



*The following is the finding aid for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth collection located at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Archives. A finding aid is a catalog tool used in archives that briefly describes the material found in a collection. These records are not available digitally unless otherwise noted.*

*[Researchers must make an appointment with an archivist to view the material.](#)*

**Sisters of St. Elizabeth (Brookfield, Wis.)  
Records, 1930-1994  
MC 62**

**Access**

Open/unrestricted except for Series 2: Personnel records and Series 3: Financial records.

**Scope and Content** *a brief description of the types of materials in the collection.*

This collection consists of records of the order from 1930-1994 and is divided into four series: General records, Personnel, Finance, and Artifacts. Included are obituaries of sisters, the S.S.E. constitution, a history of the first fifty years of the order, photographs, a chronicle (1972-1982), and correspondence concerning contributions to and from S.S.E. Additionally, this collection holds the records of sisters who joined the S.S.E. Of note are Mother Elizabeth Ruf's personal writings, effects, and correspondence from 1909 through 2005. A religious habit is also included. Finally, this collection contains copious financial documentation such as financial statements from 1950 to 1993 and ledgers that recorded receipts, disbursements, and accounts receivable.

**Historical Note**

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth (S.S.E.) were a Franciscan convent founded by Mother Elizabeth Ruf and Mother Agnes Stippich in 1931. Their charism was to care for the elderly, and the order existed from 1931 to 1994. Originally taking over the St. Francis Third Order Home for the Aged, they quickly incorporated and took their first vows as the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in 1932. The Sisters raised funds and built a new novitiate and infirmary in 1937, which was located at 1850 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, in Milwaukee. They built a second complex at 754 N. Brookfield Rd., Brookfield, WI in 1956. Later they closed their Milwaukee location due to increased maintenance cost and urban decline. Mother Agnes died in 1953, while Mother Elizabeth served as superior from 1931 until she retired in 1968. She died in 1975. Mother Mary Rita Amrhein, who had been with the Sisters since 1935, oversaw the end of the order, which dissolved in 1994 because of too few members and low funds.

**Box and Folder List** *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged alphabetically. "B" is an abbreviation for box and "F" is an abbreviation for folder. This list will help the researcher narrow down exactly what folder they want to look at.*

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
<i>Series 1: General Information</i>		
B 1	F 1	Anniversaries, 1961-1992
B 1	F 2	Blueprint, 1982
B 1	F 3	Building Addition Correspondence, 1982-1983
B 1	F 4-5	"The Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth" (two copies)
B 1	F 6	Contributions from S.S.E., 1987-1989
B 1	F 7	Contributions from S.S.E., 1990-1991

