

SNJM Central Archives Department

History

From the very beginning of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the archives are well preserved in the General Secretariat and in the offices of the General Bursar at the Motherhouse in Longueuil. Bishop Ignace Bourget, the bishop of the time, instruct the first Sisters on keeping registers and writing chronicles.

In 1860, the Motherhouse move from Longueuil to Hochelaga Convent in Montreal, and so the archives are transferred there. In 1925, there is another move of the Motherhouse, this time to Outremont, and thus a transfer of the archives to this new location is necessary.

In 1973, the administrators of the Congregation appointed a general archivist and gave her the opportunity for professional training in archival management. With the help of an archival counsellor, the new archivist established a classification system and a policy for the conservation of the Congregational archives. The religious provinces of the United States, Manitoba and Ontario managed their own archives at that time, while the archives of the religious province of Quebec and the documents of the General Administration of the Congregation were kept in the same location at Outremont.

In 1984, the archives were returned to their place of origin in Longueuil when the General Administration decided to reconstruct the convent on Saint-Charles Street in order to moved its offices there and to build a repository which would meet the standards of archival conservation and security. This new archival centre is called: *SNJM Central Archives Department*. In June of 2009, the archives of the former religious province of Ontario are transferred to the premises in Longueuil.