



The following is the finding aid for Archbishop John Martin Henni 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. A [small portion of these records are available digitally](#) due to generous financial support.

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

John Martin Henni, 1805-1881
Papers, 1831-1883, bulk 1844-1879
MC 15

Access

Open/unrestricted

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

This collection of papers Milwaukee's 1st bishop/archbishop contains biographical information., confirmation books (1844-1879), correspondence (1844-81), financial records (1843-84), legal documents (1840-87), and several folders of miscellaneous records and personal materials.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence received from bishops, priests, and influential lay Catholics. The letters deal almost exclusively with matter concerning the rapidly growing pioneer church in Wisconsin. The majority of the letters are in German and English; some are in Latin, French and Italian.

The majority of the correspondence consists of "calendared" letters. Msgr. Peter Leo Johnson, Professor of Church History at St. Francis Seminary, arranged these letters numerically and created a card index to them which allows access by correspondent and by subject. Msgr Johnson's summaries of the calendared letters are also in the collection. [Additionally, an index of the calendared letters is available here.](#)

A number of folders of uncalendared letters are included in the collection. Several of these folders are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the correspondent. Separate subject folders have been created for the Holy Cross Order, the Propagation de la Foi and the Sinsinawa Mound College.

The correspondence files also contain typed transcriptions and copies of letters sent to Henni. These materials are in English and German, and are arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

The collection also includes several letters written by Henni (1848-1878) as well as copies of Henni letters found in the Baltimore Cathedral Archives, the National Archives and in the Notre Dame University archives.

The financial record files contain personal materials, records relating to the construction of Milwaukee's early churches, mortgages, miscellaneous bills and receipts. The collection also includes a folder of legal documents. The majority of the documents in it are deeds.

A number of additional miscellaneous records, filed alphabetically within the collection consist of coadjutor question newspaper transcripts (1878-1879), pastorals (German typescripts, 1875-78), a mission speech (German typescript, 1848), and Msgr. Peter Leo Johnson's research notes from the Wahrietsfreund (1837-1843), a Cincinnati newspaper founded by Henni.

Personal items include an amice, Henni's certificate of naturalization, golden jubilee cards, a lock of hair, his will and a number of other documents and papers.

In September 1996 two prayer books were added to the collection: "Imitation of Christ" and "St. Vincent Manual". (The books were supposed to have belonged to Archbishop Henni)

Biographical Note

[A brief biography of Archbishop Hennis can be found here.](#)

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.*

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 1	F 1	Biographical Information
B 1	F 2	Biographical Information, P.L. Johnson's notes from Martin Marty's biography of Henni
B 1	F 3	Coadjutor Question, typescripts from newspapers, 1878-1879
B 1	F 4	Confirmation Book, 1844-1879
B 1	F 5	Confirmation Book, Typescripts, 1844-1879 (2 Copies)
B 1	F 6	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #1-#50</u>
B 1	F 7	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #51-#100</u>
B 1	F 8	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #101-#150</u>
B 1	F 9	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #151-#200</u>
B 1	F 10	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #201-#250</u>
B 1	F 11	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #251-#300</u>
B 1	F 12	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #301-#350</u>
B 1	F 13	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #351-#400</u>
B 2	F 1	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #401-#450</u>
B 2	F 2	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #451-#500</u>
B 2	F 3	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #501-#550</u>
B 2	F 4	<u>Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #551-#618</u>
B 2	F 5	Correspondence, Calendared Letters, 1844-1879; #619-#667
B 2	F 6	Correspondence, Calendared Letters, P.L. Johnson summaries (5 bound copies)
B 3	F 1	Correspondence, Calendared Letters, P.L. Johnson summaries (bound copies)
B 3	F 2	Correspondence, Calendared Letters, Card Index (2 Copies)
B 4	F 1	Correspondence, Uncalendared Letters, A-Ma
B 4	F 2	Correspondence, Uncalendared Letters, Mc-O
B 4	F 3	Correspondence, Uncalendared Letters, P-Z
B 4	F 4	Correspondence, Holy Cross Order to Henni, 1850-1856
B 4	F 5	Correspondence, Propogation De La Foi, France, 1844-1875
B 4	F 6	Correspondence, Sinsinawa Mound College, 1848-1866
B 4	F 7	Correspondence, Letters From Unidentified Correspondents, 1848-1878
B 4	F 8	Correspondence, Typed Transcriptions of Letters to Henni, A-Z
B 4	F 9	Correspondence, Copies of Letters to Henni, 1852-1874
B 4	F 10	Correspondence, Letters from Henni, 1848-1878
B 4	F 11	Correspondence, Copies of Letters from Henni at the Baltimore Cathedral Archives, 1864-1878

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 4	F 12	Correspondence, Copies of Letters from Henni at the National Archives - Bureau of Indian Affairs, n.d., 1846-1850
B 4	F 13	Correspondence, Copies of Letters from Henni at the Notre Dame University Archives, 1831-1850
B 4	F 14	Correspondence, Copies of Letters from Henni at the Notre Dame University Archives, 1851-1875
B 5	F 1	Correspondence & Contracts, Copies regarding St. John's Cathedral, n.d., 1846-1850, 1881
B 5	F 2	Financial Records, n.d., 1843-1859
B 5	F 3	Financial Records, 1860-1879
B 5	F 4	Financial Records, 1880-1884
B 5	F 5	Legal Documents, 1840-1887
B 5	F 6	Pastorals, Typescripts, 1875-1878 (In German)
B 5	F 7	Speech, about missions, 1848 (German Typescript)
B 5	F 8	<u>Wahrheitsfreund</u> , 1837-1843 - research notes from P.L. Johnson collection
B 5	F 9	Personal Materials, Amice
B 5	F 10	Personal Materials, Certificate of Naturalization
B 5	F 11	Personal Materials, Golden Jubilee Materials, 1879
B 5	F 12	Personal Materials, Lock of Henni's Hair & Correspondence, 1882-1883
B 5	F 13	Personal Materials, Miscellaneous documents & papers
B 5	F 14	Personal Materials, Will
B 6	F 1	Prayerbook, "St. Vincent Manual"