

# **Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada**

## **Finding Aid - Sister Margaret Ferris sous-fonds (F01-SF10)**

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# Sister Margaret Ferris sous-fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Sister Margaret Ferris sous-fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	F01-SF10
<b>Date:</b>	1941-2014 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	28.9 cm of textual records 10 volumes : 23.5 x 29 cm or smaller 4 scrapbooks 156 photographs : col. 8 photograph : b&w 19 photographs : col. negatives 3 paintings : watercolour ; 32 x 44 cm or smaller 1 painting : mixed medium ; 21 x 28 cm 2 drawings : pencil ; 30.5 x 22 cm or smaller 1 drawing : coloured pencil ; 31 x 41 cm 7 prints : col. ; 28 x 37 cm or smaller 2 wall hangings: burlap, paint, wood ; 36.2 x 69.3 cm 1 book cover spread ; 28 x 43 cm 1 bookmark : lace 1 rosary 1 press badge 2 sketchbooks
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Accrual 2025-60 arranged in by Rhiannon Allen-Roberts, 2025.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Born Mary Margaret Ferris in London in 1931, Sister Margaret Ferris is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, who spent much of her life furthering her education and ministry. In particular, she was a reformer and innovator of prayer, community involvement, and spiritual direction at the Congregation. She also published a book titled *Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Caregivers* in 1993, and various articles pertaining to spiritual direction and community living and involvement.

Sister Margaret Ferris was involved in her local parish at an early age and was especially encouraged in her faith by her grandmother, who lived with the Ferris family. At a young age she began to consider entering religious life. She completed upper school at St. Angela's College in 1950 and was a member of the first class to ever graduate from Catholic Central High School in 1951. At age 22, after working as a legal secretary, she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. After the completion of her novitiate,

she attended the University of Western Ontario where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959, and Master's degree in Education in 1977. In 1959, she began her teaching career as a high school teacher. She continued to advance in her career in the 1960s. She became vice-principal of St. Patrick's High School in Sarnia in 1963, and then principal of Mount St. Joseph Academy in 1966. During the 1960s, she continued to further her own education. She studied during the summer months at the University of Notre Dame. There she received a Master's degree in Science in 1968. She also became a leader of spiritual renewal at the Congregation, which resulted in a strengthening of her own prayer life.

In 1972, she resigned as principal of Mount St. Joseph Academy, and with three other Sisters, established Internos, a home for troubled teenage girls, who experienced family difficulties or substance abuse. Her ministry evolved as she became exposed to and involved in family and community life. In 1977, she became Director of the Congregation's Medaille Retreat House. During this time, she was also completing her Master's degree in Counselling at the University of Western Ontario part-time. During this time, she continued to broaden her experience and understanding of spiritual direction and contemplative spirituality.

In 1978, she was elected to the Congregation's General Council while still maintaining her position at the Retreat House where she worked alongside individuals of other Christian denominations. In 1984, she studied for a year at the Institute for Creation-Centred Spirituality in California where she obtained a Master's degree in Spirituality and Culture. She marks this as the richest experience of community in her life, which strengthened and broadened her own spiritual understanding and life.

When she returned to London in 1985, she was asked to join St. Peter's Seminary as a faculty member in the positions of teacher, counsellor, and Formation Director for Lay Ministry. She was the first woman professor to work full-time at St. Peter's Seminary. This was another fulfilling experience for Sister Margaret Ferris as she was able to influence the development of the Church and to empower the laity. She held this position for over ten years. In 1992 she obtained her Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction at the Graduate Theological Foundation, and in 2007 she received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the same institution.

Sister Margaret Ferris also dedicated a portion of her life to travelling. From 1959-1963, she made various trips around Ontario and northern U.S.A. In 1981, she travelled to Peru and Florida. In 1990, she and other Sisters visited Rome where she also met Pope John Paul II and received a rosary from him. In 2003, she made a pilgrimage to Le Puy, France, from where the Sisters of St. Joseph originally came. In 2004, she was honoured as one of the seven Golden Jubilarians in the Congregation. She died in 2017.

