

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Workshops and Events series (F01-S140)

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Workshops and Events series

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Summary information

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| Repository: | Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada |
| Title: | Workshops and Events series |
| Reference code: | F01-S140 |
| Date: | September 1953- December 2006 (creation) |
| Physical description: | 24.8 cm of textual records 25 photographs : b&w 50 photographs : col. |
| Language: | English |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | July 2, 2020 May 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. Joseph's 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

The series consists of records concerning reunions, festivals, workshops, and anniversaries. These records comprise of address books, booklets, ceremony schedules, correspondences, event schedules, liturgy and prayer booklets and sheets, mailing lists, former Sisters membership lists, music sheets and hymns, newspaper clippings and photocopies, postcards with envelopes, photographs, and programs.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the series.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred to the archives by the administration.

Location of originals

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

Restrictions on access

Access to subseries F01-S140-01 is restricted to the public.

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 [General]

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in London has been around since the 19th century. The longevity of the organization has seen many members both formerly and currently working with the diocese to spread the word of God and the community involvement of the Sisters that represent the Congregation. Anniversaries have come and gone which continue to build on the legacy of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Workshops and events focused around celebrations, reunions and festivals usually accompanied a major accomplishment or transition within the Congregation and helped to memorialize the progress of the Sisters that make up the diocese in Canada. The workshops and events sometimes were also arranged around missioning ceremonies like a send off or return of a Sister from another country to spread the word of God and the Congregations community involvement. Workshops range from educational to creative and encourage positivity.

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.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Events and celebrations (subject)
- Education and learning (subject)
- Religion and religious people (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Women and girls (subject)
- London (place)

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S140-01 - Reunions

Title: Reunions

Reference code: F01-S140-01

Date: 1988, 2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of reunion records from the July 1988 and September 2006 meetings of former Sisters of St. Joseph. The records consist of an address book, correspondence, a

ceremony schedule, former Sisters membership lists, postcards with envelopes, liturgies, mailing lists, and prayers.

Physical description: 5.3 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S140-01-01 - Reunion of former Sisters July 1988

Title: Reunion of former Sisters July 1988

Reference code: F01-S140-01-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-01-02 - Sisters' Reunion correspondence 1988

Title: Sisters' Reunion correspondence 1988

Reference code: F01-S140-01-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-01-03 - Reunion of former Sisters Sept. 23rd, 2006

Title: Reunion of former Sisters Sept. 23rd, 2006

Reference code: F01-S140-01-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-01-04 - Reunion 1988

Title: Reunion 1988

Reference code: F01-S140-01-04

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S140-02 - Festivals

Title: Festivals

Reference code: F01-S140-02

Date: 1980-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of records concerning annual festivals and celebrations such as the Jubilees at London in May 1986, and June 1987, the Festival of Creativity in August 1997, and the Celebrate our Connections festival of 2006. The Festival of Creativity was a one “free day to play” on August 6th, 1997 which brought together Sisters and Associates to provide a day of creativity and brainstorming for creative projects to do together as a Congregation. The sale of Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in April 2006 prompted the Celebrate our Connections festival as a point to reconnect and provide a reunion opportunity before moving to the new residence. Over 230 former community members attended the festival. This subseries includes address of current residence and timeline of the festivals, booklets, ceremony schedules and programs, correspondence, homilies, liturgy materials, music sheets and hymns, newspaper clippings, and photographs of the festivals.

Physical description: 5.7 cm of textual records
15 photographs : col.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S140-02-01 - Ceremonies and special events 1980-1987 [2016-52]

Title: Ceremonies and special events 1980-1987 [2016-52]

Reference code: F01-S140-02-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-02-02 - Festival of Creativity 1997 [2013-64]

Title: Festival of Creativity 1997 [2013-64]

Reference code: F01-S140-02-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-02-03 - Celebrate our connections [2013-64]

Title: Celebrate our connections [2013-64]

Reference code: F01-S140-02-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-02-04 - Creativity Festival 1997

Title: Creativity Festival 1997

Reference code: F01-S140-02-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-02-05 - Festival of Creativity August 1997 Festivals

Title: Festival of Creativity August 1997 Festivals

Reference code: F01-S140-02-05

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S140-03 - Education

Title: Education

Reference code: F01-S140-03

Date: 1953-2006, predominant 1980-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of records relating to various educational workshops. Most of the materials for the workshops include liturgies, prayers, and music sheets for ceremonies. The education workshops commonly were led by fellow Sisters including Sister Susanne Breckel and Sister Veronica O'Reilly. The workshops also included special guests from outside the London diocese such as Elizabeth Cashman, Brenda Peddigrew, Ann Culkin, Dr. Thomas Francoeur, Father Thomas Dubay, and Father Michael Crosby. Superiors' workshops were also held throughout the 1960s to 1986.

