

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

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Education, Windsor, ON series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Education, Windsor, ON series
Reference code:	F01-S118
Date:	1939-2008 (creation)
Physical description:	30 cm of textual records 4 photographs : b&w 12 photographs : col.

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, 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.

Scope and content

This series concerns the involvement of the Sisters of St. Joseph from the London diocese in the field of education in Windsor, Ontario. There is material concerned with the religious orientation of the schools and the teaching qualifications and roles of religious staff. This includes records from the Special Commission of Inquiry in Regard to Brennan High School, Windsor, Ontario such as reports, correspondence, and meeting minutes. Other material in this series includes correspondence, photographs, histories, news clippings, booklets, event programs, yearbooks, and regulations from the Windsor Roman Catholic Separate School Board. The correspondence concerns the quality of religious education, teachers' salaries, the history of Sisters' involvement in education in Windsor, and reunion and anniversary events.

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 Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Arrangement

Order was 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

Files F01-S118-04-01 and F01-S118-03-01 contain information 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

Series and file list available. Series and file list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

C. Bondy (ed.), *The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London: Their Contribution to the Health Field in Canada and in Peru. Their Contribution to the Education Field in Canada and Other Parts Of The World*, unpublished manuscript. (Researchers: E. Bardawill, C. Bondy, M . L. Kirwin, C. Kuefler.) Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives, *The Sisters of St. Joseph-Windsor Historical Sites*, London, 2016.

Note [General]

At the request of Father Beaudoin, the Sisters of St. Joseph from the London diocese opened the first separate school classes in the vestry and rectory of Notre Dame Church on May 1, 1894. The first convent on Drouillard Road later became the Jean Sam Laundry, with the new St. Joseph's convent at 267 Cadillac Street in Walkerville opening in 1901. In 1912, Ford Motor Works opened in Walkerville, and that part of town, now known as Ford, saw a rapid growth in population. Ford City, as Windsor was called in 1924, was bounded by Walkerville on the west and the town of Riverside on the east. The early schools included Holy Rosary School (1922), Notre Dame School (1894), Sacred Heart School (1908), St. Anne's School (1904), St. Bernard's School (1931), St. Cecile's School, Riverside, St. Joseph's School, both intermediate and elementary (1922), St. Jules School (1923); St. Louis School (1895), St. Peter's School, Riverside (1923), and St. Thomas School, Riverside.

By June of 1927, there were nine schools with 2,131 pupils. The population boom in Ford City, meant that by September 1928, the enrolment in schools totaled 1,591 pupils. By the end of October 1928, half of the more than 8,000 workers who were employed by Ford were laid off.

In the early years, only grades 9 and 10 received some provincial funding, and there were only two private fee-based Catholic high schools in Windsor: St. Mary's Academy and Assumption High school. St. Joseph's High school opened in 1928 with an addition in 1930. The Sisters who taught at the school received a salary only for grades 9-10 and the Sister principal received no salary at all. There were no tuition fees and no financial assistance from taxes, only a per student fee paid by the Sandwich East Board for their pupils.

In 1936, Windsor amalgamated with East Windsor (formerly Ford City), leading to a great increase in the number of students at St. Joseph's High school.

At various times in the 1950s and 1960s, Sisters were teaching or acting as administrators at Brennan High School (1966), Holy Family School, Holy Rosary School, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Riverside Separate School, Sacred Heart School, St. Alexander Intermediate School, St. Andrew's School, St. Anne's School, St. Bernard's School, St. Jules' School, St. Maria Goretti School, St. Rose School, St. Thomas School in Riverside, both the elementary and intermediate St. Joseph's Schools, and Sir George Vanier School (1970).

By the early 1990s, the Sisters of St. Joseph had taught in many schools in Windsor, including as well as those previously mentioned, Assumption High School (1971); Catholic Central High School (1990), H.B. McManus School, Holy Names High School (1985), Immaculate Conception School, L.A. Desmarais School, St. Alexander's Senior School, St. Therese School (1980), and W.J. Langlois School.

Over the years in Essex County, the Sisters taught in these locations: Belle River: 1889 to 1984, Leamington and Kingsville: 1932-1982, Maidstone (including Essex), 1930-1979, and of course, Windsor (including Walkerville, Sandwich and Ford), 1894 to 1996.

