

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Community Communications series (F01-S129)

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Community Communications series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Community Communications series
Reference code:	F01-S129
Date:	1947-2014 (creation)
Physical description:	49.45 cm of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	July 2, 2020May 22, 2023

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, 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 newsletters pertaining to the congregation. The early newsletters were generally written by the General Superior and addressed to the Sisters of the congregation. Some later newsletters pertained to the amalgamation of four congregations to become The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada in 2012.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred to the archives by the administration.

Arrangement

Most subseries were arranged chronologically by the archivist.

Location of originals

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

Restrictions on access

F01-S129-04 is restricted to public access.

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

Conditions governing use

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

Finding aids

There is a series and file list.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives. "Coughlin, Josephine Hildegarde (Margaret)." Dictionary of Biography of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. Retrieved 13/6/2019.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives. "Moore, Julia Cecilia (Julia)." Dictionary of Biography of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. Retrieved 11/7/2019.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives. "McKeough, Katherine Joan (Angela Felix)." Dictionary of Biography of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. Retrieved 11/7/2019.

Note [General]

The newsletters in this series were produced as a way of communicating to Sisters living in the Motherhouse and also in convents in the places in which they were missioned. Before email communication became more common, the physical newsletters were the primary source for congregational news. The various newsletters have different authors. Three authors of note are General Superiors Mother Margaret Coughlin (1947-1959), Mother Julia Moore (1959-1971), and Sister Katherine McKeough (1979-1987).

Mother Margaret Coughlin had a significant impact on the congregation particularly with regard to community projects. During her tenure, the St Mary's Hospital building project was completed, Catholic Central High School was opened, new Constitutions were approved, and sod was turned for a new Motherhouse at Mount St. Joseph. In addition, various new homes and missions were established for Sisters.

Mother Julia Moore was a great leader in the congregation. She was highly educated, and served as a teacher before assuming leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London. The Sisters recognized Mother Julia as a true mystic who led the Congregation through the Second Vatican Council. After her time as General Superior, Mother Julia served as a general councillor, health care coordinator of the community, and finally as Superior at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Sister Katherine McKeough trained as a nurse and spent most of her life in hospital ministry. She eventually obtained a Masters of Science in Adult Psychology at Boston University, which enabled her to be a clinical supervisor in psychiatry. She held various positions at St. Joseph's Hospital and served on various associations and committees related to health and religious life. As General Superior, Sister Katherine is remembered for her unconditional acceptance of others and belief in people's goodness. After her term as General Superior, Sister Katherine worked to improve the situation of homeless women.

Other notes

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

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Textual record (documentary form)

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- London (place)

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S129-01: Deepening Connections Newsletters

Date: 2011-2012 (creation)

Scope and content: This newsletter includes notes from the Council primarily concerning the amalgamation of the congregations. It includes messages from Sisters, announcements for events pertinent to the community, and news about community work and engagements as well as about travel and international work. It also contains entries about Indigenous relations and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A few of the newsletters discuss the Occupy Movement, a series of protests on income disparity.

Physical description: 0.25 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-01-01	File - Deepening Connections Newsletters 2011-2012	2011-2012	

Subseries F01-S129-02: Into This New Moment Newsletters

Date: 2012 (creation)

Scope and content: The Transition Team for the amalgamation of the four separate congregations in Hamilton, London, Peterborough and Pembroke, authored this newsletter. News items concern the process of deciding the name of the new congregation, legal issues, various committees giving updates on their part of the process, and the development of a new website for the amalgamated congregation.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-02-01	File - Into This New Moment Newsletter 2012	2012	

Subseries F01-S129-03: Council Notes Newsletters

Date: 1999-2011 (creation)

Scope and content: This newsletter provided information from the General Council, who are the elected leadership. It contains news on various social justice initiatives including a response to the September 11, 2001 crisis and the following war in Afghanistan, moral and sustainable agriculture, child poverty, pastoral work with lesbian and gay persons, the congregation's commitment to ecology, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, boycotts on various corporations for unethical practices, the growing gap between rich and poor, and equitable hiring practices. The subseries also contains reports on the work of the congregation on the trafficking of women and children, as well as work with refugees. Other items include notices of jubilarians' celebrations, leadership team portfolios, Council calendars, important dates, and information on retreats. Finally, the subseries contains thank you notes that bereaved Sisters published to thank other Sisters for their support. This newsletter demonstrates the effect of the Internet on the congregation: there was an interest in transitioning to sending various newsletters and printed materials through email to facilitate access and save on postage costs, and there is news about the development of the congregation's website.

