

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Jamaica Annals series (HF01-S002)

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Jamaica Annals series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Jamaica Annals series
Reference code:	HF01-S002
Date:	1989-2011 (creation)
Physical description:	8 cm of textual records 90 photographs : col. 2 photo albums
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	November 14, 2018July 2, 2020May 22, 2023March 13, 2024

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Hamilton was first incorporated on December 30, 1879 under chapter 167 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1877. The name was changed to The Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton in 1989. The city of Hamilton is on the traditional territory of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga Peoples.

On April 19, 1852, at the request of the Very Rev. E. Gordon, Vicar General of Hamilton and with the approval of Bishop de Charbonnel, the only Bishop in western Ontario at that time, three Sisters of St. Joseph came to Hamilton from Toronto. They opened their first convent on Cannon and McNab Streets. Here the Sisters ran a private elementary school and cared for orphans until 1857. In 1854, there was a cholera epidemic, followed by an outbreak of typhus. The Sisters were placed in charge of immigrants stricken with the disease and housed in railway sheds.

The Sisters founded St. Mary's Orphanage in Hamilton in 1852. Orphan care began with two orphan girls in the first convent. Beginning in 1856, residential care was provided for girls at the Motherhouse. In 1857, a girls' quarters opened in the convent at 204 Park Street. In 1864, a separate building was built for St. Mary's Orphanage with additions in 1874, 1881, 1884, and 1886. Then from 1933-1935, a building owned by the diocese was purchased at 354 King Street West and used for orphan girls. In 1936, a new Mount St. Joseph at the same location opened for girls with both boys and girls in residence from 1951 to 1960. The Sisters also provided residential care for orphan boys at the Motherhouse from 1856-1879, and then at the House of Providence, Dundas, Ontario from 1879-1900. In 1903, an annex was built for boys at St. Mary's, followed by a new building for boys at St. Mary's Orphanage in 1909. After this, from 1951-1960, boys were housed at Mount St. Joseph. The first Orphans' Festival was held in the town hall to raise money for orphans with annual collections in the district starting in the autumn of 1854. The Orphans' Festival lasted until 1956.

In 1856, the Sisters were placed in charge of separate schools in Hamilton following the passage of the Separate School Bill. Also in 1856, Hamilton became a diocese and St. Joseph's Convent opened on Park Street North as a Motherhouse and Novitiate, as the congregation became independent of the Toronto congregation. At the first Motherhouse, the Sisters cared for orphan girls, taught music, taught in the separate schools, visited hospitals, prisons, the sick and the poor, and served as sacristans, homemakers, and catechetics teachers. In 1858, the first election was held in St. Joseph's Convent chapel with Sister Martha von Bunning elected as General Superior on December 8.

The Sisters founded their first mission outside Hamilton in Paris, Ontario in 1858, where they served as teachers, organists, sacristans, homemakers and catechetics teachers. This mission lasted until 1974. This was followed in 1859, by the first mission house in Brantford, Ontario on Crown Street, and then by other mission houses in Brantford until 1983. In Brantford, they also opened Bethany House, a ministry to abused women from 1989-1994. Over time, the Sisters opened many other mission houses including in Kenilworth (1924-1971), Mount Forest (1908-1932 and 1944-1978), Hespeler (1944-1961), Arthur (1873-1876 and 1986-1989), Kitchener (1977-), Milton (1954-1989), Stoney Creek (1957-), Oakville (1860-1863), Guelph (1977-1989), Owen Sound (1886-1909), Red Lake (1981-), Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation mission (Cape Croker) (1952-1986), and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg (Pic Mobert) First Nation (2002-2020). In British Columbia, they opened missions at Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation (Fort St. James) (1950-1969), Fort St. John (1954-1988), Dawson Creek (1976-1982), Chetwynd (1977-1983), and Terrace (1988-1992).

The Sisters briefly ran a boarding school in for girls in Hamilton from 1860-1867. More notably, they founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph, Ontario in 1861, followed by the House of Providence in Guelph which was open from 1861-1959. In 1897, the Sisters started St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Guelph, and in 1948, opened a new school of nursing which lasted until 1972.

