

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Annals Edmonton Regional House series (F01-S020)

Generated by Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada on April 30, 2025

Language of description: English

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Annals Edmonton Regional House series

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Summary information

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| Repository: | Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada |
| Title: | Annals Edmonton Regional House series |
| Reference code: | F01-S020 |
| Date: | 1922-2004 (creation) |
| Physical description: | 29.95 cm of textual records 152 photographs: col. 42 photographs : negatives ; 120mm 1 album 2 scrapbooks |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | By Lyllie Sue, 2024, under the supervision of Rhiannon Allen- Roberts. Revised November 11, 2024 by Lyllie Sue and Rhiannon Allen-Roberts. |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1. London, Ontario is on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L#naapéewak, and Attawandaron Peoples.

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

This series is primarily about the general history of the St. Joseph's Convent Regional House in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta which was a Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario during their mission in Alberta. St. Joseph's Convent Regional House was also referred to as the Edmonton Regional House or just Regional House. This series contains historical summaries of the Sisters' western mission in Alberta, with an emphasis on the planning and closing ceremonies of the Regional House. There is correspondence concerning the preparations and closing ceremonies of the St. Joseph's Convent Regional House, from June 29 to July 2, 2001, including Minutes from the Committee for Closing of Regional House from March 13 to June 11, 2001. There are also Minutes of the Regional House Council Meetings from 1922 to 1992 covering topics such as the balloting and the results of Community elections, the search for, purchase and sale of the property of the Regional House, as well as the inaugural opening and farewell closing, and the various building construction and renovation projects. There are several lists including a timeline of historical milestones, donated items for the opening of the Regional House, Sisters stationed in the Edmonton Archdiocese, those who took Final Vows, and others who are deceased. This series contains architectural drawings, layout illustrations of the interior and exterior of the Regional House, maps, closing souvenir programs, brochures, and newspaper articles about the closing events at the Regional House. In addition, there are signed guestbooks of visitors to the Regional House, photographs of the Sisters and invited guests celebrating the closing ceremonies, and material related to the creation of *In the Spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph: A Tribute to the Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta*, a "Memory Brochure" created by the Lashbrook Group of London, Ontario for the closing of the Regional House. This series has one photo album and two scrapbooks that contain photographs, correspondence, brochures, and prayer cards related to the history of the Sisters from 1961 to 2001, in Edmonton.

Notes

Title notes

- **Continuation of title:** Title based on content of series.

Immediate source of acquisition

These records were accumulated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario.

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

Location of originals

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

Restrictions on access

The files F01-S020-06-02, F01-S020-06-03, and F01-S020-06-04 are restricted for the protection of the privacy of living persons. 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

Series and file list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

Atkinson, Joan, pers. comm., June 29, 2024.

Cole, Elaine, pers. comm., June 29, 2024.

Note [General]

This project has been made possible in part by Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program.

Note [General]

In the early 1900s, the great expansion into western Canada experienced a steady stream of diverse immigrant settlers from eastern Canada, United States, and Europe who sought a new life in the vast farm areas of the prairie provinces. On December 21, 1912, His Grace Archbishop E. Legal founded the Sacred Heart Parish in the then newly emerging City of Edmonton to provide a spiritual foundation and to accommodate the surge of newcomers as they got settled in their new province. In 1922, the Archbishop Henry Joseph O'Leary requested Mother Mechtilde McCarthy, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario, have the Sisters to serve in the educational field in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta. On July 25, 1922, a group of seven Sisters travelled to Edmonton by train. Upon arrival, they purchased St. Ann's Convent from the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus and renamed it the Sacred Heart Convent. Their residence and the Sacred Heart Church were both adjacent to the school located in the city center of Edmonton. This area and the outskirts surrounding Edmonton is situated within the Treaty Six Territory and the traditional homelands and the Métis Nation of Alberta Region Four, as well as the Nêhiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Diné), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishnaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot).

The Sisters took charge of the Sacred Heart School, a two storey, twelve room, red brick building, with a capacity of 350 students. The Sisters held classes from kindergarten to grade eight. In 1922, the Sisters also operated and immediately opened a Novitiate and boarding school. The first Novice was received in August 1923, and by 1930 there were twelve in the Novitiate, which continued to increase in number until it was united with the London Motherhouse Novitiate in 1940. Over the years, the Sisters served as educators, administrators and principals and remained at the Sacred Heart Convent until April 14, 1961, when they moved into their newly built residence at the Edmonton Regional House, also referred to as St. Joseph's Convent Regional House. The Sisters lived here until 2000 when it was sold to John and Ausma Birzgalis, and it became Venta Nursing Home. The school was under the Sisters' management until Sister Irene Fitzgerald retired in 1966, and Sister Gertrude Walsh was the last Sister to teach at the Sacred Heart School in 1969. By 1970 all the Sisters had withdrawn from the Sacred Heart school.