Physical description: 8.6 cm of textual records
25 photographs : b&w

4 photographs : col.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S140-03-01 - Charism workshop July 23-24, 1994

Title: Charism workshop July 23-24, 1994

Reference code: F01-S140-03-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-02 - Charism workshop March 14-16, 1980

Title: Charism workshop March 14-16, 1980

Reference code: F01-S140-03-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-03 - Our call to justice weekend February 1983

Title: Our call to justice weekend February 1983

Reference code: F01-S140-03-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-04 - Befriending anger becoming free workshop Feb. 19-21, 1993

Title: Befriending anger becoming free workshop Feb. 19-21, 1993

Reference code: F01-S140-03-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-05 - Commitment and values workshop Feb. 9-11, 1973 Sr. Susanne Breckel, RSM

Title: Commitment and values workshop Feb. 9-11, 1973 Sr. Susanne Breckel, RSM

Reference code: F01-S140-03-05

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-06 - Community sharing days Sept. 20-21, 1980

Title: Community sharing days Sept. 20-21, 1980

Reference code: F01-S140-03-06

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-07 - Dreams, reflections, futuring workshop July 31, August 12, 1992 Sister Veronica O'Reilly

Title: Dreams, reflections, futuring workshop July 31, August 12, 1992 Sister Veronica O'Reilly

Reference code: F01-S140-03-07

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-08 - Holistic living and life commitment Mar. 13-14, 1982 Elizabeth Cashman, SC

Title: Holistic living and life commitment Mar. 13-14, 1982 Elizabeth Cashman, SC

Reference code: F01-S140-03-08

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-09 - Invitation to dialogue (Sisters 65 and under) Oct. 13-15, 2006

Title: Invitation to dialogue (Sisters 65 and under) Oct. 13-15, 2006

Reference code: F01-S140-03-09

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-10 - Leadership day Apr. 25, 1992 Sr. Brenda Peddigrew, RSM

Title: Leadership day Apr. 25, 1992 Sr. Brenda Peddigrew, RSM

Reference code: F01-S140-03-10

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-11 - Missioning and symbol celebration workshop March 18, 1984

Title: Missioning and symbol celebration workshop March 18, 1984

Reference code: F01-S140-03-11

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-12 - Personality development and social graces Ann Culkin course 1968

Title: Personality development and social graces Ann Culkin course 1968

Reference code: F01-S140-03-12

Publication status:

published

**File: F01-S140-03-13 - Philosophy of care workshop hospital Sisters Feb. 28, 1981
Dr. Thomas Francoeur**

Title: Philosophy of care workshop hospital Sisters Feb. 28, 1981 Dr. Thomas Francoeur

Reference code: F01-S140-03-13

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-14 - Prayer workshop Nov. 20, 1971 Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM

Title: Prayer workshop Nov. 20, 1971 Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM

Reference code: F01-S140-03-14

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-15 - Spirituality and justice June 16-17, 1984 Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM

Title: Spirituality and justice June 16-17, 1984 Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM

Reference code: F01-S140-03-15

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-16 - Superiors' workshops Oxley Sept. 1953-May 1962

Title: Superiors' workshops Oxley Sept. 1953-May 1962

Reference code: F01-S140-03-16

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-17 - Superiors' workshops 1960's and 1970's, 1986

Title: Superiors' workshops 1960's and 1970's, 1986

Reference code: F01-S140-03-17

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-18 - Homemaker workshop [no date]

Title: Homemaker workshop [no date]

Reference code: F01-S140-03-18

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-03-19 - Education workshop, May 1969

Title: Education workshop, May 1969

Reference code: F01-S140-03-19

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S140-04 - Anniversaries

Title: Anniversaries

Reference code: F01-S140-04

Date: 1967-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of records pertaining to anniversaries. These include the Constitutions Day on Dec. 8th, 1985 which celebrated the Constitutions of the Congregation including a celebration of life and the Easter Vigil celebration. The 100th anniversary celebrated the establishment of the Sisters' arrival in Canada. The majority of the newspaper articles in this subseries are from 1967, with one article from 1968 and two articles from 1969 which cover the history and impact of the Congregation in Canada. The 135th anniversary of arrival in Ontario, Canada celebrations were held throughout the year with a celebration on May 31st, 1987. 1987 also was the 150th anniversary of the Sisters' arrival on the American continent. The 125th anniversary in 1993 celebrated the arrival and foundation of the London congregation. The 135th anniversary of the London foundation was celebrated on December 11, 2003. Events of the 135th anniversary year included Assembly Days, and a tree planting on the original convent site on Kent Street in London. There are also records related to the 350th anniversary in 2000, of the foundation of the congregation in Le Puy, France. The subseries consists of correspondence (one letter from the Premier of Ontario in 1986), event programs, liturgies and prayers to accompany the celebrations, newspaper articles and clippings, and photographs of the anniversary events.

Physical description: 5.2 cm of textual records
31 photographs : col.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S140-04-01 - History - Constitutions Day Dec. 8, 1985

Title: History - Constitutions Day Dec. 8, 1985

Reference code: F01-S140-04-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-04-02 - 135th anniversary of arrival in Ontario, May 31st, 1987

Title: 135th anniversary of arrival in Ontario, May 31st, 1987

Reference code: F01-S140-04-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-04-03 - 125th anniversary of arrival in London, Ont., 1993

Title: 125th anniversary of arrival in London, Ont., 1993

Reference code: F01-S140-04-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-04-04 - 135th anniversary of arrival in London, Ont., Dec. 11, 2003

Title: 135th anniversary of arrival in London, Ont., Dec. 11, 2003

Reference code: F01-S140-04-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S140-04-05 - 100th anniversary newspaper clippings and photocopies 1967-1969

Title: 100th anniversary newspaper clippings and photocopies 1967-1969

Reference code: F01-S140-04-05

Publication status:

published

**File: F01-S140-04-06 - 350th anniversary of SSJ foundation Oct. 15, 2000
Anniversaries**

Title: 350th anniversary of SSJ foundation Oct. 15, 2000 Anniversaries

Reference code: F01-S140-04-06

Publication status:

published
