

St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). School of Theology.

Records, 1908-

SJU Archival Collection 29

182.8 cubic ft. (334 archive boxes, 3 shelves, and 1 file drawer)

Update: May 2, 2024

ABSTRACT: Collection contains records of the St. John's University School of Theology and Seminary. This includes its predecessors: the graduate-level seminary prior to 1950, the School of Divinity, and the Graduate School of Sacred Studies; the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology's records are in a separate archival collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection includes minutes, correspondence, reports, lists, statistics, newsletters, financial records, brochures and other documents. University Archives has master's theses and graduate papers from 1961 to 2003. There are also some photographs. Topics include the Jerusalem study abroad program, the permanent diaconate program, summer sessions, student government, alumni, and grants.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY: St. John's Seminary was chartered in 1857 for the "education of youths." It was more popularly called St. John's College. In 1883, the school's official name became St. John's University. Although the early course of studies was modeled on the German *gymnasium*, it was, at the same time, the educational foundation needed for theological studies. When student numbers were small, aspirants to the priesthood received individual instruction. A theological seminary was organized in 1868, for both monastic and diocesan seminarians. In 1950, St. John's Seminary of the Diocese of St. Cloud opened. The diocese was responsible for spiritual formation of seminarians, while St. John's furnished the academic program.

In 1957, the Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology was founded to offer graduate theological education for Benedictine sisters. Summer sessions were conducted at the College of St. Benedict, with the courses under the auspices of St. John's University. In 1963, the graduate school was formally organized as a division of St. John's University. The Graduate School of Sacred Studies offered accredited master's degree programs in theology, and was open to lay and religious order students as well as seminarians.

In 1978, the School of Divinity (the seminary academic program) and the Graduate School merged, forming the School of Theology. In 1988, the Diocese of St. Cloud gave the seminary building to St. John's, and the Abbey became responsible for all aspects of the St. John's Seminary program. The graduate program was then called St. John's University School of

Theology and Seminary. In 2007, St. John's decided to no longer recruit diocesan seminarians, but to continue to offer a seminary program for monastic candidates for ordination.

The Rector of the Seminary has an ecclesiastical role, ensuring that the Church's expectations are met in the training of candidates for ordination. The Dean of the Graduate School is an academic administrator, with responsibility for the graduate-level academic program as a major division of the University. Sometimes a single person has performed both functions.

The Rectors of the Seminary:

Edward Ginther, OSB (Prefect of the Seminary), 1876-1878
Simplicus Wimmer, OSB, 1880-1881
Chrysostom Schreiner, OSB, 1881-1884
Oswald Baran, OSB, 1888-1890
Cyril Zupan, OSB, 1891-1892
Athanasius Meyer, OSB, 1892-1896
Fidelis Lucking, OSB, 1896-1898
Athanasius Meyer, OSB (Rector of the Seminary), 1898-1899
Bernard Kevenhoerster, OSB, 1899-1907
Alcuin Deutsch, OSB, 1907-1909
Severin Gertken, OSB (Prefect of the Seminary), 1909-1921
Basil Stegmann, OSB (Dean of the Seminary), 1921-1923
Odilo Kohler, OSB (Prefect of the Seminary), 1923-1928
Ulric Beste, OSB (Rector of the Seminary, 1932), 1928-1939
Gregory Roettger, OSB (Dean of the Seminary, 1946), 1939-1950
William A. Renner (Rector of the Seminary), 1950-1963
Harold J. Dimmerling, 1963-1969
John Eidenschink, OSB, 1969-1971
Alfred Deutsch, OSB, 1971-1975
Kieran Nolan, OSB, 1975-1980 (Rector and Acting Dean, 1978-1980)
William Skudlarek, OSB, 1980-1984 (Rector and Dean)
Mark Willenbring, 1984-1988 (Rector of the Seminary)
Kevin Seasoltz, OSB, 1988-1992
Timothy Kelly, OSB, 1992
Dale Lauderville, OSB, 1992-1997
Robert Pierson, OSB, 1997-1999
Luke Steiner, OSB, 1999-2001
John Klassen, OSB, 2002-2007
Michael Patella, OSB, 2007-

The Deans of the Graduate School:

Gregory Roettger, OSB, 1950-1962 (Dean of the School of Divinity)
Paschal Botz, OSB, 1962-1966
Luke Steiner, OSB, 1966-1969
Aelred Tegels, OSB, 1969-1973 (Dean of the Graduate School)

Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB, 1974-1978
Kieran Nolan, OSB (Acting Dean of the School of Theology), 1978-1980
William Skudlarek, OSB, 1980-1984 (Dean and Rector)
Daniel Rush Finn, 1984-1989 (Dean of the School of Theology)
Dale Launderville, OSB, 1989-1999
Eric Hollas, OSB (Acting Dean), January-August 1992
William J. Cahoy, 1999-2015
Dale Launderville, OSB, 2015-2022
Shawn Colberg, 2022-

ARRANGEMENT: The files are organized alphabetically.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open to all members of the public, and there are no access restrictions on most of the materials. Access to some personnel information is restricted; see Archivist.

COLLECTION CITATION: This collection should be cited as:
St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). School of Theology. SJU Archival Collection
29. St. John's University Archives, Collegeville, Minnesota.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: See also **AC 1**, Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology, for the history of the Graduate School before it merged with the School of Divinity.

ACQUISITION:

The collection was transferred to the archives in small sections by a number of donors over the years. Accessions numbers: 166, 167, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 260, 267, 269, 340, 349, 392, 408, 508, 545, 549, 557, 559, 578, 598, 614, 617, 621, 657, 1975-001, 1975-002, 1975-003, 2000-010, 2012-008, 2012-020, 2014-004, 2014-005, 2014-009, 2015-007, 2016-004, 2017-022, 2017-023, 2019-011, 2019-013, 2019-022. Accruals are anticipated.

INVENTORY: For contents, search for "School of Theology" in the Inventory List (<http://apps.csbsju.edu/sjuarchives/Inventory.aspx>).

SUBJECT TERMS:

- St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). School of Theology and Seminary.
- St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.)

