

The Sisters of St. Joseph - Historical Windsor Sites



2016



CONGREGATION OF THE
Sisters of St. Joseph
IN CANADA

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Primary research: Lindsay Bontje, Courtney Boudreau, Alison Butler, Gladys Cheng, Kayla Gauvin, Lauren Halsey, Ryan Kirkby, Joshua Klar, Mary Kosta, Angela Kwok, Stacey Lapp, Caleigh Monk, Carl Sack, Emily Tyschenko, Daniel Quintal

Supplementary research/fact checking: Rebecca Due, Jennifer Foley, Susan Forsythe, Jennifer Huddleston, Helen Power, Tim Ream, Leslie Stone, Arielle Vanderschans, Cody Vanderslot, Nicole Zvanovec

Editor:

Mary Kosta, Congregational Archivist

This booklet tells the story of some of the historical sites for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Windsor, Ontario. It is organized chronologically, beginning with the early history of the area.

Efforts have been made to use an historical photograph to illustrate each site, if the archives had one in its holdings.

All of the information and the photographs in this booklet are from the Congregational Archives.

We are fortunate that the Sisters kept detailed annals of their missions and ministries. It is these annals that we have relied upon so heavily for this historical booklet. We hope you can hear their voices through the corridors of time.

We also hope you enjoy learning about the compassionate and hard-working women who dedicated their lives to ministering to their “dear neighbors in Windsor.”

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Early History of Windsor

Sandwich 1640-1935

The area where Sandwich and LaSalle are now situated was the homeland of the Ottawa, Potawatomi, Wyandot, and Chippewa peoples (known as the Neutral Nations). Jesuit missionaries were in the Detroit area as early as 1640. The French, led by Sieur de Cadillac, built a military and trading post, and called it Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit (now Detroit) in 1701. The Jesuit Mission of the Hurons was established on the south shore of the Detroit River in 1728. In 1747, the Hurons asked the Jesuits to build New L'Assomption Mission Church (Assumption Church) on the upper end of Petite Côte, at what is now the east section of Sandwich Street and Riverside Drive. This church was built in 1749 by the Jesuit missionary, Father Pierre Potier. It was replaced by another church in 1787, and then by the current church on July 7, 1842. From 1859 to 1869, Our Lady of the Assumption Church served as the Cathedral of the See of Sandwich under Bishop Pinsonneault. (Sadly, Our Lady of Assumption Church closed in 2014, and parishioners were transferred to Holy Name of Mary Church.)

The Petite Côte area (now LaSalle) was settled by French farmers, beginning with Louis Gervais in 1749, who farmed narrow tracts of land. After 1760, the L'Assomption Parish was named Sandwich. The first three streets in Sandwich were Russell Street, Bedford (now Sandwich) Street and Peter Street.

In 1796, after the American Revolution, the British authority moved across the river from Detroit, with Sandwich

becoming the Western District of Upper Canada, bringing many British Loyalists to the area. Land in the amount of 1,078 acres, was purchased from the Huron for a town site by the Hon. Peter Russell, who laid out the town streets in a grid, named after himself and his home, Bedford, in England. The Duff Baby mansion, built in 1798, still stands today at 221 Mill Street.

In 1812, General Brock and Chief Tecumseh led soldiers from Sandwich to fight General Hull, which led to the surrender of Detroit.

While the Anti-Slavery Act had been passed in Canada in 1793, it was the Emancipation Act (1833) which abolished slavery throughout the British Empire, and made the Windsor and Sandwich area a terminal on the Underground Railway, and a refuge for black slaves.

With the arrival of the Great Western Railway in Windsor in 1854, Sandwich began to see a decline in its population.

Assumption College was built in 1857 by the Jesuits. Its goal was to improve the status of the French in the area, but it attracted students from a wider area who could afford a private education, and had little economic impact on Sandwich.

In 1858, Sandwich was incorporated as a town.

Sandwich was briefly a popular tourist destination from the 1870s to 1880s when the Sandwich Mineral Springs with its sulphur water was discovered, but this did not last when the spring dried up.

A streetcar connection in 1870 gradually made Sandwich into a suburb of Windsor. The opening of the Ambassador Bridge in 1929, physically separated Sandwich from the rest of Windsor and Assumption, and led to a further decline in business prosperity. In 1935, Sandwich was insolvent and amalgamated with Windsor, along with Walkerville and Ford City, now called East Windsor.



Sister Immaculate O'Leary, 1844-1919

Notre Dame du Lac (Our Lady of the Lake) Church and Our Lady of the Rosary Church 1884-2015 Windsor

The farmers in Sandwich East Township were mostly French. In 1884, they built Notre Dame du Lac church. Before this, Mass had been celebrated by a priest from St. Alphonsus Church in Windsor in a school room on Shadrack Jenking's farm. Out of this farming settlement, Ford City grew, as did the Ford Motor Company which was built on French farms.

François Drouillard donated the land upon which Notre Dame du Lac church was built in 1884. Hiram Walker donated to the construction costs of the church. The original church, and its successor, were located at the intersection of Drouillard Road and Riverside Drive East. Sadly, on March 16, 1907, it was destroyed by fire from wind borne sparks from the McGregor Banwell Fence Plant across from the CNR spur line. Our Lady of the Rosary Church, or Holy Rosary, was built in 1908 and sold to Windsor businessman Larry Horwitz in 2015. It still stands at 2879 Riverside Drive East.

Al Capone attended Our Lady of the Rosary Church and recruited people to load his boats during prohibition.

In 1912, the provincial government passed Regulation 17 which limited the teaching of French in Ontario schools. Bishop Fallon supported the government. Father Lucien Beaudoin, from Notre Dame du Lac parish in Ford City was a nationalist. When he died on August 19, 1917, Bishop Michael Francis Fallon replaced him with Father F. X. Laurendeau. Eight priests of the parish saw

him as a puppet priest and locked him out of the church and rectory, leading to blockades, a riot and boycott from August to September 1917,. Ford City, Walkerville and Windsor police intervened in what became known as the Ford City Riots of 1917. 'La Defense' was a weekly French language newspaper that ran from March 1918 to September 1920. It was published during the Ford City Riot and its aftermath to inform the Francophone population and promote nationalism.

Walkerville 1858-1935

The area where Walkerville now stands was originally the site of an Ottawa village in 1730. Walkerville was founded by Hiram Walker in 1858. He bought two French farms upon which to build his distillery. The construction of the Great Western rail line to Windsor in 1854, and then of the Lake Erie Essex & Detroit River Railroad in 1885, by Hiram Walker, helped make Walkerville prosperous. The latter railroad extended all the way to St. Thomas, and became known as the Lake Erie & Detroit River Railroad in 1891, eventually being sold to Père Marquette Railways in 1901.

Walkerville offered temporary tax exemptions to encourage business, and set strict standards on residential development. Architects were hired to design rental homes for distillery employees. The first streets were numbered First to Fifth, and then renamed Kildare Road, Devonshire, Argyle, Monmouth, and Walker Road respectively. The east-west streets were named for Indigenous peoples – Wyandotte, Huron, Cataraqui, Dakotah, Ottawa, Tuscarora, Navajo, and Cayuga. The town's amenities were provided by Hiram Walker. The town was well-planned. The east side was allocated to industry, the west to brick semi-detached houses, with semis and terraces on Monmouth Road. Argyle Road had terraces and vernacular houses, (designed by non-architects and using local materials), for higher ranking employees, while Devonshire Road was the main street with Romanesque Revival semis for management and clergy. A wealthy residential area grew around St. Mary's Church and Willistead, with homes designed by Albert Kahn incorporating Arts and Crafts elements.

In 1935, the town was annexed by Windsor. Most of the historic buildings of Walkerville survive today, including the Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd. head office at 2072 Riverside Drive East. This site includes a fountain by Joseph N. DeLauro depicting the creation myth of Indigenous people from the area. Erected in 1892, the building was designed by Mason & Rice of Detroit and features an impressive interior designed by Mason's draftsman at the time, Albert Kahn. It includes mahogany and Circassian walnut paneling, Mexican onyx, Normandy and Egyptian marble, and fine woodwork.

Many more of the early fine buildings that are still standing can be found on Devonshire Road, St. Mary's Gate, Kildare Road, Willistead Crescent, Niagara Street, and Argyle Road, among other locations.



Sister Ambrosia Durkin, 1863-1945

Ford City 1884-1935

Ford City began with the Notre Dame du Lac parish, founded in 1884 on land donated by Francois Drouillard. The area became a boom town with the growth of the Ford Motor Company, founded by a Canadian, Gordon Morton McGregor. He was the son of the owner of the Walkerville Wagon Works Company, William McGregor. He had been managing the company since 1901, when his father was appointed a customs collector, after serving as an MP for Essex North. The company, located on Sandwich Street East, had its start supplying the Union Army with horses. The Ford City Motor Company in Detroit transferred the patent and selling rights to the Wagon Works Company to avoid tariff rates for non-British Empire companies. After securing investors, Gordon McGregor opened the Ford Motor Company on August 17, 1904, with selling rights to all of the British Empire except Great Britain and Ireland. The first car, a Model T, was built at the Wagon Works site that year. Gordon McGregor served as a chief executive officer of the Ford Motor Company from 1904 until his death in March 1922.

The power plant for the Ford site was designed by Albert Kahn in 1922, and is an example of his use of ornamental brick and tile. Kahn believed that industrial design should be utilitarian, well-lit and non-ornamental. In 1904, 17 employees at the Ford plant produced 117 automobiles. By 1913, Ford employed 1,400 people, paying \$4 per hour for a 48-hour work week.

Unlike Walkerville, Ford City had little planning. Its spirit was multicultural and working class. It was incorporated as a

village in 1913, and as a town in 1915. Between 1928 and 1929, there was a large influx of immigrants from Central Europe, who came to work at the Ford Motor Company. On June 1, 1929, the town of Ford was incorporated and renamed the City of East Windsor. The Ford Motor Company refused to hoist their flag or take part in the celebrations because they disliked the name change. Authorities, on the other hand, argued that the name 'Ford' was a barrier to new industries moving to the city.

By the early 1930s, the city had high unemployment and the tax base declined. The town struggled with debt, and was favorable to the amalgamation with Windsor in 1935. Ford Motor Company did well during World War II, but in 1953-1954, the head office and assembly plant was moved to Oakville, and the population of Ford City declined.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church stands east of the now demolished Ford City Town Hall. Today, little remains of the once glorious mansions which lined Riverside Drive, or of the Ford Motor Company plant.



Marratt,

131, 133, AND 135 WOODWARD AVE.
DETROIT, MICH.