At first the Sisters taught the children general subjects like reading, spelling, and arithmetic with an emphasis on English language acquisition. Then in the years of World War II, there was a great push for cultural development courses, and in the early 1930s during the great depression the Sisters distributed fruit and cookies, and later the school board provided milk and vitamin pills. In the 1940s when a radio and phonograph were added to the classrooms, social studies and music classes were resounding successes. During the Alberta oil boom in the 1950s, industrial arts, home economics, special needs, and art and drama classes were introduced, as well as instigating a pre-employment work experience course called the Integrated Occupational Program.

From 1922 to 1992, about 56 Sisters taught at and administered schools that were primarily within the area or the outlying district of the Sacred Heart Parish. Some of the schools the Sisters were active in include the Sacred Heart School of Edmonton from 1922 to 1940, Fairview School from 1922 to 1933, St. Patrick's Elementary School from 1933 to 1985 (formerly Fairview School), St. Francis of Assisi Middle School from 1928 to 1974, St. Michael's School from 1945 to 1965, St. Basil's School from 1952 to 1992, Archbishop O'Leary High School from 1960 to 1974, St. Cecilia's Junior High Composite School from 1965 to 1969, and St. Anne's School from 1974 to 1982. Other schools located outside of Edmonton where the Sisters worked include the Sacred Heart School of Wetaskiwan in Wetaskiwin from 1929 to 1942, St. Brides School in St. Brides from 1933 to 1964, Our Lady of Fatima School in Killam from 1952 to 1992, and St. Bernadette's School from 1957 to 1991 and St. Nicholas School from 1960 to 1970 in Beverley. In late 1925, the Stettler Board of Trade in Stettler, located 185 km south of Edmonton, asked Reverend Father Ernest Battle of the Catholic Church Parish, to reach out to the Archbishop Henry J. O'Leary. The purpose was to establish what was known as a "Sisters Hospital" run by the Sisters of St. Joseph who had a renowned reputation for their medical services to soldiers during the First World War. In February 1926, at the request of Archbishop O'Leary, Sister Patricia Coughlin, Sister Virginia Lobban, Sister Austin Gurvine, and Sister Jane Frances O'Rourke travelled from London, Ontario to Stettler, Alberta, to operate a hospital. Reverend Father Battle arranged for the Sisters to work in a large building called Carder Hall, which was the former Stettler Cigar Factory that now served as a temporary hospital. In 1927, a decision to construct a 25-bed municipal hospital rather than a private Catholic hospital by a newly formed Municipal Board corporation with representatives from the districts of Settler, Botha, Haig, Waverly, and Dublin all in the County of Stettler, and Vim in the County of Camrose meant the end of the Nursing Sisters' time in Stettler.

The Sisters opened and administered several small hospitals in rural Alberta: Stettler Hospital from 1926 to 1927, St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad from 1927 to 1978, St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey from 1932 to 1949, and Killam General Hospital from 1930 to 1990 and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary Hospital from 1963 to 1990, both in Killam. The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario provided funds to build and operate the hospitals until 1958, when the provincial department of the Ministry of Health and the Hospitals Division took over the administration and enacted the Alberta Health Plan. This

government policy prevented any church owned and operated voluntary hospitals from being constructed in Alberta. However, it did have a limited provision to allow some upgrades and renovations to existing medical buildings. Also in 1958, there was a polio epidemic that struck throughout Alberta, requiring the services of the Sisters to work at full capacity.

The Sisters were instrumental in the early development of health care and social service, caring for the sick, poor and disadvantaged in the cities, towns, and rural areas in Alberta. In the harsh economically depressed years from 1930 to 1945, the Sisters never turned anyone away who needed help, and allowed payment in coal, hay, wood, farm produce, and manual labour. In the years of the Second World War, nursing Sisters worked up to 40 hours per week without a break. During the 1940s to 1960s, the Sisters were very active in coordinating relief work. During their time in Alberta, the Sisters occupied various health care roles in nursing, management, housekeeping, business administration, pastoral care, and as dietitians, occupational therapists, radiologists and technologists in medical labs.

