

## Milwaukee, WI – St. Rose’s Orphan Asylum

Archives of the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

2021



**Creator:** St. Rose's Orphan Asylum (Milwaukee)  
**Title:** Milwaukee, WI - St. Rose's Orphan Asylum  
**Dates:** 1845-2004, bulk 1921-1977  
**Extent:** 4 boxes, 1.75 linear feet  
**Identification:** ECP-SROA 11-4  
**Language:** English  
**Subjects:** St. Rose's Orphan Asylum (Milwaukee, WI)  
Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Wis.)  
Child welfare - United States - History  
Cholera  
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul  
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul - United States  
German Americans--History  
German Americans--History--19th century  
Irish Americans--History  
Orphanages  
Orphan Asylums  
Social service agencies  
Social service - Religious aspects - Catholic Church  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee

## Historical Note

St. Rose Residence was founded in 1846 by Archbishop John Martin Henri to care for girls orphaned due to the cholera epidemic that had just ravished the city. Archbishop Henri wrote to the Daughters of Charity to come to Milwaukee in 1848, and it was founded at the same time and by the same sisters as St. Mary's Hospital. On October 31, 1850, St. Rose Orphan Society was granted incorporated status by the state of Wisconsin, and it became known as St. Rose Orphan Asylum in 1851. Originally, many of these girls were of Irish and German immigrant background, but in the 1860s, many of the residents of the home were from homes torn apart by the Civil War. In 1861, a new two-story brick building north of St. Mary's Hospital became the new structure for the Asylum. In 1880, Archbishop Henri requested that St. Rose be declared a diocesan institution, which occurred in 1882, and the orphan girls moved to a larger structure at North Point. It remained staffed by the sisters at this time. In 1924, the orphanage became a member of the Milwaukee Community Chest, the forerunner to the United Way. In 1938, the school program received accreditation from Milwaukee public schools, and the asylum began to shift to a Catholic social welfare model. The Daughters of Charity remained as administrators until 1977, when the institution became an independent non-profit organization. In 2010, St. Rose merged with Lad Lake, a non-sectarian organization to assist at-risk youth, and was renamed St. Rose Youth & Family Center.

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains information related to the Daughters of Charity and their work with St. Rose's Asylum, including their founding of the institution in 1848 and staffing the institution until 1977. It also contains materials related to the Daughters' legacy and memory at the institution. It includes administrative documents; reports; policies; historical accounts, including hand-written accounts of the early days of the institution; correspondence; financial documents; articles of incorporation; newsletters from after the Daughters' withdrawal; brochures and pamphlets; newspaper clippings; photographs and slides; and documents related to the Daughters of Charity local community from 1919-1977.

## System of Arrangement

Arranged in 13 series: 1) Administration, 2) History, 3) Correspondence, 4) Financial, 5) Legal, 6) Publications, 7) Newspaper Clippings, 8) Audio-Visual, 9) Programs/Ministries, 10) Personnel, 11) Daughter of Charity Documents, 12) Artifacts/Memorabilia, 13) Closing of the Mission.

Series 1) Administration contains four sub-series: 1) Policies, 2) Reports, 4) Long-range plans, 5) Property and Construction

## **Conditions Governing Access**

Some restrictions. Series 11) Daughter of Charity Documents is restricted to use by members of the community only. Other documents related to sisters' house may be restricted.

## **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Permission for any type of publication of archival materials, including text, photographs, video, or audio must be secured from the Daughters of Charity Communications Director before publication. contact archives staff for appropriate forms and contact information.

## **Custodial History**

Originally part of the Archives of the Daughters of Charity, East Central Province, Evansville, IN.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Transferred to Archives of the Province of St. Louise during provincial merger of 2011.

## **Related Archival Materials**

Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Historical Society, Archives of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Lad Lake

See also "Milwaukee, WI - St. Mary's Hospital," "Emmitsburg, MD - St. Joseph's Provincial House"

## **Preferred Citation Format**

Document/File Name, RG #, Collection Name, Daughters of Charity Archives, Province of St. Louise, Emmitsburg, MD

Updated June 2026



11-4-1-2	Report of a study of St. Rose's Asylum; Report on School Department at St. Rose Residence by Sr. Dorothea; Social Work Reports; Casework and Group Work Program	Administration	Administrative Reports, Projects, Statistical Reports	1	5	1940	1974
11-4-1-4	Study of the future of St. Rose Home for Girls; Planning Committee meetings	Administration	Long Range Plan	1	6	1969	
11-4-1-4	Trends and changes in 10 years	Administration	Long Range Plan	1	7	1963	
11-4-1-5	Appraisal and acquisition	Administration	Property	1	8	1969	1972
11-4-1-5	Indentures, deeds, articles of agreement	Administration	Property	1	9	1860	1968
11-4-2	Historical notes from various sources	History		1	10		
11-4-2	Historical notes from various sources	History		1	11		
11-4-2	Historical notes from various sources; Daughters of Charity in Milwaukee by Rev. Peter Leo Johnson	History		1	12		
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		2	1	1845	1920
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		2	2	1921	1950
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		2	3	1951	1970
11-4-3	Correspondence	Correspondence		2	4	1971	1997
11-4-4-2	Budget for St. Rose Home for Girls	Financial	Budgets	2	5	1971	

11-4-4-3	Annual Accounts for St. Rose's Orphan Asylum	Financial	Financial Reports	2	6	1929	1932
11-4-4-3	Automobile insurance	Financial	Insurance	2	7	1973	
11-4-4-3	Financial statement of St. Rose Home for girls	Financial	Financial Statements	2	8	1965	
11-4-5-1	By-Laws, articles of organization	Legal	By-Laws	2	11		
11-4-6-1	Newsletter	Publications	Newsletters	2	12	1973	2004
11-4-6-2	Brochures, pamphlets, booklets	Publications	Brochures	2	13		
11-4-7	Newspaper Clippings	Newspaper Clippings		3	1	1859	1973
11-4-8	Pencil drawing of St. Rose's	Audio-Visual		4	5		
11-4-8-1	Photos: buildings	Audio-Visual		4	1		
11-4-8-1	Photos: sisters, children, activities	Audio-Visual		4	2		
11-4-8-1	Late 1800's & early 1900's Sisters & young girls on the grounds	Audio-Visual		4	3		
11-4-8-1	Photos: 1970's & 1997	Audio-Visual		4	4		
11-4-8-2	Slides of buildings, sisters & students	Audio-Visual	Slides	4	6		
11-4-9	Programs of celebrations and anniversaries	Programs / Ministries	Programs	3	2		
11-4-10-1	List of Sister Servants; children from orphanage became Daughters of Charity	Personnel	Sisters	3	3		
11-4-10-2	Certificate of Miss Henrietta M. Whelan	Personnel	Staff	3	4		
11-4-12	Apostolic Blessing; information on the crucifix (reliquary)	Artifacts / Memorabilia		3	13		

11-4-13	Correspondence related to the closing of mission	Closing of Mission		3	14	1977	
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