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## Scope and content

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This sous-fonds contains records pertaining to Sister Margaret Ferris's education, professional career, artistic endeavors, personal life, and travels. Sister Margaret Ferris was an avid academic and eventually became an instructor. There are various records from her academic pursuits present here, including her many degrees and certificates, research notes, papers, theses, report cards, transcripts, photographs, a scrapbook, and regalia from her Doctorate commencement ceremony. Based on her areas of interest in her studies, she wrote and published a book in 1993 called *\*Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers\** which was translated into Chinese in 2010. Drafts, correspondence with publishers, English and Chinese editions of the book, and material from the book launching party are included. There are also records from when she was teaching. These records are primarily concerned with her career as an instructor at St. Peter's Seminary and the adaptations of *\*Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers\** as course books for

classes at the University of Western Ontario, but there is also a speech by Sister Margaret and her Stewards in Catholic Education Award.

Sister Margaret was an artist, and she created the design for the cards and pamphlets of the congregation's 2004 Jubilee celebration, which was her Golden Jubilee. Original artworks, preliminary sketches, and replicas are included in this sous-fonds. She was also an avid traveler and photographs, travel diaries, a scrapbook, and ephemera from these trips are present. She made trips to Yellowknife, Quebec, Peru, Florida, California, Rome, and a pilgrimage to France. On the trip to Rome, she acted as a correspondent for the Catholic News Times. There are also personal memorabilia, such as photographs, scrapbooks, a papal blessing, a yearbook from St. Patrick's High School where she was principal, and an invitation to the 1976 Opening of the Ontario Legislature reception.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred to the archives by the local Congregational leadership.

### 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

Files F01-SF10-S004-16 and F01-SF10-S011-01 may contain sensitive information.

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

Series and file list available.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Other notes

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

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- Ferris, Margaret (subject)
  - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
  - Multiple media (documentary form)
  - Art (documentary form)
  - Photographs (documentary form)
  - Postcards (documentary form)
  - Physical objects (documentary form)
  - Textual records (documentary form)
  - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
  - Peru (place)
  - France (place)
  - Italy (place)
  - United States of America (USA) (place)
  - London (place)
  - Quebec (place)
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## Collection holdings

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### Series: F01-SF10-S001 - Research Notes

Title: Research Notes

Reference code: F01-SF10-S001

Date: 1976 [photocopied 19-?]-1993 [photocopied 199-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of Sister Margaret Ferris's handwritten and typed research notes, photocopies of articles, and a pamphlet from the Vocation Office of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. Some of the research notes were for independent study while others appear to have been from classes Sister Margaret attended. The content of the research notes concerns spiritual life according to John of the Cross, spirituality, vocation, and the connection of these topics to Medaille House. Medaille Retreat House was a spiritual retreat in London, Ontario operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S001-01 - John of the Cross – Research Notes [2015-4]**

Title: John of the Cross – Research Notes [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S001-01

Date: 1993 [photocopied 199-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S001-02 - John of the Cross – Draft Research Notes [2015-4]**

Title: John of the Cross – Draft Research Notes [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S001-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S001-03 - Spirituality – Research Notes [2015-4]**

Title: Spirituality – Research Notes [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S001-03

Date: 1976 [photocopied 19-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S001-04 - Spirituality and Vocation [2016-31]**

Title: Spirituality and Vocation [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S001-04

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S002 - Research Papers**

Title: Research Papers

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002

Date: 1976-1994 [photocopied 199-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains research papers and projects created by Sister Margaret Ferris as part of her academic studies. The primary topics of the records are spirituality and religious communities. The research papers are “The Relationship of Group Size, Effective Leadership, Urgency of Goals and Frequency of Group Interaction to Relationship Development in a Religious Community of Women” and “Towards an Expanded Model of Spiritual Direction.” The latter was later published in The Alumni Bulletin and a photocopy of that article is present here. There is also “My Spiral Dance,” a spiritual reflection which features a drawing by Sister Margaret. Both “Towards an Expanded Model of Spiritual Direction” And “My Spiral Dance” were created for spirituality courses taught by Alexandra Kovats and Matthew Fox. There are also two thesis projects in this series: The Place Where You Stand is Holy: Creation Centred Spirituality and Human Development, created as part of Sister Margaret’s Master of Arts in Culture and Spirituality, and A Training Manual in Basic Counselling Skills for Clergy and Spiritual, which was created as part of Sister Margaret’s Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction degree. Both theses are bound volumes. Accompanying some of these papers are photocopies of passages from publications on spirituality.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

1 volume ; 23.5 x 29 cm

1 volume ; 22. 5 x 28.5 cm

Location of originals: Material from F01-SF10-S002-04 and F01-SF10-S002-05 has been separated due to size.

