

## Annual Report of the Archivist and Registrar - 2024

The Archives of the Diocese of Missouri includes document and photograph collections, the library, the official records of the Standing Committee, Parochial Trust Fund and the Corporation of the Diocese of Missouri, Diocesan Council, diocesan journals, diocesan newspapers, and information about our bishops, our churches, our clergy, our properties and financial history. What we can learn from the past is so important.

But so is what we preserve for the future. I continue to gather and save not only paper, but the digital material, so it will be available for archivists and historians in 20 or 50 or 100 years. Much of the work in any archives is organizational, and ours is no different. I continue to work on our extensive backlog as well as new materials we receive each year. This year we received material from Deaconess Ann House.

For years, I had hoped to begin digitizing archival records. In 2021, I prepared an initial plan and asked for funding to begin a multi-year program to digitize all Diocesan Journals from 1840 to the present, and ultimately make them searchable on line. While journals might not seem like the most fun records to read, they can provide the most valuable information about the history of the Diocese. The first year I was able to have our first 64 journals digitized. With funds approved the second year, the remainder of our journals were digitized, and next year the collection was prepared for on-line exhibit. The collection is now available on the Diocesan website under the Archives link. This year I began digitizing our first Diocesan newspaper, *Church News* (1870-1932) and we have completed the first 37 years. Next year, we will complete *Church News* and begin with the next publication. I will also be adding stories and other small publications to the link that help to tell the stories of our churches, congregations, institutions, organizations and the Diocese over our first 185+ years.

Please remember that part of my job is to provide archives assistance for congregations. If I can answer questions about what or how to organize and preserve your congregation's story please let me know. The Archives is open by appointment. Let me know if you would like to come visit. I love showing the collection

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