In 1878, the Sisters took charge of St. Vincent De Paul Society home on Bay Street in Hamilton for the care of the poor. After one year, the residents were transferred to the House of Providence. In 1879, the Sisters opened the House of Providence in Dundas. After a fire in 1900, it re-opened in 1902 and remained active until 1970. The year 1879 also saw the beginning of the House of Providence annual picnic on August 2. In 1970, the Sisters opened the new St. Joseph's Villa in Dundas, which replaced the former House of Providence.

In 1890, the Sisters founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton which had additions in 1894, 1916, 1941, 1947, 1951, and a new wing in 1962. This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton which had its first nine graduates in 1915. The Sisters also opened a nurses' residence for St. Joseph's Hospital, called Undermount, on John Street in Hamilton. Later, in 1963, the Sisters opened St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Fontbonne Hall. The nursing school closed in 1972.

In 1923, the Sisters founded Casa Maria maternity hospital in Hamilton which was replaced by the maternity wing at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1951. In 1924, The Sisters opened St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario. In 1931, St. Mary's School of Nursing began in Kitchener, and remained active until 1972.

In 1951, the second Motherhouse, St. Joseph's Convent was completed in Dundas. Here the Sisters served as teachers, music teachers, catechetics teachers, and established a spirituality centre for retreats, workshops, and spiritual direction in 1983.

In 1955, the Sisters founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Brantford. This was followed in 1957 by the opening of St. Joseph's Training Centre for Registered Nursing Assistants in Brantford, which closed in 1980.

In 1959, the Sisters unveiled St. Joseph's Home in Guelph, and elderly people were moved into the second floor of the new building which contained a wing for the chronically ill. The programs and services were delivered in conjunction with St. Joseph's Hospital.

In 1960, Mount St. Joseph in Hamilton became a home to treat emotionally disturbed children and the remaining orphans were moved to foster homes.

The Sisters also started overseas missions. In 1963, they opened a mission in Teculután, Guatemala, and worked at a health clinic, as teachers, and as catechetics teachers until 1979. Later, they opened a mission in Nicaragua which ran from 1985 to 1989.

In 1991, St. Joseph's Community Health Centre opened in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Beginning in 1983 until 1991, the Sisters staffed and supervised Martha House, Good Shepherd Women's Centre for abused women and homeless girls in Hamilton. The Neighbour to Neighbour Program, St. Joseph's Women's Immigrant Centre, and Hamilton Out of the Cold program are but three more recent local initiatives where the Sisters have been instrumental in the foundation of local social services.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in London, 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

These annals chronicle the daily lives of Sisters Ann Marshall, Katrina Rooney, and Nancy Sullivan while they performed charitable works in Annotto Bay, Jamaica. These records discuss their efforts in healthcare and education, including their donation to fix critical water problems in the Infirmary as well as setting up several educational programs to help children to learn and read. The annals also provide nuanced detail by describing the Sisters' living quarters, thoughts about their works, and about the town itself. The sub-series also includes Katrina Rooney's photographs. These images show Katrina Rooney teaching in school, posing with community members, and relaxing in her leisure time. These images offer a "snapshot" of life in Annotto Bay. A larger photo album along with a two folders of photographs also makes up this sub-series. The album's images provide further examples of Annotto Bay life, and include photos of a trip to Jamaica made by Sisters Claudia and Francis Rossignoli. This sub-series also has records that detail the 2001 murder of Father Martin Royackers, who also lived and worked in Annotto Bay. He was a member of the Upper Canada Province of the Canadian Jesuits and had served Annotto Bay for six years. This news shocked and saddened the Congregation. They were upset to hear the news of the violent attack in a place they considered as a home. The Sisters set up a memorial liturgy in response to the news. The sub-series also includes several drawings from children to the Sisters.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

Records transferred from the Sisters to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives - Hamilton site, and then to the main archives. A photo album was transferred from the personal effects of Sister Francis Rossignoli upon her death.

