

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Sister Lists series (F01-S141)

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Language of description: English

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Sister Lists series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Sister Lists series
Reference code:	F01-S141
Date:	1911-2012 (creation)
Physical description:	26 cm of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	July 2, 2020May 22, 2023

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, in Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1.

On December 11, 1868, at the request of Bishop John Walsh, five Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto arrived in London, Ontario. Mother Teresa Brennan, Sister Ignatia Campbell, Sister Ursula McGuire, Sister Francis O'Malley and Sister Appolonia Nolan were accompanied by Reverend Mother Antoinette McDonald and were welcomed by Bishop Walsh, Rev. J.M. Bruyere, V.G., and Rev. P. Egan, pastor of St. Peter's Church. Awaiting the Sisters were sleighs that transported them from the train station to a temporary home at 170 Kent Street.

In accordance with their mission in London, three Sisters began teaching at St. Peter's School in January, 1869. After classes, they visited the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. They were also mandated to open an orphanage in the future. In order to accomplish these tasks, more Sisters and larger facilities were necessary.

On October 2, 1869, the Barker House at the corner of Richmond and College Street in North London was purchased and the Sisters moved there from Kent Street. The building was named Mount Hope, and it became the first Motherhouse of the Sisters, eventually housing the elderly, orphans, Sisters and novices.

On December 18, 1870, the Sisters of St. Joseph became an autonomous congregation in the London diocese, independent of the Toronto congregation. Sister Ignatia Campbell was appointed Superior General, an office she held until 1902. On February 15, 1871, the congregation became legally incorporated.

On October 7, 1877, an addition was made to Mount Hope. This building stood until it was demolished on August 3, 1980, surrounded by the growing healthcare institutions founded by the Sisters, beginning with St. Joseph's Hospital which opened at 268 Grosvenor Street on October 15, 1888, and followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1895, and the construction of a new nursing school building in 1927, which saw its last graduation in 1977. On May 1, 1951, St. Mary's Hospital was opened,

followed by Marian Villa on January 12, 1966. In 1985, the hospital complex was renamed St. Joseph's Health Centre, and ownership was transferred in 1993 to St. Joseph's Health Care Society.

But it was not only in London that Sisters saw the need for healthcare and nursing education. On October 15, 1890, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital on Centre Street in Chatham, Ontario, which remained under their control until 1993. In 1895, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, which saw its last graduation in 1970. On October 18, 1946, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital at 290 North Russell Street in Sarnia which remained under their control until 1993. In Alberta, they administered St. Joseph's Hospital in Stettler (1926), St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad (1927), the General Hospital in Killam (1930), and St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey (1932).

On April 10, 1899, the Sisters opened Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Novitiate and Orphanage at the former Hellmuth College at 1486 Richmond Street North in London. The orphans were moved to this new location from Mount Hope, which remained a home for the elderly and was renamed House of Providence on June 3, 1899. The orphanage remained at Mount St. Joseph until it was moved to Fontbonne Hall in 1953 (to 1967). The original Hellmuth College building was demolished in 1976.

Later, on September 14, 1914, the Motherhouse and Novitiate moved to Sacred Heart Convent at Colborne and Dundas Streets in London, with the orphans remaining at Mount St. Joseph. The Sisters lived at Sacred Heart Convent until 1953, when they moved back to the newly built Mount St. Joseph, on the original location of the former Hellmuth College. The new Motherhouse and Novitiate was officially opened on June 29, 1954. It was here that they continued a private girls' school which had begun in 1950 at Sacred Heart Convent, and was now known as Mount St. Joseph Academy (to 1985). It was here too that they continued a music school which had also begun at Sacred Heart Convent and was now called St. Joseph's School of Music (to 1982). The Médaille Retreat Centre began here in 1992, and the Sisters also administered a Guest Wing for relatives of hospitalized patients (to 2005). The Sisters departed Mount St. Joseph for their new residence, a green building at 485 Windermere Road in London, in 2007.

