# The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

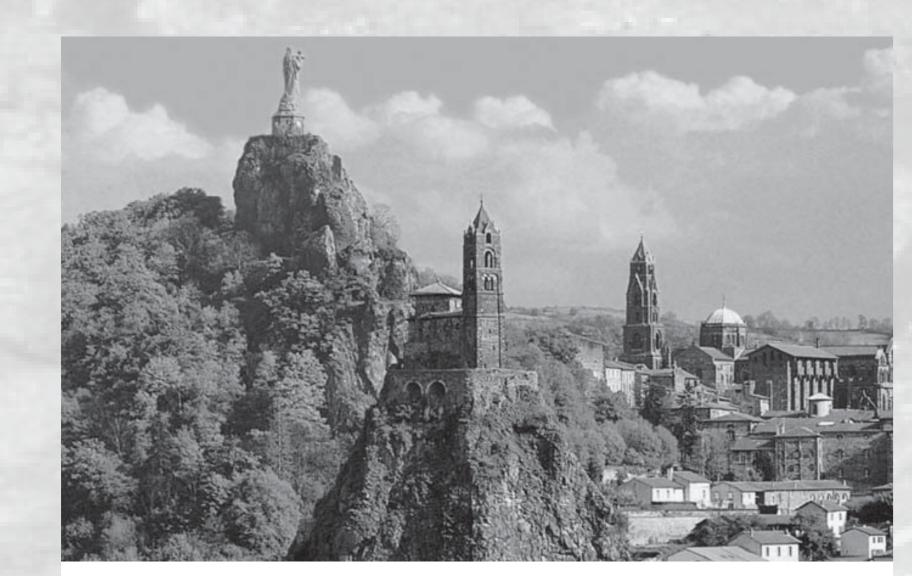
This wall documents and honours many of their significant milestones.

"THE LOVE OF CHRIST HAS GATHERED US TOGETHER INTO ONE."

CONGREGAVIT NOS IN UNUM CHRISTI AMOR

Our motto is expressed as a school community committed to continuing the educational process of developing unique persons in an environment of Christian Faith translated into action.

# 16005



ln 1648, Françoise Eyraud, Clauda Chastal, Marguerite Burdier, Anı Chaleyer, Anna Vey, Anna Brun and Jean-Pierre Médaille, a Jesui caring for the sick, the aged, the orphans, and the imprisoned. Tradition provides October 15,1650 as the date that Bishop Henri de Maupas officially blessed the new Congregation and appointed them with the name of St. Joseph. On March 10, 1651, the Bishop conferred



### French Revolution 1789 – 1799

The start of the French Revolution in 1789 saw convents suppressed, goods confiscated and the Sisters dispersed. Many were imprisoned and some were guillotined. Mother St. John Fontbonne, Superior of the Monistrol community, was imprisoned and sentenced to death. She and others were released following the assassination of the tyrant Robespierre on July 28, 1794, an event that changed the course of the war. Mother St. John's community had permanently changed. While the country remained unstable and threats of another revolution existed, Mother St. John returned to her family home in Bas-en-Basset. She remained faithful to her religious ideals using every opportunity which came her way to instruct the souls of the young.



First Convent in Carondelet – Established 1836

St. Protais Deboille, and Philomène Vilaine.

In 1836, Bishop Rosati of St. Louis, Missouri, contacted Mother St. John after

also served as a schoolhouse, was a two-room log cabin with an attic reached b



### First Toronto Motherhouse and St. Joseph's Academy for Young Ladies - Established 1854

began shortly after their arrival in Toronto. Ir

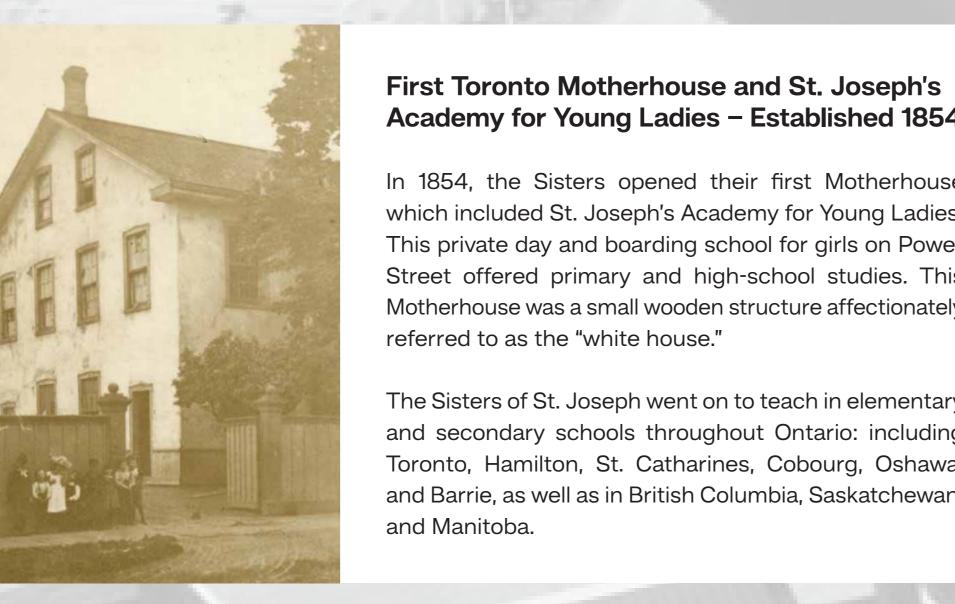
September, 1852, Sister Alphonsus Margerum

