

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - History collection (F01-S144)

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Language of description: English

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History collection

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Summary information

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|--|--|
| Repository: | Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada |
| Title: | History collection |
| Reference code: | F01-S144 |
| Date: | 1925-2014 (creation) |
| Physical description: | 53 cm of textual records 60 photographs : b&w. 51 photographs : col. 25 photographs : b&w negatives 1 photograph : b&w negative 12 x10 cm 1 painting : watercolour on paper ; 26 x 21 cm 34 postcards : col. 10 postcards : b&w |
| Language: | English |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | July 2, 2020May 11, 2023May 15, 2023 |

Scope and content

This is a collection of reference materials collected by the Sisters illustrating the history and foundation of the congregations in Canada, the USA, and France. The collection illustrates Mother St. John Fontbonne's life and work. There is a special focus on the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the London diocese. The collection is comprised of publications, calendars, correspondence, news clippings, photographs, postcards, an international directory, family tree diagrams, and a watercolor painting.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The archivist accumulated these records to form a history collection. In the past, the archivist also served as a documentarian.

Arrangement

This is a collection, accumulated 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

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. Retrieved from: <http://www.csjcanada.org/our-heritage>. 2013.

Note [General]

The Sisters of St. Joseph congregation began in Le Puy, France in 1650 when six women joined together to offer their lives to those in need. By 1683, they had expanded the congregation to Gap, St. Vallier and Vienne. The women devoted their time to caring for the sick, the aging, orphans, the poor, and the imprisoned. During the French Revolution, the convents were suppressed, and many Sisters were arrested and imprisoned, including Mother St. John Fontbonne. After the French Revolution in 1808, Mother St. John Fontbonne re-established the congregation in Lyon, France and in 1863 many Sisters were sent to North America, where the first congregation, Carondelet, was established in St. Louis, Missouri, with the help of Mother Delphine Fontbonne. She later went on to establish the congregation in Toronto, Ontario in 1851. This was followed by the founding of the Hamilton congregation in 1852, the London congregation in 1868, the Peterborough congregation in 1890, and the Pembroke congregation in 1921.

The Sisters of St. Joseph still flourishes today, and in 2012 four of the six Congregations, Hamilton, London, Peterborough, and Pembroke, joined together to become the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. The Sisters' still make it their mission to reflect "a profound love of God and of neighbour without distinction". Today, the Sisters of St. Joseph can be found worldwide in over 54 countries and continue to respond to the needs of others.

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.)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Art (documentary form)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- London (place)
- United States of America (USA) (place)
- France (place)

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S144-01: Canada

Date: 1951-2003 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains material concerning the foundations of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada including in Hamilton, Pembroke, Peterborough, Toronto, and St. Vallier. The records include publications, anniversary pamphlets, news articles, event programmes, memorabilia, correspondence, and postcards. This subseries also contains photographs, including from the 100th anniversary celebration in Peterborough.

Physical description: 12 cm of textual records

13 photographs : col.

2 photographs : b&w

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|---|-------|----------------------|
| F01-S144-01-01 | File - Hamilton, Ont. | | |
| F01-S144-01-02 | File - Hamilton, Ont. publication | | |
| F01-S144-01-03 | File - Pembroke, Ont. publications | | |

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|----------------|--|------------|
| F01-S144-01-04 | File - Peterborough, Ont. publications and anniversary 1986,1990 | 1986,1990 |
| F01-S144-01-05 | File - Sault Ste Marie, Ont. (North Bay) pageant programme and photos | |
| F01-S144-01-06 | File - Toronto, Ont. notes | |
| F01-S144-01-07 | File - Toronto, Ont. correspondence 1997, 2003 | 1997, 2003 |
| F01-S144-01-08 | File - Toronto, Ont. news clippings | |
| F01-S144-01-09 | File - Toronto, Ont. memorabilia and accounts 1951-2001 | 1951-2001 |
| F01-S144-01-10 | File - Toronto, Ont. 1962 | 1962 |
| F01-S144-01-11 | File - Act of profession research by Sr. Bernita Young, Toronto, Ont. | |
| F01-S144-01-12 | File - Eucharistic letter research by Sr. Bernita Young, Toronto Ont. | |
| F01-S144-01-13 | File - St. Vallier, Quebec jubilees, postcards | |

Subseries F01-S144-02: USA

Date: 1927-1986 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains historical information and photographs concerning different areas in the United States where the congregation is established including, Carondelet, Erie, Chestnut Hill, Nazareth, St. Paul, Rochester, and Buffalo. There are a number of publications, correspondence, biographies, postcards, anniversary pamphlets, and newspaper clippings. This subseries also contains a history about Carondelet in St. Louis, where the Sisters established the first congregation in North America. There are a number of photographs of Fontbonne College in Carondelet, as well as negatives taken at the college. Also included in the subseries is a letter written by Sister M. Assisium in 1927 regarding the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia.

