

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Formation series (F01-S100)

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Formation series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Formation series
Reference code:	F01-S100
Date:	1948-2003 (creation)
Physical description:	10 cm of textual records 7 photographs : col. ; 13 x 9 cm 8 photographs : b&w ; 26 x 21 cm 1 poster : col. ; 43 x 28 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 includes a variety of textual records and photographs related to the vocational activity of the Sisters of St. Joseph. There are correspondence, newspaper clippings, bookmarks, advertisements, pamphlets, brochures, program outlines, catalogues, registers, photographs, communication records, newsletters, bulletins, memos, minutes, advertisements, bookmarks, and booklets. The materials were created predominantly in London, Ontario and Edmonton, Alberta. The main function of the materials in this series relates to providing information as well as the administration of the formation process.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred by the Congregation to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives - London site.

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]

Sr. Theresa Marie Caillouette, pers. comm.

Note [General]

In order to become a Sister of St. Joseph, a woman had to complete the formation process. She spent at least six months as a postulant when she first entered the convent. She then became a novice and spent two years in this position. During the first year, known as the canonical year, she could take no outside work. She studied her vows, the charism, and the life of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In the second year, she could possibly do some outside ministry, but not fill a professional role such as a nurse. After the first two and a half years, she took her first vows. After this, she could have a ministry. The first vows were considered temporary vows. The next three to six years were spent in the Juniorate. After this, she took her final vows and became a professed Sister.

The Tertiationship was an opportunity to regroup and reaffirm for a professed Sister who had been in a Ministry. It could only be taken once and took place in a one-month period. Tertiationship was not part of the formation process, although one could view it as part of ongoing formation. After a while, the Tertiationship process died out and all Sisters were encouraged to study the works of the Vatican Council.

Vocation is the process of encouraging a woman to heed the call to enter religious life.

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

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S100-01: Novitiate

Date: 1951-2000 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series includes correspondence, invitations, documents relating to postulant requirements and lists of Novice Mistresses.

Physical description: 1 photograph: col. ; 9 x 9 cm
0.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-01-01	File - Formation - Novitiate Formation Postulancy [1963-2000]	1951-2000	1 photograph : col. ; 9 x 9 cm 0.5 cm of textual records

Subseries F01-S100-02: Juniorate

Date: 1970-1973 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series includes documents relating to Juniorate requirements, conference proceedings, a bulletin from the National Sisters Formation Conference and a list of Mistresses of Junior Professed Sisters.

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-S100-02-01	File - Formation - Juniorate [1970-1973]	1970-1973	0.5 cm of textual records

Subseries F01-S100-03: Photographs

Date: [ca. 1958]-[1980] (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series includes photographs depicting Sisters during the formation process and encouraging other women to join the Congregation at vocational fairs and events. Sisters at the postulant, novice and other levels of formation are portrayed.

Physical description: 8 photographs: b&w ; 26 x 21 cm
2 photographs: col. ; 13 x 9 cm

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-03-01	File - Sisters Photographs – Sisters-in-Formation	[ca. 1958]-[1980]	8 photographs: b&w ; 26 x 21 cm 2 photographs: col. ; 13 x 9 cm

Subseries F01-S100-04: World Day of Prayer

Date: 1990 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of correspondence, liturgy aids and a poster for the Sisters of St. Joseph's participation in the World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who advocate for peace and justice. This event, held annually from 1926 to the present, engages religious women worldwide.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records
1 poster : col. ; 43 x 28 cm

Note [General] : World Day of Prayer, Interchurch Center (New York)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-04-01	File - Formation/Vocation – World Day of Prayer [1990]	1990	0.5 cm of textual records 1 poster : col. ; 43 x 28 cm

Subseries F01-S100-05: Administration

Date: [19-? -1989] (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series comprises documents related to the administration of the formation process including as correspondence, invitations, programs for the Feast of Mother St. John Fontbonne and for Vocation Day in Ignatia Hall (London, Ontario), clippings, and vocation committee pamphlets and minutes

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-05-01	File - Formation Program	[19-?]	
F01-S100-05-02	File - Application Forms and Formation Manual	[1975]	
F01-S100-05-03	File - Vocation Committee	[1973-1989]	

Subseries F01-S100-06: Newspaper Clippings

Date: 1948, 1965-1966, 2003 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains newspaper clippings about the formation and vocation of the Sisters. The newspaper clippings include a personal account of one Sister's journey from The Boston Globe as well as clippings about becoming a Sister, news about the vocational and community work of the Sisters, and the history of Sisters of St. Joseph in London in The Canadian Register.

Physical description: 2 cm textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-06-01	File - Boston Globe Magazine – “Becoming a Nun”	[2003]	
F01-S100-06-02	File - Newspaper Items on Formation, Vocation, Etc.		

Subseries F01-S100-07: Communications

Date: 1953-2002 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contain materials related to how the Sisters communicated about formation inside and outside the community. These communication materials include newsletters, bulletins, brochures, newspaper clippings, correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, memos, advertisements, bookmarks, program outlines, a catalogue, a register, booklets and a register. There are materials that pertain to both London, Ontario and Edmonton, Alberta.

Physical description: 4.5 cm textual records

4 photographs : col. ; 9 x 13 cm

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S100-07-01	File - Vocation Committee and bulletins, etc. 1996	[1996-1997]	
F01-S100-07-02	File - Formation -Vocation -Newsletters & Correspondence	[1999-2002]	
F01-S100-07-03	File - Vocation Material – Sisters of St. Joseph of London	[1953-1977]	