Physical description: 5.2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-03-01	File - Council Notes 1999-2004	1999-2004	
F01-S129-03-02	File - Council Notes Newsletter 2003-2011	2003-2011	
F01-S129-03-03	File - Council Notes 2005-2007	2005-2007	

Subseries F01-S129-04: Communique

Date: 1987-1999 (creation)

Scope and content: This newsletter was authored by the General Council. It contains congratulations to jubilarians, reports from conferences, reports from missions in foreign countries like Peru and El Salvador, notices about social justice issues, including information on violence and non-violence, and how Sisters can work towards Indigenous reconciliation and self-government. This was pertinent particularly since 1992 was the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus arriving in North America. The subseries also covers topics including feminism as it relates to the charism of the congregation and all its actions; calls to boycott certain corporations; a campaign to abolish nuclear weapons; monetary aid to Nicaragua and Honduras after Hurricane Mitch struck; refugee sponsorship; marching against

poverty; and agricultural and environmental concerns. In the newsletters, there is financial information concerning personal budgeting, bursary information, and information on the congregation's donations. This subseries discusses healthcare news including board membership, Catholic values in healthcare, and hospital updates related to Killam General Hospital ownership and cuts by the Ontario government in 1993. Finally, the subseries contains obituaries and reflections for several Sisters.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Restrictions on access: This subseries is restricted to public access.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-04-01	File - Communiqué 1987-1992	1987-1992	
F01-S129-04-02	File - General Council Communiqué 1993-1999	1993-1999	

Subseries F01-S129-05: Generalate Bulletins

Date: 1959-1969, 1979-1987 (creation)

Scope and content: The 1959-1969 Generalate Bulletins were titled "Reverend Mother Writes" and were written by Mother Julia Moore, the General Superior from 1959-1971, at the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse. The newsletters contain news from St. Mary's Hospital, and St. Joseph's School of Music. Also contained in this subseries is information on donations, Sisters' travels, academic accomplishments of various Sisters, in memoriam notices of deceased Sisters, and other issues that relate to the congregational community.

The 1979-1987 Generalate Bulletins were written by Sister Katherine McKeough. She was the General Superior from 1979-1987. These bulletins contain calendars with important dates, information on donations, and general news as it relates to the community at Mount St. Joseph. There is also an outline of the areas of responsibility of Sisters on the General Council.

The General Superior between Sister Julia Moore, and Sister Katherine McKeough was Mother Mary Brendan (Cathleen) Flynn (1971-1979), and her newsletters are in subseries 07: "Council Letters."

Physical description: 7.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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F01-S129-05-01	File - Generalate Bulletins 1959-1969 [Mother Julia Moore]	1959-1969
F01-S129-05-02	File - General Bulletins 1979-1987 [Sr. Katherine McKeough]	1979-1987

Subseries F01-S129-06: Infograms

Date: 1971-1997 (creation)

Scope and content: "Infograms" was a newsletter series edited by Sister Rose Theresa. It began after "The Encounter" newsletter ceased publication. It contained information about retreats, workshops, work, courses, and successes that the Sisters would like others to know about in the community. It also contained letters from Sisters, news about social justice activism, information on donations made by the congregation, and brief biographies of deceased Sisters.

Physical description: 16.8 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-06-01	File - Infogram Volume 1 September 4, 1971-August 28 1972	1971-1972	
F01-S129-06-02	File - Infogram Volume 2 September 1972-July 1973	1972-1973	
F01-S129-06-03	File - Infogram Volume 3 September 1973-May 1974	1973-1974	
F01-S129-06-04	File - Infogram Volume 4 1-9 September 1974-April 1975	1974-1975	
F01-S129-06-05	File - Infogram Volume 5 1-8 September 1975- May 1976	1975-1976	
F01-S129-06-06	File - Infogram Volume 6 October 8 1976-1979	1976-1979	
F01-S129-06-07	File - Infogram Volume 7 1979-1982	1979-1982	
F01-S129-06-08	File - Infogram Volume 8 September 1982-1985, 1986-1987	1982-1985, 1986-1987	
F01-S129-06-09	File - Infogram Volume 9 January 1988-1993	1988-1993	
F01-S129-06-10	File - Infogram 1997 1994-1997	1994-1997	

Subseries F01-S129-07: Council Letters

Date: 1972-1979 (creation)

Scope and content: Sister Mary Brendan (Cathleen) Flynn, General Superior from 1971-1979, wrote newsletters on behalf of the General Council to the Sisters living at the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in London, Ontario. The topics of these newsletters included important announcements that related to the community, such as which Sister Superior should be consulted regarding budget issues, use of the apostolic services fund for running programs, and changes in housing appointments. The vow of poverty is a recurring theme in these newsletters.

