

# Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

## Finding Aid - Sisters' Ministries series (F01-S103)

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## Sisters' Ministries series

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### Table of contents

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Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	5
Notes .....	5
Access points .....	6
Collection holdings .....	6
F01-S103-01, Ministries 1999 (1999) .....	6
F01-S103-02, Homemakers (1964-1972) .....	8
F01-S103-03, Nurses ([19-?]) .....	9
F01-S103-04, Music ([19-?]) .....	9
F01-S103-05, Teachers ([19-?]) .....	10
F01-S103-06, Ministry roles (June 2007) .....	11

## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Sisters' Ministries series
<b>Reference code:</b>	F01-S103
<b>Date:</b>	1964-2007 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	9 cm of textual records
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	July 2, 2020May 22, 2023

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### 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. Joseph's 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.

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## Scope and content

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This series contains records related to general roles and duties that Sisters held in their ministries. There are also records concerning specific professional roles, including homemaker, nurse, music teacher and teacher. Records take the form of handwritten and typed notes on the ministries performed by individual sisters in 1999, and lists of sisters that performed specific roles in the congregation.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

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

### 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 available.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

**Note [Sources]**

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 'Series F01-S100 - Formation series, <https://www.archeion.ca/formation-series-2>, accessed 06/27/2019.

Sister Loretta Manzara, personal communication, June 27, 2019.

**Note [General]**

Ministries, which take the form of professional roles of service, are fundamental to the Sisters of St. Joseph, as helping others has always been important to their mission. Professional roles such as nurse, music teacher or homemaker are created in order to fill occupational gaps in the community or the congregation. For example, when the community was in desperate need of music teachers, many Sisters were assigned the ministry of "music teacher." Before the Second Vatican Council, 1962-1965, these professional roles were assigned to Sisters by the head superior in the form of a note on their pillow, and sisters obediently performed their ministries. After the Council, which made the congregation question their vows of obedience, this tradition was altered so that Sisters could form and enlist in ministries that appealed to their specific interests in the congregation and the community.

Sisters may engage in a ministry during their second year as a novice, but they cannot assume a professional role until they take their temporary vows and become Juniorates. In order to perform their ministries, Sisters are required to attend the same university or college programs that other members of the community would attend to perform the same roles. For this reason, training is constantly changing and evolving, as are the Sisters of St. Joseph.

**Other notes**

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

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**Access points**

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- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Education and learning (subject)
- Health and social services (subject)
- Religion and religious people (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Women and girls (subject)
- London (place)

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**Collection holdings**

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**Subseries: F01-S103-01 - Ministries 1999**

Title: Ministries 1999

Reference code: F01-S103-01

Date: 1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of records from the “The Story of Our Present Ministries” project, which communicate the roles and duties of Sisters in their ministries as of 1999. For this project, each Sister wrote about the ministries that she was a part of in 1999 and her specific roles and duties within that ministry. Some of these accounts also contain personal revelations about their experiences in these roles, and refer to past roles in other ministries. Records are arranged alphabetically by last name.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-S103-01-01 - Volume A to E**

Title: Volume A to E

Reference code: F01-S103-01-01

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F01-S103-01-02 - Volume F to K**

Title: Volume F to K

Reference code: F01-S103-01-02

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F01-S103-01-03 - Volume L to O**

Title: Volume L to O

Reference code: F01-S103-01-03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S103-01-04 - Volume P to Z**

Title: Volume P to Z

Reference code: F01-S103-01-04

Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F01-S103-02 - Homemakers**

Title: Homemakers

Reference code: F01-S103-02

Date: 1964-1972 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries consists of booklets and lists related to the role of homemaker in the congregation. These materials include workshop booklets with content that ranges from recipes and nutritional facts to behaviours and virtues that reflect an ideal homemaker. The homemakers list contains an undated list of Sisters who served as homemakers.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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**File: F01-S103-02-01 - Homemakers' materials**

Title: Homemakers' materials

Reference code: F01-S103-02-01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S103-02-02 - Homemakers List**

Title: Homemakers List

Reference code: F01-S103-02-02

Publication status:



published

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### **Subseries: F01-S103-03 - Nurses**

Title: Nurses

Reference code: F01-S103-03

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

Scope and content: This subseries contains undated lists of Sisters who served as nurses. Sisters who served in other healthcare roles such as nurses' aides, social workers and x-ray technicians are also noted.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-S103-03-01 - Nurses list**

Title: Nurses list

Reference code: F01-S103-03-01

Publication status:

published

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### **Subseries: F01-S103-04 - Music**

Title: Music

Reference code: F01-S103-04

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

Scope and content: This subseries contains records related to the ministry of music at the congregation. There are two histories: one for the Congregation's music ministry in London, Ontario from 1867-1992, and one about "music" at Mount St. Joseph Academy. The music ministry history contains biographical information about specific teachers as well as key locations where Sisters taught in London, Ontario. The history of music at Mount St. Joseph Academy contains information about how students could interact with music at the Academy through Music School or various clubs (i.e. Glee Club). The subseries also contains lists of Sisters who served as music teachers from 1868-1990.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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**File: F01-S103-04-01 - Music ministry history**

Title: Music ministry history

Reference code: F01-S103-04-01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S103-04-02 - Music teachers list**

Title: Music teachers list

Reference code: F01-S103-04-02

Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F01-S103-05 - Teachers**

Title: Teachers

Reference code: F01-S103-05

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

Scope and content: This subseries consists of an undated list of Sisters who served as teachers for their ministry. No indication is given for where they practiced, or what level or subject they taught.

Physical description: 0.3 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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**File: F01-S103-05-01 - Teachers list**

Title: Teachers list

Reference code: F01-S103-05-01

Publication status:

published

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### **Subseries: F01-S103-06 - Ministry roles**

Title: Ministry roles

Reference code: F01-S103-06

Date: June 2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains a list of roles and ministries that Sisters engaged in as of June 2007. This list reflects the exponential growth of ministries in the congregation since the Second Vatican Council, with ministries such as Meals on Wheels, artist iconographer, and bioenergetic therapist.

Physical description: 0.3 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F01-S103-06-01 - List 2007**

Title: List 2007

Reference code: F01-S103-06-01

Publication status:

published

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