

**Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Records**  
**Sisters of Notre Dame Waltham Schools**  
**Finding Aid**

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Archivist

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
30 Jeffrey's Neck Rd.  
Ipswich, MA 01983

## **Collection Summary**

**Title: Accession Numbers:** 2016.26

**Dates:** 1888-1987

**Bulk Dates:** 1888-1970

**Location:** East West Province Archives, Ipswich, MA

**Physical Description:** 5 manuscript boxes, 22 volumes, 194 photographs.

**Abstract:** The collection contains the convent and school records for the Sisters of Notre Dame while serving at St. Joseph's School in Waltham. It also includes records for the foundation and events of the Notre Dame Novitiate, founded in Waltham in 1889.

**Provenance:** The collection was moved to the archives after St. Joseph's School closed in 1972.

**Processing:** The collection was processed in 2016.

**Conservation Work:** Papers were mended, fragile volumes provided enclosures for protection.

**Restrictions:** The collection is available for researchers in the New England Archives of the East West Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

## **Scope and Content Note:**

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were invited to teach in Waltham in 1888 by the pastor of St. Joseph's Church to teach at the parish school. As was the custom then, the sisters taught the girls and the Christian Brothers taught the boys. Because of the rapid increase in pupils in the school, the church basement was also used for the school. In 1920, the high school, which has been called St. Joseph's-LaSalle High School, changed its name to St. Mary's. The School closed in 1972, after the SNDs conducted their statewide school survey.

The year the sisters first arrived in Waltham, they also purchased of the Leland Estate on Newton Street in Waltham to open their Massachusetts Novitiate in Waltham. The Novitiate remained there until 1962 when the Sisters of Notre Dame moved their Novitiate to Ipswich, Massachusetts.

The collection includes the records for the Newton Street Novitiate, first bought in 1888 and in use until 1962, the records for St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Schools. Convent records include annals, novice essays, journals and legal documents for incorporation.

School records include student work, examination records and student newspapers and other publications. Also included are photographs of novitiate and schools, including student events.

The collection has been divided into 3 series:

**Waltham Novitiate Papers**

**St. Mary's Convent and School Papers**

**St. Joseph's School Papers**

**Organization and Container List**

**Waltham Novitiate Papers**

Waltham Novitiate Convent Annals, 1888-1896.

Waltham Novitiate Convent Annals, 1896-1901.

Waltham Novitiate Novice Essays and Poems, 1892-1896.

Waltham Novitiate Professed Sisters List, 1958.

**Box 01**

**Folder 01** Novitiate Incorporation and Legal Papers, 1889-1961.

**Folder 02** Novitiate Incorporation, 1889.

**Folder 03** Novitiate Annals, 1956-1963.

**Folder 04** Novitiate Councillor's Meetings, 1953-1960.

**Folder 05** Novitiate Councillor's Meetings, 1961-1963.

**Folder 06** Novitiate Papers, 1937-1988.

**Folder 07** Novitiate Vow Renewals, 1957-1971.

**Folder 08** Novice Letters, 1961-1967.

**Folder 09** Novice Letters, 1960-1967.

**Folder 10** Novice Letters, 1960-1967.

**Folder 11** Novice Letters, 1960-1967.

**Folder 12** Novice Letters, 1960-1967.

**Folder 13** Novice Letters, 1959-1964.

**Folder 14** Novice Letters, 1959-1967.

**Oversize Shelf 07** Proposed Division of the Leland Estate, Waltham, Massachusetts, 1888.

**St. Mary's Convent and School Papers**

St. Mary's Convent Journal, 1937-1950.

St. Mary's Convent Journal, 1950-1968.

St. Mary's Convent Councillor's Meeting Minutes, 1922-1952.

St. Mary's Convent Councillor's Meeting Minutes, 1955-1966.

St. Mary's Convent Monthly Finances, 1945-1968.

St. Mary's Convent Monthly Finances, 1946-1969.

**Box 01**

- Folder 15** St. Mary's Convent Annals, 1888-1921.
- Folder 16** St. Mary's Convent Annals, 1921-1944.
- Folder 17** St. Mary's Convent Annals, 1942-1950.
- Folder 18** St. Mary's Convent Annals, 1951-1969.
- Folder 19** St. Mary's Councillor's Meetings, 1953-1966.
- Folder 20** St. Mary's Convent Community Meetings, 1968-1972.
- Folder 21** St. Mary's Convent Finances, 1968-1969.
- Folder 22** St. Mary's School Exams, 1921.
- Folder 23** St. Mary's School Exams, 1922.
- Folder 24** St. Mary's School Exams, 1923.
- Folder 25** St. Mary's School Exams, 1924.
- Folder 26** St. Mary's School Exams, 1925.
- Folder 27** St. Mary's School Exams, 1926.
- Folder 28** St. Mary's School Exams, 1927.
- Folder 29** St. Mary's School Exams, 1928.

**Box 02**

- Folder 01** St. Mary's School Exams, 1929.
- Folder 02** St. Mary's School Exams, 1930.
- Folder 03** St. Mary's School Exams, 1931.
- Folder 04** St. Mary's School Exams, 1933-1936.
- Folder 05** St. Mary's School Exams, 1937-1945.
- Folder 06** St. Mary's School Exams, 1940-1944.
- Folder 07** St. Mary's School Newspapers, 1935, 1966-1968.
- Folder 08** St. Mary's High School Alumni Information, 1891-1923.
- Folder 09** St. Mary's High School Alumni, 1956, 1958, 1960-1966.
- Folder 10** St. Mary's High School Alumni, 1894-1961.
- Folder 11** St. Mary's High School Alumni, 1894-1961.
- Folder 12** St. Mary's High School Alumni, 1968, 1987.

St. Mary's School Exams, 1934-1946.

St. Mary's Yearbooks, 1949, 1955, 1957, 1967. 4 volumes.

St. Mary's Reunion Booklet, Class of 1951, 1976.

A History of St. Mary's Parish By Rev. James J. Baxter, 1935.

150th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Waltham, 1985.

Rituale Romanum, 1872.

**St. Joseph's School Papers**

- Folder 13** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1930-1931.
- Folder 14** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1932-1933.
- Folder 15** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1932-1933.
- Folder 16** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1933-1935.

- Folder 17** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1934-1935.  
**Folder 18** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1936.  
**Folder 19** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1937-1939.  
**Folder 20** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1940-1942.  
**Folder 21** St. Joseph's School Exams, 1943-1945.  
**Folder 22** Newspaper Clippings, 1962-1973.

St. Joseph's Jubilee Volume, 1890.

St. Joseph's Parochial School Silver Jubilee Fete, 1888-1913.

- Box 03** 131 Photographs, Novitiate, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Schools.  
**Box 04** 44 Photographs, Novitiate, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Schools.  
**Box 05** 16 Photographs, Novitiate, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Schools.