

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Mother Mechtilde McCarthy series (F01-S004)

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Mother Mechtilde McCarthy series

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Summary information

Repository: Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title: Mother Mechtilde McCarthy series
Reference code: F01-S004
Date: 1915-2004 (creation)
Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
2 photographs : b&w
1 negative : b&w

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Susan McCarthy was born on January 1, 1862, at Maidstone, Essex County, Ontario. She was one of eleven children born to Jeremiah McCarthy and Susan McMahon. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph congregation in London, Ontario, and received the habit on March 19, 1881, taking her final vows on December 8, 1883, at Mount Hope. Her religious name was Sister Mechtilde McCarthy. She taught at St. Peter's School, London for 22 years and at the Roman Catholic school in Goderich for two years. In 1911 she was appointed Superior at St. Joseph's Hospital in London. The chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital was built under the guidance of Sister Mechtilde. It is of classic Renaissance architecture and Romanesque design. The whole chapel was a model of artistic taste and reflects on Sister Mechtilde under whose supervision it was erected. As the growth of the hospital kept pace with the city, an urgent need for larger facilities was realized and in 1914 work was begun to the west of the main building on an addition embodying the latest and best ideas of hospital construction and equipment.

In 1917, she was elected General Superior of the congregation. At that time there were 185 Sisters in the Community and the number of aged at the House of Providence was 212. The orphans at Mount St. Joseph orphanage numbered 231. In the Roman Catholic Schools the pupils numbered 1161 and in the hospitals there were 2573 patients. During her term of office she began a foundation in Edmonton which included a novitiate. A Eucharistic Congress was held at Mount St. Joseph in July 1923. The Community received approbation of the 1920 Constitutions which had been requested by Bishop Fallon in 1917. During her term of office, she began a foundation in Edmonton which included a novitiate. She left the office of General Superior in 1923 and continued mission work at St. Mary's, Ingersoll, Belle River and at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario in 1934. She was General Superior from 1917-1923. She died on June 12, 1943.

Scope and content

This series consists of records collected about Mother Mechtilde McCarthy and created by her. The material consists of chronologies; a Form of the Act signed at reception and a Form of the Act signed at final vows dated 1878; a detailed report of a canonical visit by the Bishop of London, Michael Frances Fallon in 1917; correspondence with Bishop Michael Frances Fallon, Dr. Bruce Smith, Mother M. Clare, and George M. Reid; copies of correspondence with Archbishop J. H. MacDonald concerning the governance and separation of the Edmonton community from its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of London; and a history of the Edmonton community from 1922 to 1953 entitled "Our Western Saga". The canonical status, governance, and fiscal responsibility of the Edmonton community had been an ongoing issue since its establishment in 1922.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

These records were accumulated by the archivist of the London congregation.

Arrangement

Order was imposed on the records 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.

The file F01-S004-03-02 Western separation from Edmonton may contain sensitive information.

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 available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

Dictionary of Biography of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada.

Other notes

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

Access points

- McCarthy, Mechtilde (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (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-S004-01: Biography

Date: 1943 [photocopied 19-?] - 1977 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S004-01-01	File - Biographical information	1943 [photocopied 19-?] - 1977	

Subseries F01-S004-02: Photographs

Date: 1977 (creation)

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S004-02-01	File - Photographs 1977		

Subseries F01-S004-03: Correspondence

Date: 1915-1923 (creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S004-03-01	File - Correspondence with Bishop Michael Frances Fallon, Dr. Bruce Smith, Mother M. Clare, and George M. Reid	1915-1923	
F01-S004-03-02	File - Western separation from Edmonton		