related programming after several schools closed or consolidated. The Daughters of Charity acted as administrators of the program from 1977 to 1983, when it was transferred to the governance of the Catholic Youth Council of the Archdiocese. 1 Box.

Our Lady of Grace Child Center Collection: Child care center initially offering residential and psychiatric care under Catholic Charities, with the Daughters of Charity being a key component of operations beginning with its founding in 1947. The Daughters withdrew in 1973. 2 Boxes.

Our Lady of the Holy Cross Parish Collection: Contains newsletters, programs, newspaper clippings, and photographs of when the Daughters were active in the parish, 2001-2021. 1 Box.

Our Little Haven Collection: Care and medical center for children who were neglected or abandoned, or with severe medical issues, opened in 1993. Daughters were involved from 1996 to 2011. 1 Box.

Providence Junior High / High School & Project Door Collection: Started in 1962 as a junior high for Black students, owned by the Archdiocese and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. In the 1964-65 school year, the Daughters of Charity assumed staffing responsibilities alongside diocesan priests and lay teachers. A high school was added at this time. In 1965, the school was divided into boys and girls schools, with the girls remaining with the Sisters and the boys being under the care of the Christian Brothers. In 1966, it reverted back to a junior high school. In 1970, Providence (girls and boys divisions) merged with St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's to form Central Catholic Community School. Records after 1970 are in Central Catholic Community School Collection.

Rosati Stabilization Center Collection: Shelter for the unhoused established by the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Fathers from 1986 to 1994. 1 Box.

Shelter the Children Collection: Group home established by laypeople in 1989. The Daughters were involved from 1989-1992. 1 Box.

St. Louise de Marillac School Collection: Parish established in 1934 and received assistance by Daughters of Charity. School dedicated in 1949 staffed by the Daughters. Consolidated with Corpus Christi School, alongside Cabrini schools, in 1973. Records after 1973 are found in the Corpus Christi School Collection. 1 Box.

St. Malachy School Collection: Jesuit parish school founded for Black children in 1941, stemming from informal lessons given since 1939. Archbishop Ritter desegregated St. Louis Catholic schools

in 1947, and enrollment began to decline until the school was closed in 1959. The entire school and parish were demolished in 1960 for a highway and revitalization project. 1 Box.

St. Mary's Orphanage Collection: Orphan home founded in 1843, owned and operated by the Daughters of Charity until 1952, when it became the St. Mary's School for Handicapped Children, operated by Catholic Charities. 3 Boxes. A complete finding aid for this collection [can be found here](#).

St. Matthias the Apostle School and Parish Collection: Parish school of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, opened in 1960. Daughters were on staff from the founding of the school until 1985. 1 Box.

St. Patrick's School and Day Nursery Collection: St. Patrick's Parish was initially founded in 1846 as an Irish parish, with a day care center opening in 1910 and a parish school in 1914. In 1920, the Daughters of Charity began their ministry at the combined school and day nursery when the Sisters of St. Joseph withdrew. A soup kitchen operated in the basement during the Great Depression, and the subsequent low enrollment, even into the post-war years, led to two schools' consolidating into three previously existing schools: St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and Our Lady Help of Christians. Further consolidation forced the school to close in 1971. The collection covers the period of time when the Daughters were active at the school. 3 Boxes.

St. Peter and Paul Parish / Community of Restoration Collection: Community of Restoration formed in 1975 when a group of local Catholics, directed by Father Frank Krebs, began an experiment in small group living based on the example of Jesus. It became a ministry of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish when Father Krebs became pastor there. The Daughters of Charity were involved as advisors and coordinators of charitable services from 1975-1984. 1 Box.

St. Philomena's Technical School Collection: St. Philomena's was founded by Bishop Rosati in 1834 to care for dependent children, both boys and girls, under the care of the Daughters of Charity. In 1841, the boys were removed to St. Joseph's. In 1845, younger girls were transferred to St. Mary's Orphanage – also a Daughters-run institution – and St. Philomena's became an industrial school for older girls, as well as a day school for children of the neighborhood. The school lasted until 1910. In 1942, the institution closed as a service to the neighborhood and became exclusively a house of formation for prospective Daughters of Charity. 3 Boxes.

St. Vincent's Free School Collection: St. Vincent's Free School also went by the names St. Vincent's Academy, Academy School, Select School, or just St. Vincent's School. It was founded in 1843 by the Daughters of Charity at the request of Father George Carrell, S.J. in the basement of St. Francis Xavier Church. It operated until 1909. 5 Boxes. A complete finding aid for this collection [can be found here](#).

