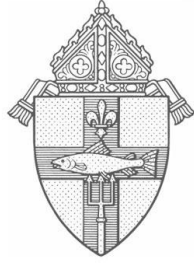


Guide to the (Arch)Bishop Joseph E. Ritter Papers  
Collection 005



Guide to the (Arch)Bishop Joseph Elmer Ritter Papers

(later Joseph Cardinal Ritter)

Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Collection 005

Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The Catholic Center

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Indianapolis, IN 46202

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317-236-1538

### ***Summary Information***

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Creator: Ritter, Joseph Elmer

Title: Bishop Joseph Elmer Ritter, Archbishop Joseph Elmer Ritter, Cardinal Joseph Elmer Ritter

Date: 7 April 2021

Extent: 11 Linear Feet

Language: English, Latin

Access Restriction: Collection is open to researches at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known), Bishop/Archbishop (Cardinal) Joseph Elmer Ritter, Collection 005: box number, folder number, Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, The Catholic Center, Indianapolis.

Location of Related Materials: N/A

### ***Biographical/Historical Note***

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The Very Right Reverend Joseph Elmer Ritter, the seventh Bishop of Indianapolis and the first Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was born in New Albany, Indiana on July 2, 1892. He was ordained at St. Meinrad Abbey on May 30, 1917 by Bishop Chartrand and was assigned to be the curate of St. Patrick's Church in Indianapolis. In 1925, he was transferred to SS Peter and Paul Cathedral to serve as assistant to the bishop and rector of the Cathedral Parish. On February 3, 1933, Pope Pius XI appointed the 40-year-old Ritter to be the auxiliary bishop of the Indianapolis diocese as well the titular bishop of Hippos making him one of the youngest Catholic bishops in the US. Upon the death of Bishop Chartrand, Ritter was chosen to be the seventh Bishop of Indianapolis and was installed on March 24, 1934. When the Indianapolis Diocese was elevated to an archdiocese on October 21, 1944, Ritter was notified that he would become the first Archbishop of Indianapolis. His installation was held on December 19, 1944. On July 20, 1946, Pope Pius XII appointed Ritter to become the fourth Archbishop of St. Louis, MO. He was created Cardinal Priest of SS Redentore e S. Alfonso in Via Merulana by Pope John XXIII on January 16, 1961. He participated in the Second Vatican Council and throughout his career was known as a crusader for the desegregation of schools and an outspoken liberal. Ritter died on June 10, 1967 and was buried in the priest's lot at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. He was later re-interred at the crypt below the Basilica of St. Louis.

### ***Scope & Content Note***

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This collection consists of materials regarding Joseph Elmer Ritter, including those written by him, correspondence addressed to him, and content written about him. These documents provide historical,

pictorial, and other information about the life of Joseph Elmer Ritter and the establishment of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

### **Arrangement**

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This collection is arranged across 18 boxes that include: Biographical Information, Press Clippings, Sermons, Correspondence, Personal Papers and Effects, Birthplace Foundation information, and work related to a locally produced documentary as well as Ritter's work regarding school de-segregation.

### **Administrative Information**

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**Access & Use:** Collection is open to researches at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

**Language:** English, French, Latin

**Preferred Citation:** Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known), Bishop/Archbishop (Cardinal) Joseph Elmer Ritter Papers, Collection 005: box number, folder number, Archives of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, The Catholic Center, Indianapolis.

**Processing Note:** Materials were rehoused in acid-free boxes and folders; staples and other bindings were removed. In cases where original copies of materials were retained in addition to photocopies, the photocopies were placed into a folder, followed by the original document, contained in an archival envelope. Due to the age of this collection, it is necessary to protect fragile original documents.

**Related Materials:** A Detailed list of links to newspaper articles, well-wishers, materials, etc. is organized by Box in an Archive Inventory file named: Ritter Archives Detail.