Physical description: 0.6 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-07-01	File - Letters From Council 1972-1979 [Sr. Mary Brendan Flynn]	1972-1979	

Subseries F01-S129-08: Encounter Newsletters

Date: 1965-1970 (creation)

Scope and content: The title of this newsletter relates to the Sisters' interactions with companions, students, patients, co-worker, benefactors and friends and 'how' to bear witness to Christ in these everyday encounters. The subseries contains jubilarian dates, news on postulants' education, and updates from the various locations the Sisters had a presence, such as St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia, St. Mary's Hospital, and the Sarnia Convent, among others.

Physical description: 4.4 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-08-01	File - CSJ Encounter 1965-1966	1965-1966	
F01-S129-08-02	File - CSJ Encounter 1966- May 1967	1966- May 1967	
F01-S129-08-03	File - The Encounter year 1968-1969	1968-1969	
F01-S129-08-04	File - Encounters 1969-1970	1969-1970	

Subseries F01-S129-09: Reverend Mother Writes

Date: 1949-1958 (creation)

Scope and content: Mother Margaret Coughlin, the General Superior from 1947-1959, wrote monthly letters addressed to the local Sister Superiors and Sisters. These newsletters contain rules about Sisters' activities, such as prayers and chapel decorum, and permissions related to the vow of poverty. Mother Margaret also wrote about Superiors' meetings, Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse activity, the School of Music, Mount St. Joseph Academy briefs, and academic achievements.

Physical description: 2.8 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-09-01	File - Mother Margaret Letters to the Sisters 1949- 1958 [Mother Margaret Coughlin]	1949- 1958	
F01-S129-09-02	File - Rev Mother Writes (The Tower) 1950-1958 [Mother Margaret Coughlin]	1950-1958	

Subseries F01-S129-10: Community Newsletters

Date: 1947-1957, 1998-2000 (creation)

Scope and content: The 1947-1957 newsletters are addressed to Sister-Superior and Sisters and signed by Reverend Mother and the Sisters. They are from either Sacred Heart Convent or Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse. The subseries contains news of congregational activities and community events as they relate to education, St. Joseph's Hospital, the House of Providence, nursing student graduations, and local high school sporting events.

The 1998-2000 newsletters contain news of Sisters' activities and social justice initiatives. There are also invitations for Sisters to share the story of their ministry, and a pamphlet on Project Millennium, which was a series of television programs presented by The Catholic Religious Communities of Canada. The project's purpose was to use television as ministry to share the rich heritage of religious communities with all Canadians. The purpose of the pamphlet was for Stephanie Vincec of the Hamilton congregational to notify others about the episode on the Hamilton congregational story that she authored.

Physical description: 4.8 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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F01-S129-10-01	File - Community Newsletter October 1947-November 1952	Oct. 1947-Nov. 1952
F01-S129-10-02	File - Community Newsletters October /53- June/57	1953-1957
F01-S129-10-03	File - CSJ Community News April 1998- Spring/Summer 2000	1998-2000

Subseries F01-S129-11: London Neighborhood Updates

Date: 2012-2013 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries is made up of email correspondence from the leadership team to the congregation. It contains updates on Sisters' activities as well as news from the transition team who were managing the changes that resulted from the amalgamation of the four congregations, which took place in 2012. Updates in these newsletters pertained to the collaboration with the hospice in London, the management of the technological aspects of amalgamating four different congregations, and an affirmation of the importance of spiritual ministry in London after the closing of the Medaille Retreat House.

Physical description: 0.2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-11-01	File - London Neighborhood Updates 2012-2013	2012-2013	

Subseries F01-S129-12: Embracing this New Moment newsletters

Date: 2012-2013 (creation)

Scope and content: This newsletter pertains to the creation of the new congregation in 2012. The subseries contains news about those taking on new leadership roles. The recurring theme is about building a cohesive vision for the new congregation. Newsletter items included summaries of presentations from various committees such as the Material Resources Committee, which managed congregational policies, property, and revenue, the Chapter Planning Committee, the Liturgy Planning Committee, and the Website Committee.

Physical description: 0.3 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-12-01	File - Embracing this New Moment newsletters 2012-2013	2012-2013	

Subseries F01-S129-13: London Neighborhood News

Date: 2014 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains a single newsletter with information on staffing changes, retreats, Sisters moving to new residences, and notices of jubilees. There is also information on a workshop hosted by the Council General Treasurer and the Congregational Leadership Circle attending the Canadian Religious Conference.

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S129-13-01	File - London Neighborhood News 2014	2014	