Sister Bernard Howell, 1862-1944

Ford Strike 1945

In 1945, Ford employed 14,000 workers at their plant in Windsor. They belonged to the United Auto Workers union. In the summer of 1945, Ford announced 1,500 layoffs. After failing to win a new contract, the workers of Local 200 went on strike on September 12. Their key demands were related to security of the union, since, at this time, union dues were voluntary and Ford was against the union. During those days, there was no strike pay. In November, Ford asked police to break the picket lines to restart the plant's heating system. The union called in 8,000 members from local 195 and they joined the 14,000 Ford workers, staying on strike without pay for another month. The workers formed a blockade by parking their cars in streets along the plant for three days to prevent a police attack. On December 9, after a 99-day strike, workers voted to return to work, and shortly after, Ivan Rand, the arbitrator, approved the payment of union dues by all employees, while also prohibiting all strikes during the term of any collective agreement. This compromise is known today as the 'Rand formula' and governs all unionized worksites.

The Sisters Arrive

Amherstburg 1853-1863

The Amherstburg mission that the Sisters began in 1853 was short lived, but promising. Although Bishop De Charbonnel intended to have the Sisters of St. Joseph in Toronto found a second Congregation in Sandwich, Mr. Beaubien had offered to financially support the expenses of the founding of the Congregation of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart there. Upon the recommendation of Father Point, S.J., it was decided that the Sisters of St Joseph would be sent to Amherstburg rather than to Sandwich.

In July of 1853, Mother Theresa Struckoff as well as Sister Magdalen and Sister Aloysia Walker, who were novices from Toronto, arrived at Amherstburg. Father Daudet, pastor of Amherstburg, considered them, and in particular Mother Struckoff, to be highly accomplished and capable. Their Christian and charitable dispositions along with their industrious natures impressed him. After Mother Theresa was called back to Toronto by Bishop De Charbonnel, Father Daudet protested since he believed that under her direction the convent's finances and work had been extremely successful. Despite her departure, the convent flourished for the next four years under other Sisters such as Sister Mary Bernard Dinan.

Only a few months after their arrival, the Sisters had outgrown their accommodations. Father Daudet advised the Bishop to purchase a new house for the Sisters.

Most notably, the Sisters exemplified their charity and service through the opening of a temporary hospital in Chatham when individuals had been injured due to a railway disaster in 1857. They acted so charitably that Father Jaffre, the pastor of the Parish in Kent, hoped to retain them.

Through no influence of their own, the Sisters eventually left Amherstburg due to the following circumstances. Bishop Pinsonneault sent the Grey Nuns of Montreal to come to his Diocese to settle in Sandwich. However, the Grey Nuns encountered difficulties in Sandwich and required relocation. As a result, the Sisters of St. Joseph were asked to leave Amherstburg in December of 1857 to make room for the Grey Nuns. This prevented any further development of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph which would have included a larger involvement in health care. They eventually returned to London in 1863.

Sandwich Mission

The original intention of Bishop De Charbonnel was that after the Sisters of St. Joseph were established in Toronto, a second establishment would be founded at Sandwich (now Windsor). However, because a convent for the Ladies of the Sacred Heart was established in Sandwich before this could happen, the Sisters went to Amherstburg instead. When the Grey Nuns, who had taken over from the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, left Sandwich in 1861, the Sisters of St. Joseph were requested to come take their place, but there were not enough Sisters available at the time to do so.

Assumption College Sandwich, Ontario 400 Huron Church
Road

Assumption College was founded in 1857 as a school for young men by a Jesuit, the Reverend Pierre Point, the pastor of Assumption Parish. The priests of the Congregation of St. Basil took charge of Assumption College in 1870. The college served as a residential day school for high school boys. In 1884, when adequate and comfortable additions had been made to the college, the Reverend Superior, Father O'Connor, invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to assume care of the domestic arrangements, which included housekeeping, laundry, sewing, and serving as sacristans and infirmarians for the seminarians at the college. The Sisters supervised these duties for the next 20 years. The first Sisters to serve at Assumption College were Mother Helena Lyons, Sister Immaculate O'Leary, and Sister Isidore Boyle.

The infirmary was so comfortable and the Sister in charge was so kind, that students would sometimes invent excuses to get into the infirmary. Sister Immaculate, in particular, was known for her unselfish devotion to the care of the sick and her skill in nursing, and some owed their lives to her, including Father Thomas Hussey. Many things disappeared in the pantry and dining room at times, but the rats got the blame for lifting the lids off of sugar bowls – and occasionally carrying away a whole pie!

The original Assumption College building, where the Sisters lived, was demolished in 1965. The remaining building, built in 1875 with a chapel built in 1907, was designed by Albert Lothian, and is now Dillon Hall, on the campus of the University

of Windsor. In 1971, with the closing of St. Mary's Academy, girls were allowed to attend Assumption College.



*Our Lady of the Lake Convent then Jean Sam Laundry,
Drouillard Road*

Our Lady of the Lake Convent 1894-1901 Drouillard Road,
Walkerville

In the spring of 1894, Reverend Father Beaudoin, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Ford, Ontario, asked Bishop O'Connor for the Sisters to take charge of the separate schools which were then being organized in his parish. The Sisters arrived from London on April 29, 1894 and started teaching two days later, without waiting for the school to be completed. They taught 11 pupils in the church vestry and 14 primary pupils in the presbytery. There was no reception upon their arrival because many people in the area opposed separate schools, even though religion could not be taught in the public schools. Father Beaudoin met Mother Ignatia Campbell, Mother Berchmans Colovin, Sister Rose Bondy and Sister Ambrosia Durkin at the station in Walkerville and brought them to a small house on Drouillard Road, near the presbytery. This would serve as their first convent in Windsor, and where they would spend the next six years. It had six rooms, one of which served as a dining room, chapel, community room, and a small parlour depending on the time of day. There was a lean-to kitchen added before the Sisters' arrival, as well as three small bedrooms upstairs. The community ladies and the parish held events for the benefit of the convent, including pound parties and socials. This was greatly appreciated because often there was not enough money for the Sisters to be paid on a regular basis. They earned only \$200 per year.

Also in the spring of 1894, the cornerstone for the new school named Notre Dame was laid by the Right Reverend Bishop O'Connor. The debt for building the school was assumed by the parish. The school was two storeys high, built of brick. On September 3, 1894 the school was blessed and sprinkled with holy water, and crucifixes blessed and hung, with a speech made by Bishop O'Connor. The next day, it officially opened with teachers from the Motherhouse in London. Sister Rose Bondy and Sister Ambrosia Durkin were the first Sisters to take classes in this school. By September 1895, the school had an enrollment of 140 pupils.

In 1895, the St. Louis School, two and a half miles from the convent, was opened with an enrolment of 35 pupils. Sister Rose was in charge and she travelled between the two locations via horse and buggy. The Sisters continued to serve as teachers, to give music lessons, to work as sacristans, and to visit hospital patients.

It took four years for a building more suitable for a convent to be realized. The cornerstone for the Sisters' new convent at 267 Cadillac Street was laid on June 3, 1900. The blessing of the new St. Joseph's Convent took place on September 8, 1901. It was decided that there would be a select school in the convent. At this point, there were seven Sisters in residence. The former convent on Drouillard Road later became the 'Jean Sam' laundry.

A New Century Dawns

St. Joseph's Convent 1901-1953 267 Cadillac Street

On September 8, 1901, St. Joseph's Convent in Walkerville, opened for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The land for the convent was a gift of Father Beaudoin and the building itself cost \$5,500 to construct. Upon its blessing, seven Sisters moved in: Mother Augustine Boyle, Sister Bernard Howell, Sister Euphemia Hussey, Sister Hildegarde Brosnahan, Sister Baptist Stafford, Sister Angelica Kains, and Sister Josephine Fallon. Sporting a red brick exterior, the convent stood two storeys above the basement with a spacious attic and an interior finished in oak. The first floor was complete with a large hallway and two front rooms which were used as parlors. Behind them were two additional rooms: the community room, to the left, and a music room to the right. At the end of the corridor was a door leading to the chapel. The second floor housed the bedrooms and lavatories, while in the basement there was a kitchen, dining room, and cellar.

One evening, shortly after the opening, Father Beaudoin, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Montreuil, their daughter Libby, Miss Pratt and others, presented themselves at the convent to surprise the visiting Reverend Mother Ignatia before she returned to London. They delivered touching speeches and the Reverend Mother was presented with the keys of the house, tied with white ribbon and laid on a silver tray.

At this time, the convent also took in young girls attending the nearby separate school as boarders and housed them on the

third floor. In 1905, this practice ceased, however, so as to not impose the care of the young girls after class hours on the Sisters.

At first, many thought the house was too spacious and expensive, but before eight years had passed, the house was no longer able to provide sufficient accommodation for the growing number of teaching Sisters. The Sisters worked in the classrooms, and assisted the pastors in preparing children for First Holy Communion and in training the boys to serve Mass in the Sanctuary. They also took care of the altar linen.

On March 16, 1907, Our Lady of the Lake church in Walkerville burned down after embers from the McGregor/Banwell Fence Plant fire flew toward the church, causing its destruction. It was impossible to save everything from the flames, though an attempt was made to protect the altar and statues. Father Beaudoin who had served the church since 1891, rescued the Blessed Sacrament and prevailed upon Sister Hilda McParland to carry the ciborium to the convent chapel, while he returned to save his vestments, chalices and vestry furniture. The presbytery, parish hall, convent, and the separate school were all spared from the blaze owing to the efforts of the Detroit Fire Brigade, aided in part by the pastor and parishioners. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on October 27, 1907, seven months after the fire.

Accompanying the construction of the new church was the separate school's steady growth in population. Much of this boom can be attributed to the establishment of the Ford Motor Works in 1912 which brought thousands of workers and their families to



St. Joseph's Convent, 267 Cadillac Street

Walkerville, now called Ford City. By 1921, when Mother Clement MacCormac was appointed, the number of classes had so increased that more teachers were required and the sleeping quarters in the convent needed to be enlarged. The attic was remodelled with six large dormer windows, walls finished with beaver board and painted cream. White curtains divided the entire space into separate compartments for each Sister and as many as 15 were sometimes in residence. In the basement, the following year, an electric stove, washer and mangle were installed. During the Easter holidays, the Sisters did a special housecleaning and painted every room in the house from the second floor to the

basement. Mother Clement, who was Superior, was a first class housekeeper as well as music teacher.

In 1923, the chapel was redecorated and new altar ornaments purchased thanks to the parishioners. During the summer of 1926, an addition to the convent was made possible thanks to a donation from Mr. Montreuil. The addition was based on the suggested plans of Mother Benedict Spring and Sister Regis Keating. The new wing was erected in the fall of 1926 under Mother Baptist Stafford's leadership. It provided the newly-named St. Joseph's Convent with a refectory, a community room, 22 bedrooms, and an enlarged chapel.

The Sisters found the people of Ford City to be progressive and musically inclined so a fourth music teacher was deemed necessary at Christmas, which meant another music room was needed. This led to the division of the old community room and the installation of folding doors. The number of music pupils going to the front door made another entrance advisable so the window on the landing of the front stairs was converted into a side door with a buzzer attachment. Other renovations, including to the chapel, were also undertaken. On October 5th, everyone helped to complete the building by giving it a thorough cleaning. The next day, Mass was celebrated by Reverend Father McNabb. October 8th was Thanksgiving Day and the Sisters were finally able to move into their new bedrooms in the morning.

