

2012.05

Erie Regional Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:

40 linear feet, including
Documents,
Photographs,
Publications

Dates:

1887-2012

Restrictions:

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

Provenance:

This collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center, Belmont NC from the former Erie Regional Community Archives, Erie, Pennsylvania in 2012.

History:

The Sisters of Mercy first came to Erie, Pennsylvania from Pittsburgh at the request of Bishop Tobias Mullen. A founding group of sisters arrived from Pittsburgh on September 23, 1870. The sisters began teaching three days after their arrival, eventually founding St. Joseph Boarding Academy for Girls.

The community engaged in additional works of education and social services in the area, gradually expanding their ministries to include Dubois Hospital, founded in 1910 and Mercyhurst College, founded in 1926.

Through the twentieth century, the community expanded its ministries throughout the region, primarily in the area of education. More recent ministries include work in various locations in the

United States, as well as in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Mexico. In western Pennsylvania, Sisters continue to engage in prison, parish and campus ministries and sponsor ministries including Mercy Center for the Arts, House of Mercy and Mercy Center on Aging.

In 1991, the Sisters of Mercy, Erie joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and became the Erie Regional Community. In 2008, the Erie Regional Community united with the regional communities of Rochester, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and the Philippines to form the New York Pennsylvania Pacific West Community of the Sisters of Mercy (NYPPaW).

Scope and Content:

The collection is organized into seven series based on content, function and geographic location. Subseries are informally defined groups based on topics within the series. Please consult archivists for more information about specific locations, ministries and individual sisters.

Schema:

100 Biographical Data: Deceased Sisters

200 History

200.1 Early History

200.2 Legal Records

200.3 St. Joseph Academy

300 Administration

300.1 Mothers General/Presidents

300.2 Corporation and Council Minutes

300.3 Sacred Congregation for Religious

300.4 Financial

300.5 Development

400 Ministries

400.1 Various Locations in Pennsylvania

400.2 Fryburg, Tanzania, Yucatan, Kentucky, South Carolina and other locations

400.3 Ethiopia

400.4 Navajo Ministry

400.5 Prison Ministry/Avila House/Dwelling Place/DAWN

400.6 Hope House

400.7 GROW

400.8 Education

400.9 Mercy Corps

400.10 Social Justice

400.11 Young People Who Care

400.12 Additional Locations in Pennsylvania

500 Community

500.1 Various

500.2 Motherhouse

500.3 Formation

500.4 Anniversaries

500.5 Jubilees

500.6 Assignments

500.7 Publications

500.8 Former Members

500.9 Annals/Chronicles

600 Chapter

600.1 McAuley Conference

600.2 Chapters

600.3 Commissions/Committees

600.4 Representative Assembly

700 Government

700.1 Constitutions

700.2 Core Constitutions