



JESUIT ARCHIVES &  
RESEARCH CENTER

---

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE COLLECTION  
1825-1995 [Bulk 1848-1868]

---

MIS.3.007

JESUIT ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER  
3920 West Pine Boulevard, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63108  
314.376.2440 / [www.jesuitarchives.org](http://www.jesuitarchives.org)

## Collection Summary

---

*Collection number:* MIS.3.007

*Repository Code:* MoSIJA

*Repository:* Jesuit Archives & Research Center

*Title:* Saint Joseph's College collection

*Date [bulk]:* 1848-1868

*Date [inclusive]:* 1825-1995

*Extent:* 5 linear feet (3 record cartons, 1 oversize box)

*Creator:* Jesuits. Missouri Province

*Creator:* St. Joseph's College (Bardstown, Ky.)

*Language of material:* English with some Latin and French

*Abstract:* Saint Joseph's College was a Jesuit institution of education in Bardstown, Kentucky. The college began in 1819 as a day-school under diocesan control. Jesuits from the Missouri Vice-Province assumed control of the institution in 1848. In 1868, the college was transferred back to diocesan control. The Saint Joseph's College collection contains topic files, bound volumes, and photographs documenting the history and administration of Saint Joseph's College, largely for the years during which it was run by the Society of Jesus.

*Processing history:* Originally processed by Midwest Jesuit Archives staff. Additional description by Ann N. Rosentreter in 2016.

*Conditions governing access:* This collection is open for research.

*Conditions governing reproduction and use:* The archival records in the Jesuit Archives & Research Center are the property of the Central and Southern, Midwest, Northeast, and West Provinces of the Society of Jesus, and the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Copies may not be duplicated or deposited elsewhere without the prior written consent of the archivist. Supplying a copy is not an authorization to publish or circulate. Written permission to publish any records in their entirety or a substantial portion thereof must be requested and approved prior to publication. The researcher has the sole legal responsibility for obtaining this written permission.

*Preferred citation:* [Identification of item], [Box number], [Folder number]. Saint Joseph's College collection, MIS.3.007. Jesuit Archives & Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri. [Date accessed].

*Additional finding aids:* Legacy indexes created by the staff of the Jesuit Missouri Province Archives are available upon request.

*Related materials:* Materials related to Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral, as well as the diocese of Bardstown, can be found in the St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral collection in the Locations of Ministries Record Group of the Missouri Province collection. Additionally, a partial transcription of Rev. Walter Hill's handwritten manuscript of reminiscences of St. Joseph's College, included in the Saint Joseph College collection, can be found in volume 26 of the *Woodstock Letters*, pages 90-102. The *Woodstock Letters* can be accessed here: <http://jesuitarchives.org/woodstock-letters/>.

Saint Joseph's College was a Jesuit institution of education in Bardstown, Kentucky. The college began in 1819 as a day-school under diocesan control, and it was originally run out of the basement of the diocesan seminary. The college expanded over the following years, and Jesuits from the Missouri Vice-Province assumed control of the institution in 1848. The agreement between Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget of the Louisville Diocese and the Society of Jesus indicated that the Jesuits would assume the debt of the college, and that the property was deeded to them in trust for as long as they would use it for educational purposes. The Jesuits also assumed charge of the church in Bardstown, which had been the cathedral of the diocese prior to the episcopal see moving to Louisville.

Father Peter Verhaegan, S.J., the former rector of Saint Louis University, became the first Jesuit president of Saint Joseph's College. Among the other Jesuits who made the move to Kentucky to work at the newly acquired institution was Walter Hill. Although still a scholastic novice in 1848, Hill conducted the party of Jesuits to Bardstown due to his knowledge of the journey since he was from Kentucky. Bardstown is located in what was a cradle of Catholicism in Kentucky. Among other religious orders which were present in the area were the Sisters of Loretto, who were in charge of the students' dining room, kitchen, dormitories, and infirmary at Saint Joseph's College until 1851.

The students of Saint Joseph's College were males, and the majority were from the South, with the boarding students often hailing from Louisiana and Mississippi. The student body was largely Catholic, but the college also accepted Protestant students, some of whom converted to Catholicism while attending the college. The school prospered under Jesuit control: the 1851-1852 academic year opened with one hundred and six boarders and sixty-four day scholars enrolled, while the 1860-1861 academic year had a total registration of two hundred and eighty students. In 1852, the infirmary building was erected on the campus, which helped meet the growing needs of the institution by housing the physics department, a study hall, and the infirmary.

The college opened with a small class in September 1861, but classes were suspended at Christmas due to the Civil War. By April 1862, all of the students had left, and Saint Joseph's College became a Jesuit residence. During the war, the college was used as a military hospital by both the North and the South at varying times. While the fact that the Society of Jesus held Saint Joseph's College through a deed of trust was controversial as early as 1848, it became a larger issue during and after the war. Following the war, reopening Saint Joseph's College was impossible due to a lack of available professors. After a few years of unsuccessful negotiations with the Bishop of Louisville, the college was transferred back to diocesan control in December 1868.

### Sources

Garraghan, Gilbert J. *The Jesuits of the Middle United States*. 3 vols. New York: America Press, 1938.

## Scope and content note

---

The Saint Joseph's College collection contains topic files, bound volumes, and photographs documenting the history and administration of Saint Joseph's College in Bardstown, Kentucky. The majority of the materials date from the years in which the school was operated by the Society of Jesus, 1848 to 1868, but there is some material which falls outside of this period.

