

The Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund

Mount St. Mary Foundation has established a permanent endowment fund to ensure that the Sisters legacy of education and compassionate care continues long into the future. This fund will provide long-term, on-going support for programs that sustain the Sisters' mission: palliative care and practical nursing education, spiritual care, music therapy, and resident activities.

Please join us in making this legacy an enduring one, by making a gift to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund or include Mount St. Mary Foundation in your will.

For more information, contact Mandy Parker at 480-3138.

You're invited

Join us Thursday, June 19th, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Mount St. Mary Hospital to celebrate the generosity of the Sisters and their gift to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund. Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie is generously catering the event.

Please R.S.V.P to pgreene@msmfoundation.ca as space is limited.

Annual raffle draw

\$5 per ticket
BC Gaming Event Licence # 7386

Draw Date: Tuesday, August 19, 10:30 a.m. at Mount St. Mary, 861 Fairfield Road, Victoria

1st prize
32" LCD Television
(\$999.99 value)

2nd prize
Kona Mountain Bicycle - Dr. Dew, Courtesy of Russ Hays
(\$898.00 value)

3rd prize
Return flight for two, Vict.-Vanc. Courtesy of Harbour Air
(\$500.00 value)

4th prize
Limited edition painting by Jennifer McIntyre
(\$250.00 value)

Thank you for your support!



A history of caring, carefully preserved

by Peigi McGillivray



Mickey King and Sister Margaret Cantwell, archivists for the Sisters of St. Ann.

Since 1858, the Sisters of St. Ann have been conscious of the importance of recording their history. Through the early years of settlement, the construction and administration of schools, hospitals and the school of nursing, and the expansion of their mission to Alaska and beyond, the Sisters of St. Ann have kept careful records.

There are reports to the order's Mother Superior in Quebec, yearly registers of events, letters between missions, school records (yes, they really are permanent), administrative notices, books and maps, drawings and paintings – a collection that grew 'like Topsy' until it was in danger of getting completely out of hand. Over the years, documents and artifacts were stored in boxes and in

cupboards, and in odd nooks and crannies, moving from one building to another as the need arose.

It wasn't till the early 1970s, that this collection began its transformation into the formal archive it is today; one that inspires archivists across the province, provides invaluable material for authors and researchers, and carefully preserves the Sisters' long history of caring.

The chief architect of the elegant system in use today is Sister Margaret Cantwell, who grew to love the archive while she was writing a book chronicling the history of the Sisters of St. Ann in Alaska and the Yukon Territory. She relied on the archive and on the archivist at the time, Sister Thelma Bontin, for stories, images and historically accurate details.

"When Sister Thelma became ill, I offered to help with the archive," says Sister Margaret, "She had the vision; I simply implemented it." For eleven years, until 2004, Sister Margaret sorted, filed and labeled the items in her care. Today, they are protected in acid-free boxes, meticulously codified, and stored in a secure vault.

Current Archivist Mickey King says, "Thanks to the Sisters of St. Ann, we have an invaluable historical resource. And thanks to Sister Margaret and Sister Thelma, we can find the information we're looking for!"

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SISTERS OF ST. ANN SPECIAL EDITION

VOLUME THREE | ISSUE TWO



Today, tomorrow, and forever

The last in a five-part series about the Sisters of St. Ann. Previous articles are reprinted inside.

"Our mission hasn't changed," says Sister Marie Zarowny, Province Leader of the Sisters of St. Ann. "But the way we fulfill it has. Now we are helping other people continue the work we began."

Once there were hundreds of Sisters of St. Ann working in schools and hospitals across the province; now fewer than 55 Sisters remain. They have grown older, and some of them are ill, but their zeal for helping others has not diminished.

"Those of us who are able, are still actively involved," Sister Marie says, "In outreach in Victoria and in Vancouver's Downtown East Side, in social justice education, spiritual accompaniment and healing ministry at Queenswood and elsewhere, in pastoral care at Mount St. Mary Hospital, in pastoral ministry to staff and students at Little Flower Academy, in reconciliation with and support for First Nations peoples, and in working

with the institutions, including Providence Farm and Glenairley-Center for Earth and Spirit, we set up so that they continue without us."

