



The following is the finding aid for the Eugene F. Bleidorn 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.](#)

**Eugene F. Bleidorn, 1916-2010
Papers, 1916-1994
MC 51**

Access

Portions of the collection are restricted. Consult the archivist for details.

Biographical Note

This collection reflects the life and career of Eugene F. Bleidorn, ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1942, he left the ordained ministry in 1970 and successfully pursued a second career as a health services administrator. The collection consists primarily of material related to Bleidorn's career as a priest. He was active as a teacher at St. Francis de Sales Seminary and a leader of lay Catholic groups including Young Christian Workers, Young Christian Students, and Christian Family Movement. Later, as pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Milwaukee, Bleidorn was a well-known participant in local civil rights issues.

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

This collection contains records of various aspects of Eugene F. Bleidorn's life. The collection covers a variety of topics and includes many personal writings, notes, and speeches, so the collection is divided into 18 different series: Pre-ordination; Ordination; St. Francis Seminary; Cardijn Center; St. Scholastica, Bristol; St. Boniface, Milwaukee; St. Mary, Racine; Transition; Post-priesthood/State of Wisconsin; Tudor Oaks Retirement Home; Steven Bryant Nursing Home; St. Camillus Institute; Retirement; Articles and speeches; Publications; Oversize materials; Audio tapes and miscellaneous items; Photographs/autobiography; record albums; and Cardijn Center binders. It also includes administrative records of the parishes, organizations, and institutions Bleidorn served.

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged alphabetically according to the series. "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
<i>Series 1: Pre-Ordination</i>		
B 1	F 1	Birth and baptism records, 1916
B 1	F 2	St. Francis Seminary, School of Pastoral Ministry, 1934-1942
<i>Series 2: Ordination</i>		
B 1	F 3	Ordination, Holy Redeemer, 1942-1945
<i>Series 3: St. Francis Seminary</i>		
B 1	F 4	Correspondence, 1945-1960
B 1	F 5	Class notes, 1945-1960
B 1	F 6	Master's degree, 1945-1953

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 1	F 7	Notes/resources, the parish, 1950s-1960s
B 1	F 8	Outline of history, sixth class
B 1	F 9	Retreats, 1954-1963
B 2	F 1	Social ethics class, 1959
B 2	F 2	Young Christian Workers, 1953-1958
B 2	F 3-4	Young Christian Workers, Pilgrimage to Europe, 1957
B 2	F 5	Courses
<i>Series 4: Cardijn Center</i>		
B 2	F 6	Days of recollection/study days, 1950-1956
B 2	F 7	Days of recollection/study days, 1957-1962
B 2	F 8	Notes, Fr. Bleidorn presentations, 1951-1961
B 3	F 3	Notes on Labor Day, 1953-1963
B 3	F 5	Notes on Lay Apostolate, 1957-1959
B 3	F 6	Notes on love, 1953-1959
B 2	F 9	Notes on presentations, circa 1950s
B 3	F 7	Notes on priesthood, 1954-1957
B 3	F 8	Notes on Puerto Rican Institute, 1953-1954
B 3	F 9	Notes on Russia, 1952
B 3	F 10	Notes on virtue, undated
B 3	F 11	Notes on women's role in society, undated
B 3	F 1	Organization meetings, 1956-1961
B 3	F 2	Published information, 1953-1960
B 3	F 4	Vivant, 1948 March – 1949 November
<i>Series 5: St. Scholastica Parish, Bristol</i>		
B 4	F 1	Correspondence, 1960-1965
B 5	F 3	Correspondence, 1966-1967
B 5	F 4	Correspondence, 1967
B 5	F 5	Council on Urban Education, 1967
B 5	F 6	Council on Urban Life, 1959-1967
B 5	F 7	Discussion table reports, 1966 May 31
B 4	F 2	Family Holy Hour/Paul retreat, 1962 August
B 5	F 8	Freedom Schools, 1965
B 5	F 1	Kenosha Council of Catholic Men, 1963-1965
B 4	F 3	Notes for speeches and sermons, 1962-1965
B 4	F 4	Parish activities, 1961-1965
B 4	F 5	Priest retreat, Salina, KS, 1964 June
B 5	F 2	Priest retreats, 1964-1968
B 4	F 6	Retreat notes, 1963-1969
B 4	F 7-11	St. Scholastica Church Bulletins, 1960 – 1965
<i>Series 6: St. Boniface Parish, Milwaukee</i>		
B 6	F 1	Action Now, 1960s
B 6	F 2	Catholic Interracial Group, 1966-1967
B 6	F 3	Constitution, parish meetings, parish list, 1966
B 6	F 5	Correspondence, 1965 (restricted)
B 6	F 9	Correspondence, 1966 (restricted)
B 6	F 10	Correspondence, 1967 (restricted)

