

## ***Mary Agnes Curran, OSF, Papers 1966-2002, undated***

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

**Extent:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**Language:** English and Spanish

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright to materials created by Curran is held by the Women and Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Mary Agnes Curran, OSF, Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

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

**Processor:** Sutton Skowron, August 2010.

**Processing Information:** Finding aid updated January 2025.

**Separations:** 0.17 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

### **Biographical History**

Mary Agnes Curran 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, MA 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 (the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters) 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.

Sr. 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, Sr. 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.

### **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, undated, Box 1**

This series contains items relating to Sr. 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: Photographs and 3-D Objects, 1987-1997, undated, Boxes 1-2**

This series contains photographs of Sr. 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:**

Mary Agnes Curran, OSF (1931-2002)  
Food banks—New Mexico—Albuquerque  
Maryknoll Sisters—Missions—Nicaragua  
Maryknoll Sisters—Missions—Mexico  
Pajarito Plateau (N.M.)  
Religious orders

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<b><i>Mary Agnes Curran, OSF, Papers 1966-2002, undated</i></b>	
		<b>Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1966-2002, undated</b>	
1	1	Biographical	1966-2000, undated
1	2	Correspondence	1984-1998
1	3	In Memoriam	2002
1	4	Ministries	1997-2001, undated
1	5	Newsletters and Newspaper Articles	1983-2001
1	6	Thesis by Josette Griffiths	1998

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		<b>Series 2: Photographs and 3-D Objects, 1987-1997, undated</b>	
1	7	Photographs	1987-1997, undated
2	1	Purse from Nicaragua	undated
2	2	Stone animal necklace from Nicaragua	undated