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S002-01 - Booklet-My Spiral Dance [2015-4]**

Title: Booklet-My Spiral Dance [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002-01

Date: 1984 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S002-02 - Booklets-Towards an Expanded Model of Spiritual Direction [2015-4]**



Title: Booklets-Towards an Expanded Model of Spiritual Direction [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002-02

Date: 1984-1994 [photocopied 199-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S002-03 - Research Paper-Relationship of Group Size... [2015-4]**

Title: Research Paper-Relationship of Group Size... [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002-03

Date: 1976 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S002-04 - A Training Manual in Basic Counselling Skills for Clergy and Spiritual Directors Thesis [2016-31]**

Title: A Training Manual in Basic Counselling Skills for Clergy and Spiritual Directors Thesis [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002-04

Date: 1992 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S002-05 - The Place Where You Stand Is Holy Thesis [2016-31]**

Title: The Place Where You Stand Is Holy Thesis [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S002-05

Date: 1985 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S003 - Publications**

Title: Publications

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003

Date: 1993-2010 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains records related to the creation, publication, and distribution of Sister Margaret Ferris's 1993 book, *Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers*. In 2010, her book was translated and published in Chinese by Kuangchi Cultural Group. Present in this series are various drafts, a spread of the design for the book cover, a 1993 edition, and a 2010 Chinese edition of *Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers*. There is correspondence with Wipf and Stock Publishers, Sheed & Ward, and Kuangchi Cultural Group concerning the rights, publication, and promotion of the book as well as the 2009 publishing agreement form. In celebration of the initial publication, the Sisters of St. Joseph hosted a book launching party at Medaille House Retreat and Program Centre in 1993. An invitation and a scrapbook with photographs of the celebration are present here. There is also an advertisement and mail order form for the book.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

1 volume ; 21 x 15 cm

1 volume ; 22.5 x 15 cm

1 book cover spread ; 28 x 43 cm

1 scrapbook

Location of originals: Items from F01-SF10-S003-04 and F01-SF10-S003-06 have been separated due to size.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-SF10-S003-01 - Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers – Book and Correspondence [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers – Book and Correspondence [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-01

Date: 1993, 2010 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-SF10-S003-02 - Compassioning – draft [1/4] [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – draft [1/4] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-02 - Compassioning – draft [1/4] [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – draft [1/4] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-02 - Compassioning – draft [2/4] [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – draft [2/4] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-02 - Compassioning – draft [3/4] [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – draft [3/4] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-02 - Compassioning – draft [4/4] [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – draft [4/4] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-03 - Compassioning – book notes [2015-4]**

Title: Compassioning – book notes [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-03

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-04 - Wipf and Stock Publishers – book cover, agreement, and correspondence [2015-4]**

Title: Wipf and Stock Publishers – book cover, agreement, and correspondence [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-04

Date: 2001-2010 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-05 - Compassioning – book [2016-31]**

Title: Compassioning – book [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-05

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S003-06 - Compassioning book launch [2022-6]**

Title: Compassioning book launch [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S003-06

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S004 - Education**

Title: Education

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004

Date: 1941-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains records of Sister Margaret Ferris's education. This includes diplomas, certificates, transcripts, and report cards. There are also commencement programs, invitations to graduation celebrations, correspondence, and photographs of graduation ceremonies and celebrations. In her youth, Sister Margaret Ferris studied at the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music, St. Angela's College (a primary and secondary school in London, Ontario), and Catholic Central High School. In this series are Sister Margaret's certificates, transcripts, and diplomas from these institutions. From her time at Catholic Central High School, there are also graduation photographs of Sister Margaret, group photographs of the graduating class of 1951, and pages from "Who's Who of Catholic Central High School," which features staff and students.

Sister Margaret Ferris went on to attain her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education from the University of Western Ontario, her Master of Science from the University of Notre Dame, her Master of Arts in Culture and Spirituality from Holy Names College, and a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation. Diplomas, transcripts, convocation pamphlets, and invitations from these degrees are present here. She spent the summers of 1959 and 1962 at Laval University working towards a Master of French but did not complete the degree though some material present references her time there. The graduation gown, hood, and cap that Sister Margaret wore at the commencement ceremony for her doctorate are present. There is also a scrapbook with ephemera and photographs from this ceremony.

