

Guide to the Catholic Relief Services Collection  
Collection Number 023.002



**Guide to the Catholic Relief Services Collection  
Archives of the Archdiocese of New York  
Collection 023.002**

Finding Aid Prepared by Kate Feighery

**Archives of the Archdiocese of New York  
St. Joseph's Seminary  
201 Seminary Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10704  
[archives@archny.org](mailto:archives@archny.org)  
914-968-3200 x.8365**

## Summary Information

---

**Creator:** Catholic Relief Services / National Catholic Welfare Conference

**Title:** Catholic Relief Services Collection

**Date:** 1943 - 1957

**Extent:** 1 linear foot (in 1 Paige box)

**Language:** English

**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); Catholic Relief Services Collection, Collection Number 023.002; box number, folder number. Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

**Location of Related Materials:** Catholic Relief Services is a branch of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Related materials may be found in Collection 023.003: National Catholic Welfare Conference, as well as in the Collection 007: Francis Cardinal Spellman Collection.

## Historical Note

---

Catholic Relief Services, originally known as War Relief Services, was formed in 1944, toward the end World War II. The main purpose of the Catholic Relief Services was to provide material and monetary relief for refugees displaced by World War II. The War Relief Services was formed by the Catholic Bishops in the United States as a branch of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC). The NCWC is an annual meeting of the American hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, established in 1919 as a successor to the National Catholic War Council, which supervised and unified American Catholic charitable work during World War I. Although the NCWC originally intended to shut down War Relief Services at the end of the war, the name was changed to Catholic Relief Services, and its work was expanded into different parts of the world, maintaining its original mission of helping refugees and other victims of conflict, later expanding its mission to help those suffering in the developing world.

## Scope & Content Note

---

The collection mainly consists of material related to the New York branch of the War Relief Services / Catholic Relief Services for the years between 1943 and 1957. Much of the collection is correspondence between Francis Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and the current director of the Catholic Relief Services. The correspondence gives insight into the organization and operation of the activities of the Catholic Relief Services in New York and overseas, as well information about the annual meeting of the board of the organization and materials and reports prepared either by or for the board.

## Arrangement

---

The collection is arranged in 2 series: Series I: Correspondence; and Series II: Reports. The original arrived at the repository organized chronologically, and the original order was respected wherever possible

## Access Points

---

### Subject Terms

- Spellman, Francis, 1889-1967
- Catholic Relief Services
- War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference (U.S.)
- National Catholic Welfare Conference
- World War II
- New York City

## Administrative Information

---

**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.

**Reproduction and Use:** Permission to reproduce any material in this collection not in the public domain must be obtained from the Archives and the copyright holder.

**Language:** English

**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); Catholic Relief Services Collection, Collection Number 023.002; box number, folder number. Archives of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

**Processing Note:** Materials were rehoused in acid-free boxes and folders; staples and other bindings were removed. For the most part, the file names remained the same as the original files. Some in-folder reordering was done to maintain chronological order, but no items were moved between folders.

**Related Materials:** Catholic Relief Services is a branch of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Related materials may be found in Collection 023.003: National Catholic Welfare Conference, as well as in the Collection 007: Francis Cardinal Spellman Collection.

**Separated Materials:** none

## Collection

---

Box Number	Folder Number	Description	Date
<b>Series I: Correspondence</b>			
1	1	Correspondence	1943-1944
1	2	Correspondence	1945
1	3	Correspondence	1946
1	4	Correspondence	1947-1948
1	5	Correspondence	1950
1	20	Catholic Welfare Organization Memos	1950
1	6	Administrative Board Correspondence	1950-1952
1	7	Correspondence	1951
1	8	Correspondence	1952-1953
1	9	Administrative Board Correspondence	1953
1	10	Administrative Board Correspondence	1953
1	11	Correspondence	1954-1955
1	12	Administrative Board Correspondence	1954
1	13	Administrative Board Correspondence	1955
1	14	Correspondence	1956
1	15	Correspondence	1957
<b>Series II: Reports</b>			
1	24	Report to the Board of Trustees, War Relief Services	1945-1952
1	16	Annual Report of the Administrative Board of the Catholic Welfare Organization	1948
1	17	War Relief Services Interim Report	1947-1953
1	19	Catholic Welfare Organization, Recapitulation on Divorce	1949
1	18	War Relief Services, Summary of General Report	1950-1957
1	25	Report to the Board of Trustees, Catholic Relief Services	1954-1957
1	26	Report to the Board of Trustees, Catholic Relief Services	1957-1959
1	21	Catholic Bishops' Relief Fund Appeals	1958-1960
1	22	Catholic Bishops' Relief Fund, Children's Lenten Collection	1959
1	23	Catholic Bishops' Relief Fund, Appeal to the Philippines	