



Archdiocese of Chicago Archives & Records Center

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Title	Catholic Conference of Illinois Collection
Classification	History Records - Finding Aid
Owner	Catholic Conference of Illinois
Begin Date	01/01/1969
End Date	12/31/1994
Bulk Dates (YYYY-YYYY)	1969-1994
Processor	Heinrich, Charles
Accession Number	198830001
Date Created	10/13/2020
Number of Boxes	44
Security	Staff Access, Archives
Collection Language(s)	English

Biographical/Administrative History

In 1969, John Cardinal Cody and the other Bishops of Illinois met to establish the Illinois Catholic Conference. The goal was to coordinate lobbying and outreach efforts to achieve favorable legislation and aid for Catholic institutions across the state and promote Catholic social issues in the public sphere. Proportional representatives, both lay and religious, were chosen from each diocese. These members were formed into different departments to head up Catholic lobbying initiatives, from pro-life issues to advocating state aid for private schools. The organization was later renamed the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI).

Fr. William J. Lion was appointed as one of the organization's executive directors and oversaw various departmental meetings and legislative efforts across the state. The state's six bishops represented the board of directors and were joined by a select committee of lay and religious to be the final say on policies, resolutions, and activities of the CCI.

The initial purpose of the CCI was to present a united lobbying front for state aid to Catholic education. As the group expanded, reorganized, and evolved, new departments were created to investigate and promote Catholic social teaching in all walks of civil and religious society, such as healthcare, campus ministry, and community activism.

Provenance

This collection comes entirely from the Catholic Conference of Illinois offices in Chicago, IL. Longtime board member Jimmy Lago donated material from the CCI over the course of 8 accessions from 1985 to 1996, with the majority of material coming in 1988. These boxes were further consolidated and processed into the current collection. Administrative and historical records after the range of this collection are still currently housed at the offices of the CCI.

Scope and Content

This collection documents the activities of the Catholic Conference of Illinois over a 25-year period from 1969 to 1994. Outside of major legislative initiatives, such as the attempt to secure state aid for private schools throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the meeting minutes and subject files also reflect issues that the CCI involved themselves in. These include racial equality and in particular the urban unrest surrounding integration e.g. the neo-Nazi demonstrations across Marquette Park and Skokie in the 1970s), shifting standards of

divorce and marriage in American society, mental health and Catholic hospitals, among other things.

A sizable portion of the collection details the CCI's efforts and lobbying for funding for Catholic parochial schools in a number of areas: textbooks, busing, state financial aid. Arguing that Catholic schools serve a secular benefit to the state (namely: preventing overcrowding and competition for resources with public schools), the CCI attempted through numerous means to get the Illinois General Assembly to pledge state money. Researchers will see this reflected in various meeting minutes, government mailing campaigns, newsletters, and more.

Another significant focus that the CCI took on was the advocacy of pro-life/anti-abortion lobbying. Data was collected on the voting records of Illinois and federal Congressmen, pro-life literature was printed and campaigns were conducted.

The CCI collection provides an insider view of the mechanisms of a lobbying organization and how it carried out its mission. Its various subject files, not always acted on or discussed, presents a view into what its members were interested in or concerned about in the larger context of American society in the 1970s and 1980s.

The end result of the collection is a portrait of Illinois' Catholic leaders attempting to navigate a secular world and leave a Catholic imprint on the governmental and legal framework of the state. Their efforts were not always successful, as school bills were repeatedly vetoed or voted down, and abortion was legalized in the state of Illinois. Nonetheless, in campaigns for mental health, immigration rights, and abolition of the death penalty, the CCI was able to be a more successful advocate for policy in the state. Thus the researcher is left with a nuanced view of the challenges of Catholic political action in the latter half of the twentieth century.

Series Description

Series 1: Administrative Meeting Minutes, 1969-1985 (24 boxes):

Board of Directors (6)

Social Services (4)

Catholics for Life (3)

Schools (2)

Lay Organizations (2)

Campus Ministry (2)

Community Affairs (2)

Health Services (1)

Parish Life, Religious Edu., etc. (1)

Series 2: Subject Files, 1969-1994 (11 boxes)

Series 3: Administrative Files 1969-1985 (3 boxes)

Series 4: Correspondence, 1969-1985 (6 boxes)

Contacts

Bernardin, Joseph (Cardinal)

Cody, John Patrick (Cardinal)

Lago, Jimmy (Mr)

Lion, William Joseph (Rev.)