In 2007, the Graduate Theological Foundation presented Sister Margaret with an honorary Doctor of Divinity and the diploma is present here. There is correspondence concerning the honorary degree, Graduate Theological Foundation alumni reunions and events, and Sister Margaret's graduate studies. This includes correspondence with the University of Western Ontario and Laval University (some in French) about her registration, transcripts, and a scholarship she won.

Also included in this series is Sister Margaret Ferris's teacher identification card, a certificate stating that she had been to Yellowknife and met Raymond the Raven, the 2004 article "Ormond beach artist's work rises like a phoenix" concerning Carol Bertrand by Jay Stapleton, and correspondence about Sister Margaret's appointment to teach Guidance Part I in St. Thomas from the University of Western Ontario.

Physical description: 10.5 cm of textual records

9 photographs : col.

7 photograph : b&w

1 scrapbook

Location of originals: Items from files F01-SF10-S004-01, F01-SF10-S004-02, F01-SF10-S004-08, F01-SF10-S004-05, F01-SF10-S004-10, F01-SF10-S004-11 and F01-SF10-S004-12 have been separated due to size and preservation needs.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S004-01 - Western Ontario Conservatory of Music [2015-4]**

Title: Western Ontario Conservatory of Music [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-01

Date: 1941-1946 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-02 - St. Angela's College diploma [2015-4]**

Title: St. Angela's College diploma [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-02

Date: 1950 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-03 - Catholic Central High School certificate and photograph [2015-4]**

Title: Catholic Central High School certificate and photograph [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-03

Date: 1951 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-04 - Catholic Central High School 1950-51 [1951] [2022-6]**

Title: Catholic Central High School 1950-51 [1951] [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-04

Date: 1951 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-05 - Graduation photographs [2022-6]**

Title: Graduation photographs [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-05

Date: [1951?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-06 - University of Western Ontario B.A. [2015-4]**

Title: University of Western Ontario B.A. [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-06

Date: 1959 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-07 - University of Notre Dame M.Sc. diploma [2015-4]**

Title: University of Notre Dame M.Sc. diploma [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-07

Date: 1968 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-08 - M.Ed. diploma [2015-72-4]**

Title: M.Ed. diploma [2015-72-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-08

Date: 1977 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-09 - Holy Names College M.A. diploma [2015-4]**

Title: Holy Names College M.A. diploma [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-09

Date: 1985 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-10 - Graduate Theological Foundation [2015-4]**Title: Graduate Theological Foundation [2015-4]Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-10Date: 1992-2007 (date of creation)Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-11 - Graduate Theology Foundation graduation [2022-6]**Title: Graduate Theology Foundation graduation [2022-6]Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-11Date: 1992 (date of creation)Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-12 - Graduation gown, hood, and cap [2015-4]**Title: Graduation gown, hood, and cap [2015-4]Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-12Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-13 - Certificates and transcripts– high school and university [2015-4]**Title: Certificates and transcripts– high school and university [2015-4]Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-13Date: 1945-2002 (date of creation)Publication status:



Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-14 - Transcripts, data forms, and certificates [2015-4]**

Title: Transcripts, data forms, and certificates [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-14

Date: 1945-2002 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-15 - Graduate studies correspondence for transcript and award [2015-4]**

Title: Graduate studies correspondence for transcript and award [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-15

Date: 1966-1975 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S004-16 - Graduate Theological Foundation correspondence [2016-31]**

Title: Graduate Theological Foundation correspondence [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S004-16

Date: 1997-2007 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S005 - Teaching**

Title: Teaching

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005

Date: 1985-2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records related to Sister Margaret Ferris's teaching career, specifically concerning her involvement with the London District Catholic School Board, St. Peter's

Seminary, and the University of Western Ontario. This includes a speech given by Sister Margaret, an award certificate presented to Sister Margaret, forms for appointment and professional advancement, correspondence, resumes, teaching evaluations, and course books. The course books are adaptations of Sister Margaret Ferris's 1993 book, *Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers*.