Physical description: 11 cm of textual records

32 photographs : col.

8 photographs : b&w

25 photographs : b&w negatives

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|--|-------|----------------------|
| F01-S144-02-01 | File - First Convent-St. Louis, MO-2 prints [2012-55] | | |

| | | |
|----------------|--|------|
| F01-S144-02-02 | File - Postcard of Carondelet ca. 1930s [2012-96] | |
| F01-S144-02-03 | File - Carondelet, Missouri-photographs [2014-48] | |
| F01-S144-02-04 | File - Carondelet, St. Louis, MO background | |
| F01-S144-02-05 | File - Information, photos, postcard, Carondelet, St. Louis, MO | |
| F01-S144-02-06 | File - Carondelet, St. Louis, MO 150th anniversary | 1986 |
| F01-S144-02-07 | File - Sr. Genevieve Schillo, Carondelet, MO. correspondence, publications, and postcards | |
| F01-S144-02-08 | File - St. Louis, Missouri 1958 | 1958 |
| F01-S144-02-09 | File - St. Louis Missouri 1959 | 1959 |
| F01-S144-02-10 | File - Erie, Pennsylvania correspondence | |
| F01-S144-02-11 | File - Erie, Pennsylvania 1967 | 1967 |
| F01-S144-02-12 | File - Newsletter, Holyoke, Mass. 1974 | 1974 |
| F01-S144-02-13 | File - Correspondence, postcards, anniversary, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa | |
| F01-S144-02-14 | File - Philadelphia 1961 | 1961 |
| F01-S144-02-15 | File - Sr. M. Assisium correspondence, Philadelphia 1927 | 1927 |
| F01-S144-02-16 | File - Nazareth, Michigan 75th Anniversary | |
| F01-S144-02-17 | File - Sr. Dorothy Ann Svihel, St. Paul Minnesota | |
| F01-S144-02-18 | File - Wheeling, West Virginia 1963 | 1963 |
| F01-S144-02-19 | File - Rochester, New York 1964 | 1964 |
| F01-S144-02-20 | File - Buffalo, New York 1966 | 1966 |

Subseries F01-S144-03: France

Date: 1925-2003 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains records regarding the Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation in France. Most of the documents are about Sisters visits to Le Puy, Chambéry, Annecy, and Lyon, France. There are many postcards, maps, and pamphlets from different areas in France. The subseries also contains correspondence, and a history of Le Puy. The subseries includes a booklet documenting the Sisters' pilgrimage in 2003. The Sisters' traveled to various areas of France during the pilgrimage including Le Puy and Lyon and visited historical places, such as the Annecy Motherhouse, that were significant to the congregation. Also included are letters addressed to Reverend Mother from 1925 and 1926. There are three letters written in French from 1926 written by Sister Marie de J#sus, Superior General, along with their English translations. Additionally, there are two letters from Istituto delle

Religiose di S. Giuseppe in 1925, written by Sister Wilhelmina and Sister Serafinia. The subseries also contains material related to the canonization of Mother St. Joseph Chanay.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual records.

5 photographs : b&w

5 photographs : col.

34 postcards : col.

10 postcards : b&w

Language of the material:

- English
- French

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|---|-------|----------------------|
| F01-S144-03-01 | File - Le Puy, France photographs, postcards, pamphlet | | |
| F01-S144-03-02 | File - Le Puy postcard | | |
| F01-S144-03-03 | File - Six women in Le Puy Julie Harkins, CSJ, Boston | | |
| F01-S144-03-04 | File - Sr. Anne Marie Carey trip to Le Puy, Lyon, 1985 | 1985 | |
| F01-S144-03-05 | File - Le Puy, France background | | |
| F01-S144-03-06 | File - Central International of Sisters of St. Joseph Le Puy, France | | |
| F01-S144-03-07 | File - Letter of Sr. Francis Eyraud | | |
| F01-S144-03-08 | File - Sr. Francis Eyraud- 1st superior in Le Puy-Letter | | |
| F01-S144-03-09 | File - Mother St. Joseph Chanay Bordeaux, France 1926 | 1926 | |
| F01-S144-03-10 | File - Annecy, France correspondence 1997 | 1997 | |
| F01-S144-03-11 | File - Chambery, France, anniversary and biography | | |
| F01-S144-03-12 | File - Lyon, France correspondence and constitutions | | |
| F01-S144-03-13 | File - Lyon, France information, photos, and postcards 1941 | 1941 | |
| F01-S144-03-14 | File - Pilgrimage 2003 [2016-22] | 2003 | |

Subseries F01-S144-04: International

Date: 1976 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series includes an international directory of the Sisters of St. Joseph, recording the addresses of motherhouse, and the numbers of Sisters in United States, Brazil, Japan, Peru, and Canada. The sub-series also contains two diagrams of the Sisters of St. Joseph family tree illustrating how the Sisters of St. Joseph branched out across the world, from their beginnings in Le Puy, France in 1650 to 1977.