On September 4, 1873, St. Joseph's Convent opened at 131 North Street in Goderich, Ontario, followed by other convents in Ontario, including Ingersoll (1879), St. Thomas (1879), Belle River (1889), Windsor (1894), Sarnia (1906), Kingsbridge (1911), Seaforth (1913), St. Mary's (1913), Woodstock (1913), Kinkora (1916), Paincourt (1923), Maidstone (1930), Leamington (1932), Delhi (1938), Tillsonburg (1938), Simcoe (1938), Langton (1939), West Lorne (1957), and Zurich (1963).

The Sisters also opened missions in other parts of Canada, including in Alberta: Edmonton (1922), Wetaskiwin (1929), St. Bride's (1934); and in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories Yellowknife (1953), and in British Columbia in Haney, now Maple Ridge (1956), and Rutland (1970). Branching even further afield, Convento San Jose was opened in Chiclayo, Peru in 1962.

Over the years, as well as their service as teachers in the separate school system, as music teachers, as healthcare workers, as nursing educators, in providing care to orphans, and in providing parish ministry, pastoral care, and administering spiritual retreats, the Sisters were also involved in social service ministry. In Windsor, they opened the Roy J. Bondy Centre on September 13, 1970 which was a receiving home for the Children's Aid Society, withdrawing in 1982 but continuing to provide residential care for disabled children afterward. In London, they opened Internos, a residence for teenage girls attending school and later for troubled teens (to 1979). This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre on September 13, 1973 (to 2005) and St. Stephen's House, an alcoholic recovery centre on February 1, 1982 (to 2000). Loughlin House in London opened as a residence for ex-psychiatric female patients in 1986 (to 1989), followed by the Home for Women in Need at 534 Queens Avenue in 1979 (to 2004). Later, St. Josephs' House for Refugees was opened in 1987 (to 2005), followed by St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, a food security program, on February 2, 1983.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in Hamilton, Peterborough, and Pembroke into one charitable corporation under the name Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in

Canada by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Act, a Private Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which received Royal Assent on June 13, 2013.

Scope and content

This series contains records that describe administrative data about the Sisters including their membership in the congregation as well as any occupational roles that they fulfilled in education and healthcare. These files include handwritten lists, typed lists, directory books that list all the Sisters within the congregation and their contact information, and a booklet of Sisters' feast days and the Necrology for Fall 2011 that lists the most recent deaths within the congregation.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is derived from the contents of the series.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred to the archives by the administration.

Arrangement

Order was imposed by the archivist.

Location of originals

The records are located at The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

Restrictions on access

Subseries F01-S141-05 and F01-S141-02 are closed to public access.

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

Finding aids

There is a series and file list.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

Sr. Loretta Manzara, pers. comm., 2019.

Note [General]

This series contains records of the activities of the Sisters including their occupational work appointments, residences, vows, and any departures from the congregation that occurred. The material contained in this series is primarily administrative and allowed the Sisters to keep track of membership, duties, and contact information.

Occupational work was assigned based both on the needs of the community and the skills and training of the Sisters. The primary occupational work fulfilled by Sisters outside of the congregation was in education or nursing, but Sisters also fulfilled roles within the congregation such as housekeeping, and administrative work. With an increasingly aging population, there has been a greater dependence on lay staff to fulfill these sorts of duties within the community.

The large range in dates of the records provides insight into changes that have taken place in the congregation since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), most notably in the lists of name changes and the lists of sisters who withdrew from the congregation. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, women who joined religious orders received new names of patron saints when they took their vows to represent their separation from the lay world. The Second Vatican Council called upon religious orders to return to their roots and emphasized the value of not separating religious life from the rest of the world, and a large part of this was having Sisters reclaim their baptismal names. Some Sisters felt that the changes imposed by the Second Vatican Council were too much, and there was an exodus of withdrawals in the later 1960s.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Religion and religious people (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Women and girls (subject)
- Education and learning (subject)
- Health and social services (subject)
- Nuns (subject)
- London (place)

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S141-01 - Assignments

Title: Assignments

Reference code: F01-S141-01

Date: 1911-1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains both handwritten and typed annual lists of where the Sisters would be posted geographically and the types of work that they would be doing including nursing and school postings. There is a handwritten list from 1911. These lists were compiled annually. When the congregation first started working in the London diocese, the Sisters worked to respond to apparent needs in the community and assignments were based on knowledge and skills. Typical occupational work for the Sisters was in either education or nursing.

