

2012.08

New York Regional Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:

193 linear feet, including
Documents
Photographs
Sound Recordings
Bound volumes
Published reports, directories, theses, dissertations
Scrapbooks
VHS Tapes

Dates:

1845-2011

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 from Hartsdale, New York in October, 2012.

History:

In 1845 Archbishop John Hughes went to Ireland seeking Sisters for his rapidly growing Diocese of New York. In response Mother Mary Agnes O'Connor accompanied by Sisters Mary Austin Horan, Monica O'Doherty, Angela Maher, Teresa Breen, Camillus Byrne, Vincent Haire, a novice and Mary Anne Byrne, a postulant set sail arriving in New York on May 14, 1846. Four months after the Sisters arrived, they accepted their first postulant, Catherine Seton, the youngest daughter of Elizabeth Bayley Seton.



During the Civil War when the Government requested the help of the Sisters in providing nursing care to the wounded soldiers. They responded by taking charge of a military hospital in North Carolina. In appreciation the City of New York leased to the community a valuable piece of land on 81st St. and Madison Avenue. In fulfillment of promises made by the Sisters to the dying soldiers that their children would receive the care they needed, a home capable of providing care and education for 600 children was built on this property.

In September 1864 Rev. John Power requested Sisters from the New York community to work in his parish located in Worcester, MA. Mother Mary Jerome Shubrick, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Callanan, Sr. Mary Gertrude Ledwith, Sr. Mary Aloysius Grant, and Bridget Farrell, a postulant, departed for St. Anne's Parish a month later. The Worcester community separated from the New York foundation and remained independent until 1987 when it came full circle and fused with the New York community.

In 1872 when the Diocese of Ogdensburg was formed, the Bishop wanted to provide every parish with a Catholic school. He invited the Sisters of Mercy to undertake this work and, in spite of a severe climate and the hardships of pioneer life in upstate New York, the Sisters responded. In 1894 Bishop Gabriels of Ogdensburg appealed to the Sisters of Mercy to minister in the Adirondack region to patients with tuberculosis.

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the New York foundation continued to develop ministries focused on healthcare, education and orphanages. Upon the formation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in 1929, the New York and Ogdensburg communities joined with Providence, RI and became the Province of Providence. Worcester (MA) remained independent. In 1935 when the Province of Providence became too large, New York and Ogdensburg formed the Province of New York with provincial quarters in Wilson Park, Tarrytown, NY.

In 1984 the Worcester community voted to join the Sisters of Mercy of the Union. The process was finalized in April 1987 when the Worcester Community fused with the New York Community and became part of the Regional Community of New York. The Province of New York joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 1991 and became part of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Community on July 1, 2007.

Scope and Content:

This collection is divided in 26 series based on location, ministry, function or topic. The materials range in date from approximately 1845 to 2012, with the bulk of the material in the mid to late twentieth century. The collection includes administrative and legal documentation as well as reference material, photographs, membership records and general information on ministries and community life.

Material from the Worcester, MA Community comprises a separate series prior to the merger with the New York Regional Community in 1987.

Series:

- A. History, Foundress
- B. History, Sisters of Mercy of the Union
- C. History, New York Community
- D. Province Administration
- E. Chapters, Assemblies, Core Constitutions Project
- F. Constitutions, Customs, Directories
- G. Financial Records
- H. Institution of Mercy (Tarrytown and Dobbs Ferry)
- I. Convents and Ministries
- J. Healthcare Facilities
- K. Educational Facilities
- L. Residences for Women and Children, Foreign Missions
- M. Provincial Communications
- N. Development Office
- O. Formation
- P. Community Life
- Q. Educations/Health/Health Systems
- R. Mercy Organizations
 - a. Mercy Futures
 - b. Social Action Conference of Mercy
 - c. McAuley Institute
- S. Special Collections: Works of the Sisters
- T. Administration: Appointments, Directories, Handbooks, Other
- U. History, Ogdensburg
- V. Worcester, MA (1864-1987)
 - a. Annals, Local Council Minutes
 - b. Chapters, Executive Council Minutes
 - c. Formation/Celebrations
 - d. Originals/Legal
 - e. Constitutions, Customs, Guides
 - f. Correspondence/Reports, Miscellaneous
 - g. Educations/Convents
 - h. Administration (includes Ministries)
 - i. Deceased Sisters (prior to 1987)
 - j. Former Sisters
- W. Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- X. Institute, Formation of Area Communities
- Y. Associate Membership
- Z. Former Members