In 1927, His Excellency, Monsignor Cassulo, Papal Delegate to Canada, visited the border cities for the first time. He arrived on the Friday at noon. There was a public reception at Our

Lady of the Lake Church that evening. In November of the same year, the Catholic school children in Ford City put on a public performance. They acted in a humorous play, had a chorus of 65 girls in their new uniforms, and gave out prizes and type-writing and music certificates. An orchestra made up of members of the convent music class also played. This month also saw smaller collections than usual because there was a lot of poverty and suffering with many heads of families being out of work for months.

In 1928, St. Therese's parish was formed from Our Lady of the Lake Parish. On June 1, 1929, the town of Ford, population 17,000, became the City of East Windsor. The Ford Motor Company of Canada refused to hoist their flag or take part in the celebration arranged for the birthday of the new city because they were displeased about the change. There was a parade of the school children, band and floats, that began on Cadillac Street. By 1929, the number of Sisters in the Ford convent had reached 42.

Mother Ignatia Campbell, the first General Superior of the London Community, passed away on January 3, 1929, at the Sacred Heart Convent in London. During this same time, the Most Precious Blood Parish was created to include that part of Our Lady of the Lake Parish lying south of Seminole Street. The Ambassador Bridge construction which had begun in the summer of 1928, was completed in the fall of 1929. Hundreds of men were out of work at this time and the bridge promised prosperity and change.

On January 17, 1930, six Sisters took possession of the new convent in Maidstone, provided for them by the parishioners on the condition that they would take charge of the separate schools in the parish. Mother Alonzo Murray, along with Sisters Eulogia Isber, St. Peter Troy, St. Martin McGrenere, Geraldine Hanlon, and Eugene Bond, arrived in East Windsor on January 4, but the convent was not ready for occupation until January 17, so they stayed in the convent on Cadillac Street until it was ready. The Sisters visited between the two convents often.

The economic downturn in the 1930s hit the working-class community of Ford City (now East Windsor) hard, giving rise to greater bouts of labour militancy. In March 1930, one Sister received a printed bulletin from a student at Holy Rosary School written by the 'Young Communists' of East Windsor, urging all working-class children to go on strike in demand of free meals. To help ease the children's suffering, the Sisters distributed notes for students to take to City Hall in exchange for shoes, stockings, and rubber boots. Every day in Riverside a truck called at the schools at noon to bring the poor children to soup kitchens and then back to school.

In September, six Sisters were sent to teach at the Sacred Heart School, in Prompt Succour Parish (later renamed Holy Name of Mary Parish). The Sisters who took up these duties were Mother Denise Sullivan and Sisters Cosmas Baker, Eileen Cronyn, Geraldine Hanlon, Eugene Bond, and Andrea Tully. They stayed in the Ford convent on Cadillac Street in East Windsor until the end of the first week of school. It was first proposed that the Sisters live at the Maidstone convent, but as this required a drive to the

school every morning, the Reverend Mother decided to rent a house near the school at 145 Cameron Avenue.

On November 1, 1930, the Windsor Detroit vehicular tunnel was opened. Work on the tunnel resulted in Notre Dame School and the Drouillard's home being torn down.



St. Joseph's Convent, 267 Cadillac Street

In 1933, the Sisters also hired two unemployed men to make improvements on the lawn of the convent as well as other repairs, including moving the front stairs so that they faced Cadillac Street. This improved the exterior of the convent, and also helped the men meet the required one-day-of-work-a-week quota to qualify for municipal relief. During the summer, a number of Sisters went to London for summer school at the end of June. During the early autumn of 1933, Cadillac Street got a mailbox! Sister Ambrosia Durkin visited the mission during 1934 and remarked that the Community was 40 years in East Windsor and she was the only living original member of the Walkerville convent.



St. Joseph's Convent, 267 Cadillac Street

By 1935, there were 46 Sisters living at the convent, of whom 13 were new. On January 28, 1936, a holiday had been proclaimed throughout Canada, and the Sisters assisted at Mass for the departed King George V. During this year, a seven passenger car was purchased, with the hope of decreasing travelling expenses for the Sisters. Due to so many families being on relief, music teachers found their classes smaller as the new school year began. The big event in October was the Catechetical Conference which was held in New York. The Sisters sent two representatives who were able to regale the Sisters with tales of their journey upon their return.

The beginning of July 1937, saw the yearly exodus of Sisters to different quarters for summer classes in Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton, and London. During November, at Mr. Melady's Convention in Windsor, several Sisters taught model lessons, which received excellent reviews.

On April 4, 1938, in St. Alphonsus' Hall, the first music festival ever staged by the combined schools of Windsor was held. This was a proud moment for the Sisters who had taught music.

The idea of schools closing recurred various times during 1940. Public school members did not want the separate schools to receive tax money. Mayor Croll increased the tax rate in order to give a certain percentage to separate schools and the decision was upheld in court in Toronto. The outbreak of war in Europe and the Pacific notwithstanding, the 1940s brought reasons for celebration among the Sisters. October 1944 marked the Golden Jubilee of the

Sisters' arrival at Notre Dame du Lac. The students observed the occasion with a presentation depicting the parish's growth from a



Our Lady of Prompt Succour Church

single church into six additional parishes throughout the city of Windsor, including St. Joseph's. At the convent, to commemorate the event, the Sisters decorated the community room and refectory, and hosted a banquet with visiting Sisters from London.

Throughout the decade, numbers continued to grow, and by October 1946, there were 51 Sisters residing at the convent, causing increased consternation among the occupants. To remedy the situation, the Sisters purchased the home of Mrs. Little at St. Mary's Gate, Walkerville, and seven Sisters were selected to move to the new convent.

On September 12, 1945, some 14,000 Ford workers walked off the job in protest after the company announced 1,500 layoffs touching off a 99-day strike that ended in December. Cadillac Street was in the midst of picketing because it bore the traffic denied to the thoroughfare past the plant. Dean Langlois requested safe passage through the picketers for the Sisters. Also during the 1940s, a tornado and major flood took their toll.

Unfortunately, the opening of the convent in Walkerville provided only temporary relief. The ongoing noise, dirt, and smoke emanating from the nearby factories had made the living quarters at 267 Cadillac Street increasingly inhospitable, and so the Sisters were pleased when, on March 19, 1952, a new property at 3975 Riverside Drive East in Windsor was purchased for them. This property underwent several alterations before the Sisters were able to move in a full year later on March 15, 1953. After they departed, the convent on Cadillac Street, still owned by the Diocese, was repurposed to house the Catholic Immigration Centre.

For over 50 years, the Sisters who lived at St. Joseph's Convent on Cadillac Street were involved in education in the elementary and secondary schools, gave music lessons, served as sacristans, and visited hospital patients after teaching and on Saturdays. The Mother Superiors who had been in charge of the convent since its foundation were: Mother Berchmans Colovin, Mother Augustine Boyle, Mother Vincent Halford, Mother Benedict Spring, Sister Rose Bondy, Sister Francis Xavier Coughlin, and Mother Vincent Halford a second term, Mother Clement MacCormac, and Mother Baptist Stafford.



St. Joseph's Convent Windsor.

St. Joseph's Convent, 145 Cameron Avenue

St. Joseph's Convent 1930-1945 145 Cameron Avenue ~
1945-1959 377 Cameron Avenue

In 1930, the Sisters of St. Joseph answered the call from Father Rooney for teachers to serve at Sacred Heart School. When they arrived, Father Rooney arranged for them to live at 145 Cameron Avenue in East Windsor in a house which belonged to the school board. The house underwent various renovations, and three decrepit buildings on the property were demolished. It was not until May 31, 1931 that all of the interior renovations were completed. In 1937, the house number changed to 369, and in 1945, after the sale of the property, the Sisters moved next door to 377 Cameron Avenue.

After the Sisters moved into the convent, they were blessed by generous donations from neighbours and most notably from Father Rooney, who was a significant benefactor to the Sisters. When they first moved in, he provided them with a gas stove and vestments, altar linens, candle sticks, a crucifix and fixtures for the altar and the chapel in the convent, as well as a statue of the Sacred Heart, which was placed on a pedestal in the hallway. He frequently gave them gifts of food during holidays. He also paid regular visits to the Sisters and was considered a valuable friend. After the Sisters moved to 377 Cameron Ave, he oversaw the work being done on the house during the summer of 1945. He became Reverend Monsignor Rooney in 1952 after his Investiture at St. Peter's Cathedral in London.



St. Joseph's Convent, 145 Cameron Avenue



St. Joseph's Convent, 377 Cameron Avenue

Year after year, the Sisters at St. Joseph's Convent remained dedicated to their teaching positions at Sacred Heart School. The Sisters also gave music lessons, both at the school and at the convent.

Shortly after their move to St. Joseph's Convent, the Sisters experienced a near disaster. On November 26, 1931, before bed,

they noticed a strange smell coming from below. Sister Eugene Bond realized the basement was filled with smoke and raised the alarm. Flammable material on top of the furnace had begun to smoke. The furnace was the cause of another emergency nearly a decade later on March 19, 1941 when for an entire night, the furnace had not been burning. However, the house was not filled with gaseous fumes, nor was any Sister harmed.

As already noted, in 1945, the Sisters moved to 377 Cameron Avenue. In 1950, the Sisters who were teaching at St. Joseph's School also took up residence at the convent on Cameron Avenue.

In September 1959, Reverend Mother Julia Moore consulted with Monsignor Rooney about selling the convent. The Sisters in residence were to join the Sisters from St. Anne's Convent at St. Joseph's House of Studies on 3020 Sandwich Street West. The Cameron Avenue building was purchased by Mr. Frank Kenny of Randolph Street, and the Sisters moved out in late November, after a final farewell visit from Monsignor Rooney, who donated his share from the building sale to the Sisters. The Sisters commended Monsignor Rooney for the kindness he had shown them over the past 29 years.



St. Joseph's Convent, 377 Cameron Avenue

St. Joseph's Manor 1934-1969 19 Sandwich Street East

In September of 1934, Reverend Father Dignan, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Windsor, obtained a charter from Toronto that authorized the establishment of a new receiving home for poor children in the Windsor and Essex area. The Manor was to be run under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society and operated on a daily basis by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In October of 1934, Father Dignan succeeded in leasing the home of Thaddeus Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill C. Walker of Walkerville, located at 19 Sandwich Street. Later that month, Sisters from the London Motherhouse arrived and stayed at the East Windsor convent while they cleaned and completed minor renovations on the Manor.

