

## FINDING INFORMATION ON CLERGY IN YOUR FAMILY:

GENERAL DIRECTION:  
ARISH ARCHIVES  
CLERGY DIRECTORIES  
OFFICIANT CONNECTIONS

MY JOURNEY:  
FAMILY TIES  
INFLUENCES  
RABBIT HOLES – OBITUARIES

To research family members who were nuns or priests, start by exploring diocesan websites, searching for religious order contact information, and consulting historical records.

### •Diocesan Websites:

- Numerous dioceses feature sections on their websites that provide information about religious orders, including contact details and details regarding their ministries, as noted by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

### •Official Catholic Directory:

- This directory, in publication since 1817, contains valuable information about religious orders, dioceses, parishes, and the schools associated with those parishes.

### •Local Influences:

- The religious order that served at a nearby church, school, orphanage, or hospital often played a significant role in shaping the choices of young individuals.

### •Attire:

- A photograph of an ancestor may reveal clues about their religious background through their clothing.

### •Baptismal Records:

- Some religious vows might be documented in baptismal records.

## Genealogy Websites:

Explore your favorite websites like Ancestry.com, Find-A-Grave, Family Search and others.

## Historical Society:

The [Wisconsin Historical Society](#) may have records relevant to your research.

## Libraries:

University libraries may also have relevant materials, including diocesan directories and other historical records.

## Parish Records:

Local parishes have sacramental records, including baptismal and marriage records, that could offer clues about your ancestor's religious life.

## PARISH DIRECTORIES ~ OFFICIANT RECORDS ~ HISTORIES

Keep in mind there are hundreds of sites with directories and each site may have different years, countries, orders and levels covered that were published. Search by name in most.

EX:

***Hoffmann's Catholic Directory, Almanac and Clergy List***, which lists clergy in Great Britain, Ireland, America and Canada.

***Crockford's Clerical Directory*** was first published in 1858, and would need to be viewed in person if wanting to see any year before 1968. Online scans are available after that.

***The Strict Baptist Historical Society*** – This site leads to additional areas such as *Pastors and Chapels* database and a Pastors Gallery of photos from pastoral magazine between 1878 and 1941.

***CCEd – Clergy of the Church of England diocese*** – This site pulls from diocesan archives and is the authoritative source for identifying Anglican clergymen between 1540 and 1835

**The Archives of the Episcopal Church:**

directories of clergy from 1898 to present.

Try connecting with an archivist at the places where the person started, lived, worked, served or retired. They are generally very forthcoming in sharing items in personal files or at the least, obituaries that are full of information.

Obituaries are filled with their life timeline:

- Family birth information
- Parents
- Grade school-high school-post grad
- Profession of Faith
- New name possibly
- All the places taught, worked, served
- Titles held at those places like Head Master or Prioress or Principal
- Retirement place and hobbies or activities enjoyed there
- Death and burial information
- PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SURVIVORS
  - That led me to more clergy connections!

Check out all google connections:

- Found newspaper snippets of Officiating at various ceremonies
  - Leads to Parish information
  - Articles of course have dates and then you know where they were and at what time they served there
- Parish celebrations mention highlights and impacts while they were serving.
- Check out the actual Parish sites.
  - Some have history or archives.
  - Also contact information to ask your questions. SEND THE EMAIL!

**Obits in my case led to additional family connections and places to contact:**

### **ASK THE QUESTIONS**

**What was the impact**

### **SEND THE EMAILS**

**Who did they influence**

### **MAKE THE CALLS**

**Any file information**

**Parish histories are great to follow timeline. They retire too if able. Don't overlook after retirement:**

### **WHERE DID THEY LIVE**

**Community of Servants**

### **WHAT DID THEY DO**

**Enjoy living the life**

### **WHO LIVED AROUND THEM**

**Font of fellowship**