

***The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(BVM) Reference Collection  
1919-2010, undated***

**Creator:** The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Extent:** 8 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLAarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

**Administrative Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary retain copyright for materials created by the organization.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date of item, Box #, Folder #, The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Reference Collection, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** The material in this collection were removed from the Mundelein College Records to create a reference collection. Materials on the BVM Women's Network donated by Carolyn Farrell, BVM (WLA1995.14). This order was imposed on this collection by the processors to create a logical organization of materials focused on the BVMs.

**Processor:** Erin Witt, 2021. Updated by Max Pins, February 2024.

**Processing Information:** This collection is unprocessed. Information in this preliminary finding aid was gathered through an initial inventory. This preliminary finding aid was created in 2024.

**See Also:** This collection came from the Mundelein College Paper Records within the Women and Leadership Archives. The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary maintain the Mount Carmel Archives in Dubuque, Iowa. Women-Church Convergence records.

**Administrative History**

Founded in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1833 by Irish woman Mary Frances Clarke, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) is a community of Catholic women religious who, in response to a personal call from God, have chosen a vowed life of prayer, ministry and community. In response to this call, BVMs express their mission of being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in service to God's people through their core values of freedom, education, charity and justice.

This is an artificial collection comprised of materials concerning the BVMs. The BVMs operated Mundelein College and materials in this collection were extracted from the Mundelein College Collection, which was built over time as Mundelein College papers were collected. The purpose of this collection is to have an organized focus on the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, rather than having this organization's information found throughout the Mundelein College collection.

### **Scope and Content**

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Reference Collection spans the years 1919-2010. This collection is organized into six series, with each series focusing on a specific aspect of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs). Organizing this collection based on aspects of the BVMs creates a reference to understand what the BVMs are and the organization's purposes. The first two series focus on the creation of the BVMs and a background of information on the organization. The BVMs hold core values that guide the organization: freedom, charity, justice, and education. Enough material in this collection involves justice, and explicitly social justice, to warrant social justice materials their own sub-series in the overarching organizational information series. An abundant number of materials fall under the core value of education, and therefore a separate education series has been created. This series contains materials on BVM primary schools and secondary schools in Chicago and their involvement in higher education. This includes the formation of Mundelein College and the development of The Scholasticate of the Sisters of Charity.

Another series focuses on individual sisters' lives, as a substantial amount of information in this collection focuses on the lives of multiple sisters in the BVMs. This collection also contains information on specific events the BVMs were part of and organized, which has been organized into its own category, with multiple materials focused on each specific event. As this collection is an artificial collection, the materials in each box pertain to a variety of themes. Therefore, a box may be organized under multiple series, with the specific folders containing materials relating to the series explicitly mentioned.

#### **Series 1: Creation of BVMs, 1931-2002, undated Boxes 3, 4**

These records contain information regarding the creation of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) order and its history. This includes articles on the founding of the BVMs in Ireland and how the order grew in the United States of America. Information on the later history of the BVMs is also found in this series, primarily through information on the BVM historical society and a 1988 edition of *Salt* which charts the BVM's history through 1984.

#### **Series 2: General Organizational Information, 1929-2010, undated Boxes 1-8**

This series contains information on the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an organization. The BVMs published information on the goals of the organization and what the order accomplished. This series also contains records entailing who was in the organization, planning to join, and had left. One of the core values of the BVMs is justice, and due to the volume of social justice related material, this has granted the subject its own sub-series.

**Subseries 2.1: Order's Mission, 1929-2010, undated Boxes 1-8**

Contains materials relating to publications by the BVMs with a copy of the book *Women of Promise*, the *BVM Newsletter*, *BMV Perspectives*, *Salt*, and *Hesed* reports. Information on the procedures of the order include Chapters and Senate reports and there are writings on the BVMs' mission and what their core values are.

**Subseries 2.2: Records, 1930-2009, undated Boxes 1-4, 6, 7**

Contains directories, yearbooks, lists of jubilarians, lists of sisters joining BVMs, lists of sisters who left, and information on BVM graves.

