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