On December 13, 1934, Right Reverend Bishop Kidd officiated at the opening of St. Joseph's Manor and gave the blessing. On December 18, the first group of children arrived, and by Christmas Day, all of the Catholic children from the Windsor and Essex shelters had been relocated to the Manor. During the first year of operation, Mother Augusta Fuerth was appointed Superior and worked alongside Sister Evarista Whitwell, Sister St. Dominic Carrigan, and Sister Marcelline Tully. These Sisters were solely responsible for the maintenance and daily operation of the Manor. On February 12, 1935, Mr. Roy Bondy was appointed superintendent of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society. He worked closely with the Sisters to ensure that the Manor followed legal standards and had access to appropriate resources. Children were registered at the Manor until Catholic foster homes could be found for them. The house was spacious and had seven large

bedrooms and grounds that extended from one block to the next. It featured a library, a recreation and games area, and a tennis court which was donated in 1940. The children that resided at the Manor received full health services and attended local Catholic schools including St. Joseph's and St. Anne's. St. Joseph's Manor had a maximum capacity of 25 children ranging in ages from birth to 21 years. Between 1934 and 1949, the Manor's budget increased from \$1,900 to \$125,000 per year. During this period, the Manor's services and facilities expanded. In 1935, the Ladies' Auxiliary was established, and it raised money for the Manor through several fundraising events including the annual Keno Tournament. Between 1940 and 1941, a total of ten 'child guests' from war zones in Europe arrived at the Manor. A social worker for the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society, was in charge of these children. 'Child guests' received medical and dental care and were sent to local Catholic schools for their education.

In February of 1964, at the annual board meeting, an increased demand for services and a need for institutional care referrals for older children awaiting foster homes was noted. A few years later, in January of 1969, the Supreme Court of Ontario Grand Jury recommended the immediate evacuation of the Manor because it did not meet the Ontario Fire Marshall's building requirements. The children were moved to a farmhouse near Cottam which served as a temporary residence while a new facility was built. Before St. Joseph's Manor was demolished in 1969, the bannister and light fixtures from the building were removed and



St. Joseph's Manor

installed in the Hiram Walker Museum. In 1970, the new building – located at 1671 Riverside Drive East – was completed and named the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre.

St. Anne's Convent 1946-1961 1948 St. Mary's Gate, Walkerville

The Sisters of St. Joseph responded to a demand for extra teachers in the Windsor schools. There was not enough room at St. Joseph's Convent at 267 Cadillac Street to accommodate the extra teachers, and His Excellency Bishop J.T. Kidd advised the purchase of a new house. The home of Mrs. Gordon Little of Walkerville was bought. This 16-bedroom red brick house had been built in 1910 for Harrington E. Walker, the grandson of Hiram H. Walker, the founder of Hiram Walker and Sons Ltd. It was designed by architect Albert Kahn in the Tudor style. On October 15, 1946, the Sisters moved into their new convent at 1948 St. Mary's Gate. Sister Audrey Dunn, Supervisor of Windsor schools, became the first Superior of St. Anne's Convent.

The convent served as a residence for Sisters who taught during the school year at nearby elementary schools and gave music lessons. These schools included St. Anne's, St. Bernard's, St. Jules, St. Therese's, St. Andrew's, Sacred Heart, and Holy Family. The convent hosted retreats and conferences for Sisters from other convents as well. In 1949, St. Anne's Convent hosted a Golden Jubilee and an open house and tea was organized by the Catholic Women's League. Renovations in 1950 improved the kitchen and refectory. Additional renovations in 1955 added new light fixtures to the chapel and new paint for several rooms.



St. Anne's Convent

St. Anne's Convent opened for the school year in September 1954, with the smallest number of Sisters in residence. In 1958, the Sisters learned the house was up for sale with a plan to purchase a property near Assumption University where younger Sisters could take advantage of the opportunities of living close to the university. This new property became St. Joseph's House of Studies. With the new property purchased in 1959, St. Anne's Convent was still looking for a buyer. It was not sold until March 28, 1961 for \$25,000. The last of the Sisters moved on April 15, 1961 to St. Joseph's House of Studies and Holy Rosary Convent.

May Day Parade 1949-1965

An annual May Day Parade, originally called ‘Mary’s Day Parade,’ was held in Windsor from 1949 to 1965. The procession went from City Hall to Jackson Park, with the reviewing stand on the steps of St. Alphonsus Church. There were floats dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the rosary was prayed continuously. The Parade ended with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. During the first year of the parade, the dignitaries in attendance included Bishop Cody, Dean Langlois, Mayor Arthur Reaume and Father Mike Dalton. In 1950, the parade was held in the evening, and the reviewing stand was at Ouellette Avenue, with Bishop Cody again in attendance, along with other dignitaries including Paul Martin, Federal Minister of Health and Welfare.

The first time the Sisters of St. Joseph took part in the procession to Jackson Park was in 1951. In 1954, the dignitaries present included His Eminence James Cardinal McGuigan. By 1956, there were 35,000 marchers and 10,000 spectators lining the streets with thousands more in the Jackson Park Grandstand. His Eminence Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger, Archbishop of Montreal was the guest of honor.

The colorful parade included, as well as the Sisters, school students in uniform, nurses, Knights of Columbus, altar boys, bands, floats, flags and banners.

Holy Rosary Convent 1953-2007 3975 Riverside Drive East

The Holy Rosary Convent property was originally purchased January 20, 1819 from the Crown by Julien Parent. Dr. John G. Johnson came to own the property but eventually sold it to Frank Henderson Joyce on May 11, 1905. The house was originally built in 1926 by the well-known architectural firm, Sheppard & Masson, who also designed Windsor City Hall. The house was sold in 1937 to Thomas E. Walsh who was Sister Edith Walsh's brother. He then sold it to Western Ontario Broadcasting Company (now CKLW) in 1944 for use as a radio station. Due to the objections of neighbours, they chose to lease the property to John Bankhead, a U.S. vice-consul and uncle of actress Tallulah Bankhead. John Bankhead is said to have been shot on the property around 1944 but not fatally wounded. In 1951, the property was purchased by Paul and Nellie Tetzloff of Detroit. The Sisters of St. Joseph were looking for a larger space because their convent on Cadillac Street was overcrowded. On March 20, 1952, the Sisters purchased the property that became Holy Rosary Convent for the sum of \$27,000 from the Tetzloffs, and took possession five days later. Between the purchase and the move-in date, several Sisters from St. Anne's Convent went to Holy Rosary Convent to prepare it for occupancy.

The house was built of brick and half-timbered wood, designed in a Tudor revival style which was popular between the World Wars. It had an asymmetrical nature. There was a steeply pitched gabled roof and a mix of materials was used such as brick, cut limestone and half timbering with stucco infill. There were tall windows with multiple frames and a wooden door with an arched

cut stone surround. The first floor boasted bay windows and tall decorative chimneys. The house contained a sweeping staircase with a flagstone landing, two antique fireplaces, a solarium and a greenhouse. The fence at the back half of the property between the convent and the Hermans, who were the neighbours, was replaced at the expense of Mrs. W.F. Herman, who also supplied the new wire fence and rose bushes for the back half of the property.

The building had a prominent location facing Riverside Drive, a scenic parkway that follows the Detroit River. It had a generous landscape of approximately 188 feet in the front and 475 feet towards Wyandotte Street. It is one of the five remaining houses built when the area was still a part of Ford City.

Prior to moving in, the Sisters completed significant repair and renovation work to be completed. In 1952, the Sisters commissioned John Boyde, a well-known Windsor architect of the Pennington & Boyde firm, and father of a member of the Congregation, to plan a new wing on George Avenue. The new wing consisted of bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, a large dining room, sewing room, and a small music room. The three-car garage was converted into a community room and the reception area into a chapel by the Eastern Construction Company. The chapel and altar were a replica of the chapel at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. The pews from the chapel were obtained from Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in London, and decoration was by M. Jobin of St. Joachim. Sister Madeleine McDonald was very involved in the extension and renovations during 1952-53 and there was significant correspondence between her and John Boyde. Reverend

Mother Margaret Coughlin was also involved in the extension and renovations.

The Sisters moved into the convent on March 15, 1953. A blessing by Bishop Cody was given the following afternoon.

The Sisters at Holy Rosary Convent were involved in elementary and high school education, and taught music lessons in schools and the convent until the last music teachers moved to London in 1999. The Sisters also taught weekly religion classes to children at public schools in St. Francis, St. Joseph's, St. Theresa's and Precious Blood parishes. The Sisters' overall involvement in teaching waned throughout the late 1980s, and by 1991, only three Sisters in the convent remained in the teaching profession. This was in stark contrast to the large number of Sisters who were teaching during the mid-twentieth century.

The Sisters' ministries also included home and hospital visiting, pastoral care in public hospitals and in the parish, counselling children and families, spiritual direction, massage therapy, serving as secretary to the Bishop, working with the Spanish community, providing hair care for home-bound seniors, and outreach to the poor and the marginalized. Also vital to the smooth operation of Holy Rosary were the homemaker and bursar.



Holy Rosary Convent

Holy Rosary was a hive of activity and a community of faith, comradery and sharing. It was also known as a haven of hospitality as many young women from Windsor had entered the Community and often stayed at the convent when they returned to visit relatives and friends. Other Sisters and visitors often came for a rest and to enjoy sharing time with the Sisters.

The Sisters were involved with religious learning and reflection, often hosting and attending conferences and retreats at Holy Rosary Convent from as early as 1953. The first of these took place in August 1953, with Father Chidlow, CSR leading a six-day retreat. Other notable conferences and retreats included the First Tertian Class hosted in the summer of 1958. These retreats and conferences would continue to be a major part of life at the convent. The Sisters of St. Joseph Associates held their monthly meetings at Holy Rosary and for several years, the peer helping training program for high school students was delivered there.

Through the years, there were some welcome, and some not so welcome changes to the neighborhood. In the summer of 1954, there was some concern among the Sisters regarding the opening of the East Windsor bathing beach nearby, but their worries were unfounded, as they eventually found it not to be a nuisance.

Several renovations to the building took place over the years, including major updates to the kitchen in 1966 and extensive interior revamping in 1968. The chapel was renovated in 1971-1972 and modernized according to the directives of the Second Vatican Council. The renovations included the replacement of a

front chapel window with a stained glass window that was designed by Mr. Art Edwards of the Edwards Glass Company Ltd. of London, Ontario and installed in October.

Later, in late spring of 1976, the roof on the south side of the chapel was replaced. The renovations included new flooring and the pews were replaced with ones from the Basilian House of Studies which had been refinished and cut to fit the design of the chapel. In 1985, Holy Rosary Convent won a citation building award for preservation from the Windsor Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

During the 1980s, Holy Rosary Convent gradually transformed from a Community of approximately 25 sisters to an average of 15 sisters who shared a vibrant life of deepening prayer, congeniality and a variety of ministries. Until 1996, each weekday morning began with the celebration of Eucharist in the cozy chapel after which the Sisters engaged in their many works.