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

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S118-01: Holy Family School

Date: 1988 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-01-01	File - Holy Family School	1988	

Subseries F01-S118-02: St. Jules School

Date: 1966, 1977 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-02-01	File - St. Jules School	1966, 1977	

Subseries F01-S118-03: F. J. Brennan High School

Date: 1954-1988 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-03-01	File - F. J. Brennan H.S.		
F01-S118-03-02	File - 1966- Caritas. Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Six [yearbook]	1966	
F01-S118-03-03	File - 1968-Caritas. Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Eight [yearbook]	1968	
F01-S118-03-04	File - 1969-Caritas. Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Nine [yearbook]	1969	
F01-S118-03-05	File - Corpus Christi Caritas 1954 [yearbook]	1954	
F01-S118-03-06	File - 1985-Touch of Class Caritas '85 [yearbook]	1985	
F01-S118-03-07	File - 1988-Caritas [yearbook]	1988	

Subseries F01-S118-04: St. Joseph's High School

Date: 1939-1953, 1989 [photocopied 19-?] -2008 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-04-01	File - St. Joseph's High School	1933-2005	
F01-S118-04-02	File - St. Joseph's High School – Forest Glade-1989-1998; Private H.S. – 1928-1965		
F01-S118-04-03	File - 1990-1928-1965; 1989-an exciting new beginning [yearbook]		
F01-S118-04-04	File - 1990-1991-St. Joseph's Lasers. The Year in Review [yearbook]	1991	
F01-S118-04-05	File - 1991-1992-Together We Are Strong. The Lasers of St. Joseph's High School [yearbook]	1992	
F01-S118-04-06	File - 1992-1993-Lasers Building Together at 5420 Empress Street [yearbook]	1993	
F01-S118-04-07	File - 1993-1994-Those Were The Days [yearbook]	1994	

F01-S118-04-08	File - 1994-1995-For the Laser in You [yearbook]	1995
F01-S118-04-09	File - 1995-1996-It's about time! [yearbook]	1996
F01-S118-04-10	File - 1996-1997-You Said It [yearbook]	1997
F01-S118-04-11	File - 1997-1998-Legend...with honours [yearbook]	1998
F01-S118-04-12	File - Tattler 1938-9 [yearbook]	1939
F01-S118-04-13	File - Tatler 1939-1940 [yearbook]	1940
F01-S118-04-14	File - Guardian 1953 [yearbook]	1953
F01-S118-04-15	File - St. Joseph's High School photographs	1940
F01-S118-04-16	File - St. Joseph's 1952 yearbook [2017-20]	1952

Subseries F01-S118-05: Holy Names High School

Date: 1986-2004 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-05-01	File - Holy Names High School		
F01-S118-05-02	File - 1985-1986-Beginnings: '85-'86. Camelot [yearbook]	1986	
F01-S118-05-03	File - 1986-1987-Beginnings: '86-'87. Camelot [yearbook]	1987	
F01-S118-05-04	File - 1987-1988 -Life in Camelot. Camelot [yearbook]	1988	
F01-S118-05-05	File - 1989-1990-Lasting Impressions [yearbook]	1990	
F01-S118-05-06	File - 1990-1991-Breaking Ground [yearbook]	1991	
F01-S118-05-07	File - 1991-1992-Into the Light [yearbook]	1992	

Subseries F01-S118-06: Assumption College School

Date: 1977-1988 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description

F01-S118-06-01	File - 1977-The 1977 Crusader [yearbook]	1977
F01-S118-06-02	File - 1979-The 1979 Crusader [yearbook]	1979
F01-S118-06-03	File - 1982-The 1982 Crusader [yearbook]	1982
F01-S118-06-04	File - 1983-The 1983 Crusader [yearbook]	1983
F01-S118-06-05	File - 1984-The 1984 Crusader [yearbook]	1984
F01-S118-06-06	File - 1985-The 1985 Crusader [yearbook]	1985
F01-S118-06-07	File - 1987-1987 Crusader [yearbook]	1987
F01-S118-06-08	File - 1988-The '88 Crusader [yearbook]	1988

Subseries F01-S118-07: Windsor Roman Catholic Separate School Board

Date: 1965, 1983-1989 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-07-01	File - Windsor R. C. Separate School Board	1965, 1983-1989	

Subseries F01-S118-08: Catholic Central High

Date: 1988 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S118-08-01	File - Catholic Central High 87-88 [yearbook]	1988	