

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Community Histories collection (F01-S113)

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Language of description: English

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Community Histories collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Community Histories collection
Reference code:	F01-S113
Date:	1869-2013 (creation)
Physical description:	23.5 cm of textual records 33 photographs : b&w 4 photographs : col. 17 photographs : col. negatives
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	21-Dec-23

Scope and content

This is a collection of histories and reference material, including publications and photocopies of historical documents and correspondence, created and collected by the Sisters illustrating the foundation and history of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. Topics range from the founding of the religious order of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy, France by Father Jean Pierre Médaille in 1648 to the activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the diocese of London, Ontario from their foundation to the early 2000s. A major focus of the material is on the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London as a branch of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto and the establishment of an independent congregation. Many of the Sisters wrote accounts, chronicles, booklets, and essays on their history, some of which were published. Drafts and published versions of these writings are included here alongside histories written by those from outside the congregation. There are also various photocopies of records from the late 1800s related to the early history of the Sisters. This includes publications on their history, correspondence about establishing the community (though there are also some original correspondence), Acts of Profession, Acts of Reception, the 1871 Act of Incorporation and the 1915 and 1938 amendments. There are, however, original documents from the late 1800s and early 1900s as well, such as photographs of Sisters, "History of the Sisters of St. Joseph," (which was written at Sacred Heart Convent, London), and an excerpt from a manuscript by Bishop R. H. Dignan. The approbation decree and pontifical rights from the Holy See in Rome for Sisters of St. Joseph of London's are also present. The material in this collection also includes photographs, postcards, a photo album, and news clippings.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

These records were collected by the archivist.

Arrangement

Order imposed 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

Some material in file F01-S133-01-01 is restricted to public access for 30 years from creation. 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]

“History of the Congregation,” <https://csjarchive.org/about/history-of-the-congregation/3/>, accessed 2023/12/19.

“Timeline,” <https://csjarchive.org/about/timeline/>, accessed 2023/12/19.

Note [General]

In 1650 the Sisters of St. Joseph began in Le Puy, France, founded by Father Jean Pierre Médaille and six women who dedicated their lives to serving those in need. Mother St. John Fontbonne re-established the congregation in Lyon, France in 1808 after the French Revolution. The Sisters came to North America in 1863 where they established the first congregation in St. Louis, Missouri with the assistance of Mother

Delphine Fontbonne who would go on to establish the congregation in Toronto, Ontario in 1851. The London congregation was founded as a branch of Toronto in 1868 when, at the request of Bishop John Walsh, Mother Teresa Brennan, Sister Ignatia Campbell, Sister Ursula McGuire, Sister Francis O'Malley, and Sister Appolonia Nolan, accompanied by Reverend Mother Antoinette McDonald, arrived in London to tend to the sick, poor, orphaned, elderly, and imprisoned and serve as educators. The Sisters lived at 170 Kent Street until October of 1869 when the Barker House bounded by Grosvenor, Burlington (now Richmond), St. George, and Thomas (now College) Streets was purchased. It was renamed Mount Hope and was the Sisters' first official motherhouse. It would later also be an orphanage and home for the aged. On December 18, 1870, the Sisters of St. Joseph of London became an autonomous congregation in the Diocese of London with Mother Ignatia Campbell as General Superior. On February 15, 1871, the congregation became legally incorporated.

The Sisters founded several healthcare institutions in Ontario. In London, they founded St. Joseph's Hospital in 1888, followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Training School of Nursing in 1895, St. Mary's Hospital in 1951, and Marian Villa on January 12, 1966. They also opened St. Joseph's Hospital in Chatham on October 15, 1890, and added a School of Nursing in 1895, later opening St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia on October 18, 1946. These hospitals remained under the Sisters' control until 1993. The Sisters also administered hospitals in Alberta.

Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Novitiate, and Orphanage was opened at the former Hellmuth College in London on April 10, 1899. The elderly under the Sisters' care remained at Mount Hope, which was renamed House of Providence, while the orphans were moved to Mount St. Joseph. The motherhouse and novitiate moved to Sacred Heart Convent in London on September 14, 1914, and there remained until 1953 when construction of the new Mount St. Joseph was completed, though it was not officially opened until June 29, 1954.