**Subseries 2.3: Social Justice, 1960-2007, undated Boxes 1-6, 8**

Justice is one of the core values of the Sisters of Charity, and within this subseries there are multiple explicit mentions to the BVMs doing social justice work. Content includes the *BVM Network for Women's Issues Newsletter*, a copy of the book *Revolution to Renaissance*, and the publication *Kinetics of Renewal*. *BVM Network for Women's Issues Newsletter* has an explicitly feminist focus and discusses theological women's issues across nationalities, ethnicities, and race. *Kinetics of Renewal* discusses changes to the order after Vatican II and is part of a larger discussion of the impact of Vatican II found within this sub-series.

**Series 3: Education, 1924-2004, undated Boxes 1-4, 5, 6**

One of the core values of the Sisters of Charity is education. This series contains information on BVM primary schools and secondary schools and higher education.

**Subseries 3.1: BVM Schools, 1924-2004, undated Boxes 1, 4, 5**

This subseries includes books on the Sisters of Charity and their schools, articles on schools in Illinois, and letters between BVM sisters with information about summer school and regulations.

**Subseries 3.2: Higher Education and Mundelein, 1943-1987, undated Boxes 2-4, 6**

This subseries includes administrative materials on higher education, information on the development of The Scholasticate of the Sisters of Charity, and information on Mundelein College.

**Subseries 3.3: Board of Education Reports Elementary Schools, High Schools, and Mundelein, 1943-1960, Box 2**

This subseries includes Board of Education Reports on BVM schools from 1943-1960. These reports are on BVM elementary and high schools, as well as Mundelein. Contents include a plan for the board of education, reorganization of the board, summary of board activities, correspondence, and study of the educational program.

**Series 4: Individual Sisters' Lives, 1919-2004, undated Boxes 2, 4, 6, 8**

Specific Sisters of Charity are focused on within this series. There are collected materials on them due to their positions within the order. Included is Mary Frances Clarke, who founded the

BVMs, and sisters who held the highest position of the order, first called “Mother General” and later President. These sisters are Mother Mary Gertrude Regan, Mother Mary Cecilia Dougherty, Sister Frances Shafer, Mother Mary Ascension Lilly, Sister Mary Roberta Kuhn, Sister Dolores Marie McHugh, and Sister Helen Garvey. Materials include letters, unpublished biographies, articles, and funeral materials.

**Series 5: Events, 1933-2008, undated Boxes 3, 4, 6, 8**

This series includes materials, such as articles and pamphlets, on events the BVMs were a part of and organized. Events include the Mt. Carmel Centennial, the 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, Mother Mary Frances Clarke’s 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, and the Conference on the History of Women Religious.

**Subjects:**

150th Jubilee  
200th Birthday Celebration for Mother Mary Frances Clarke  
BVM – Alumni  
BVM – History  
BVM – Mission  
Clarke, Mary Frances  
Conference on the History of Women Religious  
Donaghoe, Terrence J  
Dougherty, Mary Cecilia  
Education  
Garvey, Helen  
Kuhn, Mary Roberta  
McHugh, Dolores Marie  
Mt. Carmel Centennial  
Mundelein College  
Regan, Mary Gertrude  
Vatican II  
Women’s Issues

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		<b><i>The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Reference Collection, 1919-2010, undated</i></b>	
		<b>Series 1: Creation of BVMs, 1966-2002, undated</b>	
3		Historical Background: Miscellaneous Articles a.-g.	[1966-2002]
3		8 Short Articles, St. Ignatius Magazine, 1988	1988
3		Charting BVM History [includes copy of 1906 article]	[1984]
3		Miscellaneous Articles Terence J. Donaghoe	
4		Mother Mary Frances Clarke [photograph]	
4		Miscellaneous-Historical Society	[1988-1989, 1992]
		<b>Series 2: General Organizational Information, 1929-2010, undated</b>	
		<b>Subseries 2.1: Order's Mission, 1929-2010, undated</b>	
1		BVM Center News	2003
1		BVM Center News	2009-2010
1		Women of Promise	1980
1		National Federation of BVM Alumni [2 copies]	
1		National Fed. BVM Alumni Misc. Correspondence	1934-1937
1		National Fed. BVM Alumni Misc. Correspondence	1972-1977
1		National Catholic Alumni Federation Convention	1935-1936
1		Inventories of BVM Publications	

