

**2012.03**

## **St. Louis Regional Community Collection**

### **Repository**

Mercy Heritage Center  
720 Heritage Center Place  
Belmont NC 28012

### **Physical Description:**

550 linear feet, including:

- Documents
- Photographs
- Sound Recordings
- Bound volumes
- Published reports, directories, theses, dissertations
- VHS Tapes
- Digital Media

### **Dates:**

1851-2008

### **Restrictions:**

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

### **Provenance:**

The St. Louis Regional Community Collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center from Mercy Center, St. Louis in 2012.

### **History:**

The St. Louis Regional Community encompassed seven states, each with a distinct history. Each area remained part of the St. Louis Province/Regional Community until it became part of the South Central Community of the Sisters of Mercy in 2008.

**Arkansas:** In 1851 four professed sisters and eight postulants arrived in Little Rock from Naas, Ireland, after Bishop Andrew Byrne recruited them to establish a foundation in his new diocese. The sisters began work in the city of Little Rock, founding St. Mary's Academy (now Mount St. Mary Academy) and soon expanded into Fort Smith and Helena. The Arkansas community nursed wounded in the Civil War and ministered in education and healthcare. In 1929, the Arkansas Sisters of Mercy joined the Sisters of Mercy of the Union as part of the St. Louis Province.

**Kansas:** In 1886 the Sisters of Mercy came to Fort Scott, Kansas, from Big Rapids, Michigan after two sisters from this community were convinced of the need in the area by a local priest when they were traveling through the area. Although the sisters arrived in Fort Scott with the intention of starting a school, the need for a hospital was greater. Although establishing schools and an orphanage, the sisters operated hospitals throughout the state and served in railroad hospitals in Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri. Due to this service in Missouri, the Kansas sisters requested to become part of the St. Louis Province when they voted to join the Union in 1937.

**Louisiana:** The Sisters of Mercy, including Mother Mary Catherine Grant and future superior, Mother Mary Teresa Austin Carroll, established a community in New Orleans in 1869. The Sisters immediately began teaching, visiting the sick or imprisoned and providing shelter for women and orphans. The New Orleans community established branch houses along the Gulf Coast and in Belize, but these houses were quickly separated from the New Orleans motherhouse by the bishop. Other ministries of the New Orleans community include Mercy Hospital-Soniat Memorial, housing and health initiatives. The New Orleans community joined the St. Louis Province in 1929.

**Mississippi:** The Sisters of Mercy from Baltimore arrived in Vicksburg on October 12, 1860 and opened St. Francis Xavier Academy. Eighteen months later, the city was subject to heavy bombing from Union gunboats in the struggle for control of the Mississippi River. The Sisters became Confederate nurses, moving with the wounded men for the remainder of the war. After the war, the sisters expanded their education ministry throughout the state. Healthcare has continued throughout the community's history, as sisters nursed victims of yellow fever in 1878, established Mercy Hospital-Street Memorial in Vicksburg, and more recently Coastal Family Clinics, Mississippi Health Advocacy and "The Mercy Delta Express" mobile medical van. Mississippi became part of the Province of St. Louis in 1929.

**Missouri:** In 1856, Mother Mary Magdalen de Pazzi Bentley and led a group of six sisters from New York to establish a foundation in St. Louis. The sisters immediately began the works of mercy, opening schools and visiting the sick and imprisoned, including Civil War soldiers. In 1871 St. John's Hospital (St. John's Mercy Medical Center) was founded. In 1986, the Sisters of Mercy Health System was formed to consolidate hospitals that had previously existed as independent corporations. In 2008, official sponsorship of the health system was transferred to a new sponsoring body, Mercy Health Ministry, which is governed by a board composed of Sisters of Mercy and lay members.

The St. Louis Community also served as the Provincial headquarters for the Province of St. Louis from 1929-2008. The St. Louis Regional Community became part of the South Central Community in 2008.

**Oklahoma:** The Sisters of Mercy came to Oklahoma from Lacon, Illinois in 1884 at the request of Father Isidore Robot. The Sisters established St. Mary's Academy at the Benedictine Sacred Heart Mission, and eventually expanded their ministry to St. Agnes Academy, Ardmore, schools



throughout the state and hospitals in McAlester and Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Sisters of Mercy joined the Union as part of the St. Louis Province in 1929.