was given charge of an old school known to

Street. In 1853, the Sisters began teaching

the Sisters opened St. Patrick's school, a smal

Motherhouse was a small wooden structure affectionately referred to as the "white house." The Sisters of St. Joseph went on to teach in elementary Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Cobourg, Oshawa,



St. Joseph's Motherhouse and St. Joseph's College Academy – Established 1863 In 1863, St. Joseph's Motherhouse, including St. Joseph's



1813 – 1856 While visiting Philadelphia in 1851, Toronto Catholic Bishop Armand-François-Marie de Charbonnel heard about the Sisters of St. Joseph and Mother Delphine's role as Superior of the orphanage. With connections to Lyon, France and the Fontbonne family, de Charbonnel asked that Mother Delphine be transferred to Toronto to establish a mission, the first foundation of the Congregation in Canada. The Superiors in

St. Louis agreed to this request. Mother Delphine, along with Sisters Martha von Bunning, Alphonsus Margerum and Bernard Dinan, immediately took charge of the Catholic orphanage set up by the Honourable John Elmsley at 100 Nelson Street, now Lower Jarvis Street.



In 1852, six months after their arrival Toronto, Sister Martha and two novices were sent to Hamilton. Appointed as Superio Mother Martha established St. Mary's Conve and Orphanage in Hamilton, their first mission outside of Toronto.

New Congregations of Sisters of St. Joseph were later founded from the Toronto mission in Hamilton (1852), London (1868) and Po Arthur (1881). Everywhere the Sisters went they responded to the needs of the day: Arriving in Toronto on October 7, 1851, caring for orphans, teaching children and



## 1829 - 1901

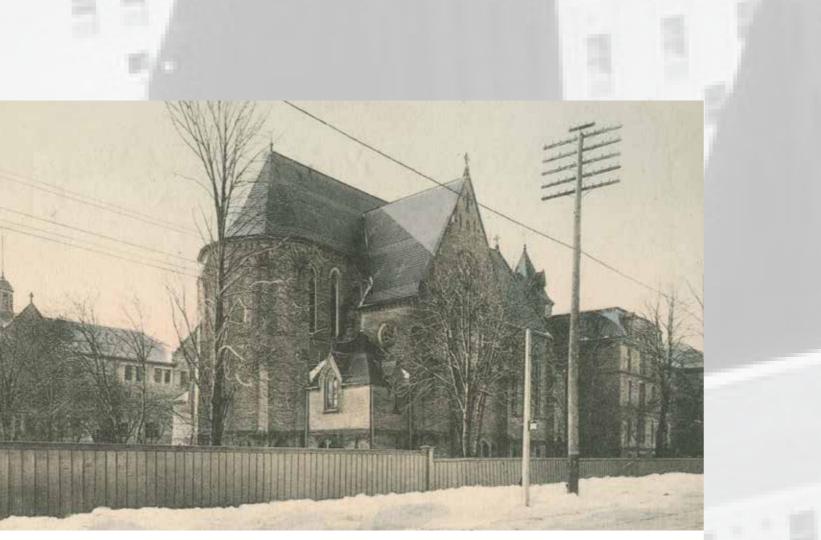
Sister Bernard was the youngest of the first four Sisters and still a novice when she arrived in Toronto. She made her final vows at St. Michael's Cathedral on March 19, 1852. Shortly afterwards, she was appointed Novice Mistress and assigned the responsibility of accepting and training young women as new members of the congregation. As well as being a teacher in a number of new missions in Ontario, she would later serve in

> Superior from 1869-1874. In 1887, she was appointed Superior to the new Sacred Heart Orphanage and oversaw its expansion to accommodate more than 300 children. While the younger boys and girls were taught regular school subjects, the older children were also taught practical skills. This ministry was very dear to Mother Bernard's heart, and she did all she could to make Sacred Heart a true home for them.

