Father Charles Edward Coughlin, born in 1891, was a charismatic Roman Catholic priest who used his radio addresses and magazine to promote his own brand of social justice during the 1930s and early 1940s. He was a controversial figure who denounced President Franklin D. Roosevelt and capitalism, hated communism, was openly anti-Semitic, and embraced fascism and a corporate state as a solution to worldwide economic depression. He used the media so successfully and became so powerful that not even his Archbishop could silence him until after the entry of the United States into World War II.

The Father Coughlin Collection consists of materials collected by Sheldon Marcus, Coughlin's biographer. It contains Marcus's typescript, interviews with people who knew Coughlin, a tape of one of his broadcasts, and the topical files Marcus created for writing his biography. Correspondence files from people who knew Coughlin are also included. Books and pamphlets by and about Coughlin can be found in the library's cataloged collections accessible through NCAT.

The Father Coughlin Collection was a gift from Sheldon Marcus to Northwestern University Library in 1974. Other correspondence with Father Coughlin can be found in various collections at Wayne State University and at the University of Michigan.