In the early 1990s, a fire from the Christmas tree necessitated extensive renovations including new curtains and flooring. In 1991, the iron fence around the property, initially brought in 1953 from the House of Providence in London, was removed and restored. It had suffered damage due to being struck by a car. In 1992, a large oak tree which was called 'The Giving Tree' and much valued by the Sisters was removed. To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a magnolia tree was planted in the front, and a maple tree was planted in the back of the property. During this time, the Sisters also made several technological updates in the convent. In April

1991, the Sisters purchased the first Macintosh Classic computer and printer. One of the Sisters provided weekly computer literacy lessons for ten Sisters who were keen to learn how to use the new computer. In 1998, the last two Sisters retired from teaching secondary school followed shortly afterward by the last Sister who served as a principal. The last elementary teacher had retired several years earlier. During this same year, the Sisters of St. Joseph received a Built Heritage Award from the City of Windsor. This was for their stewardship and recognition of the building's value to the community.

On New Year's Day in 2000, the millennium came to Holy Rosary Convent with no Y2K complications. In April, the Sisters did fund-raising for the missions in Peru through the Heart-Links Bazaar, raising \$5,000. In May, fundraising continued with a walk-a-thon for Drouillard Place for the Poor which raised \$9,000. In August, a heavy rainfall caused the sewers to back up in the kitchen, pushed rain through the windows, and flooded the furnace room. In September, the basement was flooded again when the sewers backed up. Repairs were undertaken in the basement due to the flood damage, and it was painted.

The Sisters spent many lively days at Holy Rosary Convent in 2001. In February, Windsor was hit with an ice storm that destroyed many trees, damaged houses and cars, and caused a big power outage throughout the city and county. During this time, the Sisters managed a bed and breakfast program for the Sisters who lived on Seminole Street because they lacked power for three days. In July, the Sisters hosted and entertained international pilgrims travelling to Toronto for the World Youth Day. In September,

there was a celebration of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Holy Rosary Parish. By this time, there were only 11 Sisters still living at Holy Rosary Convent.

In May 2003, there was another fundraiser for Drouillard Place held at Holy Rosary Convent. In June, an architect came to survey the property. In January 2004, four Sisters began to develop a strategic plan through a discernment group that involved surveys and input from the Sisters. The basic question was whether to renovate the convent or sell it and build at a new location. In May, a second all-day meeting, known as the Windsor Process, was held at Holy Rosary Convent. After several meetings, a decision was reached in September 2004, to sell Holy Rosary Convent to a local developer, who would build a smaller facility of eight to ten condominiums on the property to the Sisters' specifications, and which the Sisters would then buy back.

During 2005 and 2006, the Sisters continued to work towards this plan, with input from the developers, keeping the community and public updated along the way. The sale was anticipated to take place in 2007. During Easter in 2006, the Sisters realized that it would likely be their last celebration at Holy Rosary Convent. The process to sell the property was begun with Peter Whatmore of CB Richard Ellis, and on May 17, the 'for sale' sign was put up. On November 11, 2006, the first auction of the possessions of Holy Rosary Convent took place at Lakeside Pavilion in Kingsville. In December 2006, the last Christmas was celebrated at Holy Rosary Convent.

The Windsor Heritage Committee launched a campaign to designate Holy Rosary Convent as an Ontario heritage site, spurred on by the foundress of the Academie Ste. Cecile International School. The Windsor city council voted unanimously to approve the heritage site status on November 20, 2006. Unfortunately, this meant that the Sisters could not sell the property at fair market value, causing them to lose their highest bid. The Sisters fought the decision, put in an appeal, and tried to negotiate with the City of Windsor, but were unsuccessful. The property went to the second highest bidder which was the Academie Ste. Cecile International School, which proposed to preserve the building's heritage and turn it into an academic retreat centre and provide accommodations for visiting families of the school's international students.

The sale was completed on May 30, 2007. The Sisters were pleased that the sale was completed, but disappointed that the heritage designation had a negative impact on the property's value. As the sale was being finalized, two Sisters worked hard to prepare a new home on nearby Henkel Place. Four other Sisters prepared to move to the new Motherhouse in London which had just been built on Windermere Road. Three Sisters rented apartments in other sections of the city.

The closing ceremony for Holy Rosary Convent was held on Sunday, March 25, 2007. It was a time of joyful remembrances, attended by friends of the Holy Rosary Sisters as well as a bus load of Sisters from London, many of whom had lived previously at Holy Rosary Convent.

St. Joseph's House of Studies 1959-1974 3020 Sandwich Street West

Casa Grande at 3020 Sandwich Street West was an old Tudor mansion that belonged to William J. McKee, who was a founding father, philanthropist, and wealthy lumber merchant. The building boasted 22 rooms – 17 bedrooms and five bathrooms. This mansion became St. Joseph's House of Studies, which served as a residence for Sisters studying at Assumption University, as well as for Sisters teaching music and working as educators in elementary schools (Sacred Heart, St. Anne, DeSantis, and St. James).

Prior to the creation of the House of Studies, the Sisters lived at St. Joseph's Convent located at 377 Cameron Avenue, or at St. Anne's Convent. The idea to create a single residence for the Sisters from these convents was conceived by Reverend Monsignor Rooney in September 1945. However, it was not until September 1958, that Reverend Mother Margaret Coughlin notified the Sisters at St. Anne's that their convent was up for sale. The Congregation thought it would be wise to purchase property near Assumption University so that the Sisters could attend the university – as such Casa Grande was the perfect location. Interestingly, the abandoned St. Anne's Convent sat on the market for three years before it was purchased for \$25,000.

On July 2, 1959, Casa Grande was purchased by the Sisters for \$45,000 cash, with an additional \$1,000 cash payment for beds and desks. Renovations were handled by the Eastern Construction Company of the Tilbury area of Windsor. All the renovations were

recommended by the City of Windsor Fire Department Hall. The owners of the construction company, the Odette Brothers, estimated that it would take two to three months for renovations to be completed, but this did not prevent the Sisters from St. Joseph's Convent, from moving there on November 27, 1959, before final completion in 1961. The Sisters of St. Anne's Convent finalized their move on April 15, 1961, joined by two Sisters who taught at St. Anne's and Sacred Heart schools.



St. Joseph's House of Studies

Notable events that occurred during the Sisters' stay at the House of Studies included the Sisters voting for the first time in the Windsor Civic Election on December 5, 1960, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the first time in the House of Studies on May 7, 1961, the Open House for all the religious in the Windsor area as a centennial history project in May 1967, and the addition of a new school, DeSantis (formerly known as De La Salle) which was the Sisters' first full open concept school in Windsor.

In 1974, it was decided that the House of Studies was no longer needed to house Sisters studying at the University of Windsor. On July 4, 1974, the Sisters officially closed the House of Studies. Reverend P. Charbonneau of Charity House, Windsor, was given the keys on July 14, 1974. The house was renamed Brentwood, and re-opened as a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics.

Roy J. Bondy Centre 1970-1989 1671 Riverside Drive East

In 1969, St. Joseph's Manor, a receiving home for homeless and poor children and orphans, was demolished to make room for a new receiving and assessment centre for the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society. Temporary shelter was found for the children and Sisters at a farm near Cottam, where they resided for a year until the completion of the new building. At that time, there were nine children and four Sisters living on the farm.

In early 1970, the new building was completed and occupied on March 19, 1970 – on the feast of St. Joseph. The official blessing of the new centre took place on Sunday, September 13, 1970. The centre was named the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre after the first director of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society, Mr. Roy J. Bondy.

The main purpose of the centre was to provide the basic living necessities for children in need, providing care and support in their development. It was also meant to provide a period of assessment during which the Sisters could get to know and understand the particular needs of each child, and on this basis, be able to provide a suitable long-term plan. The Sisters also provided for the spiritual needs of the children in residence. Weekly Eucharist, Baptisms, and First Communions were arranged with the chaplain.

The new centre had accommodation for 25 people with 12 private rooms. There were four rooms for the Sisters, four rooms with two beds, two rooms with three beds, a chapel, a kitchen, a

dining area, a laundry room, and a variety of other rooms for the children's leisure activities. The building was designed primarily to provide short-term care to a maximum of 21 children between the ages of 4 to 15 years.

In March 1971, the Mother-and-Child Day Care Program began at the centre. The purpose of this program was to assist mothers in developing child rearing skills in order to form positive and healthy relationships and assist with the intellectual and emotional development of their children.

In July 1971, two Sisters left the centre, leaving one Sister to run the resident program and another to direct the day care program. Over 400 children passed through the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre after its opening. Approximately 50 of these children were adopted, while the remaining children were placed in foster homes, group homes or returned to their own homes. A few were placed in various institutions due to mental illness or behavioural problems.

From April 1979 to August 1980, two Sisters of St. Joseph lived and worked at the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre. One Sister was the coordinator of the Prevention Program for Preschoolers while the other was a staff member at the resident program. While working at the centre, the Sisters provided for the spiritual needs of the children in residence.

In January 1980, changes were proposed that would affect the centre. The Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society discovered there was a need to open a residential treatment centre for

adolescent boys in Ontario, and in May 1980, the decision was made to close the Bondy Centre as a receiving home for young children, and have it serve this new purpose. The Sisters withdrew in 1980 and started residential care for handicapped children in August 1980. They relocated to 253 Belleview Street temporarily, and on December 29, 1982 moved to 7770 St. Rose Avenue.

Home for Women in Need 1988-1990 547 Brock Street

The idea of buying a house in the community to serve as a residence for Sisters was originally proposed by two Sisters in August 1979. They wanted to provide a living experience that would enable a deeper community commitment and spiritual sharing to take place by being focused on a common ministry. The rationale for this was that community flows from ministry, not the reverse. They envisioned the house as a centre of prayer and spiritual revitalization.

The house at 547 Brock, in the west end of Windsor (Sandwich West) was purchased on March 1, 1980. It was a large, red brick duplex, and each part of the duplex had three bedrooms, an upstairs bathroom, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen on the first floor. An altar, tabernacle and crucifixes were brought in, and the house was formally opened on March 19. The north side of the house served as a retreat centre, and the south side as a residence. The Sisters living at the house, in addition to their jobs maintaining the retreat centre, also had part or full-time jobs in the community such as chaplain or teacher at a local school, nurse, and downtown mission worker. One Sister was involved in delivering workshops and programs of a spiritual nature, such as discernment weekends for women, prayer courses (for laypeople and religious individuals), and the 'Growing Together in Christ' program.

547 Brock continued to serve as a residence for Sisters and a centre for spiritual retreat until May 1986, when that function was discontinued due to a lack of personnel. The remaining Sister,

who had been living there alone since January of that year, moved to Holy Rosary.



