



The following is the finding aid for the Msgr. Peter Leo Johnson 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.](#)

Peter Leo Johnson, 1888-1972
Papers, 1908-1972
MC 13

Access

Open/unrestricted.

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

The army files include materials from Johnson's service in World War I (1918-1919) and his involvement in the National Guard. The biographical file contains a brief autobiography. The clipping files contain newspaper articles of Johnson's activities, such as book reviews of his publications, as well as clippings pertaining to personal and family matters.

The correspondence files include Johnson's "Roman Letters" (1908-1912) to his family while in Rome; his World War I letters (1918-1919); and letters sent to him by his family (1909-1911). These files also contain general correspondence (1919-1972), such as letters to historical societies and publishers regarding his research and publishing activities. Letters to friends are also found in these files.

Johnson's diaries (1918-1919, 1941-1972) contain brief descriptions of daily activities. The World War I diaries describe his activities as an army chaplain serving in France. His later diaries describe local events as well as reactions to national and international news, such as World War II and the aftermath. St. Francis Seminary activities, visits with friends, and writing and publishing news are described herein.

The mass books (1920-1972) and mass intentions (1912-1915) contain brief entries of masses. The series of publications includes Johnson's major published works: Centennial Essays for the Milwaukee Archdiocese, 1843-1943 (1943), Crosier on the Frontier: A life of John Martin Henni (1959), Daughters of Charity in Milwaukee, 1846-1946 (1946), Early Catholic Church Property in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (1941), Halcyon Days: Story of St. Francis Seminary, 1856-1956 (1956), Stuffed Saddlebags: The Life of Martin Kundig (1942). Also included are his editorials for the Catholic Citizen, several miscellaneous papers, articles written for the New Catholic Encyclopedia, as well as a few book reviews. (Researchers are advised to examine the Salesianum for additional papers written by Peter Leo Johnson.)

The research files consist mainly of ghost church research. Included are the reports of John G. LaVies, Milwaukee architect and builder, who under Johnson's direction was responsible for the ghost church field investigation, which dealt with interviewing, transcribing deeds and spotting property, and of map making and sketching. Several other research files contain information pertaining to the U. S. Civil War and Catholic involvement.

Sermons and addresses (1909-1969) are also contained in the collection. While Johnson's earlier sermons are usually written out, his later sermons and addresses appear in outline form.

The collection also contains teaching materials, such as class records (1921-1956), lectures, reading lists, and student paper topics.

The last series includes personal items and artifacts. Ordination and anniversary cards, medals, memberships, passports, and a number of miscellaneous documents and other items are found in these files.

Box and Folder List *a list of the folder titles found within the collection. The folders are arranged alphabetically by series, and chronologically thereunder. The last boxes in the collection (Box 20-22) contains personal items, photographs, and artifacts.*

Box 1

- F 1 Army, Burials
- F 2 Army, Correspondence, 1918
- F 3 Army, Correspondence Courses, 1926 - 1936
- F 4 Army, Discharge, 1919
- F 5 Army, Entertainment
- F 6 Army, Induction, 1918
 - Item: [Army Identity Papers](#)
- F 7 Army, Miscellaneous
- F 8 Army, National Guard, 1921 - 1941
- F 9 Army, Retirement, 1949
- F 10 Army, Schools
- F 11 Army, Senior Chaplains Office, n.d., 1918 - 1921
- F 12 Army, 305th Infantry Auxilliary Bulletin, 1918 - 1919
- F 13 Army, War Faculties, 1918
- F 14 Biographical Information
- F 15 Clippings, [Centennial Essays](#), 1943
- F 16 Clippings, [Crosier on the Frontier](#), 1959 - 1960
- F 17 Clippings, [Daughters of Charity](#), 1946
- F 18 Clippings, 'Ghost' Churches, 1939 - 1943
- F 19 Clippings, [Halcyon Days](#), 1956 - 1957
- F 20 Clippings, Miscellaneous, n.d., 1933 - 1965
- F 21 Clippings, Personal and Family Matters
- F 22 Clippings, [Stuffed Saddlebags](#), 1942 - 1943

Box 2

- F 1 Correspondence, Post Cards, n.d., 1908 - 1910
- F 2 Correspondence, Roman Letters, 1908 – 1912 (Bound)
- F 3 Correspondence, Roman Letters, September 1908 - June 1909
- F 4 Correspondence, Roman Letters, July - December 1909
- F 5 Correspondence, Roman Letters, January 1910 - March 1912
- F 6 Correspondence, received from here, 1909 - 1911
- F 7 Correspondence, 1910?
- F 8 Correspondence, to Margaret on Sisterhood, January 1917