### **Collection**

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Box Number	Folder Number	Description	Date
1	1	Ritter Biographical Information	1892-1967
1	2	Ritter Family Tree	
1	3	Early Photos	
1	4	Ritter Appointment Letters	
1	5	Ritter Auxiliary Bishop Photos	1933-1934
1	6	Ritter Auxiliary Bishop Programs and Invitations	1933
1	7	Ritter: Bishop of Indianapolis	1934

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1	8	Ritter: Diocese Centennial	1934
1	9	Ritter School Desegregation	(Note inside directs to Box 12)
1	10	Archbishop Residence information	
1	11	Ritter Correspondence re: Establishment of Archdiocese	1942-1945
1	12	Ritter: Establishment of Archdiocese	1944
1	13	Ritter: Archbishop Programs and Invitations	1944
1	14	Ritter: Photos of Installation as Archbishop	1944
1	15	Ritter: Photos/Speech as Archbishop of St. Louis	1946
1	16	Ritter 25 <sup>th</sup> Ecclesiastical Anniversary Celebration	1958
1	17	Ritter: Photos St. Louis	1946-1967
1	18	Ritter: Media photos	
1	19	Ritter: Photos Rome	1961
1	20	Ritter: Cardinal Photos	1961-1967
1	21	Ritter: St. Anthony Magazine Interview	1965
1	22	Ritter Jubilee Photos	1967
1	23	Ritter: Funeral	1967
1	24	Ritter H.S. Groundbreaking	
1	25	Ritter: Boyhood Home	
1	16	Misc. Photos not of Ritter	
1	LAST	Oversize photos	
2	1	Press Clippings (Auxiliary Bishop/Bishop)	1933-1934
2	2	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1933
2	3	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1934
2	4	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1935

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2	5	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1936
2	6	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1937
2	7	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1938
2	8	Press Clippings (Chancery Scrapbook)	1939
2	9	History of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis	1944
2	10	Press Clippings Archbishop Ritter (Indianapolis)	1944-1946
2	11	Press Clippings Archbishop Ritter (St. Louis)	1946-1960
2	12	Press Clippings Cardinal Ritter	1961-1967
2	13	Ritter Death	1967
2	14	Misc. Press Clippings	
2	15	Ritter Press Releases	1933
2	16	Ritter Media: Cardinal Ritter Day	
2	17	Press Clippings related to Cardinal Ritter Day	
3	1	Ritter Sermon: Our Father	
3	2	Ritter Sermon: Baptism	
3	3	Ritter Sermon: Penance and Confirmation	
3	4	Ritter Sermon: Eucharist	
3	5	Ritter Sermon: Marriage, Vocations, Anointing of the sick	
3	6	Ritter Sermons: Dated	
3	7	Ritter Sermons: Undated (Organized by Church year)	
3	8	Ritter Sermons: Aspects of the Church	
3	9	Ritter Sermons: Undated Misc.	
3	10	Ritter Sermons: Misc. Pastoral	

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3	11	Ritter: Addresses and Writings	
3	12	Ritter Sermons	1960 and beyond
4	1	Ritter Correspondence	1933
4	2	Ritter Correspondence (rec'd)	1934
4	3	Ritter Correspondence	1934
4	4	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals)	1935
4	5	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1936
4	6	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1937
4	7	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1938
4	8	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1939
4	9	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1940
4	10	Ritter: Financials	1941
4	11	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1942
4	12	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1942
4	13	Vatican Correspondence	1943
4	14	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1943
4	15	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1944
4	16	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1945
4	17	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	1946
4	18	Ritter Correspondence (Pastorals, etc.)	Undated
5	1 (Large Folder)	Annual Parish Financial Investment Information	
5	1	Investments	1934
5	2	Investments	1935
5	3	Investments	1936
5	4	Investments	1937
5	5	Investments	1938
5	6	Investments	1939
5	7	Investments	1940

