

# **Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada**

## **Finding Aid - Annals St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor, Ont. series (F01-S078)**

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# **Annals St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor, Ont. series**

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Annals St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor, Ont. series
<b>Reference code:</b>	F01-S078
<b>Date:</b>	1934-2013 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	5.2 cm of textual records 5 photographs : b&w
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	June 2025 by Rhiannon Allen-Roberts.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### 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, L̄naapéewak, 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.

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## Scope and content

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This series contains the records of St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor. St. Joseph's Manor opened December 13, 1934, at 19 Sandwich Street East as a temporary home for children until Catholic foster homes could be found. The manor would be under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. While at the manor, children received medical and dental care, attended nearby Catholic schools, and had access to a library, a recreation and games room, and a tennis court in 1940. A Ladies' Auxiliary was established in 1935 to raise funds for the manor. Between 1940 and 1941, ten British "child guests" (nine English and one Scottish) stayed at the manor until a social worker with the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society could arrange foster homes. In January of 1969, the Supreme Court of Ontario Grand Jury recommended the immediate evacuation of the manor due to it not meeting the Ontario Fire Marshal's building requirements. The children temporarily resided at a farmhouse until the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre opened in 1970. The banister and light fixtures of the manor were moved to the Hiram Walker Museum before St. Joseph's Manor was demolished in 1969. Windsor is located on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which is an alliance between the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi.

The records present include annals, historical summaries, correspondence, photographs, news clippings, annual reports of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society for the County of Essex, and mass bulletins. The annals recount the daily activities of the Sisters in caring for the children and arranging for foster homes, holidays and celebrations, renovations and decorations to the building and chapel, and comments about world events, such as the Second World War. The annals are from St. Joseph's Manor, as well as later foster care facilities such as 253 Bellevue Avenue and 7770 St. Rose Avenue. Within the annals are medical statistics and reports from the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

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

### Arrangement

Arranged by the archives.

### Restrictions on access

Files F01-S078-01 and F01-S078-02 contain identifying information of foster children and are restricted for 100 years. 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.

## Note [Sources]

University of Windsor, "University of Windsor Indigenous Initiatives," <https://www.uwindsor.ca/indigenous-peoples/>, accessed 2025/05/27.

## Other notes

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

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## Access points

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- Multiple media (documentary form)

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## Collection holdings

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### File: F01-S078-01 - St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor

Title: St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor

Reference code: F01-S078-01

Date: 1934-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains the annals for St. Joseph's Manor, a list of Sisters, a news clippings, and a certificate for the 15th anniversary of incorporation from the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society for the County of Essex.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

: 0293

Location of originals: London Annals Box 20 (0293)

Restrictions on access: File contains identifying information of foster children and are restricted for 100 years, until 2100.

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-S078-02 - Notes and Happenings of St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor**

Title: Notes and Happenings of St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor

Reference code: F01-S078-02

Date: 1934-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains the annals for St. Joseph's Manor, 253 Bellevue Avenue, and 7770 St. Rose Avenue. There is also a funeral card for Alvin Edward Chevalier (1920-2013).

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

: 0293

Location of originals: London Annals Box 20 (0293)

Restrictions on access: File contains identifying information of foster children and are restricted for 100 years, until 2093.

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-S078-03 - My memories of St. Joe's**

Title: My memories of St. Joe's

Reference code: F01-S078-03

Date: 2013 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains the article "My memories of St. Joe's" by Cathy Nantais in \*The Walkerville Times.\* The article is a reflection of her time as a foster child living at St. Joseph's Manor.

Physical description: 0.2 cm of textual records

: 0293

Location of originals: London Annals Box 20 (0293)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-S078-04 - St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor**

Title: St. Joseph's Manor, Windsor

Reference code: F01-S078-04

Date: 1934-1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains historical summaries of St. Joseph's Manor, lists of Sisters who ministered here, a Thanksgiving mass bulletin, a prayer card, annual reports of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society for the County of Essex, news clippings, photographs (including one of the opening of the manor), and correspondence between the Sisters, Diocese, and the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society, primarily regarding in finances.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

2 photographs : b&w

: 0293

Location of originals: London Annals Box 20 (0293)

Publication status:

Published

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## **File: F01-S078-05 - St. Joseph's Manor photographs**

Title: St. Joseph's Manor photographs

Reference code: F01-S078-05

Date: [193-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains photographs of unidentified children at St. Joseph's Manors, auxiliary members, unidentified women, Sister Theophane McManus (1890-1974), and Sister Evarista Whitwell (1895-1977).

Physical description: 3 photographs : b&w

: 0293

Location of originals: London Annals Box 20 (0293)

Publication status:

Published

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