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2	[Constitutions of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary]	[1958]
2	Reports; Summaries, Typed- 1986-89	1986-1989
2	Summaries, 2002 [contains duplicates]	2002
2	Summaries, 2001	2001
2	Senate Reports, 1998	1998
2	Senate Reports, 1997	1997
2	Senate Records, 1995, 1996	1995-1996
2	Senate Records-1994	1994
2	BVM Alumni Fed. News 1944-62	1944-1962
3	BVM Perspectives (Incomplete) 1982-83, 84, 88, 89, 95, 96, 99, 01, 02, 04	1982-2004
3	HESED- 1980-84 Report [Incomplete]	1980-1984
3	BVM Perspective	[2005-2008]
3	[Constitutions, 1958-1989 (Incomplete)]	[1958-1989]
3	Constitutions [1978, Draft Book 2 1981, 1982]	[1978-1982]
3	Booklets Formation 1.-5	[1944-1991]
3	Mission- Miscellaneous Materials [1of 1]	
3	Mission-Miscellaneous Materials [2 of 2]	
3	Picture Directory	[1957, 1983]
3	Mission- Corporate Responsibility Calendar	[1989-1992]
3	Core Values, 1993, A Circle of Friends, 1994, and The Gifts and The Call, 1996	1993-1996
3	Reflections on BVM Mission, 1989, BVM Mission and Ministry, 1990 [BVM Assembly]	1989-1994
3	Handbook of Procedures, 1972	1972
3	Formation Materials, 1978	1978

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4	1988 Cushman News Letter [and Archdiocese of Chicago Summary Report]	1988 [& 1984]
4	Miscellaneous- Various Talks	
4	Miscellaneous- Retirement Project & Marian Hall	
4	Miscellaneous- Apostolic Visitation, 2009	2009
4	Community Chapters/Senates, Goals- 1970	1970
5	Salt 1982-1986	1982-1986
5	Proceedings of Chapters-1931-55	1931-1955
5	Chapters/Senates 10 <sup>th</sup> General Chapter- Session 1-12/22/67	1967
5	Community Letters, 1929-1955	1929-1955
5	Community Letters/Lists, 1967-1968	1967-1968
5	Community Letters, 1965-1966	1965-1966
5	Community Letters, 1956-1962 [Habit Changes to 1967]	1956-1962, 1967
5	Community Letters, 1961-1964	1961-1964
6	Chapter/Senates Self Study for Renewal- 1968 [Published]	1968
6	Chapters/Senates Problems That Unite Us 8/20/65 [Published]	1965
6	10 <sup>th</sup> Community Chapter, 1968 BVM Vista	1968
6	BVM Center News 2004	2004
6	BVM Center News 2005	2005
6	BVM Center News 2006	2006
6	BVM Center News 2007	2007
6	BVM Center News 2008-2009	2008-2009
6	BVM Center News 1981-1988	1981-1988
6	BVM Center News 1989-1991	1989-1991
6	BVM Center News 1996-1998	1996-1998
6	BVM Center News 1999-2000	1999-2000

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6	BVM Center News 2001-2002	2001-2002
7	Salt 1974-1978	1974-1978
7	Salt 1978-1982	1978-1982
7	Salt 1986-1991	1986-1991
7	Salt 1991-1996	1991-1996
7	Salt 1997-2000	1997-2000
7	Salt 2000-2003	2000-2003
7	Salt 2003-2006	2003-2006
7	Salt 2006-2008	2006-2008
7	BVM Newsletter 1967-1968	1967-1968
7	BVM Newsletter 1968-1970	1968-1970
7	BVM Newsletter 1970-1973	1870-1973
8	BVM Newsletter 1985-1990	1985-1990
8	BVM Newsletter 1990-1993	1990-1993
8	BVM Newsletter 1993-1996	1993-1996
8	BVM Newsletter 1999-2002	1999-2002
<b>Subseries 2.2: Records, 1930-2009, undated</b>		
1	BVM Directories	[1983]
1	BVM Directories	[1985-1989]
1	Yearbooks	1934
1	Yearbooks	1937-1941
1	Yearbooks	1944-1946
1	Yearbooks	1948
1	Yearbooks	1950
1	Yearbooks	1952
1	Yearbooks	1954