The Sisters collaborated with services and agencies such as the Catholic Social Services, the Boyle Street Community Centre, Boyle-McCauley Health Centre, Edmonton People In Need Shelter Society, Elizabeth Fry Society, Edmonton Inner City Housing Society, Edmonton's Women's Shelter, Inner City Youth Development Association, and the Alberta Human Rights Commission. They worked in various capacities and supported the needs of the marginalized, the un-housed, people with severe or chronic mental health needs, previous offenders, youth at-risk, underage expectant mothers, and individuals struggling with substance abuse. The Sisters acted as board members, lived-in on-site as support persons, or they assisted financially through the advocacy for the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese. New initiatives for those in need were also launched to provide a sense of home and safe spaces for growth and social support. Elizabeth House was opened in 1987 by Sister Mary Leo Kirwin in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society to serve formerly incarcerated women, and Tess's Place opened in 1988 by Sister Therese (Tess) Carmel Slavik in collaboration with the Boyle Street Co-op Youth Unit was for homeless teenagers coping with addictions. The Crossroads House Too, opened in December 1994 by Sister Catherine (Kitty) Stafford, provided shelter for former female sex workers over the age of 18, and was a project with Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation. The Anglican Parish of Christ Church donated their former unused rectory for the Crossroads House Too, paid all the expenses, including rent, utilities, insurance, and made substantial monetary donations.

The legacy of services provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta, in the field of education, healthcare, social work, and spiritual care provided a foundation that helped to establish the many present day Catholic schools, hospitals, and social welfare organizations.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Draft

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Alberta (place)

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S020-01: History

Date: 1922-2001 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains records related to the history of the western mission in Alberta of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Ontario from 1922 to 2001. This subseries is focused on the history of the St. Joseph's Convent Regional House. The first Motherhouse was the Sacred Heart Convent on 108th Avenue from 1922-1961, and the second location was the Regional House at 135th Street from 1961-2000. This series contains annals and historical summaries of the activities at both Motherhouses, including a copy of *Fifty Golden Years in Canada's Golden West*, a historical summary from 1922 to 1972 compiled by Sister Catherine Cunningham. Topics include the Sisters' work, daily chores, parish work on and off site, retreats, conferences, celebrations, Corporation meetings, Regional Council meetings, Chapter of Affairs meetings, elections for delegates for the General Chapter, Community work appointments and transfers, Open Houses for women interested in religious vocation, and Final Vows of the Novitiates. The Sisters were teachers, administrators, and principals and the records discuss their involvement with a range of education activities and events including administering and teaching kindergarten to high school students, teaching music classes, swim classes, summer classes, holding sports field days, performing in the annual Kiwanis Music Festival, and competing in the Edmonton Regional Science Fair. These historical summaries also contain topics on the land purchase and renovations of the Motherhouse and the Sylvan Lake house cottage. As well as topics on the elderly, infirmed, and geriatric care of the Sisters.

There are reflections and transcripts of interviews of Sisters who served in the Edmonton Archdiocese. The interviews were conducted by Leith Peterson from May to June 2001, to collect background information to help produce a souvenir "Memory Brochure" titled *In the Spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph: A Tribute to the Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta* for the October 2000 closing of the Regional House in Edmonton. There is a printed map of the five Diocese of Alberta from the Edmonton Archbishop J. N. MacNeil; a printed drawing of a "Family Tree of the Sisters of St. Joseph" with tree branches of congregations in North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia; and photocopies of newspaper articles from 1890 to 1939 on the biographies of the Board Trustee Members of the Separate School Board and statistics on enrollment, taxes, and debenture debts of the Separate School Board. There are several lists including a list of 14 new apostolates; a list of 30 Sisters who received full communion from 1923-1940; a list of donors and their gifts received at the opening of the Regional House such as, statues for the chapel, an organ, a tabernacle, crucifix, sanctuary lamps, vases, candle sticks, carpet, and coffee percolator; a list of "Important Dates" from 1922-1982 with historical milestones of the opening year of the foundations of hospitals and schools that the Sisters established in Alberta; and a list of Sisters who were stationed in Edmonton from 1922-2001. In addition, there are handwritten messages on small pieces of note paper, a pamphlet, and a black and white photograph taken on May 1964 of St. Joseph's Convent Regional House on 135th Street, in Edmonton.