Physical description: 13.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-01-01 - Sister appointments

Title: Sister appointments

Reference code: F01-S141-01-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-02 - Sister appointments 1911 – 1965 vol. 1 1 of 2

Title: Sister appointments 1911 – 1965 vol. 1 1 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-03 - Sister appointments 1911 – 1965 vol. 1 2 of 2

Title: Sister appointments 1911 – 1965 vol. 1 2 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-04 - School appointments 1957 – 1988

Title: School appointments 1957 – 1988

Reference code: F01-S141-01-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-05 - List of Sisters and 1964 and List of Sisters According to Occupation 1971

Title: List of Sisters and 1964 and List of Sisters According to Occupation 1971

Reference code: F01-S141-01-05

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-06 - Community appointments 1953 – 1973 Bk 2 1 of 2

Title: Community appointments 1953 – 1973 Bk 2 1 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-06

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-07 - Community appointments 1953 – 1973 Bk 2 2 of 2

Title: Community appointments 1953 – 1973 Bk 2 2 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-07

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-08 - Sister appointments 1969 – 1983 Bk 3 1 of 2

Title: Sister appointments 1969 – 1983 Bk 3 1 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-08

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-09 - Sister appointments 1969 – 983 Bk 3 2 of 2

Title: Sister appointments 1969 – 983 Bk 3 2 of 2

Reference code: F01-S141-01-09

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-10 - Sister appointments 1983 – 1986 Bk 4

Title: Sister appointments 1983 – 1986 Bk 4

Reference code: F01-S141-01-10

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-01-11 - Diocesan ministries April 1987 – 1988

Title: Diocesan ministries April 1987 – 1988

Reference code: F01-S141-01-11

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S141-02 - Community lists

Title: Community lists

Reference code: F01-S141-02

Date: [19?]-1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains typed lists of Sisters by their residences which include the heads of each residence. Earlier lists contain the addresses for each of the residences and later lists contain direct contact information for each Sister including phone numbers with personal extensions. This subseries also contains a list of name changes for both active Sisters and Sisters who withdrew. This list reflects the religious names given when Sisters took their vows as well as changes back to baptismal names after the Second Vatican Council.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access: Subseries F01-S141-02 is closed to public access.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-02-01 - Name changes

Title: Name changes

Reference code: F01-S141-02-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-02 - List of sisters

Title: List of sisters

Reference code: F01-S141-02-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-03 - Historical lists

Title: Historical lists

Reference code: F01-S141-02-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-04 - Community list – November 1975

Title: Community list – November 1975

Reference code: F01-S141-02-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-05 - Community lists 1985 – 1998, 2000 – 2001

Title: Community lists 1985 – 1998, 2000 – 2001

Reference code: F01-S141-02-05

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-06 - Mt. St. Joseph lists 1989

Title: Mt. St. Joseph lists 1989

Reference code: F01-S141-02-06

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-07 - Community list 1991

Title: Community list 1991

Reference code: F01-S141-02-07

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-02-08 - Community list 1997

Title: Community list 1997

Reference code: F01-S141-02-08

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S141-03 - Sister and staff rolls

Title: Sister and staff rolls

Reference code: F01-S141-03

Date: 1988-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of directory booklets that were printed annually and contain lists of support staff for the community, lists of all the Sisters with their locations and contact information, and all the Sisters' feast days. Some of the later editions of the directories were printed with photographs of the Sisters in full colour. These directories enable the Sisters to form a sense of community with those in their congregation who they may not get to see or speak to often and enable them to remain familiar with all those in the congregation.

