

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Hellmuth College/Mount St. Joseph series (F01-S137)

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Hellmuth College/Mount St. Joseph series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Hellmuth College/Mount St. Joseph series
Reference code:	F01-S137
Date:	1853-2015, predominant 1976-2005 (creation)
Physical description:	38 photographs : b&w 10 photographs : col 1 map : col ; 71 x 43 cm 1 map ; 62 x 51 cm 1 drawing : b&w ; 20.5 x 28 cm 6 cm textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	July 2, 2020May 22, 2023Septebmer 29, 2023

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, in Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1.

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 consists of contracts, deeds, plans, and newspaper clippings relating to Hellmuth College from 1866-1952. There is a general history and photographs of Hellmuth College. The series includes photographs of the Chapel and Motherhouse. The series contains a description of the layout of the Orphanage as well as information regarding the day-to-day routines. The series also contains notes on the process of purchasing the Mills property and written summaries of ecclesiastical events such as the Eucharistic Congress at Mount St. Joseph in July, 1923 and the visit of Cardinal Villeneuve in 1934. There are also special issues of the Western Gazette and magazine and newspaper articles, including a biography of Bishop Hellmuth, and the building of the new Motherhouse.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred by the Congregation to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives - London site.

Arrangement

The arrangement follows the original order of the records, although accruals were organized 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 [General]

Hellmuth College was originally granted by the Crown to the English Church Corporation. The Anglican Bishop Hellmuth directed the building of a young ladies' college which opened September 23, 1869. The college went bankrupt, and the land where Hellmuth College was situated was put up for sale and subsequently purchased by the Sisters of St. Joseph of London on June 10, 1899. A year later, on April 29, 1900, the property was blessed and the name was changed to Mount St. Joseph. In 1900, approximately 108 school age children moved from Mount Hope to Hellmuth College, and the site also became an orphanage. On April 3, 1914, the Sisters moved to Sacred Heart Convent after its purchase from the Religious of the Sacred Heart. After the move, Mount St. Joseph became exclusively a home for orphans, and the remaining children at Mount Hope were moved to Mount St. Joseph in 1914. There were as many as 370 children cared in the orphanage at any time. Mount St. Joseph Orphanage had a fire on April 14, 1925, which was attributed to defective wiring, however only the roof was lost. The orphans were moved from Mount St. Joseph to Fontbonne Hall in 1953. In 1967, Fontbonne Hall came under the direction of Madame Vanier Services of London and the Sisters withdrew. In 1954, the Sisters built a new Motherhouse next to the old Mount St. Joseph building. The former orphanage building was renamed Fatima Hall, and became the home of the Mount St. Joseph Academy, a private girls' school, from 1954 until 1959 until a new wing for the school was added to the new Motherhouse building. The building was also used for a Kindergarten and pre-Kindergarten which ran from 1954 until 1975. The building was also used from 1957-1967, the Fatima Hall High School and Aspirancy was founded for girls to introduce them to religious life. The former orphanage building was demolished on May 28, 1976.

Other notes

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

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Maps (documentary form)

- Art (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Women and girls (subject)
- Health and social services (subject)
- Religion and religious people (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Orphanages (subject)
- Child care (subject)
- Property (subject)
- London (place)

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S137-01 - Hellmuth College

Title: Hellmuth College

Reference code: F01-S137-01

Date: 1949-2007, predominant 1983-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The subseries includes a general history of Hellmuth College. Included are specifics about the donation of one brick and approximately 15 pieces of glass from the windows of Hellmuth College to the Anglican Diocese of Huron. The document lists the students from the late 1800's who carved their names into the glass with diamond rings. There is correspondence in the form of reference inquiries, including one about the Dufferin Medallist recipients from Hellmuth Ladies' College. There is a photocopy of the rules for the pupils attending Hellmuth Ladies' College from 1869. There are photographs showing the front view of the College building. There is an A.B. Dick Company mimeograph depicting the Hellmuth Ladies' College. Articles are included from The Free Press and Western Gazette and London Magazine about Bishop Hellmuth.

Physical description: 1 drawing : b&w ; 20.5 x 28 cm

5 photographs : b&w

4 photographs : col.

1 photograph : b&w ; 15.5 x 20.5cm in mat 20 x 25 cm

3 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S137-01-01 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S137-01-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-01-02 - History

Title: History

Reference code: F01-S137-01-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-01-03 - Newspaper clippings and Photographs

Title: Newspaper clippings and Photographs

Reference code: F01-S137-01-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-01-04 - Bishop Isaac Hellmuth – 2nd Bishop of Huron (Ang.)

Title: Bishop Isaac Hellmuth – 2nd Bishop of Huron (Ang.)