Physical description: 6.75 cm of textual records

1 photograph: b&w

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|--|----------------|----------------------|
| F01-S020-01-01 | File - Edmonton Regional House | 1922-2001 | |
| F01-S020-01-02 | File - Community history drafts and newsclippings 1890-1939 | 1922-1984 | |
| F01-S020-01-03 | File - North Edmonton Convent early history | 1928-1941 | |
| F01-S020-01-04 | File - History and annals drafts | 1965-1983 | |
| F01-S020-01-05 | File - Oral histories for Memory Brochure by Leith Peterson | May-June, 2001 | |

Subseries F01-S020-02: MinutesDate: 1922-1992 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains Minutes of the Council Meetings from 1922 to 1992 of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario during their western mission in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. These include those from the Sacred Heart Convent and at St. Joseph's Convent Regional House. Topics of Council Meeting Minutes from 1922 to 1940 include the opening of the Sacred Heart Convent, Community business, elections for leadership positions within the community, formation of the General Chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Edmonton, formation of the Sacred Heart Academy, finances, bonds, loans and mortgages, salaries of the teaching Sisters', preparations and voting for Sisters taking Final Vows, Final Profession, and Receptions. Topics of Minutes from 1962 to 1972 include the establishment of St. Bride's foundation in Edmonton, retreats, renovations and furnishings for a new addition, construction arrangements for Sylvan Lake house cottage (also known as St. Josephs' Villa), death of Father Lawrence Bonner, finances, and a list of the Sisters' historical milestones from 1650 to 1962. Topics of minutes from 1983 to 1992 include updates on activities of individual Sisters (teaching classes, giving music lessons, providing social service for people with low income and mental health needs, working at food banks, emergency overnight shelters, drop-in centres, soup kitchens, in schools, and with social welfare agencies, nursing homes, and hospitals), the formation of Breads 'n Threads, trips, visitors, requests for donations and assistance with social work, daily living, spring cleaning, retreats, celebration preparations, finances, household maintenance, a trip to Expo '86 in Vancouver, elections, and long-range plans. Breads 'n Threads was a clothing centre at the Regional House, where people could obtain free clothes and a loaf of bread.

Physical description: 4.5 cm of textual recordsAccess points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

| Published | | | |
|---|--|-----------|----------------------|
| File / item list | | | |
| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
| F01-S020-02-01 | File - Minutes of Council Meetings, Sacred Heart Convent | 1922-1940 | |
| F01-S020-02-02 | File - Edmonton Regional Council Minutes of Meetings | 1962-1972 | |
| F01-S020-02-03 | File - Regional House Community Meetings of Minutes | 1983-1992 | |
| Subseries F01-S020-03: Closing <u>Date:</u> 1922-2001 (creation) <p><u>Scope and content:</u> This subseries contains records on the preparations and celebrations of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario, regarding the closing ceremonies of the St. Joseph's Convent Regional House from June 29 to July 2, 2001. There is correspondence discussing the selling of the Regional House and the preparation for closing ceremonies. There are also two souvenir programs, one for the Celebration of Eucharist, and the other for farewell celebrations, including cemetery visits to St. Joachim and Holy Cross Cemeteries. There is a runsheet for a sharing ritual for the Sisters during the closing of the Regional House. There is a news bulletin with an invitation to the event, Threads and Spaces, and two lists: one of Sisters who served at the Edmonton mission and the other of deceased Sisters. There is also the "Memory Brochure" created by the Lashbrook Group of London, Ontario, *In the Spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph: A Tribute to the Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta* that includes photographs, a timeline of major events, and quotes from the Sisters. In addition, there are inventory lists of items accounted for at the closing date of the Regional House. Items listed are guest books, videotapes, tape cassettes, slides, photographs, framed pictures, medals, plaques, wall hangings, minutes, news clippings and bounded historical summaries. This series also contains a copy of *Fifty Golden Years in Canada's Golden West* a historical summary from 1922 to 1972 compiled by Sister Catherine Cunningham.</p> <p><u>Physical description:</u> 3.6 cm of textual records</p> <p><u>Access points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual record (documentary form) <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p> | | | |
| File / item list | | | |
| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
| F01-S020-03-01 | File - Closing of Regional House and Fifty Golden Years in Canada's Golden West 1922-1972 [2013-15] | 1922-2001 | |
| F01-S020-03-02 | File - Preparations for Memory Brochure | 2000-2002 | |
| F01-S020-03-03 | File - Memory Brochure finished copy | 1998-2001 | |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| F01-S020-03-04 | File - Invitation, program and Memory Brochure | July 1, 2001 |
| F01-S020-03-05 | File - Celebration of Eucharist program [2014-54] | July 1, 2001 |
| F01-S020-03-06 | File - Committee for Closing of Regional House March 13 – June 11, 2001 | 1997-2001 |
| F01-S020-03-07 | File - Regional sharing ritual [M2024-17] | 30-Jun-01 |