Home for Women in Need

In 1988, the Home for Women in Need was established at this house, by two Sisters. It operated until 1990 when the ministry ceased. One of the founding Sisters had moved to Windsor and become interested in the needs of marginalized women. After meeting with some social workers, she determined that there was a

need for a half-way setting for women who had been recently discharged from a psychiatric facility. As the house at 547 Brock had been recently vacated, the General Council decided it might be used for this purpose. Two Sisters moved to the house on Brock Street in August 1987 and began renovating the house to accommodate themselves and six other residents. The first of the women joined them in February 1988, and the house was soon filled to capacity. The women were referred by St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital as well as the psychiatric units of various Windsor hospitals and the Home for Women in Need served to assist in their transition back into the community. Although the home provided no formal psychiatric care, the residents were given household responsibilities which helped them to develop life skills in a daily setting. Women would move out of the house when they felt ready and kept in touch with the Sisters as a support network. In July 1990, this function was discontinued due to a lack of personnel. After this, the house again served as a residence for Sisters from 1990-1995.

Adult Spirituality Centre 1988-2001 547 Brock Street

From 1988 to 1992, the Adult Spirituality Centre was located in a wing of Holy Redeemer College at 925 Cousineau Road in Windsor. It began with a prayer course and had its formal opening in January 1989, expanding to offer directed retreats as well. While located at Holy Redeemer College, a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a Sister of St. Joseph, and a Redemptorist priest, formed a team who consciously and very intentionally strove to express the mission statement of the Adult Spirituality Centre through weekly faith sharing as a team, and by offering programs faithful to the mission statement and suited to the needs of the time. The male/female team component was a visible witness of the gift and empowerment of collaboration.

The Adult Spirituality Centre was unique in that it was an inter-Congregational collaboration among the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary of the Ontario Province, and the Redemptorists of the Toronto Province. It had the full cooperation of the John XXIII Centre and the Diocesan Holy Family Retreat House at Oxley. The two women's communities supplied a seed fund to get it started, while the Redemptorists provided free rent of one whole wing and offices, a part-time secretary, and use of office equipment and phones. The availability of several private rooms allowed for retreat experiences to be offered on site, with beautiful grounds for the retreatants to enjoy. The Centre was also funded by all three Congregations by contributed services of the religious on the team, along with donations received from various individuals and

groups. Generous donors made it possible for those on lower incomes to attend programs offered by the Centre.



Adult Spirituality Centre, Brock Street

In July 1992, the Redemptorists were in the process of selling Holy Redeemer College. Consequently, the Adult Spirituality Centre lost the priest on staff and moved to the Ursuline Merici Convent on Curry Avenue. Here, there were 11 private rooms and four offices for which rent was paid by the Centre from the revenue from programs that were offered. In this new location, with a full-time secretary paid by the Sisters of St. Joseph, two Sisters of St. Joseph and a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary continued this valued ministry.

Prior to this, in August 1990, two Sisters of St. Joseph moved into the house that had formerly been the Home for Women in Need at 547 Brock Street. This house was located in the west end and in a poorer section of Windsor. For the next five years, it served mainly as a residence, although a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary started the Ministry of Touch in the north side basement in 1990.

In June 1995, when the Ursulines closed the Curry Avenue house, the Adult Spirituality Centre was moved to the Brock Street house. In 1987, the house, a split duplex, had been renovated for housing women in need. The only change that needed to be done by the Centre to accommodate group programmes on the first floor, was to incorporate a moveable sound-proof divider. This separated the south side from the office space on the north section of the first floor. There was a door created in the basement and on the top floor. In addition, the two kitchens were made into one by taking down the wall. When the Centre moved into the house in 1995, it was then possible to have, on the second floor, offices, small meeting rooms, a library, and a prayer room, as well as three bedrooms on the north side of the house.

The Centre offered courses and programs for adult laity and religious alike to allow the pursuit of a meaningful relationship with God. The Centre was open to all, regardless of faith, and as it was located in a poorer part of the city, was particularly accessible to those on lower incomes. Not only was it a place for people to deepen their community commitment and engage in spiritual sharing, but it also served as a place for prayer and spiritual revitalization. The Centre provided spiritual direction, supervision

of adult process methods, supervision of spiritual directors in training at Manresa Retreat Centre in Detroit, developed mission and vision statements for various groups, assisted in conflict situations, sponsored home retreats, and housed a lending library. It truly was a vibrant locus of spirituality within the city and area, and provided a sense of community and belonging to anyone who came for a program, or to spend some quiet days of retreat. It was innovative in that it offered programs suited to the times, in particular programs to help adapt to change and midlife challenges.

Programs were directed at a diverse group of people, and covered a wide range of topics from holiday depression to personality types to pet appreciation! Directed retreats were offered at the Brock Street site, but group retreats were held in other locations. Because of the limited space at the Brock Street site, when larger programs facilitated by key presenters were held, larger facilities such as church halls were rented. Some of these presenters included Joyce Rupp, SSM, Paul Hansen, C.Ss.R., Lindsey Mills, Eugene O'Reilly, C.Ss.R., and Midge Miles.

After 13 years of ministry, 65 people were involved in a closing ritual of the Adult Spirituality Centre on June 10, 2001. There were tears of joy and gratitude for the many ways in which God had been expressed to and among so many people. The house was put up for sale in July 2001.

Home for Handicapped Children 1980-1982 253 Belleview Avenue

With the termination of the services at the Roy J. Bondy Children's Centre in May 1980, one of the Sisters who had worked there saw the need to accommodate emergency placements for young children. The Sisters were given approval by the Congregation, in conjunction with the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society, to find a house to rent. This would enable them to set up an emergency short-term receiving home for young children. After much searching, the house at 253 Belleview Avenue was chosen by the Sisters. It was decided that the Community would pay the first year's rent on a trial basis and an evaluation would be done every six months.

In mid-July 1980, the Sisters moved into 253 Belleview Avenue which was called the Home For Handicapped Children. The house would provide short-term placements for up to five children at a time, ages ten to twelve. On August 1, 1980, the first child was received, and the house was blessed on August 16 by Father Ronald Herbert and Reverend Roland Nadeau. The plan was for the Sisters to assess the best possible plan for a child and determine whether this included returning home, or entering a foster home, or a treatment center. During this time, one Sister continued the day care program at the Bondy Centre and returned to the Belleview Avenue house after work.

The first evaluation of the house by the supervisor of Children's Services and the foster home co-ordinator took place in December 1980. The Children's Aid Society was very pleased with

the quality of care and provision for spiritual needs, as well as by the Sisters' acceptance of children without question. Initially, the main function of the house was to provide short-term emergency placements for no more than five children. In April 1981, after the evaluation, it was decided that the home would be open to long-term placements for two special needs children as well as remaining a receiving home for two to three children.

Two years later, in 1982, both Sisters realized the house was becoming inadequate to care for handicapped and young children. The Sisters hoped to find a larger home with both a front and back yard in which the children could play. They needed a split level house with bedrooms on the first floor to accommodate wheelchairs. Approval was given by the Community to search for a suitable dwelling to receive and serve handicapped and young children.

After much searching, the Sisters found a house on 7770 St. Rose Avenue. The house had six bedrooms and large front and back yards. The General Council agreed to purchase this to serve as the new foster care and receiving home, and on December 29, 1982, with the help of friends from the Holy Rosary Parish Youth Group, the Sisters, along with one handicapped child and four toddlers, moved into the new house. After its opening, the foster home was often filled to capacity, and at times there were six children in residence.



Sister Rose Bondy, 1861-1931

Foster Home 1982-2007 7770 St. Rose Avenue

In 1982, two Sisters working at the Home for Handicapped Children at 253 Belleview Avenue, realized that it was inadequate for the needs of long-term care of disabled children. Apart from spacing and wheelchair needs, the Sisters felt that operating the home independently from the Children's Aid Society would be beneficial. The Sisters were given approval from the General Council and after much searching, a new location was chosen at 7770 St. Rose Avenue. This house had six bedrooms and large front and back yards for the children. The Sisters were given the approval to move in, and on December 29, 1982, the Sisters, along with their charges, moved into the new Foster Home at 7770 St. Rose Avenue.

On March 19, 1983, the Feast of St. Joseph, local parishioners came out to celebrate as the house was blessed by Our Lady of LaSalette priests serving at Holy Rosary Parish. The months of May and June saw the house at full capacity, and at certain times from August to December, the house had up to six children in residence. In 1984, two long-term placement children came to live at the house. Their arrival sparked a gradual change that saw the house become a home for the long-term care of disabled children rather than continuing in its initial role of providing emergency care for children.

The year 1985 saw many developments. First, the Sisters applied for C.H.I.P. assistance from the government, which they received in March, to install insulation in the attics and exit doors. One Sister resigned from the Roman Catholic Children's Aid

Society as a childcare worker after 15 years of service, in order to devote more time at the Foster Home. In June, the Sisters were approached to participate in a joint project involving the Channel 9 Canadian Broadcasting Company to promote more foster care for teenagers in Windsor and Essex. In September, the house was closed to emergency cases because there were three full care children in residence.



Foster Home

In May 1986, the house began hosting ‘Buddy Ball’ that began on May 3 and continued every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. ‘Buddy Ball’ was a simplified basketball game that children in wheelchairs could play. Also, in September, after a hot summer, the Knights of Columbus purchased an air conditioning unit, a ceiling fan, and lights for the living room. In 1990, the Sisters and

three children visited Prince Edward Island and attended the Anne of Green Gables Festival, a trip sponsored by the Sunshine Foundation. In 1992, the house was modified and a room created in the attic, which was mostly used for storage. Another big trip happened in 1997 with the help of the Children's Foundation and Sunshine Foundation, when the Sisters and children travelled to Disney World.

In the spring of 2007, two Sisters were interviewed in the magazine *Possibilities*. It was noted that over the years, the Sisters had created a special home and provided care to more than 100 children, most on a temporary basis at the Foster Home. However, there were five children who stayed with the Sisters on a long-term basis, and the Sisters fondly referred to them as their 'angels.' Among the five, two children grew to adulthood and continued to live with the Sisters. The other three children passed away, but their memories live on with the Sisters.

All in all, both Sisters had been in service to individuals with special needs for a combined total of more than 100 years. In the spring of 2007, the Sisters retired after 27 years of running the Foster Home and the Community donated the house to Christian Horizons.

St. Joseph Centre 2005- present 5452 Tecumseh Road

The St. Joseph Centre in Windsor began in January 2005, when five Sisters met to discuss their shared dream of health ministry. Each of the Sisters initially involved in the initiative had different inspirations for their involvement. One Sister had a ministry of healing touch in the former music area at Holy Rosary Convent. Another Sister needed a place to begin her spiritual direction outreach and yet another was ready to add counselling to her parish ministry.

Two members of the Congregation's leadership team travelled from London to Windsor to further a process of finding a suitable location to house the fledgling ministries. During this meeting, the group identified healing ministry as the common focus for a new centre. With this in mind, the Sisters found and rented a suitable space at the corner of Tecumseh Road and Rivard Avenue. This new space was named St. Joseph Centre and consisted of three offices suitable for massage therapy, spiritual direction and counselling. There was also a larger central room for gatherings and meetings. The front of the building housed a commercial enterprise.

