

2013.06

Chicago Regional Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:

319 linear feet, including

- Documents
- Photographs
- Audio-Visual Material
- Objects
- Publications

Dates:

1846—2011

Restrictions:

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

Provenance:

The Chicago Regional Community Collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center in 2013 from Chicago, Illinois.

History:

The Chicago community of the Sisters of Mercy was founded in 1846 by sisters from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, led by Mother Frances Warde. After Warde returned to Pittsburgh, Mary Agatha O'Brien was named superior. The community immediately began to open ministries, including St. Xavier Academy (St. Xavier University). In 1852, the Chicago Sisters of Mercy opened Mercy Hospital.

In 1929, the Sisters of Mercy joined together to form the Sisters of Mercy of Union. The new Chicago Province comprised the formerly independent foundations of Chicago, South Side; Chicago, West Side; Ottawa, Illinois; Aurora, Illinois; Davenport, Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; Janesville, Wisconsin and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1991, the Chicago Province joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas as the Chicago Regional Community. In 2008,

Chicago joined together with other regional communities to form the West Midwest Community within the Institute.

The Sisters of the Chicago Province continued to expand their ministries over time, ultimately serving in over 100 schools, including St. Xavier University, 11 hospitals and 16 residences including Misericordia Home, a residence for over 600 individuals with developmental disabilities.

Scope and Content:

The Chicago Regional Community Collection is comprised of 5 series organized by subject, format and function. Series 1, History contains information about individual foundations, ministries and sisters prior to the 1929 Amalgamation. Series 2, History Books includes books about the history of the Sisters of Mercy in general and Chicago in particular and also historical prayer books. Series 3, Administration/Government/Leadership includes files of presidents and council members as well as information on the development of larger government structures. Series 4, Ministry contains subseries on elementary, secondary and higher education, as well as healthcare and “other” ministries including missions to Peru. Series 5, Community Life, contains information related to individual members, community celebrations, spirituality and extended membership (Association and Mercy Corps).

Schema:

Series 1: History (H1 through H106)

Mercy History, Chicago, Iowa and Wisconsin History, Ministry History

Series 2: History Books (HB1 through HB19)

Series 3: Administration/Government/Leadership (RG1.1 through 16.6)

RG1: Provincials and Church Leadership

RG2: Provincial Chapters

RG3: Administrative Teams

RG4: Administrators

RG5-9: Regional Presidents/Teams

RG10: Regional Leadership Team Minutes

RG11: Reports and Communications, Generalate

RG12: Membership/Incorporation

RG13: Generalate/Women of Note

RG14: General Chapter

RG15: New Institute

RG16: Non-Mercy Religious Organizations

Series 4: Ministry

ES1 through 1.24: Elementary Schools

SE2.1 through 2.2: Secondary Education

HC2.3 through 2.6: Healthcare

SE2.7 through 2.62: Secondary Education

HE3.1 through 3.39: Higher Education

HC1.1 through HC5.1: Healthcare

HC1: Mercy Hospital, Chicago

HC2.1-2.7: Mercy Hospital, Davenport, Iowa

HC2.9-2.13; 2.17- : Mercy Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa

HC2.14-2.16: St. Thomas Mercy Hospital, Marshalltown, Iowa

HC3.1-3.18: Healthcare and Community in Aurora, Illinois

HC3.19-3.22: Healthcare in DeKalb, Illinois

HC4.1-4.6: Mercy Hospital, Janesville, Wisconsin

HC5.1: Mercy Healthcare System

MO1-10: Ministry/Housing

MO11- MO26: Ministry/Other

MP1-MP12: Ministry Preparation (Education and Publications)

OE1.1-4.1: Ongoing Education

Series 5: Community Life

CL1.1-1.4: Residences

CL1.5: Deceased Sisters

CL1.6: Former Sisters

CL1.7: Appointments

CL1.8: Clothing

CL2.1-2.2: Spirituality

CL2.3-2.5: Extended Membership (Associates, Mercy Corps)

CL3: Community Photographs

CL4: Community Life Celebrations