



The *Great* Canadian  
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the  
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,  
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.

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Projet de la *Grande* Histoire  
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des  
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,  
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

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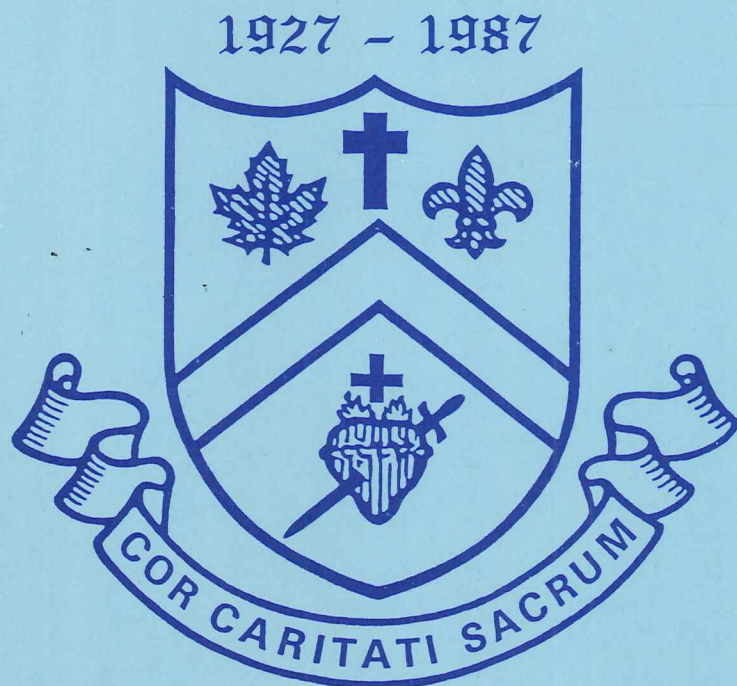
**St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital  
Edmonton, Alberta  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1927-1987**

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# 60th Anniversary

ST. JOSEPH'S AUXILIARY HOSPITAL  
Edmonton, Alberta



## The Community Crest

Emblematic of the origin and purpose of the Institute of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul is their Coat of Arms which is mounted on a silver shield, the silver denoting hope. The red chevron (bent bar) is from the arms of Kingston City, indicative of the site of the Motherhouse. Red also denotes Charity. In the upper left the maple leaf stands for Canada; on the right the fleur-de-lis (green) speaks of France, the country of the first Founder, St. Vincent de Paul, and of the foundress, St. Louis de Marillac. The sword-pierced heart suggests the characteristic devotion of the Sisters to Our Mother of Sorrows. Partly encircling the shield is a silver band on which is inscribed the motto of the Sisters of Providence, "Cor Caritati Sacrum" — A Heart Consecrated to Charity, giving the reason for our existence as a Community.



The  
Story  
of  
St. Joseph's  
Auxiliary  
Hospital  
1927 - 1987



**GOVERNING  
BOARD  
1987**

Justice Joseph J. Stratton  
Miss Jean A. Bara  
Sister Winnifred Whalen  
Sister Mary Benilda  
Dr. Robert Bradstock  
Sister Mary George  
Sister Muriel Gallagher  
Dr. Lloyd C. Grisdale  
Mr. Albert S. Knowler  
Dr. Clemens Lee  
Mr. Frank C. Totino  
Mr. Raymond J. Pinkoski



# Superiors

## 1927 - 1987

Sister Angel Guardian	1927-1929
Sister M. Monica	1929-1930
Sister M. Alacoque	1930-1936
Sister M. Clotilde	1936-1942
Sister M. Martin	1942-1946
Sister M. Alacoque	1946-1948
Sister M. Alban	1948-1950
Mother M. Anselm	1950-1956
Sister M. Angelica	1956-1962
Sister Kathleen Maguire	1962-1968
Sister M. Anicetus	1968-1971
Sister Eileen Mitchell	1971-1974
Sister Winnifred Whalen	1974-1980
Sister M. Benilda	1980-1983
Sister M. Joseph O'Brien	1983-1987
Sister M. Perpetua	1987

