

**Title:** Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

**Reference Code:** Mss-1310

**Inclusive Dates:** 1986

**Quantity:** 0.03 cu. ft.

**Location:** Sm Mss

**Abstract:** The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi's roots go back to 1849 when Archbishop J. Martin Henni, convinced a small group of lay third-order Franciscans to emigrate from Bavaria to Milwaukee to serve as missionaries to the growing number of German immigrants. The women in the group worked in the men's seminary in St. Francis supporting those who aspired to the priesthood. After the Motherhouse moved to La Crosse in 1871, 37 sisters remained in Milwaukee and became the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. In the 1870s, they shifted their primary ministry to teaching and worked in schools across the country.

St. Mary's Institute, a school for girls, was formed in 1903, and in 1904, the school moved into a new building on Lake Drive. In 1915, the school's name was changed to St. Mary's Academy. Declining enrollment and financial straits prompted St. Mary's Academy to close its doors in 1991 and rename the campus buildings the Marian Center. The School Sisters used vacant space to assist various nonprofit agencies. In 2001, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi merged with the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore. In 2017, the aging Marian Center buildings were deconstructed, and a new convent residence constructed.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of a brochure appealing for volunteers for the St. Francis Convent/St. Ann Center, a brochure about St. Ann Centers, and a disk with historical information, photos and architectural plans.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English