In addition to teaching in the separate school system, the Sisters had begun a private girls' school at Sacred Heart Convent in 1950 and continued it when they moved to Mount St. Joseph, naming it Mount St. Joseph Academy. It remained operational until 1985. They also founded a music school, named St. Joseph's School of Music, which closed in 1982.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the London diocese had missions throughout Ontario and Canada, including Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. They also had missions in Peru and provided relief after Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua.

The Sisters moved to their new residence; a LEED certified green building at 485 Windermere Road in London in 2007. In 2012, the Hamilton, London, Peterborough, and Pembroke congregations chose to amalgamate and become the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. The amalgamation received Royal Assent on June 13, 2013.

Other notes

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

Access points

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

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

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S113-01 - Research and Correspondence

Title: Research and Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-01

Date: 1955-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains research, correspondence, essays, chronicles, and media clippings about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph order and the Sisters of St. Joseph of the London diocese. The primary focus is on the founding of the order in France and the early years in London. Some of the histories present were written by Sisters. Sister Theresa Marie Caillouette wrote on the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph in France and Father Jean-Pierre Medaille. Her writings and research, including material written by Father Nepper, are present. Sister Julia Moore's *The Sisters of St. Joseph Beginnings in London Diocese 1868-1878* is also included. Photocopies of Sister Ignatia Campbell's Act of Profession from 1858 and correspondence arranging for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto to come to London in 1870 are among the research notes. There is also a short biography of St. Roch, patron saint of contagious diseases. There is correspondence with external parties conducting research on the Sisters, one of which was for the Encyclopedic Dictionary of Religious at Rome.

Physical description: 6.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-01 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-01-01

Date: 1970-1971, 2005 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-02 - Father Medaille

Title: Father Medaille

Reference code: F01-S113-01-02

Date: 1974 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Alpha-numeric designations:

[2015-6-1]

File: F01-S113-01-03 - Father Medaille and Father Nepper, Sr. Theresa Marie Caillouette

Title: Father Medaille and Father Nepper, Sr. Theresa Marie Caillouette

Reference code: F01-S113-01-03

Date: 1969 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-04 - Father Medaille and Father Nepper, Sr. Theresa Marie Caillouette

Title: Father Medaille and Father Nepper, Sr. Theresa Marie Caillouette

Reference code: F01-S113-01-04

Date: 1955-1962 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-05 - History of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London

Title: History of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London

Reference code: F01-S113-01-05

Date: 1975 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-06 - History of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London

Title: History of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London

Reference code: F01-S113-01-06

Date: 1975-1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Alpha-numeric designations:

[2013-82-6]

File: F01-S113-01-07 - Media and Articles

Title: Media and Articles

Reference code: F01-S113-01-07

Date: 1958-2006 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-08 - The Sisters of St. Joseph, Beginning in London Diocese 1868-1878, Sr. Julia Moore

Title: The Sisters of St. Joseph, Beginning in London Diocese 1868-1878, Sr. Julia Moore

Reference code: F01-S113-01-08

Date: 1978 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-09 - Articles and Newsclippings

Title: Articles and Newsclippings

Reference code: F01-S113-01-09

Date: 1989-2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-01-10 - Patron Saints

Title: Patron Saints

Reference code: F01-S113-01-10

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: F01-S113-02 - Religious Individual Research and Correspondence

Title: Religious Individual Research and Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-02

Date: 1919-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains research materials and chronicles about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph created and compiled by Sisters, priests, and Bishop R. H. Dignan.

The material includes correspondence about their research, timelines, notes, and news clippings, as well as manuscripts and final versions of papers, essays, and articles chronicling the history of the Sisters. There are photocopies of correspondence from the late 1800s concerning the establishment of the London congregation, Priest John F. Coffey's 1885 *The City and Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada: An Historical Sketch*, and an excerpt from Father John Anthony Kevin Farrell's unpublished thesis "Roman Catholic Church in London 1826-1931." Major topics include the founding of the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the order's history in Canada, the founding of the London congregation, the General Superiors of the London community. Some material also covers the healthcare institutions founded by the London Sisters, education in the diocese of London, and the Peruvian missions.

In addition to their own historical research and writings, some of these individuals were also involved in larger historic projects. Sister Fiorino Pasquale was involved with a diocesan history project, and correspondence about this project and lists of photographs used are in her file.