**Texas:** In 1875, the first Sisters of Mercy came to South Texas from New Orleans. The Sisters established a school in Indianola, which was destroyed by a storm. The new community split between San Patricio and Refugio. In 1894, the sisters in Refugio relocated to Laredo and opened Mercy Hospital. During the early years in South Texas several groups of sisters operated ministries in multiple locations and moved frequently. Contemporary ministries include Casa Merced, ARISE, the Mexican American Cultural Center and Casa Misericordia.

In 1894, Sisters from San Francisco arrived in West Texas, establishing a foundation in Stanton. The sisters taught at various schools and operated a small hospital in Big Spring, but remained a small community due to many changes in location and membership. After a tornado destroyed the sisters' academy in Stanton in 1938, the sisters moved to their ministry in Slaton, Texas, which became the official headquarters for the West Texas Sisters of Mercy.

In 1929 both regions joined the Union as part of the Province of St. Louis.

### **Scope and Content:**

The St. Louis Regional Community Collection is divided into two record groups: Administrative and Historical. The Administrative record group contains individual sisters' records and material generated by the Province, and later Regional Community of St. Louis, including official communications and reports, correspondence, governance and documents related to overarching programs, boards and taskforces. These records range from the beginning of the Province in 1930 until the merger of the St. Louis Regional Community with the South Central Community in 2008. The records of individual sisters range from the beginning of each community to 2008 and are filed alphabetically.

The Historical record group is organized by geographic location and contains information on the origins of the local communities and their ministries. Records include community annals and meetings, ministry financial ledgers, year books, correspondence and reference materials. With the exception of photo albums and scrapbooks, photographs are filed by location in a separate photo series. Additional oversize items are filed by series number in oversize storage.

### **Schema**

#### Administration

##### **A100 Sisters**

##### **A200 News Communication**

##### **A300 Correspondence (Leadership), 1929-2008**

##### **A400 Annual Reports, Statistics**

##### **A500 Formation: Initial, Ongoing, Other Forms of Membership**

**A600 Chapters/Assemblies, 1919-2008**

**A700 Meetings:** Governance, Boards and Task Forces

**A800 Conferences, Boards and Programs:** Education, Health Services, Special Services, Foreign Missions, Latin American Caribbean Conference, Funding Boards

**A900 Miscellaneous:** St. Louis Archdiocese, Catholic Health Association, Sisters of the Imitation of Christ, India

**History**

**H100 Catherine McAuley**

**H200 Foundations and Founders:** United States and International

**H300 Sisters of Mercy, General:** Civil War service, prayer books, The Amalgamation, Core Constitutions, Federation of the Sisters of Mercy, Institute, Reimagining and Reconfiguring

**H400 St. Louis Province:** Chronicles and meetings, provincial complex, Mercy Center

**H501 Arkansas:**

Barling, Arkansas Sisters of Mercy Retirement Corp.

Brinkley, Mercy Hospital-Gazzola Memorial

El Dorado, Warner Brown Hospital

Fort Smith, St. Anne's Academy/Convent

Immaculate Conception School/Convent

St. Edward's Mercy Convent

St. Edward's Mercy Hospital

Various Ministries:

Mercy Villa

Trinity Junior High

Sisters of Mercy 2700 S. 74<sup>TH</sup> St.

Christ the King School

Experimental Community

Harbor View Mercy Hospital

Catherine's Manor, Ellsworth Road

Sisters of Mercy, 53<sup>RD</sup> ST.

Hot Springs, St. Joseph's Regional Health Center

Various Schools/Parishes

Scrapbook

Little Rock, Mt. St. Mary Convent

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Catherine's House

Various School/Convents

North Little Rock, St. Patrick's School/Convent

Mena, St. Joseph Academy/Convent

Rogers, St. Mary's Mercy Medical Center

Waldron, Mercy Hospital of Scott County/Pinewood Nursing Home

#### Small Parish/Public Ministries

Adona-St. Elizabeth School/Convent  
Camden-St. Louis Parochial School/Convent  
El Dorado-Holy Redeemer, Parochial School  
Fayetteville-St. Joseph School/Convent  
Helena-St. Catherine's Academy/Convent  
Hope-Our Lady of Hope School/Convent  
Sunnyside, 1896  
Ozark-Mercy Hospital/Turner Memorial 2  
Paris-North Logan Memorial Hospital  
Slovakactown(Stuttgart), Sts. Cyril and Methodius  
Tontitown-St. Mary's Academy, Later St. Joseph's  
School and Convent  
Van Buren-St. Philomena Academy