There is one ministry that involves all the Sisters every day. "Prayer – for individuals who are facing challenges, for our facilities and the people who work there, and for the world and its many problems – is perhaps our greatest ministry, one that continues to touch thousands of people every day."

For several years, the Sisters have been working to ensure that the institutions they set up will be able to continue into the future: that their mission is clear and that resources are available to them for the future. As part of that process, the Sisters have contributed to an endowment fund set up in their honour by Mount St. Mary Foundation. "It is a significant way to make certain that our mission will continue after we're gone," says Sister Marie. "The Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund will ensure that people now – and in the future – receive the kind of care we believe everyone deserves."

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If you would like to make a donation to the Mount St. Mary Foundation, or are interested in joining us as a volunteer, please visit www.msmfoundation.com

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT ST. MARY FOUNDATION



VISIT US ONLINE! DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE MOUNT ST. MARY FOUNDATION AT WWW.MSMFOUNDATION.CA

Pledge Drive for Mattresses & Commodes

We need your help! Mount St. Mary Foundation has been chosen as a recognized charity for the Royal Victoria Marathon Charity Pledge Program. We need you to raise pledges; the money you raise will fund much needed commodes for residents. The RVM is for runners, walkers, kids and wheelchair participants. Raising pledges is for any one – participants or not. To learn more, visit www.msmfoundation.ca or contact Paula Greene.

29th Annual

RVM
ROYAL VICTORIA MARATHON
www.royalvictoriamarathon.com
Call (250) 658-4520 or email info@royalvictoriamarathon.com for more information.

861 Fairfield Road, Victoria, BC, V8V 5A9 T. 250-480-3140 F. 250-480-3139 pgreene@msmfoundation.ca

The Sisters' contribution to education & healthcare in BC and beyond

Education

- The Sisters first school in Victoria taught in their tiny log cabin
- St. Ann's Academy, Victoria
- St. Joseph's School of Nursing – Victoria, nursing education institution.
- St. Mary's School, Douglas, Alaska
- St. Ann's School, Dawson City Yukon
- Little Flower Academy, Vancouver

Health Care

- St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria
- St. Mary's Hospital, Douglas, Alaska
- St. Ann's Hospital, Dawson City Yukon
- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Campbell River
- Bulkley Valley District Hospital, Smithers
- St. Martin's Hospital, Oliver
- Mt. St. Frances Hospital in Nelson
- Mount St. Mary Hospital – Victoria's first facility for the elderly

The congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann: Founded on caring

by Theresa Vogel, Executive Director, Society of Friends of St. Ann's Academy.
(Archival Information Used With Permission of the SSA Archives- Victoria)



Marie Esther Sureau Blondin, Mother Mary Ann.

In 1850, in a small parish church in Vaudreuil, Quebec, four women professed their faith, taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a new religious community called the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann. Founded by Marie Esther Sureau Blondin - Mother Mary Ann – the congregation was dedicated to caring for and educating the poor and needy.

When Mother Mary Ann, Sister Mary of the Conception, Sister Mary of the Assumption, Sister Mary Michael and Sister Mary of the Nativity took their vows, they had no idea that their small community was to have a profound influence on education and health care that would extend across the continent.

In 1858, the community answered a call from the newly appointed first Bishop of Vancouver Island, to establish a mission in Victoria. Although it is said that every single member of the order volunteered, only four Sisters and one laywoman were chosen to make the arduous journey through the Isthmus of Panama to Victoria, where they created the first British Columbia Foundation of the Sisters of St. Ann.



Over the first hundred years of the Congregation's history, 3200 Sisters made their profession of faith. During their centenary year, there were over two thousand Sisters working in 127 institutions and facilities throughout 15 dioceses, in Canada, the United States, Haiti and Alaska.