Reference code: F01-S137-01-04

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S137-02 - Property

Title: Property

Reference code: F01-S137-02

Date: 1853- 1976, [19-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of photocopies of contracts and deeds from 1866-1952 relating to Hellmuth College and Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse. The subseries includes two maps depicting the property bounded by Richmond (formerly Proof Line) and Windermere Road (formerly the 4th Concession). The subseries includes original newspaper clippings from The London Free Press, The

Catholic Record, and London Advertiser from 1908. There are also notes on the process of purchasing the Mills property. Finally, the subseries includes a photograph of Sisters in a horse and carriage in front of the chapel in 1925, and photographs of the chapel during demolition in 1976.

Physical description: 3 photographs : b&w ; 9 x 9 cm

1 photograph : b&w ; 6 x 7.5 cm

1 map : col ; 71 x 43 cm. - Scale [1:1200] (Scale statement is 1 in. to 100 ft.)

1 map : b&w ; 62 x 51 cm. - Scale [1:1584] (Scale statement is 2 chains to an inch)

3 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S137-02-01 - Contract & Deeds

Title: Contract & Deeds

Reference code: F01-S137-02-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-02-02 - Cornerstone Papers – Chapel – 1908-1976 – Newspaper clippings & Photographs

Title: Cornerstone Papers – Chapel – 1908-1976 – Newspaper clippings & Photographs

Reference code: F01-S137-02-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-02-03 - Mount St. Joseph Property – Norwood/Mills

Title: Mount St. Joseph Property – Norwood/Mills

Reference code: F01-S137-02-03

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S137-03 - Ecclesiastical Events

Title: Ecclesiastical Events

Reference code: F01-S137-03

Date: 19-? (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of a summary of the Eucharistic Congress which was chosen by Bishop Fallon to be held at the Mount St. Joseph Chapel in July, 1923. After the celebration of Mass, the Blessed Eucharist was carried throughout the grounds followed by the children and Sisters. The entire service was accompanied with music from 100 children from the separate schools as well as the Sisters. The subseries also includes a summary of the visit of Cardinal Villeneuve of Quebec in 1934. The Sisters were honoured he would be visiting them and therefore decorated the halls with bunting, flags, and flowers. Throughout his speech, the Cardinal continuously addressed the school children and specifically thanked the Sisters.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S137-03-01 - Mount St. Joseph Eucharistic Congress July, 1923

Title: Mount St. Joseph Eucharistic Congress July, 1923

Reference code: F01-S137-03-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-03-02 - Mount St. Joseph visit of Cardinal Villeneuve

Title: Mount St. Joseph visit of Cardinal Villeneuve

Reference code: F01-S137-03-02

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S137-04 - Orphanage

Title: Orphanage

Reference code: F01-S137-04

Date: 1941-2015, predominant 2006-2015 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The subseries contains Mary DeLoof's memoirs of her life at the orphanage, including a description of the layout and daily routines. There are photographs of Mary DeLoof as part of the first graduating class of Catholic Central High School in 1951. There are newspaper articles about Isaac Hellmuth and some about the building of the new Motherhouse as well as "London City Life Magazine" articles on this subject. The subseries also contains information about Annabelle Leed who was an orphan, including photographs of her from later in her life and her obituary.

Physical description: 27 photographs : b&w

1 photograph : b&w 25 x 19.5 cm

6 photographs : col.

2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

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

File: F01-S137-04-01 - Mount St. Joseph Orphanage History

Title: Mount St. Joseph Orphanage History

Reference code: F01-S137-04-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-02 - Mount St. Joseph Orphanage Photographs

Title: Mount St. Joseph Orphanage Photographs

Reference code: F01-S137-04-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-03 - Letter from Monsignor John Stanley re: House of Providence and Orphanage

Title: Letter from Monsignor John Stanley re: House of Providence and Orphanage

Reference code: F01-S137-04-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-04 - Mount St. Joseph Orphanage and Sisters of St. Joseph by Mary DeLoof 2009-2

Title: Mount St. Joseph Orphanage and Sisters of St. Joseph by Mary DeLoof 2009-2

Reference code: F01-S137-04-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-05 - Mary DeLoof Obituary 2015-24

Title: Mary DeLoof Obituary 2015-24

Reference code: F01-S137-04-05

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-06 - Mary DeLoof – Photographs and Certificates 2014-74

Title: Mary DeLoof – Photographs and Certificates 2014-74

Reference code: F01-S137-04-06

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S137-04-07 - Annabelle Leed (not CSJ – orphan)

Title: Annabelle Leed (not CSJ – orphan)

Reference code: F01-S137-04-07

Publication status:

published