Box 3

- F 1 Correspondence, Roman Letters, 1918 – 1919 (Bound)
- F 2 Correspondence, World War I Letters, July - December 1918
- F 3 Correspondence, World War I Letters, January - May 1919
- F 4 Correspondence, 1919 - 1927

- F 5 Correspondence, 1928 - 1935
- F 6 Correspondence, 305th Infantry, n.d., 1933 - 1955
- F 7 Correspondence, 1936- 1939

Box 4

- F 1 Correspondence, 1940
- F 2 Correspondence - World War II, 1940 - 1945
- F 3 Correspondence, 1941
- F 4 Correspondence, 1942
- F 5 Correspondence - Stuffed Saddlebags, 1942 -1943
- F 6 Correspondence, 1943
- F 7 Correspondence, Centennial Essays, 1943 - 1944
- F 8 Correspondence, 1944 - 1945
- F 9 Correspondence, 1946 - 1947

Box 5

- F 1 Correspondence, Daughters of Charity, 1946 - 1947
- F 2 Correspondence, 1948 - 1949
- F 3 Correspondence, 1950
- F 4 Correspondence, 1951
- F 5 Correspondence, 1952
- F 6 Correspondence, 1953
- F 7 Correspondence, 1954
- F 8 Correspondence, Regarding Elevation to rank of Domestic Prelate, 1954

Box 6

- F 1 Correspondence, 1955
- F 2 Correspondence, 1956
- F 3 Correspondence, 1957
- F 4 Correspondence, 1958
- F 5 Correspondence, 1959
- F 6 Correspondence, Crosier on the Frontier, 1959 - 1960
- F 7 Correspondence, 1960
- F 8 Correspondence - Postcards sent to Joseph Schuer, June - July 1961
- F 9 Correspondence, 1961
- F 10 Correspondence, 1962

Box 7

- F 1 Correspondence, North American College of Rome Alumni Association, 1961 - 1962
- F 2 Correspondence, Regarding Golden Jubilee, 1962
- F 3 Correspondence, 1963
- F 4 Correspondence, 1964 - 1965
- F 5 Correspondence, 1966 - 1967
- F 6 Correspondence, 1968 - 1969
- F 7 Correspondence, 1970 - 1972

Box 8

- F 1 Diary Pages, n.d.
- F 2 Diaries, 1918 - 1919
- F 3 Diaries, 1941 - 1943
- F 4 Diaries, 1944 - 1946

- F 5 Diaries, 1947 - 1949
- F 6 Diaries, 1950 - 1952
- F 7 Diaries, 1953 - 1955

Box 9

- F 1 Diaries, 1956 - 1958
- F 2 Diaries, 1959 - 1961
- F 3 Diaries, 1962 - 1964
- F 4 Diaries, 1965 - 1967
- F 5 Diaries, 1968 - 1970
- F 6 Diaries, 1971 - 1972

Box 10

- F 1 Mass Books, 1920 - 1972
- F 2 Mass Intentions, 1912 - 1915
- F 3 Publications, "The Antecedents of St. Francis Seminary," 1956
- F 4 Publications, Book Reviews
- F 5 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1932 (bound)
- F 6 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1933 (bound)
- F 7 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1934 (bound)
- F 8 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1935 (bound)

Box 11

- F 1 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1936 (bound)
- F 2 Publications, Catholic Citizen Editorials, 1937 (bound)
- F 3 Publications, Centennial Essays, 1943 (bound)
- F 4 Publications, Crosier on the Frontier: A Life of John Martin Henni, 1959
- F 5 Publications, The Daughters of Charity in Milwaukee, 1846 - 1946, 1946 (bound)
- F 6 Publications, Daughters of Charity, Fliers
- F 7 Publications, Early Catholic Church Property in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Wisconsin, 1941(bound)
- F 8 Publications, "Early Catholic Church Property in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee," 1942

Box 12

- F 1 Publications, Halcyon Days, 1956 (bound)
- F 2 Publications, "Milwaukee's First Mass," 1943
- F 3 Publications, Miscellaneous Papers
- F 4 Publications, New Catholic Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography articles
- F 5 Publications, "The Sisters of Charity and The Immigrant Hospital on Jones Island," 1945
- F 6 Publications, "Sketch of St. Francis Seminary"
- F 7 Publications, Stuffed Saddlebags, 1942 (bound)