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-S144-04-01 | File - International directory of Sisters of St. Joseph 1976 | 1976 | |
| F01-S144-04-02 | File - The Sisters of St. Joseph family trees (locations 1650 to 1977) | | |

Subseries F01-S144-05: Mother St. John Fontbonne

Date: 1943-2006 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains records illustrating Mother St. John Fontbonne's life and work. It consists of pamphlets, publications, a copy of her notebook from prison, her biography, and her reflections, and prayers. It also includes twelve black and white photographs and one negative showing Mother St. John Fontbonne's grave and her portrait.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

12 photographs : b&w ; 24 x 18 cm or smaller

1 photograph : b&w negative ; 12 x 10 cm

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|---|-------|----------------------|
| F01-S144-05-01 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne pamphlets | | |
| F01-S144-05-02 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne publications | | |
| F01-S144-05-03 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne, copy of notebook from prison, bookmark | | |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| F01-S144-05-04 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne biography 2001, 2004 |
| F01-S144-05-05 | File - Background of foundation of St. Joseph |
| F01-S144-05-06 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne reflections and prayers |
| F01-S144-05-07 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne photos and prayer |
| F01-S144-05-08 | File - Mother St. John Fontbonne prayer |

Subseries F01-S144-06: London symbol

Date: 1969-1993 (creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of a description of the coat of arms of the London congregation, along with the history and the purpose of this symbol. It also includes the original coat of arms drawing from Dr. Conrad Swan. Also included are newspaper clippings reporting that Dr. Swan was the first Canadian to be appointed to Britain's prestigious College of Arms in 1973.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records
1 painting : watercolour on paper ; 26 x 21cm

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|---|-----------|----------------------|
| F01-S144-06-01 | File - Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto [2014-104] | | |
| F01-S144-06-02 | File - Sisters of St. Joseph London Coat of Arms 1969, 1973, 1992-93 | 1969-1993 | |

Subseries F01-S144-07: London draft publication

Date: 2014 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains a draft publication which focuses on the Sisters' contribution to the health field in Canada and in Peru, and to the education field in Canada and other parts of the world.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

| File / item list | | | |
|------------------|---|-------|----------------------|
| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
| F01-S144-07-01 | File - Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London [Healthcare Contribution] [2014-104] | | |
| F01-S144-07-02 | File - Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London [Education Contribution] [2014-104] | | |

Subseries F01-S144-08: London, Ont.

Date: 1962-2014 (creation)

Scope and content: The subseries contains records illustrating the history of the Sisters. It consists of articles and prayers, history snippets, notes describing the establishment of the London congregation, hospital stories, and information on formation and tertianship. This subseries also includes articles on the history of Josephs' House, Killam General Hospital, Marian Villa, and orphanages, as well as publications and calendars. Photographs and newspaper clippings on habit commission from 1996 to 1980 are also included in this subseries. The photographs illustrate the experimentation in habit changes in 1968.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

23 photographs : b&w

1 photograph : col.

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

| File / item list | | | |
|------------------|---|------------|----------------------|
| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
| F01-S144-08-01 | File - St. Joseph articles and prayers | 1962, 1971 | |
| F01-S144-08-02 | File - SSJ history snippets | | |
| F01-S144-08-03 | File - Establishment of London congregation, important date [2014-104] | | |
| F01-S144-08-04 | File - Hospital Stories [2014-104] | | |
| F01-S144-08-05 | File - OH Formation and Tertianship [2014-110] | 2014 | |
| F01-S144-08-06 | File - OH Joseph's House Sr. Maria Van Leeuwen | 2013 | |
| F01-S144-08-07 | File - OH Killam General Hospital [2014-110] | 2014 | |
| F01-S144-08-08 | File - OH Mt. St. Joseph Orphanage [2014-110] | 2014 | |
| F01-S144-08-09 | File - OH Marian Villa [2014-110] | 2014 | |

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| F01-S144-08-10 | File - OH X-Ray Technology [2014-110] | 2014 |
| F01-S144-08-11 | File - OH London Catholic Schools [2014-110] | 2014 |
| F01-S144-08-12 | File - OH Publications and calendars | |
| F01-S144-08-13 | File - Sisters of St. Joseph Orphanages during the past hundred years Sr. Louise Chechak [2017-16] | |
| F01-S144-08-14 | File - Calendar [2013-75] | 1988 |
| F01-S144-08-15 | File - Maria Stam [2013-108] | |
| F01-S144-08-16 | File - Gerald Fagan Singers concert [2013-29] | 2012 |
| F01-S144-08-17 | File - SSJ London habit commission | 1996-1980 |