St. Vincent's Hospital: St. Vincent's Hospital for the mentally ill was founded in 1858 when Archbishop Kenrick gave the Sisters a lease on the building that would first serve as the hospital. During this period, so-called 'insane asylums' were places of legal quarantine, and it was only in 1897 that the Sisters began to seek treatment options for their newly-termed 'patients'. The

hospital existed on the site of the “castle” building until 1978, when it relocated to Bridgeton, MO as DePaul Community Health Center.

Statistics and Info on Sisters: RG 10-1 Contains lists and statistics of Sisters of served in the St. Louis area.

University Forest Public School Collection: Daughters of Charity were involved with the school from 1974 to 1978. 1 Box.

Ursuline Academy Collection: Daughters of Charity were involved with the school from 1986 to 1995. 1 Box.

Vietnamese Refugee Collection (also called Special Services – Refugees Collection): This collection documents various resettlement efforts by the Daughters of Charity for Vietnamese families in the St. Louis area. It also documents efforts to resettle members of the Congregation of Mother of the Redeemer community, an order of priests. Requires permission of the Provincial for access until 2027.

See also the St. Louis section of our Research Guide on researching slavery at the Daughters of Charity Archives for relevant historical information.

Alton, IL

Military Service – Civil War: Portions of the Civil War Annals document the service of the Sisters at the Military Hospital in Alton. A more detailed finding aid for the Civil War Collection [can be found here](#).

St. Joseph’s Hospital Collection: The Daughters of Charity founded the hospital in the aftermath of the Civil War, where their nurses had served in Alton. They owned and operated the hospital until 1974, when they turned it over to the ownership of the Franciscan Sisters of the Providence of God, who then sold it to the Franciscan Sisters of the Matry St. George and remains in operation today. 8 Boxes.

East St. Louis, IL

Catholic Urban Programs / Griffin Center Collection: Catholic Urban Programs began as a department of the Diocese of Belleville in 1973 dedicated to programs serving the poor in East St. Louis. It includes the Griffin Center, Neighborhood Law Office, and Holy Angels Shelter. In 2005, it merged with Hubbard House, a program to bring volunteers in to both live and work with impoverished communities in East St. Louis. This collection contains materials related to the Daughters of Charity and their work with Catholic Urban Programs, particularly related to Griffin

Center, a community program for those in public housing. 2 Boxes. A more detailed finding aid [can be found here](#).

St. Joseph School: St. Joseph School was the parochial school of St. Joseph Parish in East St. Louis, run by the Diocese of Belleville. The parish and school were both founded in 1902 and operated until 1906. Until the 1960s, the community was predominantly composed of Irish, German, Polish and Lithuanian immigrants and their families. Beginning in the 1960s, the parish became a largely African American Catholic congregation, primarily serving converts. The Daughters of Charity were a part of the staff at the school from 1985 to 1989. After parish re-consolidation, the school closed in 2006. 1 Box. A complete finding aid for this collection [can be found here](#).

Vincent Gray Alternative High School: Vincent Gray Alternative High School was founded in 1980 by the Marianist brothers to provide students who had dropped out or been expelled from the local school system a chance to acquire a high school diploma that is accredited and accepted by higher institutions of learning. It primarily served African Americans of lower income in East St. Louis, Illinois, and remains open today under the name Vincent Gray Academy. 1 Box. A complete finding aid for this collection [can be found here](#).

Perryville, MO

St. Vincent's School: The elementary school of St. Vincent's was founded by German Catholics of Perryville with staffing by the Vincentian priests in 1866. In 1869, it became a parish school under the Archdiocese, with staffing by the Sisters of the Precious Blood and later the Ursuline Sisters. In 1947, the school was placed back under the sponsorship of the Vincentian Fathers, with the Daughters of Charity serving as the teachers and managers.

The Daughters of Charity taught high school students in Perryville beginning in 1907 at the request of the Vincentians. Daughters of Charity remained on staff in both departments until 2002. 4 Boxes.

Pine Lawn, MO

St. Paul the Apostle School Collection: Parish school opening in 1921, with the Daughters of Charity arriving in 1980 as part of the staff. St. Paul merged with the Ascension School in 1987 to form Ascension St. Paul School in Normandy, MO. The Daughters served here until 2014. 1 Box.

Sappington, MO

St. Catherine Labouré School Collection: K-8 school opened in 1955 as a parish school of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Daughters of Charity were teachers and administrators at the school from 1955-1983. 2 Boxes.