Physical description: 4.4 cm of textual records

Location of originals: Material from file F01-SF10-S005-01-02 has been separated due to size.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **Subseries: F01-SF10-S005-01 - Speeches and Awards**

Title: Speeches and Awards

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-01

Date: 1999-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains a speech and an award presented by and given to Sister Margaret Ferris in connection to the London District Catholic School Board. Sister Margaret Ferris' speech was given during the 1999 Education Week. The speech details her education, experiences, involvement with the district, and congratulates the winners of the Spirit Award. Notable topics include how she was part of the first graduating class of Catholic Central High School and the first woman professor to work full-time at St. Peter's Seminary. In 2007 Sister Margaret received the Stewards in Catholic Education Award and the certificate is present here. There is also a program for the inaugural meeting of the 2000 Board of Trustees for the London District Catholic School Board.

Physical description: 0.2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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### **File: F01-SF10-S005-01-01 - Catholic School Board - Speech [2015-4]**

Title: Catholic School Board - Speech [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-01-01

Date: 1999 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S005-01-02 - The London District Catholic School Board: Stewards in Catholic Education Award-April 20th, 2007 [2015-4]**

Title: The London District Catholic School Board: Stewards in Catholic Education Award-April 20th, 2007 [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-01-02

Date: April 30, 2007 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Subseries: F01-SF10-S005-02 - Correspondence**

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-02

Date: 1985-2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of Sister Margaret Ferris's correspondence with Reverend F. B. Henry, Reverend P. Fuerth, and Matthew Fox concerning her involvement with St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. Included is an offer for a full-time faculty position at St. Peter's Seminary. There is also a card from Sister Elaine Cole which features Cole's own artwork and an invitation to the 1990 Feast of the Holy Canadian Martyrs from the National Canadian Church.

Physical description: 0.2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S005-02-01 - Correspondence - St. Peter's Seminary [2015-4]**

Title: Correspondence - St. Peter's Seminary [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-02-01

Date: 1985-1990, 2014 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Subseries: F01-SF10-S005-03 - Professional Advancement**

Title: Professional Advancement

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-03

Date: 1985-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of material related to Sister Margaret Ferris's career as an instructor at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. It includes a request for approval of instruction, a formal request for promotion to Associate Professor, and correspondence from Bishop J. M. Sherlock, Bishop of London, approving her promotion. With this material is a letter of recommendation for Sister Margaret from Reverend John J. O'Flaherty, Sister Margaret's resumes, and lists of her publications, education, accomplishments, and experience. There is also a course and teaching evaluation of Sister Margaret from King's College.

Physical description: 1.0 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-SF10-S005-03-01 - Resumes and requests for promotion [2015-4]**

Title: Resumes and requests for promotion [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-03-01

Date: 1985-1992 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Subseries: F01-SF10-S005-04 - Curriculum Materials**

Title: Curriculum Materials

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-04

Date: 1993-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series contains material created by Sister Margaret Ferris for a pastoral theology course at the University of Western Ontario. It includes three different versions of Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-Givers which were used as course books.

Physical description: 3.0 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S005-04-01 - Pastoral Theology-Compassioning PAS272A/B 4724 W2001 [2016-31]**

Title: Pastoral Theology-Compassioning PAS272A/B 4724 W2001 [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-04-01

Date: 2001 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S005-04-02 - Compassioning Course Books [2016-31]**

Title: Compassioning Course Books [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S005-04-02

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S006 - Artwork**

Title: Artwork

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006

Date: [1984?]-1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists primarily of artwork in various mediums created by Sister Margaret Ferris. This includes watercolour paintings, painted wall hangings, and a drawing in coloured pencil. Sister Margaret's artwork in this series is predominantly Christian in themes and subjects. There are also photographic and print replicas of some of Sister Margaret Ferris's artworks. In addition to her own artwork there is \*Jesus with Sweetgrass\*, a watercolour painting by James Ravenscroft which he gifted to Sister Margaret Ferris. A letter from him detailing the symbolism of the painting accompanies it.

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

2 photographs : col.