Subseries F01-S020-04: Correspondence

Date: May 22- June 21, 2001 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains correspondence between the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario, with Laurie Lashbrook of the Lashbrook Group of London, Ontario from May 22 to June 21, 2001. The subject of these documents concerns the design and contents of a “Memory Brochure,” a large pamphlet summarizing the Sisters’ history in Alberta. There are drafts of memories, timeline, milestones, list of Sisters in Edmonton, and lists of deceased Sisters. There are lists of items given to Laurie Lashbrook such as photos, postcard, map, pamphlet, and cards for background information, and pre-production press proofs, printed copy blocks. In addition, there are forty-two 120mm, E-6 transparency negatives of various objects to be printed on the pamphlet such as crosses, rosaries, teacup and saucer, bell, lace doily, and a lace making bobbin. The final version is titled *In the Spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph: A Tribute to the Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta*.

Physical description: .75 cm of textual records

42 photographs : negatives ; 120mm

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| F01-S020-04-01 | File - Memory Brochure pre-production press proofs, Lashbrook Group | May 22- June 21, 2001 | |

Subseries F01-S020-05: Legal and Architectural Records

Date: 1927-2003 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains legal and architectural records of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario during their western mission in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. There is correspondence from February 6 to 10, 2004 relating to the Sisters request for certified copies of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Province of Alberta Statutes Repeal Act from RMRF Barristers and Solicitors, Edmonton, Alberta. There is also a list of Sisters who were the Directors of the Alberta Corporation of Sisters of St. Joseph, from 1927 to 2003. This corporation was dissolved in 2003. In addition, there are 17 black and white photographs from November 20, 1960, to June 22, 1961, from the Office of Eugene Olekshy, Architect of the St. Joseph’s Convent Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta. The photographs include construction of the chapel, staircase, living room, refectory and outdoor views

from the southwest and southeast. There are also four proposed layout drawings of the basement, first and second floors, and the exterior of the building.

Physical description: .3 cm of textual records

17 photographs: b&w

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|--|--------------|----------------------|
| F01-S020-05-01 | File - Sisters of St. Joseph of the Province of Alberta Statutes Repeal Act | May 16, 2003 | |
| F01-S020-05-02 | File - Eugene Olekshy, Architect drawings and photographs | 1960-1961 | |

Subseries F01-S020-06: Guestbooks and Memorabilia

Date: 1922-2001 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries primarily contains three guestbooks of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario during their western mission in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta. There is a guestbook is from a Come and Go Tea celebrating Sister Dorothy Hasting's service to St. Patrick's Parish. Sister Dorothy was a teacher and principal at St. Patrick's School in Edmonton, Alberta. Former students and parents, teachers, and friends were invited to drop in to St Patrick's Church, Edmonton to bid farewell to Sister Dorothy. There are two other guestbooks signed with dates, names and addresses of people who visited the Regional House. One guestbook is dated from the opening day on June 25, 1961, until June 12, 1999, and the other guestbook is dated from June 16, 1961, until July 1, 2001. In addition, there is also an official Government of Alberta of Canada certificate from Deborah Grey, Member of Parliament from Edmonton North, congratulating the Sisters and their seventy-five years in health care and education in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Physical description: 13.55 cm of textual records

7 photographs: col.