#### **H502 Kansas**

Fredonia, Lumen Christi School Province Education Project, St. Margaret Mary  
Mercy Hospital/Convent

Fort Scott, Mercy Hospital and Convent, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing

Small Education and Health Facilities,

Fort Scott, Mary Queen of Angels Elementary School  
Fort Scott, Our Lady of Mercy High School  
Fredonia, Sacred Heart Elementary School  
Fulton, St. Patrick Church  
Halstead, Sacred Heart Church  
Humbolt, St. Joseph School  
Hutchinson, Trinity High School  
Iola, Gas City Hospital  
Liberal, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital  
Moline, St. Mary's School  
Neodesha, St. Ignatius Parish  
Pittsburg, St. Barbara Parish  
Piqua, St. Martin's Elementary School  
Wichita, St. Jude Elementary School  
Yates, St. Joseph Parish  
Zenda, St. John's Parish

Hutchinson, St. Elizabeth's Mercy Hospital/Convent

Independence, Mercy Hospital/Convent, Mercy Hospitals of Kansas, Inc.,  
Mortgage serial Bonds and Coupons

Walnut, St. Patrick's Elementary, Secondary Schools

#### **H503 Louisiana**

New Orleans, St. Alphonsus School/Convent, Mercy Endeavors Senior Ctr.,  
Mercy Education Ministries, Redemptorist Girls High School, St. Michael's  
School/Convent, Holy Name of Jesus School/Convent, Mercy Academy, Several  
Houses, Mercy Hospital(Soniat Memorial), Mercy Hospital School of Nursing

Our Lady of Wisdom Health Care, Hurricane Katrina  
Jeanerette, St. Joseph School/Convent  
Kenner, Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Metairie, Several Ministries  
Branch Houses: Alabama, Belize, Biloxi, Florida, and others  
St. Martinville, Our Lady of Mercy High School/Convent  
Louisiana, Sr. Mary Hermenia Muldrey Personal Papers

## **H504 Mississippi**

### General

Vicksburg, St. Francis Xavier Academy/Convent, Corporation-SOM in MS  
Bay St. Louis, Our Lady Academy  
Biloxi, Holy Angels Nursery and Kindergarten, St. Michael's School/Convent,  
 Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary School/Convent, St. John's Elementary  
 School/Convent, Biloxi Special Services Project, Sacred Heart  
 Academy/Convent, Sacred Heart Academy for Girls, Mercy Cross, McAuley  
 Education Center  
Greenville, St. Rose of Lima/ St. Joseph School/ Con.  
Gulfport, St. John School/Convent  
Hattiesburg, Sacred Heart School/Convent  
Jackson, St. Richard's School/Convent, St. Joseph Academy/High School/ Con.  
 St. Joseph Academy/High School, Maplewood, BEGIN Program, Learning  
 Center, Dioceses of Jackson, North Parkway, Mercy Manor, Winchester  
Meridian, St. Aloysius Academy/Convent  
Pass Christian, St. Joseph Academy/Convent, St. Paul School, St. Philomena  
Various Houses

*Bassfield*, St. Columbanus/St. Peters  
*Biloxi*, Apartments: Edgewater Gardens Apt. B-14, Sisters of Mercy,  
 Atkinson Rd. Bayou Mercy Convent/11454 Spring Lane  
*Canton*, Sacred Heart School/Convent  
*Clarksdale*, St. Elizabeth Elementary School  
*D'Iberville*, Sacred Heart School (St. Theresa, N. Biloxi)  
*De Kalb*, Kemper County Mission  
*Gulfport*, Sisters of Mercy, 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
*Hattiesburg*, Brittany Apts., Sharmont Dr.  
*Laurel*, Immaculate Conception School  
*Leland*, Sisters of Mercy, Deer Creek  
*Long Beach*, North Ida, Briarwood, Hayden Ave. (Pass Christian),  
*Pineville*, St. Thomas the Apostle, Sisters of Mercy, Nicholson  
*McComb*, St. Alphonsus Elementary / High School  
*Meridian*, St. Patrick's Elementary School/Convent  
*Ocean Springs*, Camp Gravaline  
*Paulding*, St. Michael Church  
*Shelby*, Sisters of Mercy, Argone  
*Tucker*, Holy Rosary Mission  
*West Point*, West Point Catholic Chapel