2 photographs : col. negatives

1 drawing : coloured pencil ; 31 x 41 cm

3 painting : watercolour ; 32 x 44 cm or smaller

6 print : col. ; 28 x 37 cm or smaller  
2 wall hangings: burlap, paint, wood ; 36.2 x 69.3 cm  
2 sketchbooks

Location of originals: Material from F01-SF10-S006-01-02, F01-SF10-S006-01-04, F01-SF10-S006-01-05, F01-SF10-S006-01-06, F01-SF10-S006-02-01, and F01-SF10-S006-03-01 has been separated due to size and for preservation purposes.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

## **Subseries: F01-SF10-S006-01 - Originals and Copies**

Title: Originals and Copies

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01

Scope and content: This subseries consists of original paintings and drawings by Sister Margaret Ferris as well as prints and photographs of her artwork. There are two watercolour paintings. One is of the globe nailed to the cross, it is unclear if this is also the title of the work. There are two photographs and two photographic negatives of this artwork. The other watercolour is a circular mandala painting. The painting is divided into eight segments and features the yin and yang symbols. There is a coloured pencil drawing of three yellow flowers and six green leaves in spiralling streams of orange, red, purple, blue, yellow, and green in front of the moon, stars, sun, and planets. There are also six prints of \*God So Loved the World\*, an original watercolour by Sister Margaret. The artwork depicting a person with long dark hair hugging the world and some of the prints include the text "God so loved the world~" below the image. Five of the prints are 21.6 x 28 cm, one of which is an enlarged detail, and one print is 28 x 37 cm. The original of \*God So Loved the World\* is not present. There are also two sketchbooks with poetry, drawings, and paintings which may have been produced during her time in California.

Physical description: 2 photographs : col.

2 photographs : col. negatives

1 drawing : coloured pencil ; 31 x 41 cm

1 painting : watercolour ; 31.2 x 43.2 cm

1 painting : watercolour ; 38 x 38 cm

5 prints : col. ; 21.6 x 28 cm

1 print : col. ; 28 x 37 cm

2 sketchbooks

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-01 - Photo (Artwork - World + Cross) [2015-4]**

Title: Photo (Artwork - World + Cross) [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-01

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-02 - Artwork - Globe nailed to the cross [2015-4]**

Title: Artwork - Globe nailed to the cross [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-02

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-03 - God So Loved the World paintings [prints] [2015-4]**

Title: God So Loved the World paintings [prints] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-03

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-04 - Mandala artwork [2015-72-1]**

Title: Mandala artwork [2015-72-1]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-04

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-05 - Sr. Margaret Ferris artwork [coloured pencil] [2015-72-2]**

Title: Sr. Margaret Ferris artwork [coloured pencil] [2015-72-2]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-05

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-06 - Artwork [God So Loved the World print]  
[2015-72-3]**

Title: Artwork [God So Loved the World print] [2015-72-3]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-06

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-07 - Prints of "God So Loved the World" [2016-31]**

Title: Prints of "God So Loved the World" [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-07

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S006-01-08 - Sketchbooks**

Title: Sketchbooks

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-01-08

Date: [1984?] (date of creation)

Physical condition: File split into two folders.

Immediate source of acquisition: These sketchbooks were in the General Superior's London office.

Publication status:

Published

Alpha-numeric designations:

2025-60

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**Subseries: F01-SF10-S006-02 - Correspondence**

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-02



Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of one letter and a watercolour painting from James Ravenscroft. The watercolour painting is \*Jesus with Sweetgrass\* and depicts Jesus with sweetgrass, a feather, a pipe, and a drum beside a tree with the sun in the background and reflected in the water. The painting was a study by James Ravenscroft and was gifted to Sister Margaret Ferris. James Ravenscroft's letter to Sister Margaret details the symbolism of the painting and gives personal updates on how he is doing in the "North."

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

1 painting : watercolour ; 32 x 44 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-SF10-S006-02-01 - Correspondence - Jesus with Sweetgrass painting [2015-4]**

Title: Correspondence - Jesus with Sweetgrass painting [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-02-01

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Subseries: F01-SF10-S006-03 - Textiles**

Title: Textiles

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-03

Scope and content: This sub-series consists of two wall hangings made by Sister Margaret Ferris. The hangings are made of two layers of burlap attached to wooden dowels. One hanging depicts wheat and grapes, a symbol of the Eucharist, and other depicts the Chi-Rho, a monogram representing Jesus Christ.