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
B 1	F 8	Contributions from S.S.E., 1992-1994
B 1	F 9	Contributions to S.S.E., 1988-1993
B 1	F 10-11	"Fifty Year Echoes," 1981 (two copies)
B 1	F 12	Foundation Plan, 1982
B 6		Meeting Minutes of S.S.E., Inc., 1972-1992
B 1	F 13	Newspaper Clippings, 1937-1994
B 1	F 14	Patient Census, 1934-1991, Copy 1 (restricted)
B 2	F 1	Patient Census, 1934-1991, Copy 2 (restricted)
B 2	F 2	Photographs
B 2	F 3	Plat of Survey, 1954
B 2	F 4	Plat of Survey, 1982
B 2	F 5	Record of Last Rights, 1959-1964 (restricted)
B 2	F 6	Shop Drawings, 1982
B 2	F 7-8	Specifications for S.S.E. Novitiate, 1955
B 2	F 9	S.S.E. Chronicles, 1972-1982
B 2	F 10	S.S.E. Directories
B 2	F 11	Writings and letters of Fr. Bennio, 1929-1937
<i>Series 2: Personnel Records (restricted, consult archivist)</i>		
B 2	F 22	Felician Sisters, 1996-2005
B 2	F 12	Mother Agnes, 1953
B 2	F 15	Sister Mary Angela, 1986-1991
B 2	F 18	Sister Mary Camillus, 1969-1970
B 2	F 20	Sister Mary Clare, 1930-1935, 1980-1988
B 3	F 1	Sister Mary Frances, 1958-1987
B 3	F 9	Sister Mary Regina, 1964-1990
B 2	F 13	Allen, Sister Mary Martha, 1995-2005
B 2	F 14	Armheim, Mother Mary Rita, -2006
B 2	F 17	Brandmueller, Sister Mary Dolores
B 2	F 19	Carlin, Sister Mary David Joseph, 1985-1990
B 2	F 21	Dunkas, Sister Mary Veronica
B 3	F 2	Gannon, Sister Mary Bernadette
B 3	F 3	Gengler, Sister M. Anthony, 1953-1978
B 3	F 4	Gernand, Sister Christine, 1984-1986
B 3	F 5	Gillach, Sister Mary Therese, 1944-1987
B 3	F 6	Hollibush, Sister Andrea, 1980-1985
B 3	F 7	Kennedy, Sister Mary Margaret, 1944-1972
B 2	F 16	La Bonte, Sister Mary Gabriella
B 3	F 8	Peters, Sister Antoinette, 1958-1972
B 3	F 10	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, "Our Lord's Last Will," 1915
B 3	F 11	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, Personal Documents, 1903-1975
B 3	F 12	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, Photographs
B 3	F 13	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, Photocopy of Writings
B 3	F 14	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, Sunday School Catechism
B 4	F 1	Ruf, Mother Elizabeth, Writings
B 4	F 2	Schoen, Sister Mary Joseph
B 4	F 3	Sitger, Sister Mary Anna, 1934-1950
B 4	F 4	Snyder, Sister Laura, 1934-1967
B 4	F 5	Spitzer, Sister Anna

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
B 4	F 6	Stippich, Mother Mary Agnes
B 4	F 7	Thompson, Sister Margaret, 1950-1990
B 4	F 8	Wiener, Sister Mary Louise, 1934-1962
B 4	F 9	Wenzel, Sister Mary Catherine
<i>Series 3: Financial Records (restricted, consult archivist)</i>		
B 6		Accounts Receivable, 1965-1969
B 6		Account Records, 1933-1964
B 6		Account Records, 1937-1975
B 7		Account Records, 1975-1977
B 8		Account Records, 1987-1988
B 8		Account Records, 1988-1989
B 8		Account Records, 1989-1990
B 8		Account Records, 1990-1991
B 8		Account Records, 1991-1992
B 4	F 10	Financial Records, 1938-1940
B 4	F 11	Financial Statements, 1950-1959
B 4	F 12	Financial Statements, 1960-1969
B 4	F 13	Financial Statements, 1970-1975
B 4	F 14	Financial Statements, 1975-1980
B 4	F 15	Financial Statements, 1980-1985
B 5	F 1	Financial Statements, 1985- 1990
B 5	F 2	Financial Statements, 1990-1993
B 7		General Ledger, 1952-1970
B 7		General Ledger, 1970-1981
B 7		General Ledger, 1977-1986
B 6		Ledger, 1949-1964
B 7		Ledger, 1964-1980
B 6		Ledger, 1966-1971
B 7		Ledger, 1980-1987
B 7		Losses Incurred by the S.S.E., 1973-1975
B 5	F 3	Novitiate Contracts, 1954-1959
B 5	F 4	Payroll Transfers, 1969-1978
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1936-1951
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1940-1951
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1958-1962
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1959-1964
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1963-1969
B 7		Receipts and Disbursements, 1964-1967
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1969-1980
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1969-1987
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1980-1984
Stack		Receipts and Disbursements, 1984-1987
B 5	F 5	Review of Investment Portfolio, 1983
<i>Series 4: Artifacts</i>		
B 11		Chalices
B 11		Crucifix
B 9		Habit

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
B 10		Habit
		Painting of Mother Elizabeth and Mother Agnes