

Mary Agnes Curran, OSF Papers
1966-2002, n.d.

Creator: Curran, OSF, Mary Agnes (1931-2002)

Extent: 1 linear ft.

Processor: Sutton Skowron, August 2010

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

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Provenance: Nancy Curran donated her aunt's papers to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2005 (WLA2006.14).

Separations: .17 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

Biographical/Administrative History

Mary Agnes Curran, OSF was born September 8, 1931 in Chicago to Richard and Mary Agnes (Murphy) Curran. She attended Our Lady of Solace grade school, Visitation High School (1949), Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee (1966, Education), University of Denver (1974, M.A. in Mass Communications), and Mundelein College (1982, M.A. in Religious Studies). Mary Agnes began teaching in elementary and junior high schools in 1951. She taught all subjects, but especially focused on Language Arts and teaching creatively with an individual approach during her last eight years of teaching. Eventually, she returned to Chicago, where she began working with local Hispanic communities.

In 1983, Mary Agnes became an associate Sister of Maryknoll in order to work in the missions in Central America, as her order did not have any missions there. As an associate, she worked in Nicaragua until July of 1984 and then in Oaxaca, Mexico for ten years, where she founded a women's center.

Mary Agnes continued her service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she joined with the South Albuquerque Cooperative Ministry (SACM) and with them founded St. Andrew's Food Pantry. She began a ministry with Mexican immigrants living on the Pajarito Mesa where she brought in solar technology for households without electricity. She coordinated the Pajarito Community Center, which provided necessary health services for women and children, acted as a community gathering center for women, and helped victims of domestic violence.

In June of 2002, Mary Agnes retired to Albuquerque. She was hospitalized about a month later, and died in Albuquerque on July 30, 2002, just two days after her Golden Jubilee.

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Scope and Content

The Mary Agnes Curran, OSF Papers consist of material relating to Mary Agnes's life and service with communities in Nicaragua, Oaxaca, Mexico, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. These documents include personal items, correspondence, newsletters and newspaper articles, and photographs. Materials are arranged alphabetically within each series and chronologically within each folder.

Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1966-2002, n.d., Boxes 1

This series contains items relating to Mary Agnes's personal and professional life. Documents include: Educational transcripts, diplomas, and certificates; professional correspondence; grant information for, newsletters from, and newspaper articles on her ministries; a copy of a master's thesis about which she was consulted; and articles and remembrances from Mary Agnes's funeral.

Series 2: Visual and 3-D, 1987-1997, n.d., Boxes 1 and 2

This series contains photographs of Mary Agnes's activities with the women's center in Oaxaca Mexico, St. Andrew's Food Pantry, and on the Pajarito Mesa. Also included are a purse and a stone animal necklace from Nicaragua.

Subjects:

Food banks—New Mexico—Albuquerque
Maryknoll Sisters—Missions—Nicaragua
Maryknoll Sisters—Missions—Mexico
Pajarito Plateau (N.M.)
Religious orders

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1966-2002, n.d.			
1	1	Biographical	1966-2000, n.d.
	2	Correspondence	1984-1998
	3	In Memoriam	2002
	4	Ministries	1997-2001, n.d.
	5	Newsletters and Newspaper Articles	1983-2001
	6	Thesis by Josette Griffiths	1998
Series 2: Visual and 3-D, 1987-1997, n.d.			
	7	Photographs	1987-1997, n.d.
2	1	Purse from Nicaragua	n.d.
	2	Stone animal necklace from Nicaragua	n.d.