



**REUNION DAY 2021**

**CLASS OF 1915 - 1936**

**ANNIVERSARY YEARS CELEBRATION**

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION January 22, 1915**

**GRADUATES 1915**

The first two students entered the school of nursing on September 8, 1911

The remainder of graduates entered at various times until a sufficient number was reached in order to have a graduation.

Graduation took place on January 22, 1915.

The ground was covered with a great white blanket. The impressive and elaborate ceremony took place at 8 pm in the lecture hall amidst prominent members of the Hamilton clergy, laity and medical professions who together with friends and relatives, enjoyed the musical programme prepared by the 9 young graduates.

A handsomely engraved medal, given for outstanding work, and huge bouquets of pink roses were presented to the nurses.

Following Graduation exercises the nurses returned to duty with their patients.

Entered 1911 Ada Egan  
Sister M. Gerard Moran

Entered 1914 Helen Carroll  
Lillian Furrey  
Clara Grant  
Mabel Grant  
Angela Halloran  
Ella Kelly  
Anne Maloney  
Annie McGinnity  
Jean Morin

Sister M. Vincent Bergin  
Sister M. Loretto Gainer



*The first graduating class of St Joseph's School of Nursing had their ceremony on January 22, 1915.*

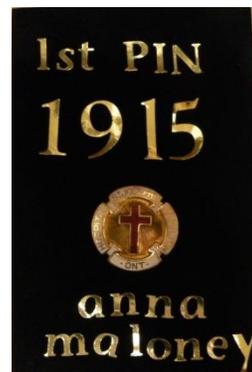
*Graduation Ceremony was held in Undermount Nurses Residence.*

*The ground was covered with a great white blanket.*

*The impressive and elaborate ceremony took place at 8 pm in the lecture hall amidst prominent members of the Hamilton clergy, laity and medical professions who together with friends and relatives, enjoyed the musical programme prepared by the 9 young graduates.*

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*Following Graduation exercises the nurses returned to duty with their patients.*



*St. Joseph's Graduate pin was designed by Sister St. Basil of the Sisters of St. Joseph while she was the superintendent of Nurses in 1915.*



*Sister M. Gerard Morin '15*

**GRADUATES 1915**

*There are 8 nurses in the photo  
there are 9 names of grads with the photo  
record book lists names of 13 graduates  
Photos of the Sisters were not permitted in the class photos*



*1915 Class Ring*



*The birth of St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae Association*

*The St. Joseph Hospital Alumnae was organized in 1915 under the convenorship of Misses Ada Egan and Jean Morin, assisted by Mother Helen Superior of the Hospital and Sister St. Basil Superintendent of Nurses.*

*After much planning and formulating of the constitutions and by-laws the nucleus of the present association was formed, with Miss Ella Kelly as president.*

*The Alumnae grew and progressed over the years always working hand in hand with the School of Nursing.*

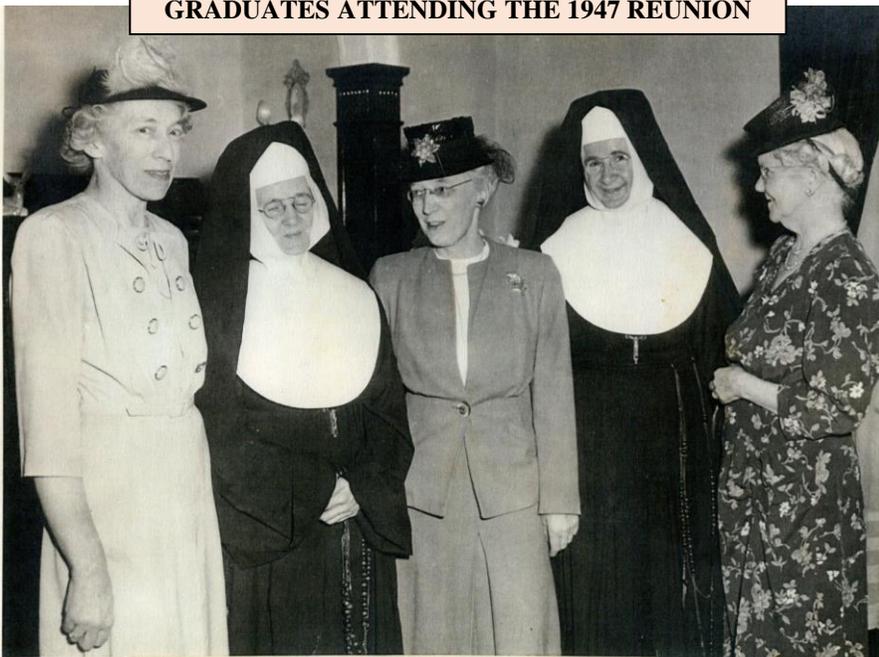
*The graduates of the School form the body of the alumnae today.*

