

What to do with Completed Registers

It is of particular interest to us in the Diocese of Niagara that the movement for the preservation of the records of Our Church in Canada began at the Ninth Session of the General Synod held here in Hamilton in October 1921.

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials are public acts. Parishes and Dioceses hold the records of the acts in trust for the participants and for the whole church and are thereby responsible for maintaining the integrity of the records.

Beginning with a memorandum of agreement between McMaster University and the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Niagara in 1975, our Diocesan Archives have been established in the Mills Memorial Library, at McMaster University. In accordance with Canon 2.6, the Diocesan Archivist shall receive from each congregation completed Parish registers, minute books and records of the Parish committees, organizations and officers. They will be indexed and taken to McMaster University where they will be repaired, if necessary, and stored in climate controlled environment. Digital copies will be made and returned to the parish for their research purposes. Two microfilms are made, one kept at the Mills Memorial Library and the other in a separate building at the University. There is no charge to any parish for this service. It is covered under the Diocesan budget.