

# Finding Aid for The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary

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Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	4
Collection Inventory .....	5

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 498
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1980-2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.5 Linear Feet 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the largest historically African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States. The Order is named for St. Peter Claver, the Spanish Priest who ministered to enslaved people from Africa. The Order was founded in Mobile, Alabama and is presently headquartered in New Orleans. Both Cynthia Bailey and Teresa Lamarr, members of The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, donated material for the collection and Teresa was instrumental in obtaining additional items from the organization itself.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the largest historically African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States. The Order is named for St. Peter Claver, the Spanish Priest who ministered to enslaved people from Africa. The Order was founded in Mobile, Alabama and is presently headquartered in New Orleans.

The organization consists of six Divisions: Knights of Peter Claver, Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Junior Knights, Junior Daughters, 4th Degree Knights and Ladies of Grace. The Order is governed by a Board of Directors and is under the leadership of the Supreme Knight and Supreme Lady, KPCLA. The Order is operated under the direction of the Executive Director and his staff.

The Knights of Peter Claver is divided into six Districts and States across the country. Each district or state is represented by a Deputy and other conference officers. Districts, States, and other Divisions are represented on the Board of Directors.

The Knight of Peter Claver's stated purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among its members.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary collection consists of one box of material. Most notably, the collection includes a video about the organization's history, the formation of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Father Bernard Hall Court 354 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and its work. The collection also includes the charters of this Grand Rapids organization.

Those researching The Knights of Peter Claver itself or the African American community in the Catholic Church will find this collection of interest.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Catholic Church -- Michigan -- Grand River Valley
- African American women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Societies and clubs

- African Americans -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Knights of Peter Claver, Celebrating 5 Years	Box 1	
The NOBC Ralph Metcalfe Award for Excellence presented to The Knights of Peter Claver, 1980-08-05	Box 1	
The NOBC Ralph Metcalfe Award for Excellence presented to The KPC Ladies Auxiliary, 1980-08-05	Box 1	
Charters for the Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies' Auxiliary, 1998-2018	Box 1	Folder 1
Photograph of members of dressed in regalia	Box 1	Folder 2
Christmas postcards from the Ladies Auxiliary, Donna Williams identified, 2019	Box 1	Folder 3
Sister Irene Solomon, Grand Rapids Press article, 2000-03-21	Box 1	Folder 4