Physical description: 1 photograph : b&w
5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-01 - Bardawill, Sr. Esther

Title: Bardawill, Sr. Esther

Reference code: F01-S113-02-01

Date: 1974-1993 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-02 - Dignan, Bishop R.H.

Title: Dignan, Bishop R.H.

Reference code: F01-S113-02-02

Date: 1919 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-03 - Farrell, John A.K.

Title: Farrell, John A.K.

Reference code: F01-S113-02-03

Date: [photocopied 19-? (originally created 193-?, 1885)] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-04 - Giroux, Sr. Phyllis

Title: Giroux, Sr. Phyllis

Reference code: F01-S113-02-04

Date: 1991 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-05 - Kennedy, Sr. Teresita

Title: Kennedy, Sr. Teresita

Reference code: F01-S113-02-05

Date: 1979 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-06 - O'Reilly, Sr. Veronica

Title: O'Reilly, Sr. Veronica

Reference code: F01-S113-02-06

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-02-07 - Pasquale, Fiorino

Title: Pasquale, Fiorino

Reference code: F01-S113-02-07

Date: 1993-2007 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: F01-S113-03 - Other Individual Research

Title: Other Individual Research

Reference code: F01-S113-03

Date: 1936-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries is a compilation of various accounts of the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the London diocese. This includes timelines, chronicles, and research essays. Most of these histories do not have a specified author but the few authors who are named are Michael Power, Sister Marie Denise, and Thomas D. Molloy.

While the subseries covers the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph up until the activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the London diocese in the early 2000s, frequent topics include the early days in London, the Motherhouses, the Sisters' social service work, and the charism. One of the histories, "History of the Sisters of St. Joseph," was handwritten at Sacred Heart Convent, London, where the Sisters lived from 1914 to 1953. There is also a pamphlet about the Sisters of St. Joseph of London and a Spiritual Banquet invitation card.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-03-01 - Other Versions of our History [1 of 2]

Title: Other Versions of our History [1 of 2]

Reference code: F01-S113-03-01

Date: 1936-2005 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-03-02 - Other Versions of our History [2 of 2]

Title: Other Versions of our History [2 of 2]

Reference code: F01-S113-03-02

Date: 1936-2005 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: F01-S113-04 - Topic Specific Research

Title: Topic Specific Research

Reference code: F01-S113-04

Date: 1966-[200-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries is focused on the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London in relation to their ministries and involvement in the field of education from 1878 to 1998 and health care in Canada and Peru from 1888-1992. This includes essays, timelines, and booklets. While there are several timelines in this series, one file consists of a timeline of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the London diocese from 1868 to 2006 and lists relevant locations and ministries for each noted time period. Sister Mary Lillian Kuntz, a teacher, and Sister Mary Doyle, an administrator at St. Joseph's Health Centre, London, each have a short biography included. There is also *Guide Lines for Sister Educators*, a booklet compiled in 1966 by the School Advisory Board of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and a prayer book.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-04-01 - Chronological Timeline

Title: Chronological Timeline

Reference code: F01-S113-04-01

Date: [200-] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-04-02 - Education

Title: Education

Reference code: F01-S113-04-02

Date: 1966-[199-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-04-03 - Health Care

Title: Health Care

Reference code: F01-S113-04-03

Date: 1988-[199-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: F01-S113-05 - Early Histories

Title: Early Histories

Reference code: F01-S113-05

Date: 1869-2013 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The Sisters of St. Joseph of London were originally a branch of the Toronto order, the Sisters having been sent to London from Toronto in 1868. The Sisters of St. Joseph in the London diocese became an autonomous congregation on December 18, 1870. The material in this subseries focuses on the early history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in London, especially the foundation and the first Sisters who came to London, as well as the activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto during that time. There are both original documents and copies.

There is material concerning other branch foundations of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, such as a history of Toronto's first branch foundation, Amherstberg, written by Sister Veronica O'Reilly. There is also correspondence from the late 1800s concerning the establishment of a branch of the Toronto order in Sandwich, Ontario. Other correspondence from this period concerns the canonical transfer of the Sisters of St. Joseph in London from the Archdiocese of Toronto to the diocese of London. The Act of Incorporation was finalized in 1871. Copies of the legislation and the 1915 and 1938 amendments are present. An approbation decree and pontifical rights were sent from the Holy See which amended the Sisters' constitution. The decree and correspondence about it are also included.

