2012.12

Merion/Philadelphia Regional Community Collection

Repository
Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:
143 linear feet, including
Documents
Bound material
Photographs
Video

Dates:
1861-2009

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

Provenance:
This collection was transferred to the Mercy Heritage Center, Belmont, North Carolina, in October 2012 from Merion, Pennsylvania.

History

On August 22, 1861, Patricia Waldron and nine companions from the Mercy foundation in Manchester, New Hampshire established the first foundation in Philadelphia at Assumption B.V.M. parish. In addition to staffing the parish school, the sisters opened an academy and night school, began visitation of the sick in homes and hospitals as well as visitation of prisoners.

In 1884, the community purchased property in a suburb of Philadelphia, Merion, which became the motherhouse. The sisters soon opened Mater Misericordiae school and began teaching in area parish schools.

They established schools of nursing and Gwynedd-Mercy College and were pioneers in special education at St. Katherine Day School. In 1918, two years after the death of Mother Patricia Waldron, Misericordia Hospital (now Mercy Philadelphia Hospital) opened its doors at 54th and Cedar Avenues. Other ministries of the Philadelphia community include Mercy Hospice, Project Home, Women of Hope, Bethesda Project and Mercy Neighborhood ministries. Sisters from the Merion Regional Community have also served in India, Peru, Thailand and Namibia.
In 1991, the community joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas as the Merion Regional Community. In 2007 Merion united with the regional communities of Brooklyn, New York, Dallas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to form the Mid-Atlantic Regional Community.

**Scope and Content**

The collection is organized into six record groups: Withdrawn Sisters, Deceased Sisters, Historical Records, Administrative Records, Ministries/Residences and Audiovisual Material. The collection includes records related to community governance and administration, individual members and the ministries staffed or owned by the Merion community. Additional material related to clergy, local history and parishes is also contained in the collection, particularly in the History and Ministry/Residences record groups.

Records range from the early period of the community’s founding until the transition to the Mid-Atlantic Community in 2007. Post-2007 records are located in the Mid-Atlantic Community Archives in Merion, Pennsylvania.

**Schema**

100 Withdrawn Sisters  
200 Deceased Sisters  
300 Historical Records  
300.1 Foundresses  
300.2 Major Superiors  
300.3 Philadelphia/Merion History  
300.4 Community Life  
300.5 Spiritual Renewal  
300.6 Formation/Incorporation  
300.7 Associated Individuals and Events  
300.8 Newsletters  
300.9 Dissertations and Publication by Sisters  
300.10 Mercy Corps  
300.11 Mercy Associates  
300.12 Rome  

400 Administrative Records  
400.1 Corporations  
400.2 General Council  
400.3 Chapters and Assemblies  
400.4 Mercy Futures  
400.5 Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
400.6 Development Office  
400.7 Education Offices  
400.8 Ministry Offices
400.9 Committees and Task Forces
400.10 Surveys and Studies
400.11 Organizations
400.12 Finances
400.13 Real Estate
400.14 Walsingham Academy

