

**2011.12**

## **Providence Regional Community Collection**

### **Repository**

Mercy Heritage Center  
720 Heritage Center Place  
Belmont NC 28012

### **Physical Description:**

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

### **Dates:**

1868-2006

### **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 the Northeast Community Administrative Center in Cumberland, Rhode Island in November, 2011.

### **History:**

Bishop Bernard O'Reilly, Bishop of Hartford, wrote to Mother M. Frances Warde in Pittsburgh, PA requesting sisters for Providence. His request was granted and on March 5, 1851 Mother Frances and four companions, - Sisters Josephine Lombard, Paula Lombard, Camillus O'Neill and Joanna Fogarty - left Pittsburgh for Providence.

Frances Warde immediately opened St. Xavier Academy for girls. Within a year a boarding school opened at St. Xavier's. Classes were held in the basement of the then Cathedral building.



By the fall of 1851 there were twenty-two Sisters. Despite anti-Catholic prejudice and a near riot in 1855 in front of the convent, the Providence foundation continued to grow and send sisters out to new foundations, including Manchester, NH, Hartford, CT, Rochester, NY, Nashville, TN and Fall River, MA.

Upon the formation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in 1929, the newly formed Province of Providence combined the Providence, Fall River, New York and Ogdensburg communities. In 1931 the Belize Community (founded in 1883 by Mother Austin Carroll) joined the Province of Providence as well. In 1935, New York and Ogdensburg were split to form the Province of New York. The Province expanded its works into Honduras in 1959.

The Province of Providence became part of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy in 1991 as the Providence Regional Community and combined with other regional communities to form the Northeast Community in 2006.

### **Scope and Content:**

Records are organized into fifteen series delineated by subject area or format. Topics include community life, governance, ministries and the records of individual sisters. Geographic areas covered include, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Honduras and Belize.

### **Series:**

100 History

200 Administration

300 Government

400 Finance

500 Membership:

501 General

502 Deceased Members

503 Theses/Dissertations

504 Written Works

505 Ministry Directors

- 506 Appointments/Directories
- 507 Associate Membership
- 508 Former Members
- 509 Transfer of Vows
- 510 Convent Financial Ledgers
- 511 Convent Chronicles
- 512 Convent Chronicles
- 513 Convent Visitations
- 514 Official Records
- 515 Exceptional Issues

600 Ministries:

- 601 Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts
- 602 Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island
  - 602.1 St. Xavier Convent/Academy
  - 602.2 St. Mary Academy, Newport, Newport
  - 602.3 Mercy College, Cumberland
  - 602.4 Miscellaneous

700 Property: Massachusetts/Rhode Island

800 Missions

- 801 General
- 802 Belize
- 803 Honduras

804 Belize and Honduras

805 Sandy Point, Newfoundland

900 Formation

1000 Spirituality and Renewal

1100 Communications

1200 Photographs

1300 Scrapbooks

1400 Audio/Visual

1500 Miscellaneous