Physical description: 6.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-03-01 - Directories 1988 – 1989, 1989 – 1990, 1990 – 1991, 1991 – 1992

Title: Directories 1988 – 1989, 1989 – 1990, 1990 – 1991, 1991 – 1992

Reference code: F01-S141-03-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-02 - Directories 1992 – 1993, 1993 – 1994, 1994 – 1995, 1995 – 1996

Title: Directories 1992 – 1993, 1993 – 1994, 1994 – 1995, 1995 – 1996

Reference code: F01-S141-03-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-03 - Directories 1996 – 1997, 1997 – 1998, 1998 – 1999, 1999 – 2000

Title: Directories 1996 – 1997, 1997 – 1998, 1998 – 1999, 1999 – 2000

Reference code: F01-S141-03-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-04 - Directories 2000 – 2001, 2001 – 2002

Title: Directories 2000 – 2001, 2001 – 2002

Reference code: F01-S141-03-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-05 - Directories 2002 – 2003, 2003 – 2004

Title: Directories 2002 – 2003, 2003 – 2004

Reference code: F01-S141-03-05

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-06 - Directories 2004 – 2005, 2005 – 2006

Title: Directories 2004 – 2005, 2005 – 2006

Reference code: F01-S141-03-06

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-07 - Directories 2006 – 2007, 2007 – 2008

Title: Directories 2006 – 2007, 2007 – 2008

Reference code: F01-S141-03-07

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-03-08 - Directories 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011, 2011 – 2012, March 2012

Title: Directories 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011, 2011 – 2012, March 2012

Reference code: F01-S141-03-08

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S141-04 - Vows

Title: Vows

Reference code: F01-S141-04

Date: 1958 -1965 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of a spiral-bound notebook and two pages with handwritten accounts of the number of members of the congregation living in the convent from 1958 to 1965 as documented by Sister Placidia. Both the notebook and the loose pages include the number of Sisters at the various stages of their vows (postulant, novice, first vows, final vows) and records of the schools across Canada run by the Sisters that include the number of Sisters posted, lay teachers, and pupils at each school.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-04-01 - Community statistics January 1958 – July 1965 compiled by Sr. Placidia

Title: Community statistics January 1958 – July 1965 compiled by Sr. Placidia

Reference code: F01-S141-04-01

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S141-05 - Departures

Title: Departures

Reference code: F01-S141-05

Date: [19?]-1975 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries includes typed lists of the Sisters who withdrew from the congregation. These lists document their religious names, birth names, and dates of their final vows. Some of the lists also contain information about places of birth, names of parents, and completed education. This subseries also includes three pages of handwritten notes documenting the departure dates of Sisters from the congregation along with their reasons for withdrawing.

Physical description: 0.25 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access: Subseries F01-S141-05 is closed to public access.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-05-01 - Sisters who withdrew

Title: Sisters who withdrew

Reference code: F01-S141-05-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-05-02 - Sisters who withdrew 1924 – 1975

Title: Sisters who withdrew 1924 – 1975

Reference code: F01-S141-05-02

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S141-06 - Significant dates

Title: Significant dates

Reference code: F01-S141-06

Date: 1975, 2011 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of a list of Sisters' dates of birth, which were noted as "not necessarily accurate" on the front label of the original folder in which the list was stored. Also included is a booklet listing the Sisters' feast days and the "Necrology for Fall 2011." Feast Days prior to the Second Vatican Council were celebrated on the feast days outlined by the liturgical calendar for the saints for whom the Sisters were named when they took their vows. After the Second Vatican Council, feast days are now birthday celebrations, or in some instances at the request of the Sister, the anniversary of her baptism.

Physical description: 0.25 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S141-06-01 - Sisters' dates of birth – compiled July 1975

Title: Sisters' dates of birth – compiled July 1975

Reference code: F01-S141-06-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S141-06-02 - Sisters' feast days and The Necrology Fall 2011

Title: Sisters' feast days and The Necrology Fall 2011

Reference code: F01-S141-06-02

Publication status:

published