500 Ministries/Residences
500.1 Assignments
500.2 Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Philadelphia
500.3 Convent of Mercy, Annunciation and Assumption Convents Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.4 Annunciation Convent and School, Havelock, NC
500.5 Annunciation Convent and School, Havertown, PA
500.6 Bethany House of Prayer, Merion, PA
500.7 Bethlehem Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.8 Coolock Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.9 Covenant Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.10 Cranaleith Spiritual Center, Philadelphia, PA
500.11 Emmanuel Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.12 Emmaus Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.13 Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital and Convent
500.14 Formation Houses
500.15 Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.16 Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.17 Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.18 Holy Cross Convent and School, Springfield, PA
500.19 Holy Martyrs Convent and School, Orelan, PA
500.20 Infant of Prague Convent and School, Jacksonville, NC
500.21 Maranatha Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.22 Gwynedd Marylyn Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.23 Maternity BVM Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.24 McAuley Convent, Merion, PA
500.25 Mercy Convent, Allentown, PA
500.26 Mercy Convent, Drexel Hill, PA
500.27 Mercy Convent, Lansdale, PA
500.28 Mercy Haverford Hospital, Havertown, PA
500.29 Mercy Hospital, Sea Isle City, NJ
500.30 Mercy Vocational High School; Mercy Technical School, Philadelphia, PA
500.31 Mercy Day School (Special Learning Center), Allentown, PA
500.32 Mercy Hospice, Philadelphia, PA
500.33 Mercy Suburban Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
500.34 Mater Misericordiae Academy (Merion Mercy), Merion, PA
500.35 Misericordia Hospital
500.36 Mother Divine Providence Parish and Convent
500.37 Mother of Mercy Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.38 Our Lady of the Holy Souls Parish and Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.39 Our Lady of Mercy Convent, Springfield, PA
500.40 Our Lady of Lourdes Convent and School
500.41 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.42 Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Convent and School Bryn Mawr, PA
500.43 Presentation Convent and School, Penn Wynne, PA
500.44 Sacred Heart Convent and School, Danville, VA
500.45 Sacred Heart Convent and School, Nesquehoning, PA
500.46 Shalom Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.47 Sisters of Mercy, Bridgeport, PA
500.48 SOM, Ralston Avenue, Havertown, PA
500.49 SOM, Kinston, NC
500.50 SOM, Rose Way, Levittown, PA
500.51 SOM, Norristown, PA
500.52 SOM, Plaquemine, LA
500.53 Convent Annals and Vacation Houses
500.54 St. Alice Convent and School, Springfield, OR
500.55 St. Alphonsus Convent and School, Maple Glen, PA
500.56 St. Anne Convent, Merion, PA
500.57 St. Barbara Convent and School, Philadelphia PA
500.58 St. Callistus Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.59 St. Catherine Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.60 St. Catherine of Siena Convent and School, Horsham, PA
500.61 St. Charles Apache Mission School, San Carlos, AZ
500.62 St. Christopher Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.63 St. Denis Convent and School, Havertown, PA
500.64 St. Dorothy Convent and Parish, Drexel Hill, PA
500.65 St. Elizabeth Convent and School, Whitehall, PA (Fullerton, PA)
500.66 St. Elizabeth Convent and School, Richmond, VA
500.67 St. Helena Convent and School, Center Square, PA
500.68 St. John the Apostle Convent and School, Hialeah, FL
500.69 St. John Baptist de La Salle, Shillington, PA
500.70 St. John the Evangelist Parish, Convent and School, Hapeville, GA
500.71 St. Joseph Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.72 St. Joseph Convent and School, Sea Isle City, NJ
500.73 St. Joseph Convent and School, Summit Hill, PA
500.74 Our Lady of the Valley, Summit Hill, PA
500.75 St. Joseph the Worker Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.76 St. Jude Convent and School, Horsham, PA
500.77 St. Katherine Convent and Day School, Philadelphia, PA
500.78 St. Malachy Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.79 St. Margaret Convent and School, Narberth, PA
500.80 St. Martha Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.81 St. Matthias Convent and School, Bala Cynwyd, PA
500.82 St. Mary’s House for Working Girls, Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA
500.83 St. Mary Residence for Women, Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA
500.84 St. Michael Convent, Yeadon, PA
500.85 St. Michael of the Saints Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.86 St. Michael the Archangel Convent and School, Levittown, PA
500.87 St. Paul Convent and School, Allentown, PA
500.88 St. Paul Convent and School, Norristown, PA
500.89 St. Philip Neri Convent and School, East Greenville, PA
500.90 St. Raymond Convent and School, Philadelphia, PA
500.91 St. Regis House, Philadelphia, PA
500.92 Renewal House, Yeadon, PA
500.93 St. Richard Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.94 St. Rita Convent, Flourtown, PA
500.95 St. Rose of Lima Convent and School, North Wales, PA
500.96 St. Thomas of Villanova Convent and School, Rosemont, PA
500.97 St. Thomas – Good Counsel School, Bryn Mawr, PA
500.98 Springhouse Convent, Ambler PA
500.99 Tabor Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.100 Transfiguration Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.101 Treweryn Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.102 Trinity Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.103 Villa St. Agnes, Thornton, PA
500.104 Villa St. John, Downingtown, PA
500.105 Visitation Convent, Gwynedd Valley, PA
500.106 Visitation Convent, Philadelphia, PA
500.107 Waldron Mercy (Waldron) Academy, Merion, PA
500.108 Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg, VA
500.109 Summer Ministries
500.110 Varied Ministries
500.111 Misericordia Hospital (Mercy Philadelphia)
500.112 Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital
500.113 Mercy Catholic Medical Center
500.114 Healthy Systems
500.115 Jamshedpur, India
500.116 Peru

600 Audiovisual Material
   600.1 Merion/Philadelphia related
   600.2 Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas related
   600.3 Peru