



2014.02

Auburn Regional Community Collection

Repository:

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont, NC 2812

Physical Description:

114 linear feet, including
Documents
Photographs
Bound volumes
Published reports, directories, theses, dissertations
VHS tapes
Scrapbooks

Dates:

1857-2012

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 from the Sisters of Mercy, Auburn, California in 2014.

History:

In 1857, Mother Baptist Russell led a group of five sisters from San Francisco, California to establish a foundation in Sacramento. Three days later, the new community had established a school and began to visit the sick. They soon established St. Joseph's Academy. In 1861 and 1862, the new community ministered to the residents of Sacramento by boat during catastrophic flooding in the city.

In 1886, the Sacramento community became a congregation independent of its founding community in San Francisco. The Sacramento community began to work in healthcare in 1896,

purchasing Ridge Home, which soon became Mater Misericordiae Hospital, and then Mercy General Hospital. In 1986, the Auburn community merged their hospitals into Catholic Healthcare West (now Dignity Health).

In 1940, the Sacramento community moved their motherhouse and novitiate to the city of Auburn. At the bishop's request, the Auburn community opened a pre-postulancy house in Ireland in 1950 to facilitate new vocations.

The Auburn community remained independent until 1991, when it joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. In 2008, the Auburn Regional Community merged with the Burlingame, Omaha, Detroit and Chicago Regional Communities to form the West Midwest Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Scope and Content:

The Auburn Regional Community Collection is organized into seven series based on topic and format. Information related to specific ministries is located in series RG 1. Biographical material on individual sisters is located in RG 2. More recent material related to the Auburn community is located in the West Midwest Community Archives in Omaha, Nebraska.

Series/Subseries:

RG 1 History

- 1.1 History
- 1.2 Convents and Residences
- 1.3 Mission and Ministry
- 1.4 Mercy Spirituality
- 1.5 Writings of the Sisters
- 1.6 Scrapbooks
- 1.7 Mercy Scenes

RG 2 Membership

- 2.1 Deceased Sisters
- 2.2 Former Sisters

RG 3 Governance

- 3.1 Chapter Records
- 3.2 Regional Council Minutes
- 3.3 Congregational Papers
- 3.4 Presidential Papers
- 3.5 Legal Papers
- 3.6 Formation
- 3.7 Congregational Life
- 3.8 Community Newsletters and Correspondence
- 3.9 Pre-Institute Organizations

3.10 Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

RG 4 Media Holdings

RG 5 Artifacts

RG 6 Special Holdings

RG 7 Photographs