

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - General Secretary series (F01-S011)

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General Secretary series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	General Secretary series
Reference code:	F01-S011
Date:	1995-2007 (creation)
Physical description:	11 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. Joseph's 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 consists of records produced in the course of the business activity of the General Secretary. There are documents pertaining to the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a pilgrimage taken in 2005, memorials and anniversaries such as the 135th and 138th anniversaries of the founding of the London Congregation, and Mother St. John Fontbonne. The series also contains material on the CSJ International Center in Le Puy-en-Velay, France, the sale of the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in 2004, and activity reports.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred from the office of the General Secretary to the 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 [General]

The General Secretary is a member of the Leadership Council. From 1999 to 2007, the General Secretary was Sister Pat Hogan. At the end of Sr. Pat Hogan's term, Sister Jean Moylan replaced her and served until 2012. The Leadership Council is the decision making body of the Congregation. The positions on the Council comprise the General Superior, General Secretary, General Treasurer, and two General Councillors. Sisters are elected to the Leadership Council at Chapter meetings, held every four years. Every two years, midway between Chapter meetings, an Assembly meeting is held.

The Leadership Council forms the local leadership for the religious community. In 2012, the London Congregation amalgamated with the Congregations in Hamilton, Peterborough and Pembroke to form a new Congregation called the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. As a result, the Leadership Council is now drawn from members of the four formerly separate Congregations.

The Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada was an umbrella organization formed in 1965. It comprised the Congregations in Toronto, Peterborough, Hamilton, London, Pembroke and Sault Ste. Marie.

The records in this series were created by the formerly separate Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Diocese of London.

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-S011-01: History

Date: 1995-2006 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains records relating to the history of the Congregation and activities of Sisters from across Canada, the United States and Europe. There is a booklet and documents about the history of Le Puy-en-Velay, France, and a pilgrimage taken there. There is a history of the London Diocese and Mother Ignatia Campbell. There are reports, memorabilia and booklets concerning the 350th anniversary of the Congregation, and a genealogy. There are several pamphlets and litanies for a Federation event. Finally, there is a property report and a printed reproduction of the coat of arms.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S011-01-01	File - Historical Summaries and Notes [1] – 2005 Pilgrimage [2013-6-3]		
F01-S011-01-02	File - Historical Summaries and Notes [2] [2013-6-4]		

Subseries F01-S011-02: Events

Date: 2003-2005 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains records regarding events including memorials and anniversaries. There are a number of booklets and pamphlets relating to the 135th anniversary of the founding of the London Congregation, and the memorial of Mother St. John Fontbonne.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S011-02-01	File - Memorial & Anniversary Events [2013-6-2]	2003-2005	2 cm of textual records

Subseries F01-S011-03: Sale of Mount St. Joseph

Date: 2004-2005 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains correspondence, a sales report, and newspaper clippings regarding the sale of the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in London property and furnishings. Correspondence consists of letters between the General Superior and other Sisters, and with various organizations.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S011-03-01	File - Sale of the Mount 2004 [2013-6-1]	2004-2005	1 cm of textual records

Subseries F01-S011-04: CSJ InternationalDate: 2000-2007 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains correspondence between Sisters including about the Mission Effectiveness Program offered in 2007 and a Lay Leaders Program. There is also correspondence about the International Centre in Le Puy-en-Velay, France and newsletters from the Centre giving updates on various programs including the Young Adult Program and Global Ministry. There is correspondence between the Federation and the International Centre. There is also a vision statement, financial reports, and a budget report and minutes from the Governing committee. The records comprise correspondence, newspaper clippings, reports, and meeting minutes.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual recordsAccess points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S011-04-01	File - CSJ International Centre	2000-2007	2 cm of textual records

Subseries F01-S011-05: Activity ReportsDate: 1995-2006 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of activity reports used by the administration to track the progress of Congregational activities, as well as Assembly committee reports and Chapter reports. Summaries of Congregational activities include a monthly calendar keeping track of administration, community life, staff, community outreach and strategic planning. The Assembly committee reports include reports on vocation and from the donations committee, formation committee, governance committee, Leadership/membership committee, member to member committee, Motherhouse strategic planning committee, and systems committee. The Chapter report contains information on matters preceding the Chapter, including membership, ministries, response to societal issues, temporal affairs reports and appendices.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual recordsPublication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S011-05-01	File - Activity Reports [2013-6-6]	1995-2006	2 cm of textual records