



Title (Free Text Part) **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Classification **History Records - Finding Aid**  
Owner Location **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Begin Date **1/1/1965**  
End Date **12/31/1990**  
Bulk Dates (yyyy-yyyy) **1970-1980**  
Processor(s) **Malmberg, Laura**  
Date Created **10/3/2011 at 10:48 AM**  
Accession Number **0**  
Number of Boxes **1**  
Security **Unrestricted Access, Archives**  
Copyright Notice **No restrictions**  
Collection Language(s) **English**

#### **Biographical/Administrative History**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius (Hermitage) Parish was founded in 1891 to serve Bohemian families on the south side of Chicago near the Union Stock Yards. Rev. Thomas J. Bobal celebrated the first Mass on December 20, 1891 at the Irish parish of St. Rose of Lima. In November 1891, Father Bobal purchased the land for the church and began constructing a frame structure for the parish and school on June 10, 1892. The structure was completed in August and the school opened in September under the direction of Miloslav Slunecko, who also served as the parish organist. The school room was large enough to accommodate 160 students.

In 1896, the parish constructed a convent at 5013 S. Hermitage Avenue to house the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who accepted the invitation to staff Ss. Cyril and Methodius School. In 1897, 242 children enrolled in the school under the direction of three nuns and one lay teacher. The last building erected under Father Bobal's direction was a new school at 5017 Hermitage Avenue, dedicated by George Cardinal Mundelein on April 27, 1930.

After World War II, enrollment at the school increased and reached its peak enrollment of 406 students in 1955. Rev. Valerian Rezek became pastor in 1957 and formed a school club. Parishioners raised money for desks, overhead sprinklers, and TVs for the classrooms.

Rev. James F. Cermak, appointed pastor in January 1965, formed a School Board and a Teen Club. Ss. Cyril and Methodius celebrated its diamond jubilee (75th anniversary) on November 5, 1966. Rev. Cermak was named pastor emeritus in February 1971 and Rev. Charles J. Kouba was appointed pastor on March 8, 1971.

Between 1974 and 1979, school enrollment declined from 171 to 86 students. The cost of educating each student increased to twice the amount spent by the average parish school—\$1,268. The Parish School Board, under John Serauskas, met with Back of the Yards area pastors and principals to discuss the problem. A grade-by-grade breakdown of available space in area Catholic schools was prepared with the help of the planning department of the Archdiocesan Schools Office. This breakdown helped parents prepare for the next school year by allowing them to decide where to send their children. In December 1979, the school board formally requested permission from the Archdiocese to phase out the grammar school in June 1980. After the school closed, Chicago Public Schools leased the building.

Ss. Cyril and Methodius parish suffered from declining membership in the 1970s and 1980s because of ethnic and religious changes in the surrounding community. In June 1990, one year shy of its 100th anniversary, the Archdiocese of Chicago closed Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

#### **Provenance**

#### **Accruals**

## Separations

### Scope & Content

Unfortunately, most of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius school records are no longer extant. The collection comprises .2 cubic feet with 10 folders which are listed on the following page.

The majority of records are from school board meetings. The folder is entitled "Minutes: School Board" but includes other business from school board meetings and mailings. The tuition schedules developed by the school board are also included in this folder.

The Financial Records folders contain financial reports, but most are incomplete copies. The Financial Records: Fundraising: Penny Social folder gives insight to how the school raised additional funds for its budget.

The Historical Files: Closing Records folder may be of particular interest to researchers who are concerned with the closing of Ss. Cyril and Methodius school, or school closings in general.

Records relating to the lease of school buildings to Chicago Public Schools can be found in the Ss. Cyril and Methodius (Hermitage) Parish collection.

The School records were originally intermingled with Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish records, but were removed from the Parish collection since the School is a separate office.

### Series Description

### Contacts

Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage) (Client)

### Box List

<b>Box</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209</b>	Classification	<b>History Records - Historical Records</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1965</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1990</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#1</b>	Classification	<b>School Records - Alumni Lists</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>8/1/1979</b>	End Date	<b>6/30/1980</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#2</b>	Classification	<b>Administrative Records - Asbestos Files</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1987</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1987</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#3</b>	Classification	<b>Administrative Records - Correspondence Files</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1971</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1973</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#4</b>	Classification	<b>Financial Records - Financial Records</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1965</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1980</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#5</b>	Classification	<b>Financial Records - Financial Records</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>1/1/1977</b>	End Date	<b>12/31/1980</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>
<b>Folder</b>	Record Number	<b>HIST/H3300/209#6</b>	Classification	<b>School Records - Graduation Programs</b>
Title (Free Text Part) <b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius School (Hermitage)</b>				
Begin Date	<b>8/1/1979</b>	End Date	<b>6/30/1980</b>	DB Box Number <b>32483.07</b>

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**Folder** Record Number **HIST/H3300/209#7** Classification **History Records - Historical Records**  
Title (Free Text Part) **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Begin Date **1/1/1979** End Date **6/30/1980** DB Box Number **32483.07**

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**Folder** Record Number **HIST/H3300/209#8** Classification **History Records - Historical Records**  
Title (Free Text Part) **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Begin Date **1/1/1967** End Date **12/31/1979** DB Box Number **32483.07**

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**Folder** Record Number **HIST/H3300/209#9** Classification **Administrative Records - Minutes**  
Title (Free Text Part) **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Begin Date **1/1/1971** End Date **12/31/1980** DB Box Number **32483.07**

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**Folder** Record Number **HIST/H3300/209#10** Classification **School Records - School Directory**  
Title (Free Text Part) **Ss. Cyril & Methodius School (Hermitage)**  
Begin Date **1/1/1975** End Date **12/31/1978** DB Box Number **32483.07**

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**Finding Aid** Record Number **FIND/7** Classification **History Records - Finding Aid**  
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