

Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM, Papers 1974-2009, undated

Creator: Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM (1925-2014)

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

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

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM, Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Katie McHugh donated her papers to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2009 (WLA2009.16).

Processor: Sutton Skowron, July 2010

Processing Information: Finding aid updated February 2025.

Separations: Less than 1 linear foot of extraneous material was removed.

See Also: 8th Day Center for Justice Records in the Women and Leadership Archives. The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Archives, Dubuque, Iowa.

Biographical History

Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM was born on September 12, 1925 in Chicago to Thomas and Anne (O'Dolan) McHugh, Irish immigrants. She entered the BVM congregation September 8, 1943, from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Chicago. She professed first vows on March 19, 1946, and final vows on August 15, 1951, taking the name of Sister Mary St. Thomas, BVM.

For 23 years, Sr. McHugh taught elementary school and was a principal at several schools in Chicago and several other cities. Later, she held many positions including director for Catholic Charities, Howard Area Community Center, staff member at 8th Day Center for Justice, director of the Illinois Citizens for Better Care, director of the Intercommunity Retirement Network, and president of and volunteer for the Intercommunity Housing Corp., which built a senior housing complex. She also served her community as regional representative for the BVM congregation and co-director of the BVM Personnel Office.

Catherine (Katie) McHugh was instrumental in the realization of the Catherine McHugh Senior Apartments for elderly members of religious and lay ministries. Katie is a long-time advocate for equitable housing and issues affecting the elderly. In the 1980s, she founded Illinois Citizens for Better Care, a nonprofit organization that focuses on improving nursing home care, dealing with Medicare and Medicaid, and helping families choose nursing homes. From 1989 to 1993 she served as Executive Director of the Intercommunity Retirement Project, after which she served from 1993 to 2008 as President of the Intercommunity Housing Corporation. Katie worked for 17 years to bring affordable retirement housing to the aging and elderly of various religious orders. A 68-unit apartment building, originally named “Roosevelt Place,” opened in 2007. Due to her constant and unflagging efforts to bring this project to fruition, on November 13, 2008 Roosevelt Place was officially renamed the “Catherine E. McHugh Senior Apartment Building.”

McHugh passed away on September 25, 2014 at Caritas Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

Scope and Content

The Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM, Papers consist of materials relating to Katie’s professional life, particularly her efforts to obtain housing for aging religious and her work to get the Catherine McHugh Apartments built. These documents include correspondence, newsletters, and newspaper articles. The materials are arranged alphabetically.

Series 1: Professional, 1974-2009, undated, Boxes 1-2

This series contains items related to Katie’s involvement in the Intercommunity Housing Corporation and with the Catherine McHugh Apartments. Documents include Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, professional correspondence, information on the Intercommunity Housing Corporation, information on assorted ceremonies for the Catherine McHugh Apartments, and Katie’s professional résumés.

Series 2: Visual, 1982-2008, Box 2

This series contains photographs of Katie’s activities with Illinois Citizens for Better Care and the Catherine McHugh Apartments. Also included are two CD-ROMs with slide shows of the construction of the Catherine McHugh Apartments.

Subjects:

Affordable housing--Illinois
Housing for the elderly--Illinois
Retired clergy
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dubuque, Iowa)
Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM (1925-2014)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Catherine (Katie) McHugh, BVM, Papers, 1974-2009, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Professional, 1974-2009, undated	
1	1	Newspaper Articles and Newsletters	1974-2008, undated
1	2	Roosevelt Place	1992, undated

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2	1	Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws	1990-2006
2	2	Biographical	1993-2008, undated
2	3	Blessing Ceremony	2006
2	4	Celebrating the Journey	2006, undated
2	5	Correspondence	1975-2008
2	6	History of Catherine McHugh Apartments	2007-2009, undated
2	7	Intercommunity Housing Corporation	1991-2008, undated
2	8	Renaming	2008
2	9	Ribbon Cutting	2007
		Series 2: Visual, 1982-2008	
2	10	Photographs	1982-2008
2	11	Slide Shows: CDs	2006