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1	Yearbooks	1956
1	Yearbooks	1958
1	Yearbooks	1960 and 1969
2	[BVM Records Chapters- Senates- 1930-2002]	
2	[BVM Directories]	[1957-1969]
2	BVM Directories	[1946-1956]
2	BVM Directories	[1970-1977]
3	Directory, 1989; Current Legislation, 1993	1989, 1993
3	[BVM Directories]	[1993-2001]
3	[BVM Directories]	[1995-2002]
3	[BVM Directories]	[1994-2008]
3	[BVM Directories]	[2004-2009]
3	Picture Directory	[1957, 1983]
4	Lists of Jubilarians- 1954-68	1954-1968
4	Lists of Sisters for Vows- 1930-67	1930-1967
4	Entrance and Reception Lists 1931-60	1930-1960
4	Congregation Lists, Former BVMs, to 1983	
4	Calvary Cemetery Information- BVM Graves	
4	BVMs- Alphabetical, Numbers-1-1251	
4	BVMs by "Number" #1-#1251 (DOD; DOW)	
4	Congregation Lists, Deceased (to 2006), By "Number" 1-1251; alphabetical	
6	[BVM Directories]	[1977-1981]
7	[BVM Directories]	[1981-1985]
7	[BVM Directories]	[1989-1993]
	<b>Subseries 2.3: Social Justice, 1960-2007, undated</b>	

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1	BVM Network for Women's Issues Newsletter	1987-2006
1	BVM Network [for Women's Issues]	[2000-2006]
1	Revolution to Renaissance: 1960-1970	
2	Kinetics of Renewal [10 <sup>th</sup> General Chapter, 1968]	[1968-69, 2007]
2	Kinetics- 1981	1981
2	Kinetics- 1982	1982
2	Kinetics- 1983	1983
2	Kinetics- 1980	1980
2	Kinetics- 1979	1979
3	Booklets Formation 1. -5	1944-1991
4	Sister Joellen McCarthy, BVM 2000	
4	Kinetics; Summary of Current Legislation 1984 [Typed] "Conscious Choice/Living"	1984
4	Women of the Lord, 1972-1976, New Directions 1976-1980	1972-1980
4	Core Values, 1993, A Circle of Friends 1994, and The Gifts and the Call, 1996	1993-1996
5	5 Year Study Report, 1977; Kinetics 2 vol.	1977
6	10 <sup>th</sup> Community Chapter, 1968	1968
6	Kinetics of Renewal, 1969	1969
6	Kinetics; Sum and Substance, 1971	1971
6	Kinetics; Sum and Substance, 1972	1972
6	Kinetics; Sum and Substance, 1973	1973
6	Kinetics; Sum and Substance, 1974	1974
6	Kinetics; Sum and Substance, 1975	1975
6	Program; Kinetics- 1976 Assembly/Senate	1976
8	BVM Women's Network List of Newsletter Issues, 1986- 1996	1996