Physical description: 2 wall hangings: burlap, paint, wood ; 36.2 x 69.3 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Object (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S006-03-01 - Wall hangings [2015-4]**

Title: Wall hangings [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S006-03-01

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S007 - Personal Memorabilia**

Title: Personal Memorabilia

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007

Date: 1953-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of personal memorabilia belonging to Sister Margaret Ferris. This includes a prayer book, a papal blessing, pamphlets, an essay written by Sister Margaret Ferris, an invitation and a program for the Ontario Legislature opening, a scrapbook, and a yearbook. Some of the memorabilia is religious. There is her prayer book Formulary of Prayers, which was published by Mount St. Joseph in 1953, and a papal blessing granting a plenary indulgence. The rest of the memorabilia is more secular. In 1976, Sister Margaret Ferris was invited to attend a reception at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park following the Opening of the Ontario Legislature. Present here is her invitation to the reception and a pamphlet for the third session of the thirtieth parliament of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Sister Margaret Ferris was appointed principal at St. Patrick's High School in 1993 and a 1994 yearbook from the school is present here. The yearbook has signatures on page 14 and the inside of the front cover has 18 portrait photographs pasted on it. She was also a faculty member at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. There is a scrapbook from her retirement celebration and a pamphlet detailing the history of the seminary from 1912-2012. There is also a personal essay by Sister Margaret Ferris in which she reflects on her life.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

1 scrapbook

1 volume ; 9 x 13.5 cm

1 volume ; 28 x 22 cm

Location of originals: Material from F01-SF10-S007-07 has been separated due to size.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

**File: F01-SF10-S007-01 - Formulary of Prayers - Book Personal Books [2015-4]**

Title: Formulary of Prayers - Book Personal Books [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-01

Date: 1953 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-02 - Papal blessing [2015-4]**

Title: Papal blessing [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-02

Date: 1960 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-03 - Ontario Legislature Opening [2015-4]**

Title: Ontario Legislature Opening [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-03

Date: 1976 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-04 - Personal essay [2015-4]**

Title: Personal essay [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-04

Date: August 15, 1994 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-05 - St. Patrick's High School yearbook [2015-4]**

Title: St. Patrick's High School yearbook [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-05

Date: 1963 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-06 - Brief History of Saint Peter's Seminary 1912-2012 [2015-4]**

Title: Brief History of Saint Peter's Seminary 1912-2012 [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-06

Date: 2012 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S007-07 - Retirement [from St. Peter's Seminary] [2022-6]**

Title: Retirement [from St. Peter's Seminary] [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S007-07

Date: 2005 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S008 - Photographs**

Title: Photographs

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008

Date: [195-?]-2003 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of photographs taken by, belonging to, and of Sister Margaret Ferris. A colourized photograph of her parents' wedding is present, but the original is not. There is a photograph of a young Sister Margaret in a white dress holding a bouquet of flowers. There is also a group photograph of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London outdoors in 1993. Sister Margaret Ferris was a member of the Congregational Leadership Council from 1995 to 2003, and there are matted photographs of the council members. There is also photographic material and ephemera from Sister Margaret Ferris's various travels. There are photographs of the scenery at Stillpoint Retreat Centre in Renfrew County, along the Madawaska River. There are also photographs, cards, and blank postcards

from her pilgrimage to Le Puy, France in 2003. While the material is primarily concerned with Le Puy, there is material from various other locations in France she visited.

Physical description: 1.5 cm of textual records

17 photographs ; col. negatives

100 photograph : col.

1 photograph : b&w

Location of originals: Material from F01-SF10-S008-06 has been separated due to size.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S008-01 - Parents' Wedding [photo + negative] [2015-4]**

Title: Parents' Wedding [photo + negative] [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-01

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S008-02 - Sisters of St. Joseph - Council Picture [2015-4]**

Title: Sisters of St. Joseph - Council Picture [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-02

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S008-03 - Photographs trip to France [2015-4]**

Title: Photographs trip to France [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-03

Date: 2003 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S008-04 - Photographs of Stillpoint Renfrew [2015-4]**

Title: Photographs of Stillpoint Renfrew [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-04

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S008-05 - Congregation photo [2016-31]**

Title: Congregation photo [2016-31]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-05

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S008-06 - Margaret Ferris with flowers [2022-6]**

Title: Margaret Ferris with flowers [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S008-06

Date: [195-?] (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S009 - Jubilee**

Title: Jubilee

Reference code: F01-SF10-S009

Date: 2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records from the 2004 Jubilee celebration for the Sisters of St. Joseph of London. Sister Margaret Ferris celebrated her Golden Jubilee that year. There are photographs of the Golden Jubilarians and a leaflet congratulating them. Sister Margaret Ferris designed the artwork for the cards and programs for the Jubilee celebration. The preliminary drawing and painting, as well as a print of the artwork, various versions of the cards, and two pamphlets are present here. With the preliminary material is a sketch drawing that looks reminiscent of her artwork God So Loved the World.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

3 photographs : col.

