

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Diocese of London series (F01-S128)

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Diocese of London series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Diocese of London series
Reference code:	F01-S128
Date:	1910-1979 (creation)
Physical description:	6.5 cm of textual records 25 photographs : 20 col., 5 b&w 1 negative ; b&w 1 map : col. ; 28 x 12 cm
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 correspondence, journal articles, historical reports, newspaper clippings, prayer cards, sermons, photographs, administrative reports, meeting minutes, speeches and one map relating to the commissions of the Sisters of St. Joseph within the Diocese of London. The series also contains biographical information on Bishop Michael Fallon, including a biography and eulogy, as well as articles related to the Bilingual Controversy that the Bishop was involved in. The series contains reports made by the Mission Commission related to the administration and operation of missions that the Diocese were engaging in from 1971 to 1979. Also included are textual materials related to Sister Flynn and Sister Carmel's missionary visit to Labrador from February 1974. Administrative records reflect the participation of CSJ London in the Second Synod of the Diocese of London in 1966-1969.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred by the administration to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada archives.

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

There is a series and file list.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, 'Our Heritage,' <http://www.csjcanada.org/our-heritage> , accessed 2017/11/22

Diocese of London, 'Our History: History of the Diocese of London,' <https://dol.ca/our-history> , accessed 2017/11/22.

Diocese of London, 'Statistics,' <https://dol.ca/statistics> , accessed 2017/11/22.

E.A. Livingstone, The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Note [General]

A diocese is a level of unit of administration for a Church or religious organization, usually led by a high-ranking church official, such as a bishop. The Diocese of London was established on February 21, 1856 under the guidance of Bishop Pierre-Adolphe Pinsoneault. In 1867, Bishop Pinsoneault was succeeded by Bishop John Walsh. At the request of Bishop Walsh, five Sisters from Toronto answered the call to spearhead the education of children and care for the elderly in the London area, as the population of London was growing due to immigration, primarily of Irish Catholics, to the diocese. The Sisters went on to establish the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada in London in December 11, 1868. The Sisters of St. Joseph served the community through their involvement in health services, education and engagement in religious missions. The fifth Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Michael Francis Fallon, was a strong supporter of Catholic education, and founded St. Peter's Seminary and also helped support the Women's College of the London area, Brescia College. Missionary work was an important part of the work that the Diocese engaged in and organized many committees and commissions. They presided and oversteered the financial and admirable aspects of these missions so that they were both successful and financially sound. In February 1974, Sister Mary Brendan Flynn and Sister Teresa Carmel visited Labrador at the request of Bishop Peter Sutton of the Labrador-Schefferville Diocese. The Sisters participated in Bishop Gerald Emmett Carter's call upon clergy, religious men and women and the laity to participate in the Second Synod of the Diocese of London in 1966-1969 to restructure and address church reform to include active participation from church laity. Currently the Diocese of London comprises of southwestern counties of Ontario including Middlesex, Elgin, Norfolk, Oxford, Perth, Huron, Lambton, Kent and Essex Counties.

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

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S128-01: Bishop Fallon

Date: 1910-1953 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of correspondence, journal articles, historical reports, newspaper clippings, prayer cards, sermons, and photographs pertaining to the life of Bishop Fallon. These records include biographical material about the Bishop's career as a clergyman, such as a photocopy of his naturalization papers from the United States of America, dated 1908. Of particular note, there is material about his involvement in the bilingual controversy of 1910, where Bishop Fallon was quoted by the Toronto Globe, out of context, making derogatory remarks about French Canadians and their education within schools run by the Church, and the subsequent investigation by the Catholic Church. Also included are sermons and speeches he made during his canonical visits to the Sisters of St. Joseph between 1917 to 1926. The sub-series also contains the eulogy that was written about the Bishop after his death in 1935.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

5 photographs : b&w

8 photographs : col

1 negative : b&w

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S128-01-01	File - Biographical information and sermons		

F01-S128-01-02	File - Bilingual Controversy
F01-S128-01-03	File - Canonical Visitations 1917-1926

Subseries F01-S128-02: Bishop Peter Sutton

Date: 1973-1975 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries is comprised of correspondence, reports, photographs, and one map relating to two cities in Labrador (Labrador City and Wabush). There are materials from visits to Labrador in February 1974 made by Sr. Mary Brendan Flynn and Sr. Teresa Carmel Slavik. Also included are historical and demographic field reports that detail the history, community and culture of Labrador City and the development of church and school programs in the area. One map, made using the spirit duplicating process, details the mining district locations of Labrador. Also included is correspondence from the students and educators of the local church-run school with drawings of their experiences in Labrador City. These drawings portray the school, church, town and travel by planes and cars.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

12 photographs : col.

1 map : col. ; 28 x 12 cm

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S128-02-01	File - Visit to Labrador-Srs. Mary Brendan Flynn and Teresa Carmel Slavik	1973-1975	1 cm of textual records 12 photographs : col. 1 map : col. ; 28 x 12 cm

Subseries F01-S128-03: Missions

Date: 1971-1979 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains reports and correspondence related to the administration of the Sisters of St-Joseph activities related to religious missions. There is a report by Father Courtright, the director of missions for the Diocese of London, which discusses finances and makes recommendations. The subseries also includes a letter concerning the prospect of creating of a mission commission in the Synod of the Diocese of London, to look over and review applications to engage in religious missions.

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-S128-03-01	File - Mission Commission 1971-1979	1971-1979	0.5 cm of textual records
Subseries F01-S128-04: Synod of the Diocese			
<u>Date:</u> 1966-1968 (creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u> This series contains correspondence, meeting minutes, reports and speeches relating to the Synod of the Diocese in London, Ontario. Included in this subseries are planning details, attendance records, and meeting speeches relating to the work of the Synodal commission of the Diocese. The Sisters of St. Joseph, along with priests and lay people, participated in the Synodal commission.			
<u>Physical description:</u> 2 cm of textual records			
<u>Access points:</u>			
• Textual record (documentary form)			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
Published			

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S128-04-01: Correspondence, Meeting Minutes, Reports and Speeches			
<u>Date:</u> 1966-1968 (creation)			
<u>Physical description:</u> 2 cm of textual records			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
Published			