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8	BVM Women's Network- History, [1976]	1986-1995
8	BVM Women's Network Annual National Gathering 1993-1997	1993-1997
8	BVM Network For Women's Issues [Newsletter] Extra Copies	1993-1998
8	BVM Network For Women's Issues Volume 1, Issue 1 [Fall, 1986] - Volume 3, Issue 4 [Summer, 1989]	1986-1989
8	BVM Network For Women's Issues Volume 4, Issue 1 [Fall, 1989] - Volume 7, Issue 3 [Summer, 1992]	1989-1992
8	BVM Network For Women's Issues Volume 8, Issue 1 [Fall 1992] - Volume 10, Issue 4 [Summer, 1995]	1992-1995
8	BVM Network for Women's Issues	Fall, 1999
	<b>Series 3: Education, 1924-2004, undated</b>	
	<b>Subseries 3.1: BVM Schools, 1924-2004, undated</b>	
1	The Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M	1924
1	The Sisters of Charity, BVM, and Their Schools in Chicago, 1867-1940	[1941]
1	The Sisters of Charity, BVM, and Their Schools in Chicago, 1867-1940 [copy 1 of 2]	[1941]
1	The Sisters of Charity, BVM, and Their Schools in Chicago, 1867-1940 [copy 2 of 2]	[1941]
4	Schools- Elementary Schools	[1958, 1997, 2004]
5	Summer School Letters 1931-1961	1931-1961
	<b>Subseries 3.2: Higher Education and Mundelein, 1943-1987, undated</b>	
2	BVM-HEC Vol. 2 1971-74	1971-1974
2	BVM-HEC Vol. 1 – 1969-71	1969-1971
3	The Scholasticate of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1959

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4	[Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges September/October 1979 Reports]	[1979]
6	Rogers Park/Edgewater- Chicago Tribune 1985	1985
6	[U.S. News & World Report America's Best Colleges]	[1985, 1987]
6	Conversations in Higher Learning	
6	Loyola/Jesuit Records Skyscraper Clippings	
	<b>Subseries 3.3 Board of Education Reports Elementary, High School, and Mundelein</b>	
2	Board of Education Reports- 1943-1960	1943-1960
	<b>Series 4: Individual Sisters' Lives, 1919-2004, undated</b>	
2	Unpublished Biography [of Mother Mary Gertrude Regan, by Doris Walsh, BVM]	
2	Unpublished Biography [of Mother Mary Gertrude Regan, by Doris Walsh, BVM- copy 1 of 1]	
4	Mother Mary Frances Clarke Superior Institutem, August 1957	1957
4	Mother Mary Frances Clarke Death and Related Items	
4	Mother Mary Frances Clarke [photograph]	
4	"Two Pioneer Women: Gertrude Regan, BVM and Cecilia Dougherty, BVM" by Doris Walsh, BVM [Chapters 31-49]	
4	"Two Pioneer Women: Gertrude Regan, BVM and Cecilia Dougherty, BVM" by Doris Walsh, BVM (complete)	
4	M. Mary Cecilia Dougherty, BVM [death]	[1919]
4	Sister Frances Shafer 1980-1984	1980-1984
4	Mother Mary Cecilia Dougherty Unpublished biography, by Doris Walsh, BVM	
4	Mother Mary Ascension Lilly [news clippings]	
4	Roberta [Alberto] Kuhn, 1967-72 [11/05/93]	1967-72

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4	Sister Dolores Marie McHugh, 1992-2000	1992-2000
4	Sr. Dolores Marie McHugh, Gift in Celebration of Mary Frances Clarke's 200 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	2003
4	Barbara Cerney's Picture of Mother Clarke	
6	Mother Mary Frances Clarke 200 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, 2002	2002
6	Mother Mary Frances Clarke 1933 Centennial Year/Mundelein College Program	1933
6	Mother Mary Cecilia Dougherty Unpublished Biography, by Doris Walsh, BVM	
8	Sister Helen Garvey	1977-2004, undated
	<b>Series 5: Events, 1933-2008, undated</b>	
3	Miscellaneous Articles Mt. Carmel Centennial, 1992	1992
3	[Mt. Carmel Centennial]	
4	Jubilee Year 1983 Calendar	
4	Jubilee Year-1983 SALT 1x-4 (1983); x-1 (1983) Special Edition Charting History	
4	Jubilee Year 2008 (175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	2008
4	Jubilee Year- 2000 2002 Publicity	2000-2002
4	Jubilee Year- 1983 Picture Directory	
4	Miscellaneous- Chicago Parishes	1990-1995, 2004
6	Mother Mary Frances Clarke 200 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, 2002	2002
6	Mother Mary Frances Clarke 1933 Centennial Year/ Mundelein College Program	1933
6	[Women of Jubilee Calendar]	[1983-1984]
8	Conference on the History of Women Religious	June 21, 1998

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