

**2012.07**

## **Baltimore Regional Community Collection**

### **Repository**

Mercy Heritage Center  
720 Heritage Center Place  
Belmont NC 28012

### **Physical Description:**

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

### **Dates:**

1855-2008

### **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 South Central Administration Center in Belmont, North Carolina in August 2012.

### **History:**

The Baltimore Regional Community comprised four distinct geographic areas, each with a distinct history.

The **Baltimore** community was founded from Pittsburgh in 1855 by Mother Catherine Wynne. After initially establishing their foundation at St. Peter's in Baltimore, the community moved their motherhouse to Mt. St. Agnes in Mount Washington, Maryland. This location served as an academy, college, motherhouse and novitiate for the Baltimore Community, and later the Province of Baltimore. Members of the Baltimore community ministered in education and healthcare, serving as nurses during the Civil War and Spanish American War. In 1874, the community took over City Hospital, eventually renaming it Mercy Hospital.



The **Savannah, Georgia** community was founded in 1845 by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, a separate order created by Bishop England in Charleston, South Carolina. The founding group, led by Mother Mary Vincent Mahoney, established St. Vincent's Academy in Atlanta, as well as school and hospitals throughout Georgia. In 1892 the community voted to adopt the rule of the Sisters of Mercy.

The **Columbus/Macon, Georgia** community was founded in 1862, by sisters fleeing St. Augustine for safety during the Civil War. The founding group was led by Mother Liguori Major. In 1876, the sisters moved their motherhouse to Macon and opened Mt. de Sales Academy. The community remained small, only operating in Macon and Columbus

The **Selma/Mobile** community was founded by Mother Austin Carroll in 1891, with Selma as a short-lived motherhouse. Branch houses were established in Pensacola, FL, (1877), Warrington, FL, (1878) and Mobile, AL, (1884). In 1895 the motherhouse was moved to Mobile. While education was the primary ministry of the community, the 1940s saw the establishment of Martin de Porres Maternity Hospital in 1942 and Mercy Villa Nursing Home (Mercy Medical Inc.) in 1949.

With the formation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in 1929, the Baltimore, Savannah and Columbus/Macon communities were assigned to the Scranton Province, and the Mobile community assigned the St. Louis Province. Due to the long distances from provincial headquarters, the Province of Baltimore was created in 1935, encompassing Maryland and the Georgia and Alabama communities. In 1991, the Baltimore Province joined the newly formed Institute of the Sisters of Mercy and became the Baltimore Regional Community. In 2008, the Baltimore Regional Community joined with North Carolina, Cincinnati and St. Louis regional communities to form the South Central Community of the Sisters of Mercy.

### **Scope and Content:**

Records are organized into nine series delineated by subject area or format. Records that pre-date the formation of the Baltimore Province in 1935, as well as general materials created by the Union and its successor, the Institute, are located in Series 900.

Topics include community life, governance, ministries and the records of individual sisters. Geographic areas covered include, Maryland, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Belize, Guyana, El Salvador, Peru, Trinidad and Honduras.

### **Schema**

#### **RG 100: RECORDS OF SISTERS 1935 – 2008**

Deceased, Cemeteries, Departures, Transfers, Former members, Membership, Appointments/ Directories, Lists; Dissertations, Written works, Personal Papers

#### **RG 200: PROVINCE / REGIONAL COMMUNITY RECORDS 1935 - 2008**

Communications, Correspondence, Mailings; Reports & Statistics, Studies & Surveys; Handbooks & Manuals; Joint retirement project; Transition to Institute & South Central; Finances.

### **RG 300: FORMATION, COMMUNITY LIFE, AND SPIRITUALITY**

**Formation:** Novitiate records, Creative works; Ceremonies, preparation, programs; Policies and procedures; Recruitment; Sister Formation publications;

**Community Life:** Constitutions, Customs & Guides, Renewal & change; Social justice; Member involvement; History; Events; People connected: clergy, Associates, Mercy Volunteer Corps, Mercy Center personnel;

**Spirituality:** Office, prayer, meditation, & retreat books; Prayers, retreats & reflection Days.

### **RG 400: CHAPTERS, MEETINGS and CONFERENCES**

**Chapters:** Province/ Regional Community;

**Meetings:** Council, Advisory board, Extended team, Local superiors; Corporations; Committees, Commissions, Task forces, Work groups;

**Conferences:** Non-Chapter Assemblies, Gatherings.

### **RG 500: MINISTRIES: HOUSES / SCHOOLS / ORPHANAGES**

Traditional convents / residences and schools and orphanages in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC; Vacation residences.

### **RG 600: MINISTRIES: HEALTH CARE, DIVERSIFIED WORKS, MISSIONS**

Traditional convents / residences and health care facilities in AL, GA, MD; Co-Sponsored ministries; Other diversified ministries; Foreign missions.

### **RG 700: AUDIO-VISUALS**

Photographs, Slides, Tapes, Phonograph records, Movies, VCRs, Electronic media: CDs, DVDs.

### **RG 800: HISTORICAL RECORDS**

Catherine McAuley; Other early writings; RSM books, Biographies; Special Events;

RSM organizations: Federation, Transition to Institute; MIA; McAuley Institute; Mercy education networks, Organizations for Leaders: CHA, LCWR; Historic collections:

Scrapbooks, Clippings.

### **RG 900: PRE-AMALGAMATION COMMUNITIES, UNION, and INSTITUTE**

**Pre-Amalgamation Communities:** Baltimore, Macon, Mobile, Savannah;

**Union:** Chapters, Communications, Correspondence, General Advisory Board, General Administrative Council, Officials, Constitutions, Customs; Health & Education conferences, Workshops; Historical papers;

**Institute:** Chapters, Communications, Fact booklets, MAST, Institute Leadership Conference, Processes and projects.