Arrangement

Order was imposed on the series.

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]

In 1987, General Superior Sr. Ann Marshall was president of CRC-O. A request was made to Jim Webb, SJ, Superior in Jamaica, to plan a third world immersion experience for religious leaders in the province. In 1989, Sisters Ann and Katrina Rooney attended a three week mission preparation experience at the University of the West Indies. During this visit the Sisters, in consultation with the Jesuits serving in Kingston, agreed to set up a mission in Annotto Bay, Jamaica. Sisters Ann and Katrina opened the mission on March 22, 1990. Sister Nancy Sullivan joined them in 1993.

During their time at Annotto Bay, the Sisters were primarily involved with pastoral ministry, and attended to health care needs that presented at their home or requested by Sister Shirley Thomas, Matron of the Annotto Bay Hospital. Through the fundraising efforts of John Shea and Jordon Livingston of the Hamilton Rotary Club, a building was erected at the Annotto Bay All Age School dedicated to literacy where the Sisters taught for several years. In 1992, Brian Guest, Dr. Danny Kraftcheck, Hamilton, and Paula Carere, RN, of St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, visited the mission providing five containers of surplus equipment, medical supplies, and equipment to the 127 bed Annotto Bay Hospital. During their visit it was determined that there was a critical water problem at the Port Maria Infirmary. The following year the Congregation donated \$10,000 for the reconstruction of a water holding tank, and other structural repairs. In 1990, the principal of the Annotto All Age School, Mr. Smikle, asked the Sisters to teach a Family Life Program to grades 7, 8, and 9, which they did until 1992 when they began a literacy program in a building funded by the Rotary Club.

In February 1992 General Superior, Sister Teresita McNally visited Annotto Bay and agreed to sponsor a wood working program at the school. Library books were collected through the efforts of the Hamilton

Wentworth Separate School System, and the first library at the school opened. Church sponsored Basic School programs were opened at the site of the five Churches served by the mission. These programs were similar to kindergarten. Through generous donations the children were served a hot meal each day. The Sisters received great support and financial assistance from a Peterborough, Ontario based charity, Jamaican Self Help.

The Sisters were involved in the parish ministry in the five church communities associated with St. Theresa's Church in Annotto Bay. In 2001 Fr. Martin Royacher, Pastor, was murdered and Sister Nancy was appointed Administrator of the mission by Archbishop Lawrence Burke. Sister Katrina returned to Canada in 2000 to serve on the leadership. In June 2007, the mission was transferred to the Missionary Order of the Poor from the Philippines. Sisters Ann and Nancy returned to Canada but left part of their heart with the people in Annotto Bay.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (Hamilton, Ont.)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Annals and chronicles (documentary form)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (Hamilton, Ont.) (subject)
- Jamaica (place)
- Hamilton (place)

Series descriptions

Subseries HF01-S002-01: Annals

Date: 1990-1999 (creation)

Scope and content: These annals chronicle the daily lives of Sisters Ann Marshall, Katrina Rooney, and Nancy Sullivan while they performed charitable works in Annotto Bay, Jamaica. These records discuss their efforts in healthcare and education, including their donation to fix critical water problems in the Infirmary as well as setting up several educational programs to help children to learn and read. The annals also provide nuanced detail by describing the Sisters' living quarters, thoughts about their works, and about the town itself. The sub-series also includes Katrina Rooney's photographs. These images show Katrina Rooney teaching in school, posing with community members, and relaxing in her leisure time. These images offer a "snapshot" of life in Annotto Bay. A larger photo album along with a folder of

photographs also makes up this sub-series. The album's images provide further examples of Annotto Bay life. This sub-series also has records that detail the 2001 murder of Father Martin Royackers, who also lived and worked in Annotto Bay. He was a member of the Upper Canada Province of the Canadian Jesuits and had served Annotto Bay for six years. This news shocked and saddened the Congregation. They were upset to hear the news of the violent attack in a place they considered as a home. The Sisters set up a memorial liturgy in response to the news. The sub-series also included several drawings from children to the Sisters.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

82 photographs : col.