# Our Sisters

## 1987

Sister M. Perpetua  
 Sister M. Angeline  
 Sister Winnifred Whalen  
 Sister M. Benilda  
 Sister Muriel Gallagher  
 Sister M. Anna Kelly  
 Sister Mary Moderwell  
 Sister M. George  
 Sister Avita Kilar



# Mission, Philosophy and Objectives

The Mission of the Hospital is:

The mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul is to make known the presence of Jesus in the world by making visible His compassionate love of all mankind, and to serve Christ's sick and suffering members as far as possible in their spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs.

St. Joseph's Hospital is a Catholic, auxiliary hospital owned and operated by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul providing extended health care. The hospital offers care to the poor, the sick, and the infirm, in the tradition of its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

St. Joseph's Hospital serves primarily the residents and families of the Metro-Edmonton area, irrespective of the patient's creed, color, age, or status. The hospital provides 24-hour nursing care to patients who require treatment of long term chronic illnesses, disease or infirmities, or mental disorders.

Patients' applications are received and processed through a Central Assessment and Placement Office, which functions under the direction of the Edmonton District Board. Patients select a facility according to the level of care for which they are assessed. Several choices of facility are often made and admission is according to space availability and compatibility.

Patients select an attending physician from a roster of qualified and competent doctors, who have privileges at the hospital. Doctors are ultimately responsible for the care received by their patient. Medical staff visit patients, as required, which is generally between one to four times per month.

Support services offered include pastoral care, drug therapy, nutrition therapy, routine laboratory tests, minimal x-ray, dental care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, recreational activities, podiatry, barbering and hairdressing, laundry, volunteer services provided by the Hospital Auxiliary and the Volunteer Department, and discharge planning. All of these services are provided by qualified and competent staff.

Any patients requiring surgery, medical care or tests, beyond our capabilities, are referred to an appropriate active treatment facility of their choice.

The staff and volunteers from a wide community constantly review methods and design programs to meet the social needs of patients in order to create a comfortable atmosphere, which will improve the quality of life of each

patient. The hospital and the families of patients call upon each other for mutual support.

The future direction of the hospital includes upgrading the physical facilities, with a view to improving the environment and providing a better opportunity to serve individual needs. Future expansion plans, according to community needs, are for long term care.

The Philosophy of the Hospital is:

1. We believe that the care of the sick is a sacred trust. We recognize God as the Master of human life and the ultimate arbiter of its duration. Therefore, all human life is valuable as long as God chooses to conserve it.
2. We believe that man has a right to have his body and person treated with respect, no matter what his physical or mental condition may be. We believe that every human individual is possessed of a dignity which is never lost or diminished no matter what state of incapacity or abnormality may befall him at any age from accident, illness, or other cause.
3. We believe that we may not do an evil act even to attain what would appear to be a desirable good effect.
4. We believe and accept the Medical Code of Ethics as reflected in the Medical Moral Guide published by the Catholic Health Association of Canada.

The Objectives of the Hospital are:

1. To carry on the mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul by alleviating suffering and providing hospital care for persons who will benefit from therapies which will rehabilitate them into the community, and to provide extended care for persons with physical handicaps, chronic or terminal illnesses requiring long term stay in an auxiliary hospital.
2. To promote education and research in cooperation with academic and health care facilities in the area. To achieve this end, only qualified medical staff and other health care professionals will be engaged.
3. To maintain and improve community health in cooperation with other health related agencies.
4. To perform only such lawful acts as are deemed necessary to promote the attainment of these objectives and are consonant with the above philosophy.

# St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

## 1927 - 1987

This year, 1987, marks the sixtieth anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital. It is time for celebration for the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, and for all of those who have served with love and compassion in this institution. It is an opportunity to look back, and then ahead, at the role of this hospital in the care of the elderly and the sick in the City of Edmonton and surrounding area.

