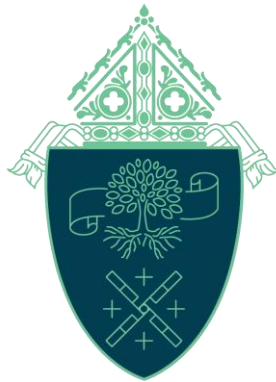


Guide to the John Cardinal McCloskey Papers  
Collection Number 003



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

# **Guide to the John Cardinal McCloskey Papers Archives of the Archdiocese of New York Collection 003**

Finding Aid Prepared by Elizabeth Alleva

**Archives of the Archdiocese of New York**  
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Yonkers, NY 10704  
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## Summary Information

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**Creator:** McCloskey, John

**Title:** The John Cardinal McCloskey Papers

**Date:** 1827-1884

**Extent:** 5.4 linear feet (13 Hollinger boxes)

**Language:** English, Latin, and Italian

**Access Restrictions:** Collection is open to researchers at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York. 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); Collection title, Collection Number; box number, folder number. Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

## Biographical/Historical Note

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John Cardinal McCloskey was the first Cardinal in America. He served as Archbishop of New York from 1864 to his death in 1885. Cardinal McCloskey was born in Brooklyn, NY on March 10, 1810. He was a parishioner of St. Peter's Church in Manhattan. He entered Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD in 1821 and then graduated in 1826. A year later he entered the seminary at Mount St. Mary's and was ordained a priest on January 12, 1834. After his ordination, McCloskey travelled to Rome to continue his studies at the Roman College, today Gregorian University. He returned to New York in 1837 and became pastor of St. Joseph's in Greenwich Village. In 1843, McCloskey was elevated to coadjutor to Archbishop Hughes and titular bishop of Axierne. Four years later, McCloskey was appointed Bishop of Albany.

McCloskey remained Bishop of Albany until the death of Archbishop Hughes in 1864, when he was appointed Archbishop of New York. During his tenure as Archbishop, McCloskey opened a new seminary in Troy, St. Joseph's, on Dec. 1, 1864. He also opened the New York Foundling Asylum on October 11, 1869. McCloskey also worked closely with Archbishop Hughes creation, the Catholic Protectory, a place for children who were ineligible for orphanages. He was involved with ecclesiastical matters outside of New York, as he attended the First Vatican Council in from 1869-1870. McCloskey became the first American Cardinal in the Western Hemisphere on March 15, 1875. The decision to elevate him to cardinal was recognition of the growth of the Catholic population in the United States. As Cardinal, he saw to the completion and opening of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1879. McCloskey remained Cardinal of the Archdiocese of New York until his death in 1885.

## Scope & Content Note

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The materials in this collection pertain to John Cardinal McCloskey's time as a priest in New York. Most of the collection contains correspondence received by McCloskey as Coadjutor of the Archdiocese of New York, Bishop of New York, and then as Archbishop of New York. These letters range from 1843-1884, with some letters dating to the time before he held these positions. Additional materials, such as class notes and sermons from the 1830s and 1840s, as well as other biographical material relating to McCloskey can also be found in the collection.

## Arrangement

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The collection was previously processed by another archivist. Their order and arrangement has been maintained. Should you have further questions regarding any of the material in the collection, please contact us and we can consult the original finding aid.

## Administrative Information

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**Access and Use:** Collection is open to researchers at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

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**Language:** English, Latin, and Italian

**Preferred Citation:** Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); John Cardinal McCloskey Papers, 003; box number, folder number. Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

**Processing Note:** This collection was previously processed by another archivist. That order was maintained when rehousing the collection.

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**Collection**

<b>Box Number</b>	<b>Folder Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Corresponding Old Box Number</b>
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1	15	Letters from Bishop J.R. Bayley	1864-1876	A-22
1	16	Letters from Paul Cardinal Cullen	1860-1875	A-22

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Oversized Cabinet 2	Drawer 1	Archbishop John McCloskey, Currier & Ives colored print	undated	
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