In December 2005, upon completion of renovations, the Sisters moved in. By February 2006, the Centre began to offer wellness services addressing mind, body, and spirit relationships. One Sister started a spiritual direction ministry in February 2006. The Sisters finalized the mission statement for St. Joseph Centre in March 2006. The mission statement read:

“Healing of the world begins with the healing of one person. To that end, we, at St. Joseph Centre emphasize the integration of body, mind, and spirit. Flowing from the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, our ministries impel us to be God’s loving and healing presence. Holy listening and compassionate care are the ways we companion all those who seek wholeness.”

The official opening and blessing was held on April 30th, 2006. On October 2nd, 2006, another Sister joined the Wellness Centre, sharing the room for spiritual direction. She had been carrying out her spiritual direction ministry at Holy Rosary Convent prior to this.

One of the Sisters, who was the parish nurse at Most Precious Blood, served as an advocate for parishioners seeking access to the healthcare system, and provided education on health-related matters and counselling from her office at St. Joseph Centre. She used a holistic approach to health and wellness in her work, and made connections with local agencies for an annual Health Fair. In 2008, she left St. Joseph Centre because she had an office at Most Precious Blood Parish. A new Sister moved into her office in 2009, and carried out a grief counselling ministry. In 2012, the ministry of spiritual direction moved to Our Lady of Atonement Parish where the Sister involved in this work was a spiritual presence in the parish.

In 2014, when the Sister who had been doing parish nursing retired, she began to do spiritual direction work, and acquired space at the Centre in the following year.

The St. Joseph Centre has held a number of events over the years. Some of these events include *The Healing Angels of Energy Field* on October 22, 2006; *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Advent event on November 26, 2006 with guest speaker Sister Wendy Cotter; and *St. Joseph's Day* on March 19, 2007.

Services offered at the Centre as of November 2006 included centering prayer, workshops on integrated energy therapies, 12 step and big book study, and massage therapy.

As the ministries at St. Joseph Centre came and went, one thing remained unchanging. Anyone who visited always commented on the holy peace and tranquility that surrounds one entering the centre to partake of a healing ministry.

Education in Windsor

The Roman Catholic school system of Windsor was influenced by the following religious communities: the Basilian Fathers, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, the Polish Ursulines, and the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.



Sister Bernard Howell and children

The Sisters of St. Joseph first arrived to teach in the Windsor area in 1894 at the request of Father J.L.A. Beaudoin and Bishop Denis O'Connor. The Sisters were not well received in the area since many people were opposed to the idea of separate schools. They opened classes in Our Lady of the Lake Church on May 1, 1894 since the Notre Dame School was still being built. At this time, the combined salaries of all the Sisters was \$200 per year. It was only paid to them whenever the pastor could spare a few dollars and many times the Sisters relied on the donations of generous parishioners.

Notre Dame School 1894-1929 267 Cadillac Street

The Notre Dame School in Our Lady of the Rosary Parish was built by Reverend Father Beaudoin, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church. The four-room red brick school was constructed with limited money. The cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1894. This was the very first Roman Catholic school established in Windsor. The school was formally blessed by Bishop O'Connor on September 3rd, 1894. The first teachers were Sister Rose Bondy who taught primary grades with 106 pupils in a class that had seating for 45, and Sister Ambrosia Durkin. Upon opening, the school had two classrooms. In October, a bazaar was held on the upper floor of the school, with entertainment provided by the pupils, which enticed more parents to send their children to school. By September of 1895, the school had an enrollment of 140 but room for only 108. In 1896, a third room was opened. By 1901, there were 180 pupils, four classrooms, and four Sisters who served as teachers. In September 1921, as class sizes continued to increase, a bungalow style annex building was built near Notre Dame School to hold three classes under the care of Sisters Bernard Howell, Columba Overend, and Alma Jordan. (A similar one was built on Joseph Janisse Avenue the next year.) In 1924, Ford City Separate School Board opened a grade 9 and a commercial class at Notre Dame School to provide for Catholic secondary education on the east side of Windsor. Since grades 9 and 10 in separate schools received some provincial funding by this time, no tuition fees were charged. Notre Dame School was abandoned in the fall of 1929. It was torn down within a year to make room for the new tunnel to Detroit.



Notre Dame School, Cadillac Street

St. Louis School 1895- closed

St. Louis School opened in September 1895, four and a half miles from the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school was across the street from St. Rose Church in East Sandwich. Upon opening, the school had an enrollment of 35 pupils. Sister Rose Bondy travelled to the one classroom school daily from the convent in a dilapidated buggy drawn by a tail-less horse. In 1920, St. Louis School had two teachers; Sister Rose Bondy and Sister Mildred Henry. The majority of students were French speaking, and Sister Rose taught catechism in French. At some point, an addition was made to the east side of the original building. In 1923, Monsignor Langlois became parish priest, and built the rectory of a new church on the site of St. Louis School that year. St. Peter's School was built across the street, and Mass was held in the basement of that school until the church was completed. The original St. Louis School was torn down upon completion of St. Peter's School in 1923.

St. Anne's School 1904-closed

In 1904, St. Anne's School in Walkerville was opened and Sisters Alphonse Givlin and Hilary Brossoit became the teachers. Because there were no street cars, they walked to the school daily, down the track and across the commons.



St. Anne's School

The Early Years

In 1912, Ford Motor Works was established in the part of Walkerville now called Ford City. The plant was extensive, and the population grew rapidly. There was no public high school in Ford City. In 1915, the parish hall was utilized for school purposes to relieve the overcrowding in other schools. It was a one-room, unfinished barn-like structure which was hastily erected. The rafters and walls were bare. In 1917, this single room was divided into two classrooms by a thin board partition. There were 250 pupils enrolled, with Mother Benedict Spring and Sisters Bernard Howell, Rosalie Joly, and Hilary Brossoit serving as teachers. In the summer, the heat was so intense that the tar on the roof melted and often dropped onto the children's heads. In the winter, some of the partition had to be taken down to allow one large stove to serve both rooms. The children enjoyed peeking through the gaps in the wall around the stove to wave at their friends in other rooms. In 1918, four classrooms were made out of the space. Long benches and crude desks were used, so that if one student wanted to leave his place, everyone had to move. The parish hall was located above a garage. When the pastor, Father Langlois, returned to the hall, he would honk his horn and one of the children would come down to open the garage door for him. In 1919, the school board spent \$3,000 in improvements. The Sisters referred to the improved building as 'Sunshine Park.' There were 250 students for two years under Mother Benedict Spring, and Sisters Bernard Howell, Rosalie Joly, Hilary Brossoit and Bathildis LeBoeuf. Mother Benedict spent the last five years of her career at Sunshine Park. After her retirement from Ford City, she was appointed Superior of Mount Hope in London.

In 1921, the basement of the church became the next improvised school. There were 106 pupils in a space meant to hold only 45.

By June of 1927, there were nine schools with 2,131 pupils. The population boom in Ford City, meant that by September 1928, the enrolment in schools totalled 1,591 pupils. This same year, the school board hired male teachers for the very first time to teach at St. Jules and Holy Rosary Schools, but their lack of teacher training led them to struggle with classroom management. By the end of October 1928, the town began to suffer when half of the more than 8,000 workers who were employed by Ford were laid off.



Sacred Heart School

During the first week of May 1930, the old Parish Hall also called 'Sunshine Park' was torn down and on its site Monsignor Laurendeau had a large garage built.

In November 1944, the Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association at the Holy Names College in Windsor offered their congratulations to the Sisters of St. Joseph for the opening of the Jubilee year of Catholic education in Windsor. That year marked the diamond jubilee of the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, as well as the golden jubilee of the opening of the first parochial school by the Sisters of St. Joseph. With the opening of Holy Rosary Convent in Windsor in 1953, the Windsor school system had grown to ten schools with 102 rooms and a total of 3,650 pupils.

The early schools in Ford City between 1917 to its amalgamation with Windsor in 1935, included Holy Rosary School (1922), Notre Dame School 1894), Sacred Heart School (1908), St. Anne's School (1904), St. Bernard's School (1931), St. Cecile's School, Riverside, St. Joseph's School, both intermediate and elementary (1922), St. Jules School (1923); St. Louis School (1895), St. Peter's School, Riverside (1923), and St. Thomas School, Riverside.



St. Cecile School, Riverside

Holy Rosary School 1922- Drouillard Road



Holy Rosary School, Drouillard Road

In May 1922, construction of a six-room school, Holy Rosary, on Drouillard Road commenced and it was ready for occupation the following February 1923. In the spring, six more rooms were added to the school which then had 18 rooms all filled to capacity with over 800 children. The school was so well-known for discipline and order that people would come and watch the students file out! The students also won praise for their singing of the High Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Church every month. In 1949, for the first time in parish history, there was a broadcast of senior pupils of the Holy Rosary School singing midnight mass at Christmas. The choir was trained by Sister Francis Xavier Seguin.

St. Jules School 1923-present 1982 Norman Road

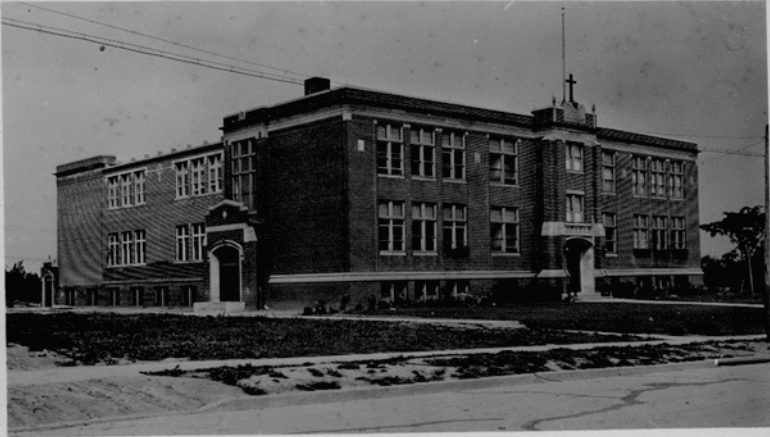
The Trustees of Sandwich East asked the Sisters to take charge of the new school being built outside of the Ford section. Sisters Rose Bondy and Alma Jordan took charge, and it formally opened in 1923. It was originally a frame building located one block east of its present location on Norman Road, just outside the Ford Section. It had two classrooms with a square block between them. This block had the entrance at the front or north end and a small square teachers' room at the back. In the beginning, the school only had three teachers. It became inadequate and in the spring of 1925, a six room brick school known as St. Jules was built and opened in September of that year. In September 1928, three more rooms were added and filled to capacity. The early teachers at this school were Sisters of St. Joseph, and included Sister Alma Jordan, who was the principal, along with Sisters Clotilde Morrissey, St. Teresa Jordan, and St. Leonard Phelan.