*Vicksburg*, St. Aloysius Jr./Sr. High School, St. Francis Xavier Parochial  
El. School, Mercy Hospital-Street Memorial/Mercy Regional Medical  
Center, Mercy Hospital Convent, McAuley Home, Mercy Ministries  
(Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy Health System), St. Gabriel Mercy Center,  
Mercy Housing & Human Development, Walking Together in Hope

### **H505 Missouri**

St. Louis, St. Joseph Convent of Mercy, St. John's Hospital/Mercy Medical  
Center, St. John's Hospital Euclid/Mercy Medical Center, St. John's Hospital  
School of Nursing,  
Caruthersville, Sacred Heart Parish Ministry  
Chaffee, St. Ambrose School/Eureka: Josephville/St. Joseph's Hill Elementary  
Mansfield, Mercy Hospital/Convent  
Normandy/Portageville, St. Ann's School/St. Eustachius School  
St. Louis, Catherine's Residence, McAuley Hall, St. Joan of Arc School/Convent,  
Small Communities  
Sikeston/Springfield, St. Francis Xavier School/Convent  
Springfield, St. John's Regional Health Center  
University City, Mercy High School, Mercita Hall-Marion Hall, Christ the King  
School/Convent  
Washington, St. Francis/St. John's Mercy Hospital  
Illinois, Gillespie, St. Simon and Jude School/Convent  
Arkansas, Eureka Springs, Hotel Dieu

### **H506 Oklahoma**

General  
Sacred Heart Mission, St. Mary Academy  
Oklahoma City, St. Mary Academy/High School Convent  
Ardmore, St. Agnes Academy/Convent, St. Mary School/Convent, Mercy Health  
Center  
Various Houses  
*Canute*, St. Francis School, Holy Family School  
*Elk City*, St. Joseph School /St. Mary's Institute  
*El Reno*, Sacred Heart  
*Enid*, St. Mary's Mercy Hospital  
*Hartshorne*, Holy Rosary School/Convent  
*Krebs*, St. Joseph School  
*Lehigh*, Our Lady of Good Council  
*McAlester*, Mercy Hospital  
*Sand Springs*, St. Patrick's  
*Wilburton*, Sacred Heart School/Convent  
*Oklahoma City*, Holy Angels School/Convent, Immaculate Conception  
School, Sacred Heart School, St. Francis School, McGinnis High School,  
St. Philip Neri School/Convent  
Oversize Documents,  
*Oklahoma City*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent/John Carroll School



*Oklahoma, St. Joseph Orphanage/St. Joseph School/Convent, St. Benedict School, Shawnee, Mercy Health Center/Convent*

## **H507 South Texas**

### General

Laredo, Sisters of Mercy Convent, Mercy Medical Center

Brownsville, Mercy Hospital

### Various Houses and Ministries

*Alamo*, Casa Gililea

*Brownsville*, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

*Corpus Christi*, St. Joseph High School

*Edinburg*, Public School / Sacred Heart School

*Goliad*, Immaculate Conception Church

*Harlingen*, Immaculate Heart of Mary School

*Kingsville*, Misericordia Hall

*La Joya*, Our Lady of Angels CCD Program

*Laredo*, Our Lady of Hope, Sisters of Mercy Guerrera, Su Casa, Casa La Esperanza, Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Mercy Ministries of Laredo

*McAllen*, St. Genevieve School / Sacred Heart School, Our Lady of

Perpetual Help, Casa La Merced

*Mercedes*, Our Lady of Mercy Parish / School

*Mission*, St. Paul's Parish School

*Penitas*, Public School

*Raymondville*

*Roma*

*San Antonio*, Holy Redeemer Clinic

*Rio Grande Valley*

*San Antonio*, Perrin

Mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe School

Pharr, Project ARISE

Rio Grande City, Immaculate Conception School

San Antonio, Mexican American Cultural Center

## **H508 West Texas**

Stanton, Our Lady of Mercy Academy / Convent

### Various Ministries and Houses

*Amarillo*, Our Lady of Guadalupe School / Convent

*Groom*, St. Mary's School / Convent

*Lubbock*, Casa Merced

*Plainview*, St. Alice Catechetical Center

*Umbarger*, Public School

*Slaton*, Mercy Hospital, Convent at 715 S. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Joseph School