In 1969, members of the London congregation were researching the first Sisters who came to London from Toronto. There is correspondence about this research, biographies of these Sisters, as well as photocopies of their Acts of Profession and Acts of Reception. There are photographs of Mother Antoinette Mchlonnell, Mother de Chantel, and Sister Teresa Brennan. These here Sisters came to London but returned to Toronto. An account from lay Sister Appolonia Nolan about her time in London, transcribed by Sister M. Josephine of Toronto, and a copy of her photograph are also present. Lay Sisters took the vows of the order but were not obligated to follow all the practices of the congregation.

The Sisters of St. Joseph in the diocese of London, since their founding, have had several motherhouses from they have operated orphanages, homes for the aged, and schools. A photo album with postcards and original and copy photographs of these buildings from 1868 to 2007 is present. Some of the postcards are from the early 1900s, and one is addressed to Reverend Mother Ignatia. It includes material on Kent Street, Mount Hope (later House of Providence), Mount St. Joseph, Sacred Heart Convent, and the Windermere Road residence.

There is also a portrait of Mrs. O'Brien, a benefactor of the community; photographic negatives of historic sites in London, Ontario; the *Catholic Almanac of Ontario for 1901*; correspondence from an external researcher; and a guide for how many Masses are to be said for specific events, such as jubilees or the death of a Sister or priest.

Physical description: 32 photograph : b&w

4 photographs : col.

17 photographs: col. negatives

6 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Conservation:

Material from file F01-S133-05-05 has been separated for preservation.

File: F01-S113-05-01 - Sandwich Ont. Foundation

Title: Sandwich Ont. Foundation

Reference code: F01-S113-05-01

Date: [photocopied 19-? (originally created 1862)] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-02 - Canonical Transfer, 1870. Archbishop Lynch – Toronto

Title: Canonical Transfer, 1870. Archbishop Lynch – Toronto

Reference code: F01-S113-05-02

Date: 1870, 1978-1989 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-03 - Act of Incorporation

Title: Act of Incorporation

Reference code: F01-S113-05-03

Date: [photocopied 19-? (originally created 1871-1938)] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-04 - Act of Incorporation - Correspondence

Title: Act of Incorporation - Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-05-04

Date: 1971 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-05 - Approbation Decree and Pontifical Right

Title: Approbation Decree and Pontifical Right

Reference code: F01-S113-05-05

Date: 1941-1963 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-06 - Benefactors of Community

Title: Benefactors of Community

Reference code: F01-S113-05-06

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-07 - Catholic Almanac of Ont.

Title: Catholic Almanac of Ont.

Reference code: F01-S113-05-07

Date: 1901 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-08 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-05-08

Date: 1969, 1996 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-09 - First Six Sisters - Biographical Sketches

Title: First Six Sisters - Biographical Sketches

Reference code: F01-S113-05-09

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-10 - First Sisters - Reception and Profession Statements

Title: First Sisters - Reception and Profession Statements

Reference code: F01-S113-05-10

Date: 1969 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-11 - Sisters who returned to Toronto in 1868 and 1869

Title: Sisters who returned to Toronto in 1868 and 1869

Reference code: F01-S113-05-11

Date: 1869, [199-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-12 - Lay Sisters - Sr. Appolonia Nolan

Title: Lay Sisters - Sr. Appolonia Nolan

Reference code: F01-S113-05-12

Date: [191-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-13 - Lay Sisters - Correspondence

Title: Lay Sisters - Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S113-05-13

Date: 1999 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-14 - Masses for Deceased - Rev. J. Bayard and Dr. E. B. Kilroy

Title: Masses for Deceased - Rev. J. Bayard and Dr. E. B. Kilroy

Reference code: F01-S113-05-14

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-15 - Amherstburg Foundation - O'Reilly, Sr. Veronica

Title: Amherstburg Foundation - O'Reilly, Sr. Veronica

Reference code: F01-S113-05-15

Date: 2013 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Alpha-numeric designations:

[2013-115]

File: F01-S113-05-16 - Historical Sites – London

Title: Historical Sites – London

Reference code: F01-S113-05-16

Date: 1999 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S113-05-17 - London Motherhouses

Title: London Motherhouses

Reference code: F01-S113-05-17

Date: 1907-2007 (date of creation)

Physical condition: File split into two folders.

Publication status:

Published