The topic files mainly contain records created and kept as part of the regular functioning of Saint Joseph's College. These records consist of correspondence, financial and property records, sodality and library organization records, histories and reminiscences, and printed materials, such as commencement programs, college catalogues, and speeches delivered at the college. The bound volumes series contains account books, cash books, journals, ledgers, diaries, student registers, and other bound volumes with handwritten entries, which provide a record of the financial and academic situation at Saint Joseph's College. The photographs series contains photographs and engravings of the Saint Joseph's College campus, including Spalding Hall, Flaget Hall, and Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral, as well as photographs of the school's faculty and local sites. While some of the images are from the years of the school's operation, many more are modern prints, taken in 1995 and possibly into the 2000s.

## Arrangement note

---

The Saint Joseph's College collection is arranged in three series:

- Series 1. Topic Files
- Series 2. Bound Volumes
- Series 3. Photographs

## Collection Contents

---

### Series 1. Topic Files, 1825-1911 (bulk 1848-1868)

#### *Scope and content note:*

The topic files series contains loose materials arranged both by topic and by format. When the collection was previously processed, materials in the collection were given numbers and indexed. Arranging the collection into topic files and bound volumes allows for this original indexing to be maintained. This series contains records created and kept as part of the regular functioning of Saint Joseph's College, as well as materials inherited from the college when the Society of Jesus took over its operation and materials acquired in the years after the Jesuits turned the college back over to the diocese. The records in this series include correspondence, financial and property records, sodality

and library organization records, histories and reminiscences, and printed materials, such as commencement programs, college catalogues, and speeches delivered at the college.

*Arrangement note:*

This series is arranged in its original order.

---

“Letters et alia,” 1848-1867	Box 3.0111: Folder 1
<i>Scope and content note: This folder originally contained items 1-11, referring to the legacy index numbers, which can be found stamped on the materials. Items 1-9 are available in this folder. Items 10 and 11 were removed to the collection file, and are available upon request.</i>	
“The College, Bishop & Jesuits,” 1866-1867, circa 1873, undated	Box 3.0111: Folder 2
“Legal Documents,” 1825, 1862	Box 3.0111: Folder 3
“Some reminiscences of St. Joseph’s College, Bardstown, especially from 1848-1868, by Rev. Walter Hill, S.J.,” undated	Box 3.0111: Folder 4
“Negro Church, Fr. Truyens: Legal Documents,” 1911	Box 3.0111: Folder 5
“Litterae Annuae, Historia Domus, Status Temporalis et Spiritualis, 1850-1869”	Box 3.0111: Folder 6
Commencement Programs and Catalogues, 1850-1856	Box 3.0111: Folder 7
<i>Scope and content note: Original folder title was “18-22 Bardstown.”</i>	
Catalogue, 1860-1861	Box 3.0111: Folder 8
Publications, 1846-1855	Box 3.0111: Folder 9
<i>Scope and content note: Original folder title was “Bardstown 24-32.” Referring to the legacy index numbers, which can be found stamped on the materials, items 24 through 27 are available in this folder. Items 28 through 31 refer to photographs. Item 32 was removed to the collection file, and is available upon request.</i>	
Sodality Second Division, 1853-1861	Box 3.0111: Folder 10
Account Sheets, 1868-1869	Box 3.0111: Folder 11
Student’s Library of St. Jos. College, undated	Box 3.0111: Folder 12

---

## Series 2. Bound Volumes, 1836-1837, 1840-1868, undated

### *Scope and content note:*

The bound volumes series contains account books, cash books, journals, ledgers, diaries, student registers, and other bound volumes with handwritten entries. These volumes provide a record of the financial and academic situation at Saint Joseph's College, mainly for the years in which the school was run by the Society of Jesus. In a few cases, the dates indicated on the spines of these volumes do not match the dates covered by the volumes. Dates indicated in parentheses following volume titles indicate the years covered by the volume.

### *Arrangement note:*

This series is intellectually arranged alphabetically. Materials have been physically left in their original order.

---

Account Book 1, 1848-1852	Box 3.0111
Account Book 2, 1849-1854	Box 3.0111
Account Book 3, 1860-1861	Box 3.0111
Account Book 4, 1857-1863	Box 3.0111
Account Book of Pupils, 1850-1855	Box 3.0110
Account Book, 1854-1858	Box 3.0111
Account Book, 1855-1856	Box 3.0110
Accounts of students, 1860-1861	Box 3.0110
Accounts of Students; tuition, 1854-1859	Box 794
Bound Volume of Catalogues of St. Joseph's College: 1836-37, 1840-58	Box 3.0111
Cash Book, 1852-1857 (1852-1858)	Box 3.0111
Cash Book, 1858-1861	Box 3.0111
Cash book, 1861-1868	Box 3.0110
Diarium Praefecti Scholarum in Collegio St. Joseph, 1853-1859	Box 3.0111
Journal of the Day Scholars; tuition, 1851-1867 (1849-1868)	Box 3.0110
Journal, 1846-1854	Box 794
Ledger, 1848-1861	Box 3.0110
Ledger, 1860-1862 (1860-1869)	Box 3.0110

List of Pupils in Joseph Harely's exercise book, undated	Box 3.0111
Memorandum Book, 1861-1868	Box 3.0111
Meteorological Record, 1858-1861	Box 3.0110
Receipts and Contract Book, 1850-1862	Box 3.0111
Register of Students, 1848-1861	Box 3.0110
St. Joseph's College Sodality: Second Division, 1853-1861	Box 3.0111
Tailor's Account Book, 1851-1852	Box 3.0111

---

Series 3. Photographs, circa 1850, 1860, 1995, undated

*Scope and content note:*

The photographs series contains photographs and engravings of the Saint Joseph's College campus, including Spalding Hall, Flaget Hall, and Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral, as well as photographs of the school's faculty and local sites. While some of the images are from the years of the school's operation, many more are modern prints, taken in 1995 and possibly into the 2000s.

*Arrangement note:*

This series is arranged in its original order.

Box 715: Folder 1