

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Annals St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, Ont. series (F01-S054)

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Annals St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, Ont. series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Annals St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, Ont. series
Reference code:	F01-S054
Date:	1982-2022 (creation)
Physical description:	3 cm of textual records 2 photographs : b&w. 27 photographs : col. 1 photo album : 26.5 x 30 x 7 cm 1 scrapbook : 22 x 25.5 x 2.5 cm
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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. 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 the annals documenting the history of St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre (also known as the Hospital Centre, Soup Kitchen, and later as St. Joe's Café) in London by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre had three different locations, first at 746 Dundas Street East, then at 707 Dundas Street East, and then at 602 Queens Avenue. St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre was a project to assist those in need by providing social services such as food, referrals, comradeship, and pastoral care. This series contains two chronicles of St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre's history. The first chronicle relates to 746 Dundas Street East, from 1982 to 1991, and includes news clippings from 1985 to 1991. The second chronicle relates to 707 Dundas Street East, from 1989 to 1995, and includes news clippings from 1990 to 1995. There is correspondence regarding engaging the neighbourhood community in discerning the future of the centre from 2005 to 2006. There are lists of Sisters and lay people who volunteered from 1983 to 2005, statistical sheets on how many meals were served, the number and types of clients, major purchases, and items donated to furnish St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre.

This series has newspaper articles on St. Joseph's Hospital Centre and topics discussing the socio-cultural-economic situation in Ontario from 1984 to 2022. There are also printed articles, one written by Larry Mckenzie, Consultant at McKenzie Hospitality Group in London, and another by Leonard A. Lesser, a Consultant in Education and Career Counselling in Hamilton, Ontario. There are also two pamphlets advertising the services offered at the 707 Dundas Street East location and an invitation card for a social gathering event during National Volunteer Week on April 30, 1992. There are loose photographs depicting the beginnings of St. Joseph's Hospital Centre in 1983, a panorama of the dining room and front counter area, new kitchen equipment, and the re-blessing and reopening of St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre on May 9, 2005, after the rebuild from a fire.

This series also contains a scrapbook with official letters inside addressed to Sister Marie Jean Klatt on her nomination for the Ontario Senior Achievement Award from the Minister for Senior Citizens' Affairs, Ron Van Horne, in June 1987 and from Mavis Wilson in 1989. The scrapbook also has news clippings, newsletters produced by the Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick's Church, a pamphlet thanking volunteers, a poem titled "True Happiness," and a photograph of Sister Mary Jean Klatt and volunteers preparing hot meals at St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre.

In addition, there is a photo album compiled by Sister Mary Jean Klatt. There are photographs of the interior and exterior of the St. Joseph's Hospital Centre, as well as donors, staff, and volunteers, cooking and serving meals, and cleaning up the dining room and kitchen areas. There are also photographs of picnic events with games and contests, handicrafts displayed in the Hospitality Centre's front window, and Christmas celebrations with Santa Claus. The photo album contains newspaper articles related to her ministry at the St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre. There is a pamphlet inside the photo album written by Sister Mary Jean Klatt that has several lists of the names of patrons, donors, staff, and volunteers, and the number of meals served from 1983 to 1986.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

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

Arrangement

Original order was maintained with accessions arranged in.

Location of originals

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

Restrictions on 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

Series and file list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

City of London, Ontario, “City of London Land Acknowledgement,” <https://london.ca/city-london-land-acknowledgement>, accessed 2024/10/10.

Government of Ontario, “Map of Ontario treaties and reserves,” <https://www.ontario.ca/page/map-ontario-treaties-and-reserves#>, accessed 2024/10/10.

L. A. Lesser, “St Joseph’s Hospitality Centre Feeds Those In Need,” <https://career-education.ca/ablog/read2.php?id=299>, accessed 2024/12/18.

Note [General]

St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre, also known as St. Joseph’s Hospital Centre and as the Soup Kitchen, was a social enterprise project spearheaded by Sister Mary Jean Klatt of the Congregation of the Sisters of St.