St. Jules School, Norman Road

St. Joseph's School 1922- 1927, Joseph Janisse Avenue

St. Joseph's School which began as a three room bungalow in September 1922, was replaced by a six room school house which proved too small so that more rooms were added, four of which were to be for continuation classes. In the summer of 1927, the three room bungalow that used to be St. Joseph's School, was removed to Tecumseh Road near Drouillard Road. This became the foundation of St. Bernard's Parish.



St. Joseph's School

St. Peter's School Riverside 1923- East Windsor

In November 1923, St. Peter's School was opened and its basement served as a place where Mass could be celebrated until the new church was erected. This church was built on a site contiguous to the first St. Louis' School. The pastor called the church St. Rose, after Sister Rose Bondy. The early teachers at this school were Sisters Adele Reaume and Eleanor Alexander.



St. Peter's School, Riverside

St. Joseph's High School 1924-1953 Joseph Janisse Avenue ~
1989-2006 5420 Empress Street ~ 2006- 2425 Clover Avenue

In 1924, there were only two Roman Catholic high schools. One was St. Mary's Academy which was opened in 1864 by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The other was Assumption College School opened by the Jesuits and taken over in 1870 by the Basilians. Both were private schools charging tuition. These schools were not easily accessible to students living in the east end border cities, such as Ford City.

The Ford City Separate School Board started grade nine and commercial classes at Notre Dame School, and then a school was built in 1928 on Joseph Janisse Avenue. One wing of the school was used for grades 9, 10, and 11. In 1930, an eight room addition was built and high school classes moved there to six rooms above the auditorium. Grade 13 was taught beginning in 1933. Early teachers included Sisters Frances Clare Kenny, who was the principal, and Sisters Edith Walsh, Ancilla Troy, and Jean Marie Faubert.

St. Joseph's was the first Catholic high school in the border cities and Dr. Frank McCarroll stated in 1932 that he believed the Sisters of St. Joseph deserved great credit for this. After the amalgamation of Ford City with the City of Windsor in 1936, the population of St. Joseph's High School spiked. St. Joseph's High School, which had previously been open only to Sandwich East and Ford City (East Windsor) residents, became the choice city-wide for students wanting tuition-free, co-educational

Catholic schooling. Classes were so large that every available area was used, including the gymnasium balcony.

The high school was unreliably financed because there was no high school board. The East Windsor Separate School Board provided classrooms, utilities, and furniture. The teachers, who were Sisters of St. Joseph, only received a salary for teaching grades 9 and 10. The Sister who served as principal was never paid a salary. Even though the senior grades received no financial assistance from taxes, no tuition fees were charged except to township pupils. Most of the school's budget came from fees paid by the Sandwich East Board for their students. Nevertheless, due to the self-sacrifice of the Sisters, the school was successful. It was known for its excellence and school spirit.

Sister St. Anne Lennon was the first principal of the high school, succeeded by Sister Edith Hogan who was principal from 1939-1953.

In 1953, grades 11 to 13, the private grades, were no longer taught because Corpus Christi High School was opened. The commercial department continued to operate until 1957 at Holy Rosary School. Grades 9 and 10 continued at St. Joseph's School until 1965 when Brennan High School amalgamated the Catholic secondary schools in East Windsor.

In the fall of 1954, Holy Family School opened as a parish school, to accommodate the overcrowding of the first two grades in St. Joseph's High School. St. Joseph's High School closed after serving as the first co-educational high school in Windsor, with

both sexes in a single classroom, something progressive for North American standards at the time.

In 1968, graduates of St. Joseph's High School were traced. Three graduates had earned doctorate degrees, five were medical doctors, three were dentists and countless students had earned their undergraduate degrees in engineering, teaching and nursing. In addition, 25 graduates became priests, while 64 became men or women religious, including Sisters of St. Joseph, or leaders in the business world.

In 1989, the Windsor Roman Catholic Separate School Board decided to open a fifth Catholic high school. The name of St. Joseph was chosen, with trustee Jo-Anne Gignac arguing that the name would recognize the work of the many dedicated Sisters of St. Joseph. The students spent three years in the former Edith Cavell elementary school at the corner of Ontario and Glidden Streets. In 1992, they moved into the former Shawnee Vocational High School on Empress Street. Many renovations took place including the addition of a chapel. The official opening ceremony was held on April 29, 1994 with Bishop Henry officiating. In 1998, the school was placed under the jurisdiction of the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board.

The abolition of the fifth year of high school (grade 13) took place in 2002. A decision was taken by the school board in 2004 to construct a new school. In 2006, this new school located on Clover Avenue replaced the former school on Empress Street, which was converted into a mosque and community centre. The new building featured an atrium, green roof, tennis courts, six

science labs, sports fields and track, a triple gymnasium, and a state of the art cafetorium with a 480 seat theatre. The official opening took place On October 1, 2006, with Bishop Tony Daniels and other dignitaries present.

Sacred Heart School 1930-

In August 1930, Reverend Father J.A. Rooney, who was the pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succour Parish, requested that the Motherhouse send Sisters to teach at Sacred Heart School in Windsor. Reverend Mother Philomena Hussey answered his request and sent six Sisters: Mother Denise Sullivan, Sister Eileen Cronyn, Sister Eugene Bond, Sister Cosmos Baker, Sister Geraldine Hanlon, and Sister Andrea Tully. These Sisters replaced the Sisters of the Holy Names who had left their positions due to insufficient staff numbers. There were also two lay teachers who staffed the school. The school was a red building with eight classrooms, a dining room, washrooms, and supply rooms. It had a beautiful front entrance in the main hall, with a statue of the Sacred Heart. In September 1930, the school had about 350 pupils.

While at Sacred Heart School, the Sisters participated in professional development as teachers. In November 1939, they visited Sisters in Detroit schools to learn how they taught their curriculum. The Sisters established the Parent-Teachers' Association (P.T.A.) in 1949, and on May 14, the P.T.A. held its first annual meeting, which consisted of an afternoon tea at the convent. The following year's meeting was a fundraiser at which the Sisters, staff, and 300 students raised over \$400, which was used to redecorate the school lunchroom. The Sisters also participated in a Teachers' Convention on numerous occasions, which they attended in both Windsor and Detroit.



Sacred Heart School

St. Bernard's School 1931-present 1847 Meldrum Road

The school formally opened in 1931. It had two storeys without a basement, and nine classrooms with a gymnasium that also served as an auditorium. It was named after Sister Bernard Howell. The early teachers were Sister Eusebia Barron, who was the principal, along with Sisters Eileen Cronin, Pauline McGuire and Marie Theresa Garvey.



St. Bernard's Bungalow School, Meldrum Road

The Later Years

By 1956, the schools in Windsor also included Holy Family School, St. Rose's School, and St. Maria Goretti School.

By 1968, there were 26 Sisters of St. Joseph teaching in 14 schools in Windsor. During the 1982 school year, the Windsor School Board encountered financial woes and fell into a \$3 million debt. The school board asked all employees to give up a percentage of their salaries to compensate. Some secretaries were laid off for two weeks in June, and 91 permanent teachers were laid off; additionally, some occasional teachers' contracts were terminated. Eventually, a settlement was reached that involved the teachers giving up a portion of their salary.



St. Therese School

From late 1962 until early 1963, the Sisters welcomed student teachers from the new teachers' college with a staff Christmas party at each school.

The Sisters faced challenges in the schools. In 1964, St. Thomas School was accidentally partially blown up, and although no one was hurt, it resulted in the pupils being relocated to other Riverside schools. In January 1966, reorganization of the area also affected the schools. Riverside, Ojibway, Sandwich East, West and South were all merged with Windsor. The result was a reorganized Windsor separate school board. The following year saw enrollment in the separate schools higher than public schools for the first time in Windsor's history. Another brief interruption in the Sisters' service as educators came in 1968 when the janitorial staff at the separate schools went on strike for a new contract. During this strike, the schools were closed for about a week by health officers due to their lack of cleanliness.

There were also resounding successes. St. Pierre's School received several awards and two trophies for having the highest achievement in elocution and French spelling at the county contest in LaSalle. In 1965, six female students at Brennan High School entered a local nursing contest and won. Their success led them to the provincial competition where they won two awards. This triumph was repeated again in 1967 at the national competition. The St. Jules School won the zone public speaking contest. The Holy Family Girls' basketball team was also victorious when they became the Windsor champions in 1966. In September 1966, more than 2,000 children representing every Catholic school in Windsor took part in a centennial year program. In 1995, the Sister serving

as principal at Immaculate Conception School was chosen as Teacher of the Year by the Toronto Sun.

At various times in the 1950s and 1960s, Sisters were teaching or acting as administrators at Brennan High School (1966), Holy Family School, Holy Rosary School, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Riverside Separate School, Sacred Heart School, St. Alexander Intermediate School, St. Andrew's School, St. Anne's School, St. Bernard's School, St. Jules' School, St. Maria Goretti School, St. Rose School, St. Thomas School in Riverside, both the elementary and intermediate St. Joseph's Schools, and Sir George Vanier School (1970).

By the early 1990s, the Sisters of St. Joseph had taught in a large number of schools in Windsor, including as well as those previously mentioned, Assumption High School (1971); Catholic Central High School (1990), H.B. McManus School, Holy Names High School (1985), Immaculate Conception School, L.A. Desmarais School, St. Alexander's Senior School, St. Therese School (1980), and W.J. Langlois School.



St. Thomas School, Riverside

Corpus Christi and F.J. Brennan High Schools 1953-present 910
Raymo Road

Corpus Christi High School was built in 1953. The property on which the school was located was bequeathed to the Ursulines in 1920. It was donated by the Ursuline Sisters to Guadalupe Church and later, another section given to build the high school. This co-educational school owed much to the efforts of Bishop Cody. The school had 11 staff and 102 students. The parents requested that the students wear uniforms.

Increased enrollment led to the building of a north wing, which included four classrooms, a larger cafeteria, and a dressing room. Expansion continued, and the school was renamed after Monsignor F.J. Brennan. The official opening was held on June 12, 1966.

In the 1970s, F.J. Brennan High School was one of two Roman Catholic high schools in Windsor. At that time, the school had 75 teaching staff including five lay staff. Grades 9 and 10 were administered by the Separate School Board, but other grades were the responsibility of the Diocesan Roman Catholic High School Board of Metropolitan Windsor which had 14 members. In 1976, after holding numerous meetings with students, parents, staff, administration and board members, a report was presented by a special commission which had investigated whether the school was complying with its duties to religious education.

In 1971, the two high schools in Windsor, F.J. Brennan and the new Assumption High School were in a financial crisis. Bishop Carter appealed to the religious communities of women within the London Diocese to lend assistance. Over the next ten months, the Sisters of St. Joseph contributed \$26,558.30 to the Windsor Catholic High School Fund, the most of any religious order.

The last Sister of St. Joseph to teach at Brennan High School served there from 1984 to 1989. The principal, Father Frederick Zakoor, was asked to start a new secondary school, named St. Joseph's, in 1989.

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