



2013.01

North Carolina Regional Community Collection

Repository:

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont, NC 28012

Physical Description:

230 linear feet, including:

- Documents
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- Bound Volumes
- Published reports, directories, theses, dissertations
- VHS tapes
- Digital media

Dates:

1872-2008

Restrictions:

Some files may be subject to restrictions. Consult Mercy Heritage Center archivists for more information.

Provenance:

The North Carolina Regional Community Collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center from Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont NC in 2013.

History:

In 1869 four sisters of the diocesan community Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, arrived in Wilmington, North Carolina from Charleston, SC, at the request of Bishop James Gibbons. The group opened the Academy of the Incarnation in 1869 and St. Peter's Academy in 1871 (the two schools would merge to form St. Mary's school in 1888). In 1872, the Wilmington group became independent of the community in Charleston. In the following years, the community began foundations in Hickory, Charlotte, and Asheville, NC, staffing schools, orphanages and two hospitals. In 1892 the community founded Sacred Heart Academy in Belmont, NC, which would

become the community's motherhouse in 1893. In 1955 the Sisters of Mercy established Holy Angels, Inc., a home specializing in care for those with developmental disabilities, in Belmont.

In 1946, the North Carolina Sisters of Mercy responded to a request to establish a community on Guam and sent three sisters to open schools and accept new members to the community. The Guam community remained part of the North Carolina community and served in the Northern Marianas Islands and Chuuk.

In 1913, the community formally affiliated itself with the Sisters of Mercy and remained an independent community of the Sisters of Mercy until 1991, when the North Carolina Regional Community became a part of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. In 2008, North Carolina joined with three other communities to form the South Central Community of the Institute.

Scope and Content:

This collections contains records relating to individual members, community life, local history and ministries in North Carolina. Records related to Guam can be found in series 200 and 600, but the complete archives are located on Guam.

Ministry records include materials related to Sacred Heart College, Belmont, NC, Mercy Hospital, Charlotte and St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, NC, in addition to material related to the sisters' work in parochial schools, orphanages and other ministries.

Schema:

RG 100 Records of Sisters

RG 200 Community Records

RG 300 Formation, Community Life and Spirituality

RG 400 Chapters, Meetings and Conferences

RG 500 Ministries: Houses, Schools, Hospitals, Orphanages, Convents and Houses

RG 600 Ministries: Healthcare, Social Work, Guam Foundation

RG 700 Audio-Visuals

RG 800 Historical Records

RG 900 Community: Generalate, Institute, Regional Community

RG 1000 Artifacts