Box 13

- F 1 Research Notes, Civil War - Bishops
- F 2 Research Notes, Civil War - Catholic Chaplains
- F 3 Research Notes, Civil War - Catholic Welfare Board
- F 4 Research Notes, Civil War - Catholics
- F 5 Research Notes, Civil War - Milwaukee Sentinel, 1863
- F 6 Research Notes, Civil War - Sisters
- F 7 Research Notes, Ghost Churches
- F 8 Research Notes, Ghost Churches

F 9 Research Notes, Ghost Churches

Box 13A

F 1 Research Materials - Ghost Churches - County Maps

F 2 Research Materials - Ghost Churches - Plat Books for the following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

Box 14

F 1 Research Notes, "Ghost Churches" - John G. LaVies Reports, 1939 - 1940

F 2 Research Notes, Missions in Wisconsin

F 3 Sermons, 1909 - 1910, 1911? - 1913?

F 4 Sermons, 1912 - 1914

F 5 Sermons, n.d., c1913

F 6 Sermons, 1914 - 1915

F 7 Sermons, 1915 - 1918

Box 15

F 1 Sermons, 1918 - 1922

F 2 Sermons, 1920 - 1922

F 3 Sermons, 1922 - 1923

F 4 Sermons, 1923 - 1925

F 5 Sermons, Camp Douglas, 1924 - 1932

F 6 Sermons, 1925 - 1931

F 7 Sermons, 1931 - 1945

F 8 Sermons, 1945 - 1955

Box 16

F 1 Sermons, 1955 - 1968

F 2 Sermons and Addresses, n.d., 1920 - 1945

F 3 Sermons and Addresses, 1946 - 1969

F 4 Teaching, Class Records, n.d., 1921 - 1925

F 5 Teaching, Class Records, 1925 - 1933

F 6 Teaching, Class Records, 1933 - 1940

F 7 Teaching, Class Records, 1940 - 1945

Box 17

F 1 Teaching, Class Records, 1945 - 1951

F 2 Teaching, Class Records, 1950 - 1956

F 3 Teaching, Class Records - MA, 1926 - 1946

F 4 Teaching, Lecture: German Catholic Immigrant & Religion in Early Milwaukee, 1830 - 1860, UW-Milwaukee, 1962

F 5 Teaching, Lectures - Canon Law

F 6 Teaching, Lectures - Canon Law

F 7 Teaching, Lectures - Church History

F 8 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient

F 9 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient

Box 18

F 1 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient

F 2 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient

F 3 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient

- F 4 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Ancient and Medieval
- F 5 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Medieval
- F 6 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Medieval
- F 7 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Medieval

Box 19

- F 1 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Modern
- F 2 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Modern
- F 3 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Modern
- F 4 Teaching, Lectures - Church History, Modern
- F 5 Teaching, Lectures - Patrology
- F 6 Teaching, Reading Lists
- F 7 Teaching, Syllabus
- F 8 Teaching, Topics for Student Papers - Church History, 1920 - 1967
- F 9 Teaching, Topics for Student Papers - Patrology, 1929 - 1961

Box 20

- F 1 Addresses of Family Members
- F 2 Baptism Certificates
- F 3 Golden Jubilee, 1962
- F 4 Handkerchief sent to Sister Catherine in August 5, 1918 letter
- F 5 Honorary Doctorate - Marquette University Commencement Program, 1963
- F 6 Investiture as a Domestic Prelate - Souvenir Cards, 1954
- F 7 Maps, Western Battle Front in Europe; Treaty of Peace
- F 8 Medals, American Legion
- F 9 Medals, St. Francis Seminary - Golden & Diamond Jubilees
- F 10 Medals and Ribbons, American College
- F 11 Medals and Ribbons, Miscellaneous
- F 12 Memberships
- F 13 Miscellaneous Documents
- F 14 Miscellaneous Items
- F 15 Miscellaneous Items
- F 16 Ordination, Prayer Card, 1912
- F 17 Passports and French Driver's License
- F 18 Patch
- F 19 Report Card - Seventh Grade, 1900-1901
- F 20 Silver Jubilee, Invitation and Souvenir Cards, 1937
- F 21 Sixtieth Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood - Invitation, 1972
- F 22 Testimonials, St. Francis Seminary, 1901-1907

Box 21

- F 1 Army – appointments, 1918-1940
- F 2 Capp Cartoons, 1960s
- F 3 Photographs – Army
- F 4 Photographs – miscellaneous
- F 5 Photographs – portraits
- F 6 Photographs – school years

Box 22

Roman documents

Box 23

- F 1 Photographs – Camp Douglas, pre-1930
- F 2 Photographs – ghost churches
- F 3-5 Photographs – personal
- F 6 Photographs – World War I