

Finding aid

TARO record URL:
legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/[domhou/00004/\[truncated TARO repository code\]-00004.html](#)

EAD Header

Title Proper: A Guide to the Formation and vocation records, 1891--2017

Sponsor:

This EAD finding aid was created as part of the TARO New Member Initiative through grant funding provided by the Summerlee Foundation.

Collection Summary

Creator: Congregation of the Sacred Heart (Houston, Tex.)

Title: Formation and vocation records

Dates: 1891-2017

Quantity: 0.83 Linear Feet

Abstract: This collection contains correspondence, newsletters, handbooks, forms, meeting notes, a dairy, photographs, and promotional materials related to the Dominican Sisters of Houston's formation and vocation programs.

Identification: 00004

Location: ST-C1/21.1; ST-C1/2.1

Language: The materials are in English.

Repository: Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives

Administrative History

The Dominican Sisters of Houston's vocation and formation programs exist to prepare young women to discern their Dominican vocations and to prepare them for life as sisters.

Originally, no formal vocation or formation programs existed within the congregation. Once the congregation was permitted to begin accepting young women, programs formed. The formation program, which focused on preparing women for religious life, was originally run by the foundress and the then prioress, Mother Mary Agnes Mageveny. There is no record of an official vocation program in the early years of the congregation. Instead, sisters fostered vocations in their interaction with students and young women in the community and through periodic recruitment trips.

As the congregation grew, the formation program became more structured. In the program developed prior to Vatican II, a young woman interested in entering the

convent began her religious journey as a Postulant, an individual requesting admittance to the congregation. After six months, she gained admission to the novitiate as a Novice. After a year of preparation and training under the Novice Mistress, the Novice would make her first vows to the congregation, renewing this periodically before making her final, or perpetual, vows.

This changed with Vatican II. By 1964, congregations of women religious all around the country, including the Dominican Sisters of Houston, began making changes to their formation programs. They began to place a greater focus on theology and scripture as they prepared young women to be sisters.

After the Chapter of Affairs in 1968 and 1969, the Dominican Sisters of Houston formally restructured their formation program. Throughout the next several decades the formation program would continue to develop and change. Vocation work also became more of priority and the number of women entering the convent decreased. As such, various formation and vocation committees and teams were formulated over the years to revamp and adjust the programs to the needs of the times.

Scope and Contents Note

This collection contains correspondence, newsletters, handbooks, forms, meeting notes, a dairy, photographs, and promotional materials related to the Dominican Sisters of Houston's formation and vocation programs. It is organized into two series: Program records and Novitiate records.

The program records series, consists of correspondence, resources and forms, meetings notes, promotional materials, a Novice Mistress' dairy, and accounts related to the vocation and formation programs. The Novice Mistress' diary, authored by Mother Catherine Kenney and her predecessor, provides insight into convent life immediately following Mother Mary Agnes Magevney's death and Mother Pauline Gannon's succession and life in the early convent and novitiate. Other materials document the activities and priorities of the congregation with respect to vocations and formation. While these materials document these programs over a large stretch of time, they do not document the programs in their entirety as records are somewhat sparse.

The second series, Novitiate records series is comprised of materials created by the Novices in formation. It includes newsletters and journals authored by the Novices as well as some correspondence. These materials shed light on the daily life, experiences, and attitudes of the Novices while in formation. In these records, Novices comment on life in the Novitiate, the changes and the goings-on in the congregation, and poke fun at each other.

Arrangement

These records are arranged into two series:

- I. Program records
- II. Novitiate records

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

A portion of these records are restricted. Contact the archivist for details.

Use Restrictions

Written permission from the repository is required for photocopying or duplicating material.

Related Material

More information on formation and vocation programs may be found in:

Customs and Ceremonials, 1875-1966, The Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives, Houston, TX.

Committees, task forces, and studies records, 1929-2022, The Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives, Houston, TX.

General Council papers, 1891-2016, The Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives, Houston, TX.

Index Terms

Subjects (Persons): [600]

Kenney, M. Catherine, Sister [local]

Subjects (Organizations): [610]

Congregation of the Sacred Heart (Houston, Tex.) [loc]

Subjects: [650]

Novitiate [fast]

Spiritual formation [fast]

Postulancy [fast]

Vocation (in religious orders, congregations, etc.) [fast]

Document Types: [655]

Chronicles and annals [fast]

Newsletters [fast]
Correspondence [fast]

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Formation and vocation records, 1891-2017, Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives, Houston, TX

Processing Information:

Records processed by Laura Grove, July 2022.

Accession Numbers:

2021-052; 2021-069; 2022-071

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date
		Program records	1891-2017
		<u>Internal records</u>	1891-2017
1	1	Novice-ship diary	1891-1900
1	2	Novice-ship diary [Transcription]	1891-1900
1	3	Novice and postulant accounts	1934-1959
1	4	Postulants' names and candidates lists	1956-1967
1	5	Correspondence regarding Juniorate	1965-1967
1	6	Pre-novitiate program	1969
1	7	Vocation-formation committee correspondence	1972
1	8	Formation team correspondence	1973-1976
1	9	Vocation and formation newsletters by Sister Carol Mayes	1977-1979
1	10	Formation handbooks	1981, 1985, 1998, 2010, undated
1	11	Vocation and formation office correspondence	1986-1998
1	12	Vocation initiative project	2001
1	13	Vocations team	2016-2017
		<u>Resources and forms</u>	1982-1999, undated
1	14	Novice Mistress and novitiate information	1982, 1986
1	15	Miscellaneous formation resources	1983-1999, Undated
1	16	Ceremonial and rituals	1992

1	17	Formation transfer process	Undated
1	18	Deposition use and usufruct	Undated
1	19	Rite final profession and planning papers	Undated
1	20	Pre-vow agreements	Undated
		<u>Photographs and promotional materials</u>	1915-2001, undated
2	1	Photographs of postulants and novices	1915-1967
2	2	Newspaper advertisements	2001
2	3	Vocation brochures and promotional materials	Undated
		Novitiate records	1923-1942
2	4	Novice newsletters	1923-1942
2	5	Novices' correspondence	1925-1932
2	6	Novitiate journal	1925-1928