In 1977, we celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary Year and at that time a history of the Hospital was prepared. In this, our Sixtieth Year, we add continuity to the past by recording a further ten years of service.

It was sixty years ago, in the autumn of 1927, that two Sisters of Providence, Sister Mary Angel Guardian Managan, and Sister Mary Alacoque Scott, came to Edmonton to confer with Archbishop H. J. O'Leary about the establishment of a "Home" for the aged and infirm of his diocese. In the words of John Patrick Gillese, who wrote of St. Joseph's Hospital for its Silver Anniversary in 1952: "The pioneers who had broken the flat prairie and carved the first small farms from the encircling bushland could toil no more . . . Many had nowhere to rest in their old age; none left to care for them, and their Archbishop, whose heart was in the West and the people who had built it, was moved to compassion . . . He determined to do something about their plight."

Thus it was that Archbishop O'Leary contacted the Sisters of Providence of the Archdiocese of Kingston. This English-speaking Community was founded in Ontario from the Sisters of Providence of Montreal in 1861. In the spirit, and following the Rule of St. Vincent de Paul, the 17th century apostle who succeeded in bringing religious sisters from the cloister to undertake works of charity in the outside world, they devoted themselves to the service of the poor, the aged, the sick and the needy in whatever circumstances these were found. This community, the Archbishop thought, would solve this problem. He knew the sisters, for they had been contributing for twenty years to the corporal and spiritual welfare of people in his diocese. In 1908, when Alberta was but three years old, they had established a hospital in Daysland, a hundred miles from Edmonton, in what seemed to them at the time a "lonely and desolate wasteland".

In 1915, they had responded to a call from Archbishop Legal to take charge of a hostel for girls in Edmonton which had been operating for two years under the auspices of the Catholic Women's League. In this hostel, renamed Rosary Hall, the sisters made a "home away from home" for immigrant women and for girls coming to the city for study and employment.

Eight years later, Archbishop O'Leary asked the sisters to undertake a second mission in Edmonton, St. Mary's Home for Boys. For twenty-eight years the sisters cared for needy boys, then, in 1951, the Salesian Fathers took over this facility.

In 1924, a second hospital in the archdiocese was built at Camrose by the Sisters. This was the modern, efficient St. Mary's Hospital which still serves that city.

The sister who was the key figure in the establishment of these four Alberta houses and who laid a firm foundation for works of charity and social welfare in the West was Sister Mary Angel Guardian, already mentioned. It was not without good reason that this sister was chosen, in 1927, to come to Edmonton to negotiate with Archbishop O'Leary for another area of service to the needy.

The Archbishop had been pressuring the Community to open a home for the aged and those afflicted with long term illnesses. A property known as "The Whyte Block" was being listed for sale and the Archbishop offered to secure the property for \$24,000 with seven adjoining lots for another \$2,000. Sister Mary Angel Guardian with Sister Mary Alacoque, Superior of St. Mary's Home, went to examine the building. It was a four-story apartment with thirty rooms on each floor, built in 1912. Sister Mary Angel Guardian, who was now a member of the General Administration, advised the Community to purchase it. Thus it was that on October 10, 1927, the Whyte Block became the property of the Sisters of Providence. Sister Mary Alacoque and Sister Mary Wilfred were the signing officers for the Community.

Early the following year, Sister Monica McCoy was sent from Daysland to convert the old apartment building into a home for the aged. With three assistants - Sister Mary Margaret Masterson, Peter Gavin and Boniface Lansing -



Sister had the whole building renovated and fitted with comfortable furnishings. Since she had been raised on a farm in Quebec and was an enthusiastic gardener, she had one of the nurseries in the city plan, on the extra lots, a landscape of trees, flowers and walks so that aged residents could enjoy the beauty of God's outdoors. On September 24, 1929 the formal opening of the House of Providence of Edmonton took place with ten aged persons to benefit from it's ministrations.

