

2011.17

## **Portland Regional Community Collection**

### **Physical Description:**

82.4 linear feet, including

- Documents
- Photographs, negatives, slides, glass slides
- Bound volumes
- Published reports, directories, theses
- Cassette tapes, VHS tapes

### **Dates:**

1873-2006

### **Restrictions:**

Some files subject to restriction, including the subseries "Withdrawn Sisters" and some leadership material. Consult Mercy Heritage Center archivists for more information.

### **Provenance:**

This collection was transferred to the Mercy Heritage Center, Belmont, North Carolina, in November, 2011 from the Sister of Mercy Northeast Community Archives in Windham, New Hampshire. Prior to 2006, the collection was held at the Portland Regional Community's Motherhouse, St. Joseph's Convent, Portland, Maine.

### **History:**

The Portland, Maine community of the Sisters of Mercy began in 1865, when Mother Frances Warde responded to Bishop David W. Bacon's request to send sisters to Bangor, Maine. Warde sent six sisters from Manchester, New Hampshire under the leadership of Sister Mary Gonzaga O'Brien.

In 1872, again at the request of Bishop Bacon, Warde sent sisters to Portland, Maine to staff an orphanage and then schools in the city. In 1878, at the request of Bishop James A. Healy, the Sisters of Mercy were sent to missions with Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes.

When the Diocese of Manchester was created in 1883, the Sisters of Mercy, Portland, Maine became a separate community with a motherhouse, St. Joseph's, located in Portland. The community continued to expand its ministries, opening schools, orphanages and hospitals in Maine, including Queens/Mercy Hospital and Madigan Memorial Hospital, Houlton. In the 1960s, the sisters expanded mission work to include sites on Andros Island, Bahamas.

The Sisters of Mercy, Portland, remained an independent community until 1991, when most members voted to join the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Remaining members voted to create a separate group supported by the diocese of Portland, the Diocesan Sisters of Mercy. In 2006, the Sisters of Mercy, Portland, joined communities in Albany, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Providence to form the Northeast Community within the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

### **Scope and Content:**

The collection is organized into two main subgroups, Administration and History, and organized into 15 series based on function, geographic location and format (see schema list on page 3). Series are grouped into subseries further delineating the function, location and format of the records. Series and subseries are described in the “Series Description” section of this document. When possible (already numbered folders or the contents of binders), original order was maintained.

The collection includes administrative records relating to community governance, documentation of individuals, convents, ministries, and missions. The bulk of the collection dates from 1950-2000, although annals, photographs and personal records cover a broader span of time.

## **SCHEMA**

### Administrative: 100

100.1 General Chapter

100.2 General Council/Leadership

100.3 Committees and Boards

100.4 Projects, Studies, Workshops

100.5 Financials, Contracts, Donations

### History: 200

200.1 Major Superiors

200.2 Annals

200.3 Convent Records

200.4 Ministries/Missions

200.5 Events

200.6 Reference Materials

200.7 Photographs

200.8 Audio-Visual Materials

200.9 Publications

200.10 Membership