> administration and was elected General



planning the House of Providence. This site opened in 18 on Power Street providing a place of welcome for a Residents included the elderly, the unemployed, orphans, widows, and newcomers to Canada. In 1962, the House of

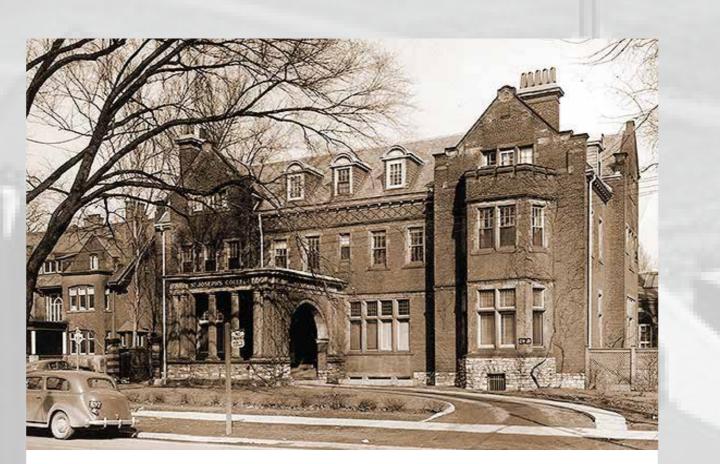


Street West, on land donated by the Honourable John Elmsley. In 1928, the Academy was renamed St. Joseph's



As Toronto grew, the Sisters opened St. Michael's Hospital in 1892 on Bond Street. The hospital had a bed capacity of 26 including a staff of six doctors and four graduate nurses. St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing also opened in 1892 and was the first of three schools of nursing operated by the Congregation. As early as 1894, St. Michael's Hospital received medical students. In 1920, a formal affiliation with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto was established and continues to the present day.

# 19005

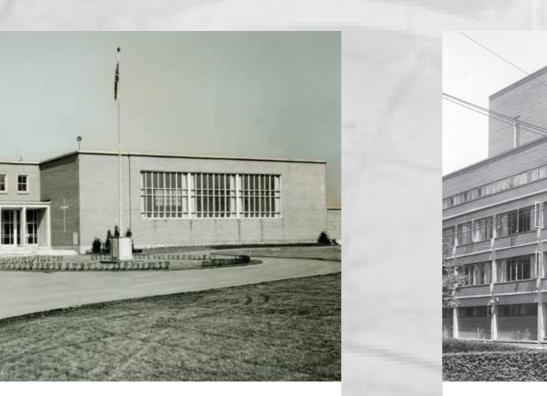


In the years leading up to 1911, the Sisters were degrees. St. Joseph's College, a federated women's college of St. Michael's College, University of Toront opened the door for women to take courses thr a Catholic College for the first time in Toronto. In 1927, a permanent location for St. Joseph's College was university students.

### was later relocated to a new school built on Linden Street in 1964. Initially, a two-year commercial course expanded into a three-year program, and by 1971, a final year was added allowing students to ea an Ontario Secondary School Graduation Diploma. In 1985, the school's business program ended, and the school was renamed Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School. In 1988, the school Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School.



## In 1925, Our Lady of Mercy Hospital for Incurables opened on Sackville Street to care for patients from the House of Providence. In 1940, a new Our Lady of Mercy Hospital was built on Sunnysid activation and rehabilitation



District School Board in 2007.

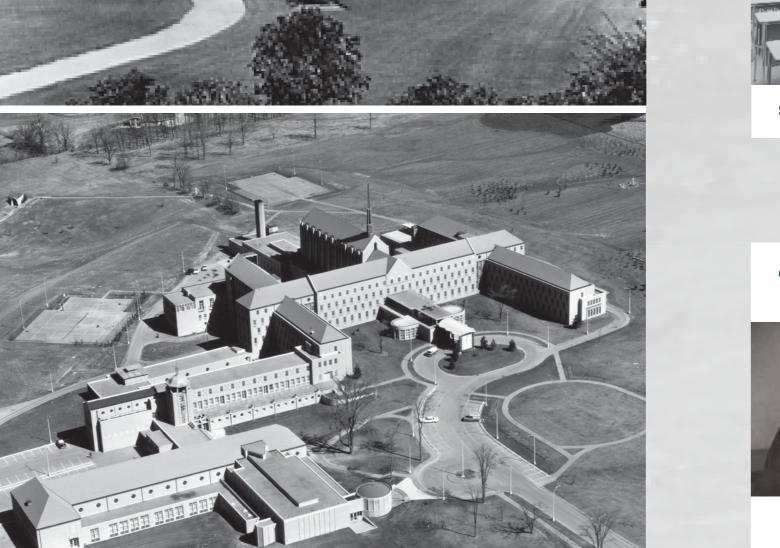
Willowdale, a new Catholic high school to educate young women was built. In 1961, St. Joseph's College Street. This property was located across the street Ontario Government for offices, now the Macdonald Block. The school was then sold to the Toronto Catholic



