



2012.11

Dallas Regional Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Preferred Citation:

Dallas Regional Community Collection, Mercy Archives, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Creator:

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Dallas Regional Community.

Physical Description:

193 linear feet, including:

- Documents
- Bound volumes
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- VHS Tapes
- Audio-Visual Material

Dates:

1848-2012

Access:

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

Because of the nature of certain archival formats, including digital and audio-visual materials, access will require additional advanced notice.

A box and folder list is available upon request.

Custodial History:

The Dallas Regional Community collections was retained by the Dallas community of the Sisters of Mercy until its transfer to Mercy Heritage Center in 2012.

History:

The Dallas Regional Community began with the 1848 founding of Loretto community by Sisters of Mercy from Pittsburgh. Between 1869 and 1877 Sisters founded communities in Harrisburg, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Towanda, Pennsylvania. Wilkes-Barre became independent from Pittsburgh as well in 1878. The Loretto community became independent from Pittsburgh in 1879 and moved to Cresson in 1897.

In the late nineteenth century these foundations began to merge, with Towanda merging with Wilkes-Barre in 1878 and Hazleton merging with Wilkes-Barre in 1899. In 1924, these combined groups built a new motherhouse in Dallas, Pennsylvania and opened College Misericordia. In 1929, the Harrisburg and Cresson communities joined with Dallas to form the Province of Scranton, part of the Union of the Sisters of Mercy. The Province of Scranton also included Baltimore and areas in the Southeast until 1935. In 1934 and 1938, the Sisters of Mercy in communities in Guyana joined the Union had been accepted, with Guyana now part of the Province of Scranton. In 1991, the Province of Scranton joined the newly formed Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and became the Scranton Regional Community. In 2007, the Scranton Regional Community merged with four other regional communities to form the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy.

Ministries of the Province and Regional Community include College Misericordia in Dallas, Mt. Aloysius College in Cresson, numerous schools throughout Pennsylvania, Long Island and Guyana, hospitals in Wilkes-Barre, Johnstown and Georgetown, Guyana, and St. John Bosco orphanage in Plaisance, Guyana.

Scope and Content:

The Dallas Regional Community Collection is organized into series based on function, format and provenance. Membership records include individual member files; creative works are located in series H900. Ministry records are primarily located in series H300 and H400, though information can be found throughout the collection. Series H900 contains a large scrapbook collection. Mercy Heritage Center also holds additional unprocessed material from the Cedar Rapids community. Consult staff for more information about accrued materials.

Series:

Administrative Records

A100 Membership

A200 Province Communications

- A300 Administrators
- A400 Reports
- A500 Formation
- A600 Chapters
- A700 Meetings
- A800 Conferences and Workshops
- A900 Institutes, Councils and Studies

Historical Records

- H100 Mercy History
- H200 Province of Scranton, Early History
- H300 Province of Scranton (includes ministries)
- H400 Province of Scranton and Dallas Regional Communities
- H500 Expanded Areas of Apostolic Work
- H600 Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- H700 Formation of the Mid-Atlantic Community
- H800 Audio-Visual
- H900 Annals/Chronicles/Scrapbooks