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Restrictions on access: The files F01-S020-06-02, F01-S020-06-03, and F01-S020-06-04 are restricted for the protection of the privacy of living persons.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|-------|-------|----------------------|
|----------------|-------|-------|----------------------|

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| F01-S020-06-01 | File - 75th Anniversary certificate, Government of Alberta, September 28, 1997 | 1922-1997 |
| F01-S020-06-02 | File - Guestbook, Sister Dorothy Hastings service to St. Patrick's Parish <i>Restrictions on access:</i> The files F01-S020-06-02, F01-S020-06-03, and F01-S020-06-04 are restricted for the protection of the privacy of living persons. | June 8, 1975 |
| F01-S020-06-03 | File - Guestbook, Regional House opening <i>Restrictions on access:</i> The files F01-S020-06-02, F01-S020-06-03, and F01-S020-06-04 are restricted for the protection of the privacy of living persons. | 1961-1999 |
| F01-S020-06-04 | File - Guestbook, Regional House <i>Restrictions on access:</i> The files F01-S020-06-02, F01-S020-06-03, and F01-S020-06-04 are restricted for the protection of the privacy of living persons. | 1961-2001 |

Subseries F01-S020-07: Photographs

Date: 1922-2004 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries primarily contains colour photographs on the closing of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario's St. Joseph's Convent Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta. There are photographs of people who were present during the closing ceremonies from June 29 to July 2, 2001, such as the Sisters, Archbishop, Fathers, and Priests. There are photographs of the interior and exterior of the Regional House and chapel. There are also photographs of the transfer of ownership of the Regional House on October 2, 2000, and the ribbon cutting ceremony in which the keys and blueprint of the building were handed over to John and Ausma Birzgalis, the new property owners. The subseries also contains photographs of two pilgrimages to cemeteries to visit the tombstones of deceased Sisters on June 30 and July 7, 2001. The Birzgalis' turned the house into the Venta Manor Nursing Home and there are photographs from August 2004 showing the renovations of the former library becoming a dining area, a new lounge section, former dining room becoming a kitchen, former kitchen and dumb waiter, new entrance of nursing home, the second-floor chapel, ground floor hallway, first floor parlour, and enclosed courtyard. In addition to the photographs, there are several printed news clippings. The clippings from 1922 to 1934 are on the religious reception ceremonies of the Sisters at the Sacred Heart Convent in Edmonton, Alberta. The newspaper articles from 1960 to 2003, cover the achievements of Sisters Mary Lourdes, Catherine Cunningham, Clare Lawrence, Rose Leahy, and Joan Kirk; Sisters' Jubilees; the opening of the new Motherhouse; the Edmonton's Folk Music Festival; and the Klondike Festival. In addition, there is a map of Alberta indicating the hospital and health care foundations in Stettler, Galahad, Killam, and Rimbey established by the Sisters from 1926 to 1990. There is one photo album and two scrapbooks that contain photographs of the interior, exterior, construction, and surrounding landscape of various buildings such as the Joseph's Convent (Regional House), Sacred Heart Convent, St. Bernard's School, Venta Nursing Home, and Sylvan Lakehouse cottage in Alberta. There are photographs of Sisters, Fathers, and Bishops participating in social, cultural, and spiritual events including celebrations, Jubilees, seasonal holidays, and religious retreats. There are also documents inside the scrapbooks, for instance letters, greeting cards, pamphlets, prayer book, hymns, short histories, lists of Sisters, and printed memories and farewell speeches related to the 75th Anniversary of the Sisters of

St. Joseph service in health care and education, and the closing of their mission in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Physical description: .5 cm of textual records

127 photographs: col.

1 album

2 scrapbooks

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Arrangement: The records were kept in their original order.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| F01-S020-07-01 | File - Panorama and newsclippings | 1922-2003 | |
| F01-S020-07-02 | File - Venta Manor Nursing Home renovations | August 2004 | |
| F01-S020-07-03 | File - Transfer of Regional House to John and Ausma Birzgalis | October 2, 2000 | |
| F01-S020-07-04 | File - Sisters, Archbishop, Fathers, Priests, and empty rooms | July 1, 2001 | |
| F01-S020-07-05 | File - Pilgrimage to cemeteries | June 30 and July 7, 2001 | |
| F01-S020-07-06 | File - Venta Nursing Home plaque ceremony | June 29, 2001 | |
| F01-S020-07-07 | File - Edmonton Regional House 1961-1979 compiled by Mother St. Martin McGrenere, includes Sylvan Lake W-2.1 [photo album] | 1961-1979 | |
| F01-S020-07-08 | File - Edmonton Regional House 1970-2000 75th anniversary and sale to Venta Nursing Home W-2.2 [photo album] | 1970-2000 | |
| F01-S020-07-09 | File - Edmonton farewell June 28, 2001, Sisters and Venta Nursing Home W-2.5 [photo album] | 2001 | |