In a very short time it was apparent that more than a house for the aged was needed. Most of the aged persons needed nursing care and a hospital was required to treat long term patients. Through the influence and assistance of the provincial Minister of Health, Dr. Goadley, the Federal Government granted the request and on January 6, 1930, the House of Providence became St. Joseph's Hospital for the Chronically Ill. Adjustments to the facilities were needed. Sister Mary Michelle came from Moose Jaw Hospital to prepare an Operating Room and other changes were made. The Archbishop named Dr. Herbert Conroy as the Medical Superintendent and it is to that dedicated doctor that we owe gratitude for the great help and encouragement that he gave the hospital in it's early days. Many of the patients were Indian, as Dr. Conroy was associated with the Indian Reserves of Alberta. Dr. H. C. Jamieson was also of great assistance at that time. The first resident chaplain was a Belgian Priest, Father DeWilde.

In 1945, due to lack of space, the hosital was refusing many patients, and the Community entered on its first program of expansion. A four-story wing, containing the present chapel with its galleries on the third and fourth floors, was completed in 1948. The new building was "monumental in craftsmanship and design. A unique feature is the introduction of native Alberta travertine - a type of marble closely resembling the Italian product. Two columns of this stone grace the lobby." The entire hospital showed thoughtful planning. Each floor had a gracious solarium where patients could enjoy the sunshine, listen to the radio, play cards or relax in comfort. The whole interior was cheerful with bright pastel walls and colorful draperies. Separate locker facilities were provided for each patient.

Such was St. Joseph's in 1952, at the time of its Silver milestone. It was, however, only three years later, in 1955, that need for expansion was again acute. Mother Mary Anselm Egan, Superior at the time, undertook the addition of two floors. One of these floors she allocated for the therapy and rehabilitation of poliomyelitis patients, victims of the 1948 epidemic in Edmonton. Until this time, there were no special facilities for these patients. Care was also given to several

seriously handicapped children until a suitable place could be provided for them. Sister Gracia Whalen cared for those afflicted little ones. One of the traits of the Sisters was their readiness to answer a need when no other help was available.

By the late 1950's, the emphasis in such hospitals as St. Joseph's tended to be on rehabilitation of as many patients as possible, and the name was changed to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. It became one of seven Auxiliary Hospitals operating in Alberta at that time. More extensive facilities were required and in 1963, a grant from the Provincial Government of \$30,000 provided for the demolition of the original structure on Whyte Avenue. By 1965, the present building including the auditorium, central storage and Sisters' residence was completed. This made provision for new and improved departments including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and recreation.

Since that time, there have been changes and upgrading projects carried on continually within the hospital in an attempt to meet the medical needs of the residents and to allow them to live comfortably, with as much independence as possible. In 1972, the *GOVERNING BOARD* replaced the Lay Advisory Board. It is a voluntary board which now consists of 12 members. Sister Eileen Mitchell was Administrator when the Governing Board was formed, followed by Sister M. Clare Doran and, in 1980, by the first appointed Lay Administrator, Mr. R. Pinkoski. Governing Board By-Laws are regularly revised and recommendations which are made by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation are incorporated. The hospital has been accredited continuously since 1971. The *ADMINISTRATOR*, under the authority of the Governing Board, and with the assistance of capable and co-operative Department Heads, has realized balanced budgets for many years. Major construction in 1981 upgraded Food Services, and improved compliance with Fire Code Regulations. Further Safety and Environmental upgrading was completed in 1987. Today St. Joseph's Hospital stands at this milestone with 198 beds, and an occupancy of over 97%. The usual admissions are patients with long term illnesses. In May 1987, approval to commence planning for a new 200 bed Auxiliary Hospital was received from the Government of Alberta.

The *MEDICAL STAFF* of seventy-two is comprised of 29 active staff, 21 courtesy staff, and 22 consulting staff. Ten members of the active staff are chosen to serve on the Medical Omnibus Committee (Medical Staff Executive Committee) which meets ten times a year to review problems, and recommend policy changes to the Governing Board. Those services which were once offered within the hospital, but are now provided elsewhere include - clinical laboratory

procedures and autopsy services. The oxygen bank is closed and has been replaced partially by the use of liquid oxygen. Dental services are now provided through the Department of Dentistry of the University of Alberta under the externship program.