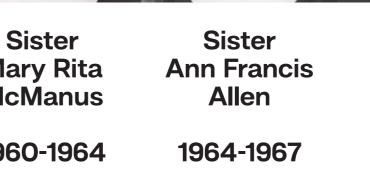
# three aunts who were Sisters of St. Joseph ar



St. Joseph's Motherhouse and St. Joseph's Morrow Park High School - Established 1960 Construction of the new St. Joseph's Motherhouse and St. Joseph's Morrow Park High School in Willowdale began in 1958. The Motherhouse officially opened on April 30, 1961 and served as a residence and

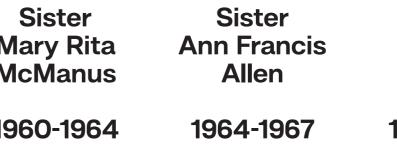




















food, shelter, education, and health care needs of the "dear neighbour."

supported a mission in Guatemala; some Sisters have also served in Nicaragua, Africa, Honduras, and Haiti. In the 1970s, Sister founded the ministries of Via Veritas Vita, supporting northern Canadian dioceses, and New Beginnings, supporting widowed, separa and divorced Catholics.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Sisters founded agencies such as Daily Bread Food Bank, Furniture Bank, and Nazareth House transitional home for young women and infants. Sisters continued to be involved in parish life participating with priests in building community through outreach programs, religious education and other activities. In 2000, Fontbonne Ministries, named after the first superior, Mother Delphine Fontbonne, was established as the Congregation

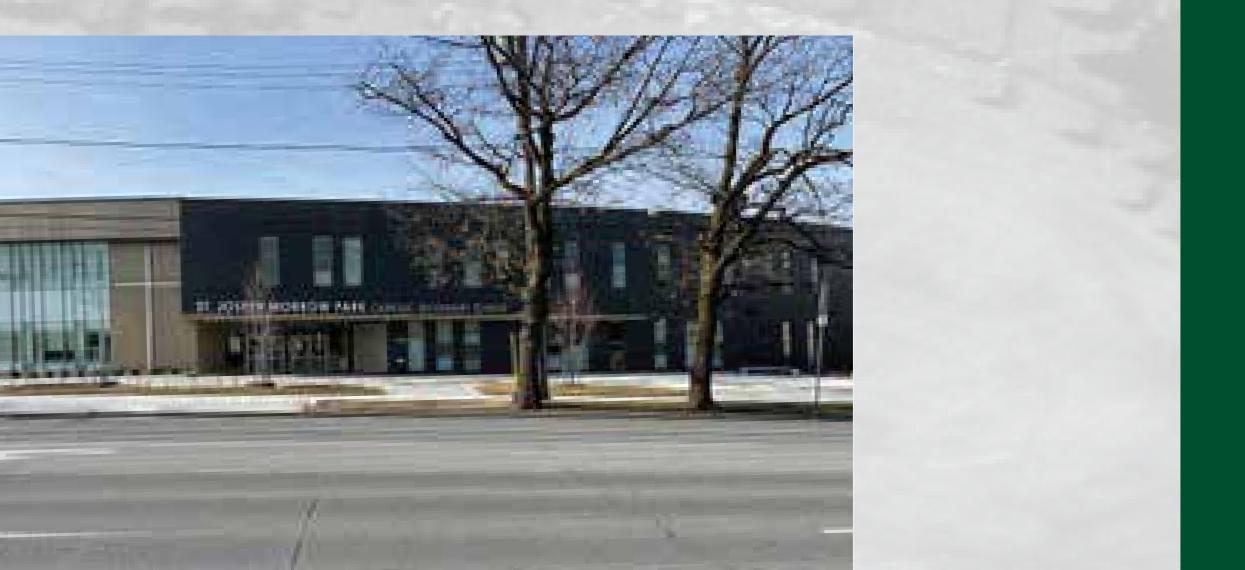
response to current societal needs. These ministries continue the Sisters' tradition of nurturing community and assisting with