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 6	F 4	Correspondence, grade school, 1965 (restricted)
B 7	F 2	Correspondence, grade school children, 1967 (restricted)
B 6	F 6	Correspondence, negative, 1965 (restricted)
B 6	F 7	Correspondence, one person, 1965 (restricted)
B 7	F 1	Correspondence, positive, 1967 (restricted)
B 6	F 8	Correspondence, students, 1965 (restricted)
B 8	F 1-2	Council on Urban Life, 1966
B 8	F 3	Letters to Bishop Roman Atkielski from grade school children, 1965
B 7	F 3	Parish activities, 1965-1967
B 7	F 7	Police harassment service
B 7	F 4	School Boycott, 1965
B 7	F 5	Study analysis community problems, 1967 January
B 7	F 8	St. Boniface, 75 th anniversary, 1963
B 8	F 4-5	St. Boniface Church Bulletins, 1966-1967
B 8	F 6	St. Boniface Church Newsletters, 1960-1966
B 7	F 6	St. Martin de Porres project group, 1965-1966
<i>Series 7: St. Mary Parish, Racine</i>		
B 9	F 1	Correspondence, 1968
B 9	F 2	Correspondence, 1969-1970
B 9	F 3	Correspondence, negative, 1968-1969
B 9	F 4	John McCarthy estate, legal matter, 1968-1969
B 9	F 5	Parish operations, 1968-1970
B 9	F 8	Pastoral Advisory Board, 1968-1969
B 9	F 6	Priest Senate, Milwaukee Archdiocese, 1967-1969
B 9	F 7	Silver Anniversary, 1968 October
B 8	F 7-8	St. Mary Church Bulletins, 1968-1970
<i>Series 8: Transition</i>		
B 10	F 1	Correspondence, 1970-1972
B 10	F 2	Job applications, 1970-1972
B 10	F 3	Resignation from priesthood
B 10	F 4	Resignation from priest committee
B 10	F 5	Resume and job applications
B 10	F 6	Term papers regarding transition, 1969-1971
B 10	F 7	Transcripts
<i>Series 9: Post-Priesthood, State of Wisconsin</i>		
B 11	F 1	Correspondence, 1973-1977
B 11	F 2	Records, 1970-1971
<i>Series 10: Tudor Oaks Retirement Home</i>		
B 11	F 3	Adult Biblical Interdependent Learning (ABIL), 1978-1990
B 11	F 4	Correspondence, 1977-1979
B 11	F 5	Operations, 1977-1979
B 11	F 6	Tudor Oaks fraud case, 1981
<i>Series 11: Steven Bryant Nursing Home</i>		
B 11	F 7-8	Correspondence, 1979

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 11	F 9	Log, 1979
B 12	F 1	Operations and correspondence, 1978
B 12	F 2	Operations and policies, 1978-1979
B 12	F 3-5	Reports, 1979
<i>Series 12: St. Camillus Institute</i>		
B 12	F 6	Correspondence and notes, 1979-1986
B 12	F 8	Mission, philosophy, anniversary
B 13	F 1	Newsletter and manual, 1979-1986
B 13	F 3	Retirement from St. Camillus, 1986 February
B 13	F 2	Salary evaluations, 1979
B 12	F 7	Social ministry, Milwaukee Archdiocese, 1982-1985
<i>Series 13: Retirement</i>		
B 13	F 5	Jane Doe/St. Camillus court proceedings, 1986
B 13	F 6	Priests' retirement, 1992
B 13	F 4	Retirement, 1986
B 13	F 8	Seminars, 1986-1987
B 13	F 7	Sisters' retirement 1986
<i>Series 14: Articles and Speeches</i>		
B 14	F 4	Magazine articles, 1947-1968
B 14	F 1	Newspaper clippings, 1942-1991
B 14	F 2-3	Speeches, 1954-1988
<i>Series 15: Publications</i>		
B 15		Publications, 1958-1994
<i>Series 16: Oversize Materials</i>		
B 16	F 4	Banner for Red Sullivan
B 16	F 3	Insight Magazine, "Father Groppi: Rebel without Cause," 1976 April 25
B 16	F 5	Photographs, Rev. James Groppi speaking to children, 1967 January 17
B 16	F 1-2	Scrapbook, Milwaukee School Boycott, 1965
<i>Series 17: Audio Tapes and Miscellaneous</i>		
B 17	F 2	Cassette tape, Marquette University's Encouter Series, 1967 Side 1: Changing Role of the Church Side 2: Tom Clark, Church in Nicaragua
B 17	F 3	Cassette tape, St. Boniface Parish Month, Larry Harwell, 1966 December 16
B 17	F 1	Identification card for Equal Rights Division for the IRA of Wisconsin, undated
B 17	F 1	Pins, "Burn Baby Burn" and equal sign

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 17	F 4	Reel-to-Reel tapes, undated <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crossroads 2. Destiny is Yes 3. Make Mine Tuna 4. Obedience 5. The Last Christian 6. War of Jim Davis 7. Why I Believe in God
B 17	F 5	Reel-to-Reel tape. Barbara Ward Economic Policy for a Free World, undated
B 17	F 6	Reel to Reel tapes, 1960-1978 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CFM, by Rev. Joseph Strenski 2. Infallibility, by Rev. Parr. 3. Natural Law as Revealed to the Heart of Man, by Rev. John F. Murphy 4. Priests Among Men, by Archbishop Brady, 1961 5. Responsibilities of American Catholics in International Relations, B. Cooke 6. The Changing Role of the Church, Rev. Eugene Bleidorn, 1967 March 21 7. The One Church – A Challenge, by Rev. Reinhold, 1960 July 8. WBCS Radio, Milwaukee, Priests that left the Ministry 1978 January 28
<i>Series 18: Books, Documents, Photos, Record Albums</i>		
B 18	F 1	Book, "In My Time," by Eugene F. Bleidorn, 1994
B 18	F 2	Binder, Cardijn Center organizational documents, 1956
B 18	F 3	Binder, Report to Archbishop Meyer regarding Cardijn Center, 1957 January
B 18	F 4	Binder, Report to Archbishop Meyer regarding Cardijn Center, 1957 June
B 18	F 5	Binder, Report to Archbishop Meyer regarding Cardijn Center, 1957 December
B 18	F 7	Cardijn Center, historical information
B 18	F 6	Photographs, 1940-1970
B 18	F 8	Record albums, "Father Beix's 1951 Christmas Message"