

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Jubilees series (F01-S132)

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Jubilees series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Jubilees series
Reference code:	F01-S132
Date:	1932-2017 (creation)
Physical description:	19.8 cm of textual records 6 optical discs, 208 photographs, 93.02MB 1 optical discs, 7 video files, 492MB 3 photographs: col 7 photograph albums
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	July 2, 2020May 22, 2023January 24, 2024

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 contains records related to the celebration of jubilees of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the diocese of London, in Ontario. The records are from Ontario and Alberta, where the Sisters had a mission since 1922. Materials in this series include photographs, videos, speeches, reflections, historical sketches, news clippings, hymns, programs, invitations, and cards.

Notes

Title notes

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

Physical condition

The optical disc with video files is currently unreadable.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred to the archives by the administration.

Arrangement

Order 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

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]

Sister Loretta Manzara, pers. comm., July 4, 2019.

Note [General]

Jubilees are celebrations, where Sisters renew their vows and celebrate their 25th, Golden (50th), Diamond (60th), Grace (70th), 75th and 80th year anniversaries with the congregation.

The jubilee date is calculated from the reception date which took place nine months after the postulant entered the convent. At the reception ceremony, the postulant received the habit.

Jubilees are celebrated one to two times a year, depending on the number of Sisters celebrating anniversaries. When there are two jubilee ceremonies in one-year, younger Sisters are recognized in May, and senior Sisters are honoured in September. Unless the Sisters decide that they want a private jubilee, friends and family are invited to the hour-long mass and large feast that make up the day of celebration. Reunions, where Sisters who left the congregation were invited to return for visitation, occurred far less frequently than jubilees. The last reunion took place when the congregation was moving to a new convent in 2007 and wanted to give former Sisters one last chance to walk through the building. Much like jubilees, reunions were a day long event, with an hour-long prayer service and lots of good food.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised
- **Conservation:** Material from F01-S132-03-02 has been separated to the back of box 2 due to size.

Access points

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

Series descriptions

Subseries F01-S132-01: Memorabilia

Date: 1952-2012 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains booklets and celebration cards from jubilees celebrated at the congregation. The first two files contain pouches with booklets and other memorabilia from jubilees celebrated in that year. Most pouches only contain one year's worth of information, but the first pouch contains documents from 1952 to 1966, including a telegram from Cardinal Villot to the Sisters celebrating their jubilees. Other memorabilia includes programs for the jubilees, celebration cards, and speeches made at the jubilees. The third and fourth files titled "Booklets" only contain programs from jubilees celebrated between 1990 and 2012. Finally, the subseries also contains celebration cards with all the names of Sisters celebrating their jubilees.

Physical description: 12 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S132-01-01	File - Booklets 1952-1977	1952-1977	
F01-S132-01-02	File - Booklets 1978-1989	1978-1989	
F01-S132-01-03	File - Booklets 1990-2003	1990-2003	
F01-S132-01-04	File - Booklets 2004-2012	2004-2012	
F01-S132-01-05	File - Celebration Card 2000	2000	
F01-S132-01-06	File - Celebration Card 2003	2003	

Subseries F01-S132-02: Photographs

Date: 1969-2009 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains newspaper clippings, photographs and seven optical discs with photographs and video files pertaining to jubilees celebrated at the congregation. The newspaper clippings contain photographs of Sisters celebrating their jubilees, and some information on the Sisters and speakers at the jubilees. The print photographs capture the Sisters who celebrated their jubilee on May 10, 2001. The optical discs contain photographs of Sisters celebrating their jubilees, as well as of friends and family who attended.

Physical description: 3 photographs: col

0.3 cm of textual records

1 optical disc, 52 photographs (jpeg), 8.47MB

1 optical disc, 48 photographs (jpeg), 16.2MB
 1 optical disc, 25 photographs (jpeg), 7.98MB
 1 optical disc, 18 photographs (jpeg), 5.37MB
 1 optical disc, 7 video files, 492MB
 1 optical disc, 25 photographs (jpeg), 34.8MB
 1 optical disc, 40 photographs (jpeg), 20.2MB

Physical condition: The optical disc with video files is currently unreadable.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S132-02-01	File - Newsclippings and Photographs	1969-1982	
F01-S132-02-02	File - Photos	2001	
F01-S132-02-03	File - Photographs 2004 [CDR]	2004	
F01-S132-02-04	File - Reunion and 2006 Jubilarians [60th] [CDR]	2006	
F01-S132-02-05	File - Golden Jubilee 2006 [CDR]	2006	
F01-S132-02-06	File - Photographs 2007 [CDR]	2007	
F01-S132-02-07	File - Jubilarians [CDR]	2007	
F01-S132-02-08	File - Golden Jubilee 2008 [CDR]	2008	
F01-S132-02-09	File - Golden Jubilee 2009 [CDR]	2009	

Subseries F01-S132-03: Celebration Histories

Date: 1932-2017 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains speeches, reflections, programs, historical sketches, and lists pertaining to jubilees celebrated by the congregation. Often, programs of jubilees contain opening remarks, lists of Sisters celebrating jubilees, lists of Sisters helping with the event, agendas for the jubilees, processional hymns, and joint thank you remarks from Sisters celebrating the same jubilee. The historical sketches contain accounts and sometimes newspaper clippings about the jubilees that were celebrated. The oldest dated document is a speech made to the Sisters celebrating their jubilees in 1932. The author is not indicated.

Physical description: 7.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S132-03-01	File - Speeches, Liturgies and Historical Sketches 1932-2006	1932-2006	
F01-S132-03-02	File - Jubilee Liturgies		
F01-S132-03-03	File - Jubilees 2004-2012	2004-2012	

Subseries F01-S132-04: Photograph albums

Date: 1959-2009 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains photograph albums with photographs and ephemera from the jubilee celebrations of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. The albums include the celebrations in Ontario and in Alberta. (The London Sisters had a mission in Alberta since 1922 where they were involved in education and healthcare.) Ephemera in the albums includes programs, invitations, and cards. Some albums also include photographs of Christmas celebrations.

Physical description: 7 photograph albums

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S132-04-01	File - Jubilees 1966 to 1981 album 5.20	1959-1981	
F01-S132-04-02	File - Jubilees 1982 to 1984 album 5.21	1982-1984	
F01-S132-04-03	File - Jubilees 1985 to 1998 album 5.22	1985-1998	
F01-S132-04-04	File - Jubilees 1999 to 2003 album 5.23	1999-2003	
F01-S132-04-05	File - Jubilees 2004 to 2009 album 5.23.1	2004-2009	
F01-S132-04-06	File - Western jubilees 1959 album 5.24	1959-2000	
F01-S132-04-07	File - Sisters from the west diamond and golden jubilees 1993 to 1994 album 5.24.1	1993-1996	