1 photo album

Access points:

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

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
HF01-S002-01-01	File - Jamaica Annals 1990-1999		
HF01-S002-01-02	File - Jamaica Ministry and Trip Information 1991		
HF01-S002-01-03	File - Jamaica Annals 1996-1998		
HF01-S002-01-04	File - Newspaper Articles re: Annotto Bay, Jamaica 1994		
HF01-S002-01-05	File - Sr. Katrina Rooney's Jamaica Photographs 1990s		
HF01-S002-01-06	File - Jamaica Photo Album		
HF01-S002-01-07	File - Fr. Martin Royackers, Annotto Bay 2000-2001		
HF01-S002-01-08	File - Jamaica: Farewell and Good Luck Messages from Children		
HF01-S002-01-10	File - Photo album Sister Francis and Sister Claudia visit Jamaica		

Subseries HF01-S002-02: Correspondence

Date: 1989-2011 (creation)

Scope and content: The correspondence records both the daily happenings and important charitable works of Sisters Ann Marshall, Katrina Rooney, and Nancy Sullivan during their mission in Annotto Bay, Jamaica. This includes details such as attending symposiums at the local university, watching the sunsets over the Caribbean Sea, going to the market and the price of food, and observing local people and culture. One piece of correspondence, a memorandum written by Sisters Ann and Katrina to Sr. Teresita McNally and Council on February 19, 1990 details reasons why the Jamaica mission should be

carried out, and the significance it would hold to the community. Reasons include experiencing the life and struggles of Jamaican people, learning about Jamaican history and culture, as well as illuminating problems experienced by developing countries. Another notable correspondence includes an April 17, 1991 overview report which details the healthcare needs of Annotto Bay, as well as provides suggestions for improvement. There is also a very detailed list of materials sent to Jamaica, including books, crayons, medal supplies and cots. This sub-series also includes accounting expenditures related to various projects. Donation letters and requests also make up a portion of this sub-series. There are records of Sister Ann Marshall's correspondence and dealings with C.U.S.O. regarding the Jamaica trip. These documents include information about medical expenses.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records
8 photographs : col.

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
HF01-S002-02-01	File - Jamaica Correspondence 1989-1990	1989-1990	
HF01-S002-02-02	File - Jamaica Annotto Bay Correspondence 1989-1991	1989-1991	
HF01-S002-02-03	File - Sr. Ann Marshall CUSO Information 1990-1994	1990-1994	
HF01-S002-02-04	File - Jamaica: Letters of Donation 1990-1992	1990-1992	
HF01-S002-02-05	File - Jamaica Project Correspondence 1990-1992	1990-1992	
HF01-S002-02-06	File - Jamaica: Annotto Correspondence Jan. 1992-Nov. 1994	Jan. 1992-Nov. 1994	
HF01-S002-02-07	File - Jamaica Correspondence 2000-2011	2000-2011	

Subseries HF01-S002-03: Newsletters

Date: 1990-2007 (creation)

Scope and content: The newsletters provide a detailed summary of Sisters Nancy Sullivan, Katrina Rooney, and Ann Marshall's charity work in Annotto Bay, Jamaica. Several of their projects are discussed, including providing sewing machines to single mothers, providing poor families with bus money, conducting healthcare education, sponsoring children to go to school, and building extensions on family homes. The Sisters' work at the All Age School is discussed in detail, as well as their work in the Annotto Bay Hospital and Infirmary. One notable newsletter from April 27, 1995 provides a schedule of "A Day in The Life of The Sisters of St. Joseph, Annotto Bay, Jamaica." This schedule offers a detailed look into a typical day of work the Sisters experienced while on their mission. These newsletters also

offer nuanced information about what life was like in Jamaica. Many images are included in the later issues of the newsletters, providing further detail into Jamaican life, people, and culture.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
HF01-S002-03-01	File - Newsletters from Jamaica 1990-2007	1990-2007	1 cm of textual records.