



2011.05

Pittsburgh Regional Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:

143 linear feet, including:

- Documents
- Reports
- Publications
- Photographs
- Audiovisual Material
- Bound items
- Objects

Dates:

1843-2009

Restrictions:

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

Provenance:

The Pittsburgh Regional Community Collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center in 2011 from the Sisters of Mercy, Pittsburgh.

History:

Seven Sisters of Mercy arrived in Pittsburgh in 1843 at the request of Bishop Michael O'Connor, who had traveled to Ireland to personally request the community's presence in his diocese. Led by Mother Frances Warde, the group crossed on the ship *Queen of the West* and journeyed overland to Pittsburgh. Upon arrival, the sisters immediately began to operate schools and visit the sick. The sister began to work at St. Paul Orphanage in 1846 and opened the first Mercy Hospital in the world in 1847.

Education ministries expanded as the sisters taught throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding area. In 1929, Mt. Mercy College (now Carlow University) was founded. In the mid-twentieth century, the sisters expanded their work to Chimbote, Peru, and Puerto Rico.

As the first Mercy foundation in the United States, the Pittsburgh community was the source of a number of new American foundations, including Chicago, Illinois; Loretto, Pennsylvania; Providence, Rhode Island; Baltimore, Maryland; Buffalo, New York; Titusville (Erie) and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh community remained independent until 1991, when it joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the America. In 2008, the Pittsburgh Regional Community joined with Buffalo and Rochester, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; and the Philippines to form the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community (NyPPaW) of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Scope and Content:

The Pittsburgh Regional Community Collection is organized into series by topic and format. While the collection contains some information about larger institutions such as Mercy Hospital and Carlow University (Mt. Mercy College) the majority of the records may be located with the existing institution. More recent information about the Pittsburgh community is located in the New York, Pennsylvania West archives in Buffalo, New York.

Series/Subseries:

1. Founders
2. Pittsburgh Beginnings
3. Chronologies
4. St. Xavier's, Latrobe
5. Our Lady of Mercy Academy (Pittsburgh and Monroeville)
6. St. Paul Orphanage
7. Parish Schools
8. School Publications
9. Carlow University (Mt. Mercy College)
10. Other Ministries
 - 10.1. Nazareth House of Prayer, Virginia
 - 10.2. Mercy Neighborhood Ministries
 - 10.3. Idaho Migrant Workers' Camp
 - 10.4. McAuley Ministries Foundation
 - 10.5. The Intersection, McKeesport, PA
11. Puerto Rico and Peru
12. Healthcare
 - 12.1. Holy Cross Hospital, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 - 12.2. Mercy Hospital Pittsburgh
 - 12.3. Ligonier, PA Hospital
 - 12.4. Eastern Mercy Health System

- 13. RSM Governance Structures
 - 13.1. Union
 - 13.2. Federation
 - 13.3. Institute
 - 13.4. NyPPaW
- 14. Bishops
- 15. Music
- 16. Audio Visual and Photos
- 17. Artifacts and Memorabilia
- 18. Legal Documents
- 19. Holy Rule and Constitutions
- 20. Leadership (Administrative Council)
- 21. Administrative Departments
 - 21.1. Foundation of National Black Sisters Conference
- 22. Chapters/Assemblies
- 23. Superiors
- 24. Sr. Elizabeth (Thomas Aquinas) Carroll
- 25. Communications
- 26. Finance
- 27. Annals
- 28. Celebration
- 29. Personal Papers
 - 29.1. Sister Mary Antonia Gallagher
 - 29.2. Sr. Kathleen (M. Aquinas) Healy
 - 29.3. Sr. M. Jerome McHale
 - 29.4. Sr. M. Maurice Whalen
 - 29.5. Misc. Sisters
 - 29.6. Sr. M. Fides Shepperson
 - 29.7. Sr. M. Owen Kelly
 - 29.8. Oversize documents
- 30. Membership
 - 30.1. Deceased Sisters
 - 30.2. Former Sisters
 - 30.3. Dissertations/Theses
- 31. Audiovisual