

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Diocese of London School of Christ series (F01-S127)

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Diocese of London School of Christ series

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Summary information

Repository: Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Title: Diocese of London School of Christ series

ID: F01-S127

Date: 1943-1971 (date of creation)

Language: English

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records
31 photographs : b&w
2 photographs : col.
1 audio cassette (ca. 60 min.)
1 vinyl plaque and metal plate

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Monsignor W. T. Flannery Radio and Television Broadcasts, known as the “School of Christ,” was a radio and television program that aired from 1939 to 1963. Founded by Monsignor W.T. Flannery, the radio broadcast was transmitted from the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Convent in London, Ontario encouraged by Sister Constance Dunn, as General Superior. The program made its debut on CFPL Radio in London, Ontario, on December 3, 1939. Named after a phrase from the writings of St. Augustine, the program’s stated purpose was to educate people about the true Catholic faith as a way of combating anti-Catholic prejudice. The 30-minute long program aired on Sunday afternoons and consisted of Msgr. Flannery providing catechetical instruction and a question and answer segment with schoolchildren. There were also musical performances by the “School of Christ Choristers” formed by Sister Mary Margaret Childs. The School of Christ Choristers consisted of a senior choir, of women aged 18 years and older, directed by Sister Mary Margaret Childs from 1939 to 1963, as well as a Junior Choir, known as the “Little Radio Choir,” composed of Grade 6 to 8 students, later directed by Sister Marie Brebeuf Beninger. Originally a local broadcast, the School of Christ became syndicated in Toronto, Chatham, and Windsor in 1940. Soon after, it extended into the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and New York. At one point, the program was estimated to have had a potential listening audience of 10 million people, many of them non-Catholics. Starting in the mid-1950s, the programs were taped in advance and broadcast on CFPL-TV until 1963, when Msgr. Flannery retired.

Members of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph played an instrumental role in the formation and operation of the program. Sister Constance Dunn encouraged the formation of the program during her term as the Congregation’s General Superior. Sisters Marie Brebeuf Beninger, Mary Margaret Childs, and Maureen Dalton participated in the direction of the show’s choirs, while Sister Callistus Arnsby provided accompaniment. Although the primary forum for these choirs to perform was through radio and

television, they also gave annual live concerts in a variety of venues, including London's Grand Theatre, the auditorium at H.B. Beal Technical School, and Toronto's Massey Hall Theatre in 1964.

Scope and content

Series contains of bulletins, newsletters, and newspaper clippings discussing the School of Christ program. It also contains a variety of photographs depicting its participants and organizers. There is one audio cassette of Sister Mary Margaret Childs, director of the senior choir, talking about her memories of the program, and one vinyl plaque presented to Sisters Mary Margaret Childs and Maureen Dalton from a group of alumni.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the series.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were collected by members of the Congregation and transferred to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives.

Location of originals

The records are stored off-site in London, Ontario.

Restrictions on access

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

Finding aids

Series and file list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada -- London
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Ephemera (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Education (subject)
- Religions (subject)
- Music (subject)
- Women (subject)
- Radio (subject)
- Television -- Canada (subject)
- London (place)

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S127--01 - Memorabilia and Photographs

Title: Memorabilia and Photographs

ID: F01-S127--01

Date: 1944-[19--] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The subseries consists of bulletins, newspaper and magazine articles, histories, and photographs depicting the School of Christ program. Some records have been photocopied from the originals.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

27 photographs : b&w
1 photograph : col.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S127--01--01 - Monsignor W.T. Flannery Newspaper Clippings, Bulletins, and Photographs 1944-1945, 1963

Title: Monsignor W.T. Flannery Newspaper Clippings, Bulletins, and Photographs 1944-1945, 1963

ID: F01-S127--01--01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S127--01--02 - Photographs, Programs, and Articles

Title: Photographs, Programs, and Articles

ID: F01-S127--01--02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S127--01--03 - Media: Newsclippings and Photographs

Title: Media: Newsclippings and Photographs

ID: F01-S127--01--03

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S127--02 - Photographs

Title: Photographs

ID: F01-S127--02

Date: 1942-1946 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The subseries consists of four framed black and white photographs. The photographs include two of "The Class" (1942-1943 and 1945-1946), and two of the choirs: one of the "Little Radio Choir" (1943-1944), and one of "The Choristers" (1944-1945).

Physical description: 4 photographs : b&w, framed

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S127--02--01 - Framed Photographs [2012-61]

Title: Framed Photographs [2012-61]

ID: F01-S127--02--01

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S127--03 - Alumni Recognition

Title: Alumni Recognition

ID: F01-S127--03

Date: 1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The subseries contains one vinyl plaque made from an audio disc with a photograph of Monsignor Flannery in the centre. The accompanying metal plate is not attached to the plaque. The subseries also contains one color photograph of the plaque showing how it was originally on a wooden mount.

Physical description: 1 photograph : col.

1 vinyl plaque and metal plate

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Object (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S127--03--01 - Award from the Alumni - 1971

Title: Award from the Alumni - 1971

ID: F01-S127--03--01

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S127--04 - Oral History

Title: Oral History

ID: F01-S127--04

Date: 19-? (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The subseries consists of one audio cassette of Sister Mary Margaret Childs, who founded the School of Christ Choristers, talking about her memories of the program.

Physical description: 1 audio cassette (ca. 60 min.)

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S127--04--01 - School of Christ (memories) Sr. Mary Margaret Childs M14

Title: School of Christ (memories) Sr. Mary Margaret Childs M14

ID: F01-S127--04--01

Publication status:

published