Joseph of London, Ontario. In 1982 the Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London suggested that specific needs of the “poor” in London should be considered as a focus for the Sisters’ ministry. Sister Mary Jean Klatt was asked to assess the feasibility of setting up a soup kitchen. The facility for this work, the operational expenses, and the personnel were sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. It opened at 746 Dundas Street in East London on a one-year lease. Doors opened on February 2, 1983, to a clientele of about 30 to 35 people in need. Sister Mary Jean Klatt served as the director for the first seven years and was assisted by Sister Carol Mittleholz. The goals of St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre were to ensure that those in need had their basic needs met. The Sisters of St. Joseph provided sit-down hot meals, shelter referral, clothing referral, social interaction, and spiritual guidance. Overtime the number of daily clients grew to an average of 250 to 300. In 1987, the Hospitality Centre moved to 707 Dundas Street East. Sister Marcelline Janisse became the director on February 1, 1989.

A shift in service occurred in 1993 when the traditional “soup line” format changed to a restaurant style. Clients began to pay for their meals as a way for them to contribute and to preserve their sense of personal dignity. Breakfast cost \$0.50 and lunch \$1.00, but no one would be turned away for lack of funds. In May 2002, the Hospitality Centre stopped services on Saturday to conserve the energy of the Sisters and volunteers.

In 1999, Sister Marilyn Catherine Rosehart became the co-director of the Medaille Spirituality Centre in London, and Sister Marcelline Janisse retired on September 15, 2002. Sister Teresa Ryan became the director in September of 2004. That October, the Sisters of St. Joseph gave the properties at 707, 709, and 711 Dundas Street to the Cross-Cultural Learner Centre. This came with the agreement that the Cross-Cultural Learner Centre would use Josephs House for their work with refugees and the Sisters would continue to operate St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre at 707 Dundas Street. It was agreed that the Sisters of St. Joseph would rent the space for one dollar annually for up to 10 years with the option to renew this for an additional 5 years if the Sisters so chose.

On February 15, 2005, the London Fire Department responded to an electrical fire in the back area of the kitchen that caused heavy damage. After the rebuild, the St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre was re-blessed and reopened on May 9, 2005, and operations resumed. The St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre was renamed St. Joe’s Café on August 15, 2022, when it moved to its current location at 602 Queens Avenue in London, Ontario.

London, Ontario is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L#naapéewak and Attawandaron Nations, and land specific to Treaty 2 (McKee Purchase of 1790), Treaty 6 (London Township Purchase of 1796), Treaty 21 (Long Woods Purchase of 1819), Treaty 29 (Huron Tract Purchase of 1827), Nanfan Treaty of 1701, Two Row Wampum Belt Treaty of 1613, and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum of 1701.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Minimal
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Collection holdings

File: F01-S054-01 - Administration and correspondence

Title: Administration and correspondence

Reference code: F01-S054-01

Date: 1989-2006 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-02 - Photographs, correspondence, and news clippings

Title: Photographs, correspondence, and news clippings

Reference code: F01-S054-02

Date: 1985-2022 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-03 - News clippings

Title: News clippings

Reference code: F01-S054-03

Date: 1984-1990 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-04 - Articles by Larry Mckenzie, and Leonard A. Lesser

Title: Articles by Larry Mckenzie, and Leonard A. Lesser

Reference code: F01-S054-04

Date: 1996-2011 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-05 - Pamphlets, 707 Dundas Street

Title: Pamphlets, 707 Dundas Street

Reference code: F01-S054-05

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-06 - Chronicles, 746 Dundas Street East, and 707 Dundas Street East

Title: Chronicles, 746 Dundas Street East, and 707 Dundas Street East

Reference code: F01-S054-06

Date: 1982-2002 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-07 - Scrapbook, St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, Ontario 1982-1988 [VPA-3]

Title: Scrapbook, St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, Ontario 1982-1988 [VPA-3]

Reference code: F01-S054-07

Date: 1982-1988 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S054-08 - Photo album compiled by Sister Mary Jean Klatt [VPA-3.1]

Title: Photo album compiled by Sister Mary Jean Klatt [VPA-3.1]

Reference code: F01-S054-08

Date: 1983-1990 (date of creation)

: 0379

Physical condition: Poor condition. Handle with care.

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380), separated to Box 11 (0379) due to size.

Publication status:

Published