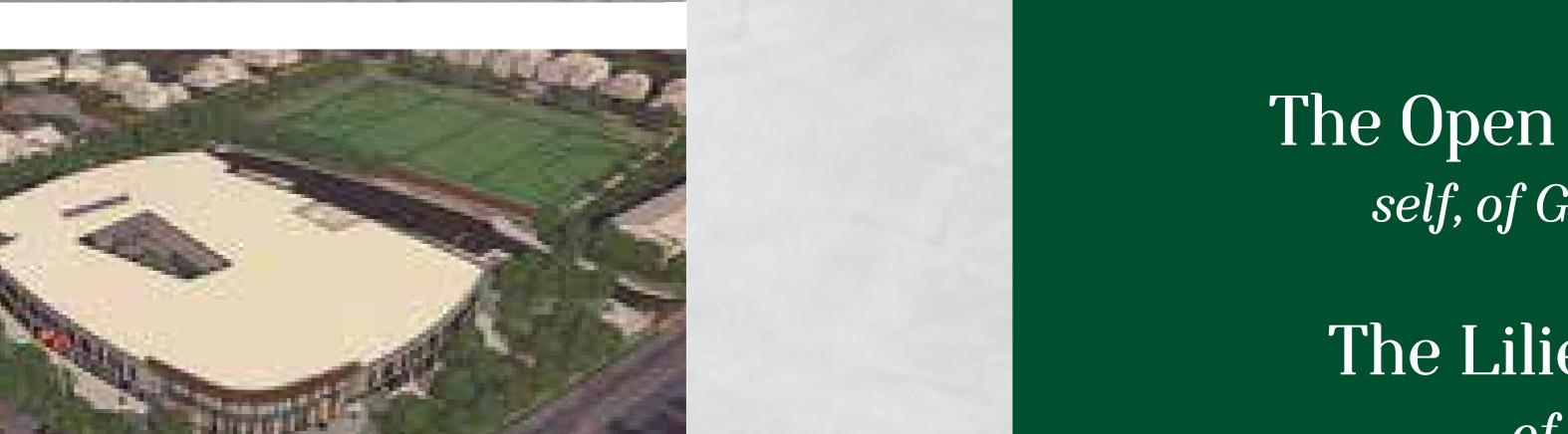
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The Sisters sold the property of Morrow Park in 2006. In 2013, those living a the Motherhouse on Bayview Avenue moved to a new ecologically sustainable building in East York. The John F. Taylor House, constructed in 1885, was preserve

Sisters' oneness with God, Creation and Neighbour. These ministries include and ministry and participate in their spiritualit





### New Home of St. Joseph Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School

In February, 2021, the staff and students of St. Joseph Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School moved to their new school building after being delayed five months by the Covid-19 Global Pandemic. The new building features an environmentally sensitive design providing natural light, spacious common areas and a courtyard. The building also includes accessibility features for all students and classrooms with current technology and equipment. The Sisters of St. Joseph crest from the former Morrow Park Motherhouse and a beautiful nine metre stainless steel cross mark the school entry. The bas-relief stone sculpture of St. Joseph and the Christ Child, originally at the entrance to the Motherhouse

was installed in the main common area. Since St. Joseph Morrow Park's opening in 1960, young women have had the privilege of being educated in a Catholic environment that strives to form strong confident and independent women who are well-equipped to continue their education on any path of their choice.

The school motto: "THE LOVE OF CHRIST HAS GATHERED US TOGETHER INTO ONE" will continue to inspire us as we teach and learn in this school. We are grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph who began this tradition and continue to

inspire our future generations.

3338 Bayview Avenue – Established 2020



This distinctly Canadian crest was originally designed in the late 19th century by a Toronto Sister and was used by the Congregation until 1982. This crest was also used to identify the high schools and the university college founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto.

The Cross symbolizes life in union with our Lord.

The Crown symbolizes the hundredfold and eternal happiness.

The Heart symbolizes charity and the works of charity for which we were founded – Love of God, love of neighbour.

The Open Book symbolizes the knowledge of self, of God and of instructing the young.

The Lilies symbolize the distinctive mark of our patron and our name.

JMJ signifies the protection of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Our founder wished us to be consecrated to the Holy Trinity and the visible Trinity of JMJ.

The Lines symbolize the simplicity of the Shield.

The St. Joseph Crest was originally located at the entrance to the St. Joseph's Motherhouse at 3377 Bayview Avenue.