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5	8	Investments	1941
5	9	Investments	1942
5	10	Investments	1943
5	11	Investments	1944
5	12	Investments	1945
5	13	Investments	1950
5	14	Ritter Reitz Memorial High School and Convent Financial information	1935-1940
5	15	Synods	
5	16	Diocesan Synod	1937
5	17	Conveyance of Property to Schulte	1946
5	18	Relatio	
5	19	Misc.	
6	1	Marion County TB Association	1931
6	2	Priest Exam	1936
6	3	Confirmation Schedule Ordination Schedules	1933-34 1935-1936
6	4	Schedule of Appts.	
6	5	Diocesan Census	
6	6	Financial (Loans)	
6	7	Memoranda	
6	8	Personal Papers Subfolder 8.1 Subfolder 8.2	WWII-era Misc. Lists and notes
6	9	Correspondence on Beatification	
6	10	Correspondence to Ritter	
6	11	Correspondence from Ritter	
6	12	Catholic Charities Survey	1935
6	13	Clergy Relief Union	1940-1945
6	14	Propagation of the Faith	
6	15	Catholic Charities Annual Report	1940-1945
6	16	Rural Life Ministries	
6	17	Mission Aid Society Annual Report	
6	18	Bulletin on Religious Music	

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6	19	Extras	
6	E1	Out of Many Hearts Vocations to Religious Life	1929
6	E2	Encyclical Letters of Pope Pius XI on Catholic Priesthood	
6	E3	Manual on Episcopal Visitations of the Parish Administration of Confirmation	
6	E4	Ordination Forms	
7	1	Ritter Correspondence	Undated 1933
7	2	Ritter Correspondence	1/1/33-2/7/33
7	3	Ritter Correspondence	2/8/33-2/12/33
7	4	Ritter Correspondence	2/13/33-2/29/33
7	5	Ritter Correspondence	3/1/33-3/21/33
7	6	Ritter Correspondence	3/21/33-5/11/33
7	7	Ritter Correspondence (telegrams)	1933
7	8	Ritter Correspondence Spiritual Bouquets	1933-1934
7	9	Auxiliary Consecration Invitation List	1933
8	1	Congratulatory Cards and spiritual Bouquets	1933-1934
8	2	Telegrams 1934	3/26/34-4/24/34
8	3	Ritter Correspondence	3/16/34-3/26/34
8	4	Ritter Correspondence	3/27/34
8	5	Ritter Correspondence	3/28/34-3/31/34
8	6	Ritter Correspondence	4/1/34-4/9/34
8	7	Ritter Correspondence	4/10/34-11/27/34
8	8	Ritter Correspondence	Undated 1934
8	9	Ritter Correspondence Spiritual Bouquets and Cards	1934
9	1	Ritter Correspondence Cards	1934
9	2	Ritter Correspondence (Spiritual Bouquets and Cards)	1934-1937
9	3	Ritter Correspondence (Spiritual Bouquets and congratulatory cards)	1942
9	4	Ritter Correspondence (Spiritual Bouquets and congratulatory cards)	1942



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10		Photo Albums, Medals and Misc Items	
11	1	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Meeting notes	2002-2007
11	2	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Booklets	
11	3	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Photos and CAD drawings	
11	4	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Final Grant Report	
11	5	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Press Articles	2002-2008
11	6	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation- Tobin's Visit	2013
11	7	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Title Abstract of property	
11	8	Ritter Boyhood Home Foundation Booklet	
11	9	Map and plats	
12	1	Ritter Activism: School Desegregation Historical context	
12	2	Ritter Activism: Sisters of Providence Archive Materials	
12	3	Ritter School Desegregation: Demographics	
12	4	Ritter Activism: Fr. Bernard Strange	
12	5	Ritter Activism: Correspondence and timeline	
12	6	Ritter Activism: Press Clippings	
12	7	Ritter Documentary: Press Release and Invitation	
12	8	Ritter Documentary: Film Press	

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12	9	Ritter Documentary: Correspondence	
12	10	Ritter Documentary: Interviews	
12	11	Ritter Documentary: Programs	
12	12	Ritter documentary: Handwritten Notes	
12	13	Ritter Documentary: Production documents	
12	14	Ritter Documentary: Photographs/negatives	
12	15	Ritter Documentary: Financial	
13		Ritter Documentary VHS Tapes	
14		Ritter Documentary: VHS Tapes/Cassettes/DAT Tapes	
15		Ritter: Vestments/Apparel	
16		Ritter Oversized Newspaper clippings	
17		Ritter: Roman Documents 1944	
18		Ritter: Oversized Newspaper Clippings/Palliums	