The significance of the Sisters work is incalculable; these courageous women have influenced every aspect of spiritual, social, civic and cultural life in Victoria, on Vancouver Island, and throughout BC.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

This June marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria. Celebrations include a re-enactment the arrival, reception, gala, concert, service, and a family picnic. For details, visit: www.friendsofstannacademy.com/2008anniversary.htm

Non Nobis Solum: Not for themselves alone

by Darlene Southwell, currently writing a history of the Sisters of St. Ann and their contribution to the development of health care in British Columbia

"They're all dead now." Standing in Ross Bay Cemetery, looking at the markers of the graves of the earliest pioneer Sisters of St. Ann, I wonder if these women could have imagined the legacy their Congregation would leave to the people of Victoria and British Columbia. From their arrival in 1858 they have cared for and educated thousands of women and men, establishing schools, orphanages, hospitals and a school of nursing.

The first Prospectus for St. Ann's Academy advised that, "the Sisters are also prepared to attend to the sick at any time their services are needed." And they did: visiting the sick and laying out the dead for burial. In 1876 they opened St. Joseph's Hospital, which Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken said on their behalf, " ...was to be open to all without distinction or question of creed or nationality."

They even set up an early form of hospital insurance: people could pay a fee of one dollar a month to become members of St. Joseph's Hospital Society. Non-member patients were charged a daily fee, and the surplus helped defray the costs of those unable to pay at all. One hundred dollars ensured care for a lifetime.



Undaunted by the task of running a hospital, the Sisters continued 'labouring in the vineyard'. They worked as nurses, pharmacists, seamstresses, cooks and cleaners. They operated a farm that supplied food for patients and staff, and provided 24-hour care as unpaid labour in the hospital, expanding their contribution as the need arose.

When the need for a separate facility to care for long term patients, the elderly and chronically ill, became increasingly clear, the Sisters of St. Ann opened Mount St. Mary Hospital, which moved to a new building on the former site of St. Joseph's Hospital and School of Nursing in 2003. It is a fitting 'legacy' indeed.

Discover more about the Sisters of St. Ann at <http://www.sistersofsaintanne.org>

The Sisters of St. Ann: A history of exceptional care

by Peigi McGillivray

In 1858, four Sisters of St. Ann arrive in Victoria from Quebec after an arduous 8-week journey across the Isthmus of Panama. The story of their contribution to education and health care in Victoria are entwined with the story of our province.



Although they came as teachers, it was only days after their arrival that they began to care for the sick as well. Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken and Bishop John Seghers turned to them when the growing city needed its first hospital.

St. Joseph's Hospital admitted its first patient while its opening ceremonies were still under way in 1876. As Victoria – and its need for health care – grew, the Sisters continued their commitment to health care and education by establishing St. Joseph's School of Nursing.

In 1942, the Sisters saw a need for compassionate care for the elderly of Victoria, and once again led the way by building Mount St. Mary Hospital - the only health care facility on southern Vancouver Island still operated by the Sisters of St. Ann.

In 2003, the old Mount St. Mary Hospital was replaced with a brand new building; located on the corner of Quadra and Fairfield Streets, on the former site of St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's School of Nursing. This exemplary new hospital completes the circle of care the Sisters of St. Ann began in Victoria 150 years ago.

Our Mission

Raising money for programs that enrich the lives of the residents of Mount St. Mary Hospital.

Our Vision

The Foundation holds endowments that provide sustainable funding for existing programs as well as new, innovative ones. The community we operate in is aware, supportive and generous, and the enriched care provided at Mount St. Mary Hospital is the standard for residential care everywhere.

Please contact me:

I would like to know more about Mount St. Mary Foundation!

I would like more information about:

- How donations to the Mount St. Mary Foundation are used.
- Having a speaker from Mount St. Mary to give a presentation to my group.
- What makes Mount St. Mary Hospital different than other residential facilities.
- Leaving a donation in my Will that meets my needs and those of my family.

I would like to enclose a donation of \$_____ to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund at Mount St. Mary Foundation, to be held in perpetuity as capital, with the returns thereon distributed annually to continue the Sisters' legacy of education and care at Mount St. Mary Hospital.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

Mount St. Mary Foundation
 861 Fairfield Road
 Victoria, BC V8V 5A9

Speaker's Bureau: Do you need a Guest Speaker?

Want to know more about Mount St. Mary Foundation? We offer informative presentations on a variety of topics, including the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund and the history of Mount St. Mary Hospital. Visit www.msmfoundation.ca for details.