Changes designed to improve patient care continue in each department while team conferences ensure communication between medical, nursing, para-medical and all staff. The NURSING staff has initiated a number of improvements including the audit of charts on a regular basis, quality assurance programs, master scheduling program, in-service training and continuing education. New equipment and teaching aids have facilitated improved patient care.

The main objective of the REHABILITATION Services is to enable all residents to achieve and maintain an optimum level of functioning and comfort in all areas. Services are provided by qualified staff in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Recreation Services, and Respiratory Therapy. To assist these departments, additional modern equipment has been provided as needed. We are most grateful to the many people who have made donations of equipment for therapeutic programs, and particularly for the donation of the hospital van, which has been so valuable for recreational outings for residents. In Occupational Therapy, residents are taught to adapt skills in activities of daily living whereas Physiotherapy provides for the improvement of physical capabilities as well as prevention of postural and joint deformities, and the relief of pain. Both departments provide consultation services to staff, residents and family members. A comprehensive therapeutic recreation program offers a wide range of educational, recreational, leisure, social and skill development activities designed to meet group and individual leisure needs. Residents help plan and organize several events. An opportunity is also provided for residents to attend formal and informal activities both within the hospital, and in the community.

The modifications in PHARMACY Service have been directed toward improvement in delivery systems and communication of drug information. The Hospital Formulary is updated and printed annually with computer assistance. The expansion of Clinical Pharmacy Services, including implementation of Patient Profiles and Drug Utilization Reviews are designed to ensure patient medication efficiency and safety.

The DIETARY Department now assesses each patient's nutritional needs upon admission. Individual meal plans are

developed and adjusted as required. The meal delivery system which was instituted in 1982 utilizes the central assembly of trays with distribution in heated carts.

The physical plant is efficiently maintained by a dedicated staff in the ENGINEERING and HOUSEKEEPING Departments.

In 1957, a MEDICAL RECORDS Department was established. It has functioned since that time to provide a means of communication among health care professionals regarding current and future care. It ensures that information is correctly documented and treated as confidential.

The PASTORAL CARE Supervisor organizes the facilities for the spiritual needs of the patients. Mass is said on a regular basis, and services are also provided by many other religious denominations.

The donation of time by the VOLUNTEERS who are registered at the hospital is extremely valuable to the patients and staff. The number of volunteers who act as personal companions, readers, assistants on outings, and in such helpful roles, has increased to 90 adults and 15 juniors at the present time. It includes many unique programs of assistance such as pet therapy, teen programs, and children's visits.

The HOSPITAL AUXILIARY which was formed in 1974, as a successor to the Ladies Auxiliary, also plays an important role. The Auxiliary holds raffles, bazaars, rummage sales, teas and mini-bake sales to raise funds to bring comfort and cheer to the patients, and promote good public relationships.

It is interesting to note that since 1944, there have been eighty SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE on our staff, serving in the various ministries throughout the hospital. This constitutes a great many years of service generously contributed to the chronically ill of this city. There are currently nine Sisters in residence at the hospital. One of the Sisters writes: "What is to be said of our call to serve in the years ahead in Alberta? There is definitely a call to work in collaboration with our laity - to support and share with them our work and dreams for the future. We are all called upon at this time to concentrate on supporting our most valuable resource, that is, each individual person working within our hospital. In this Sixtieth Jubilee Year, we take pride in our accomplishments, and rejoice and give thanks to God for His love and strength which has sustained us throughout all of these years. Carrying on our tradition of reliance on His providence, we courageously go forth ready to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century".





“Est Nam Certa Quies Fessis  
Venientibus Illuc”

THERE IS CERTAIN REST FOR THE WEARY WHO ENTER HERE

(from a letter of Emperor Charlemagne to a deacon  
of the Priory of Monte Cassino in Italy)

The above is an inscription placed over the front entrance of the  
new wing of the hospital by the architect, Mr. G. J. Macdonald, in 1948.