2 drawings : pencil ; 30.5 x 22 cm or smaller  
1 painting : mixed medium ; 21 x 28 cm  
1 print : col. ; 21 x 28 cm

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S009-01 - Golden Jubilarians - photographs and leaflet [2015-4]**

Title: Golden Jubilarians - photographs and leaflet [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S009-01

Date: 2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S009-02 - Journey into Mystery - Golden Jubilee Celebration - cards and pamphlet [2015-4]**

Title: Journey into Mystery - Golden Jubilee Celebration - cards and pamphlet [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S009-02

Date: 2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S009-03 - Journey into Mystery-Golden Jubilee Celebrations Original Art Designs [2015-4]**

Title: Journey into Mystery-Golden Jubilee Celebrations Original Art Designs [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S009-03

Date: 2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S010 - Trip to Rome 1990**

Title: Trip to Rome 1990

Reference code: F01-SF10-S010

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains material from Sister Margaret Ferris's 1990 trip to Rome, Italy. While there, she acted as a correspondent for the Catholic News Times at the 1990 Synod on the Formation of Priests in Rome. Included here is her press badge and correspondence with the Catholic New Times detailing her credentials and the type of information she needed to record. While there, Sister Margaret met Pope John Paul II and received a rosary, photographs of this and the rosary itself are present here. It also includes photographs of the trip and pamphlets for Saint Francis in Assisi and the Vatican City.

Physical description: 0.3 cm of textual records

42 photographs : col.

1 rosary

1 press badge

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-SF10-S010-01 - Meeting with Pope - Trip to Rome [2015-4]**

Title: Meeting with Pope - Trip to Rome [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S010-01

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-SF10-S010-02 - Photographs - Trip to Rome [2015-4]**

Title: Photographs - Trip to Rome [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S010-02

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: F01-SF10-S010-03 - Press Credentials: Trip to Rome [2015-4]**



Title: Press Credentials: Trip to Rome [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S010-03

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S010-04 - Memorabilia: Trip to Rome [2015-4]**

Title: Memorabilia: Trip to Rome [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S010-04

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: F01-SF10-S011 - Travel Diaries**

Title: Travel Diaries

Reference code: F01-SF10-S011

Date: 1959-2003 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains personal reflections and accounts by Sister Margaret Ferris about her travels. There are three travel diaries in this series: one from her trips to Quebec, Canada from 1959 to 1963, one from her travels to Peru and Florida, USA in 1981, and one from her pilgrimage to Le Puy, France in 2003. There is also a typed chronicle of the 2003 pilgrimage entitled Pilgrimage 2003 A Return to Our Roots and a lace bookmark from Le Puy. A large scrapbook from Sister Margaret Ferris's trip to California, USA from 1984 to 1985 is also present. The scrapbook contains drawings and personal accounts by Sister Margaret, photographs, clippings, and ephemera from the trip. Locations of note within the scrapbook include Detroit, Oakland, San Francisco, Muir Woods National Monument, Berkeley, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Santa Barbara, Palm Springs, Pasadena, Monterey, Reno, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe.

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

1 volume ; 9 x 15 cm

1 volume ; 10.5 x 16 cm

2 volumes ; 14.5 x 21.5 cm

1 bookmark : lace

1 scrapbook

Physical condition: The material in this scrapbook is coming loose. Photographs which completely detached were placed into enclosures and placed in the respective page. Loose ephemera was tucked into the page to preserve context.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-SF10-S011-01 - Trip Diary [2015-4]**

Title: Trip Diary [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S011-01

Date: 1959-1963 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S011-02 - Trip Diary Peru and Florida [2015-4]**

Title: Trip Diary Peru and Florida [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S011-02

Date: 1981 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S011-03 - Le Puy Pilgrimage [2015-4]**

Title: Le Puy Pilgrimage [2015-4]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S011-03

Date: 2003 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: F01-SF10-S011-04 - Trip to California [2022-6]**

Title: Trip to California [2022-6]

Reference code: F01-SF10-S011-04

Date: 1984-1985 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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