Box List

Box	Record Number	ADMN/A1350/11	Classification	Administrative Records - Administrative Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Bylaw and Board of Director Miscellany		
Begin Date	01/01/1974	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 33021.09
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/A1350/12	Classification	Administrative Records - Administrative Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Ad Hoc and Bylaw Committees		
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1973	DB Box Number 33021.08
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/A1350/220	Classification	Administrative Records - Administrative Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Subject/Correspondence Oversize		
Begin Date	01/01/1972	End Date	12/31/1980	DB Box Number 33025.01
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/A1350/221	Classification	Administrative Records - Administrative Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Membership and Selection Committee		
Begin Date	01/01/1977	End Date	12/31/1982	DB Box Number 33021.07
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/10156	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Miscellaneous Correspondence		
Begin Date	01/01/1970	End Date	12/31/1980	DB Box Number 33025.05
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/10157	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence		
Begin Date	01/01/1974	End Date	12/31/1976	DB Box Number 33025.06
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/10158	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Social Services Department Correspondence		
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1975	DB Box Number 33025.07
<hr/>				
Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/14	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Correspondence - B-C		
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1984	DB Box Number 33025.02

Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/15	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Correspondence K-L		
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1984	DB Box Number 33025.03
Box	Record Number	ADMN/C5920/16	Classification	Administrative Records - Correspondence Files
Title (Free Text Part)		Fr. John Quinn Correspondence		
Begin Date	01/01/1976	End Date	12/31/1984	DB Box Number 33025.04
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1201	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Social Services Department		
Begin Date	01/01/1978	End Date	12/31/1982	DB Box Number 33022.03
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1202	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Social Services Department		
Begin Date	01/01/1983	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33022.04
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1203	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Catholics for Life		
Begin Date	01/01/1976	End Date	12/31/1978	DB Box Number 33022.05
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1204	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Catholics for Life		
Begin Date	01/01/1979	End Date	12/31/1981	DB Box Number 33022.06
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1205	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Catholics for Life		
Begin Date	01/01/1982	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33022.07
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1206	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Schools Department		
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1976	DB Box Number 33022.08

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1207	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Schools Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1977	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33022.09

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1208	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Ecumenical Affairs Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33022.10

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1209	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Lay Organizations Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1976	DB Box Number 33023.01

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1210	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Lay Organizations Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1977	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33023.02

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1211	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Campus Ministry Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1976	DB Box Number 33023.03

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1212	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Campus Ministry Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1977	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33023.04

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1213	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Community Affairs Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1980	DB Box Number 33023.05

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1214	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Catholic Conference of Illinois			
Begin Date	01/01/1973	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33023.06

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1215	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Health Services Department		
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	05/31/1984	DB Box Number 33023.07
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/1216	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Catholic Conference of Illinois		
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1985	DB Box Number 33023.08
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/19	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	10/21/1969	End Date	10/21/1972	DB Box Number 33021.01
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/20	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	01/01/1973	End Date	12/31/1974	DB Box Number 33021.02
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/21	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	01/01/1975	End Date	12/31/1976	DB Box Number 33021.03
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/22	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	01/01/1977	End Date	12/31/1979	DB Box Number 33021.04
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/23	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	01/01/1980	End Date	12/31/1981	DB Box Number 33021.05
Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/24	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)		Board of Directors		
Begin Date	01/01/1981	End Date	12/31/1986	DB Box Number 33021.06

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/25	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Social Services Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1971	End Date	12/31/1975	DB Box Number 33022.01

Box	Record Number	ADMN/M3300/26	Classification	Administrative Records - Minutes
Title (Free Text Part)	Social Services Department			
Begin Date	01/01/1976	End Date	12/31/1977	DB Box Number 33022.02

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/58	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	A			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33023.09

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/59	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	A-C			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33023.10

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/60	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	C			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33024.01

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/61	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	C-G			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33024.02

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/62	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	H-I			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33024.03

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/63	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files
Title (Free Text Part)	I-M			
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number 33024.04

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/64	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files	
Title (Free Text Part)	M-N				
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number	33024.05

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/65	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files	
Title (Free Text Part)	O-R				
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number	33024.06

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/66	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files	
Title (Free Text Part)	R-S				
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number	33024.07

Box	Record Number	ADMN/S8100/67	Classification	Administrative Records - Subject Files	
Title (Free Text Part)	S-W				
Begin Date	01/01/1969	End Date	12/31/1991	DB Box Number	33024.08