*Ella Kelly '15 was the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the Nurses Alumnae She was President from 1915 - 1933*



*Past Alumnae Presidents*  
**Back Row:** Iva Loyst '24 Kathleen O'Brien '24 Leona Hudecki '41 Elizabeth Quinn '20 Eva Moran '20 Mildred Hayes '27 Irene Murray '19  
**Front Row:** Doris Crossley '32 Ella Kelly '15

**GRADUATES ATTENDING THE 1947 REUNION**



*Graduates of the class of 1915*  
**Ana Maloney Sister St. Basil Jean Morin Sister St. Gerard Ella Kelly**

*St Joseph's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations*  
*Solemn High Mass was celebrated on the lawn of Marygrove. Estimated 500 guests attended Mass was followed by an open house of the hospital from 2 - 4 pm.*  
*Guests were met at the door by Sister Superior M Geraldine '30 then guided through the hospital by the nurses. The Ladies Auxiliary of the hospital served tea on the lawn,*  
*The nurses annual Reunion Dinner was held on the same day, Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1950*  
*The graduates attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.*  
*This picture of past Alumnae Presidents was taken at the reunion*

**GRADUATES ATTENDING THE 1947 REUNION**



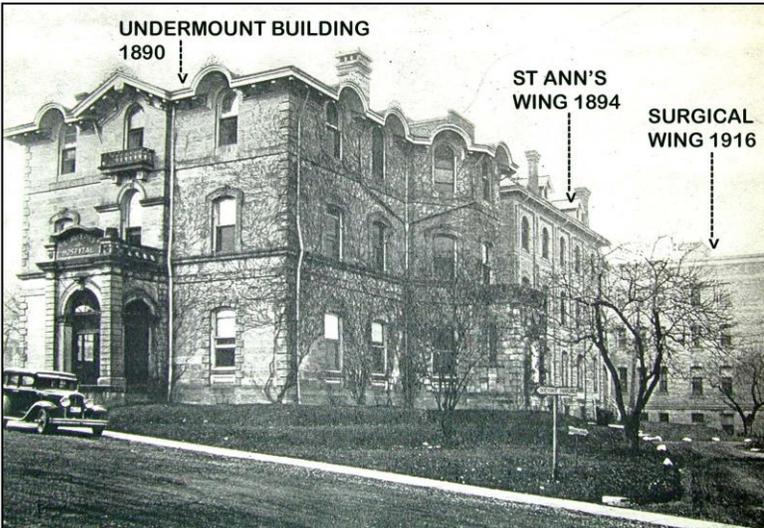
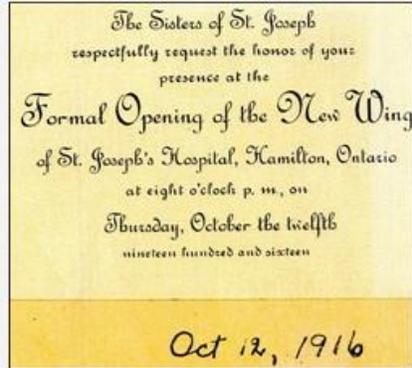
*Genevieve Boyes '17   Margaret Lenhard '16   Nora Finn '18   Helen Fagan '17*



No graduation photo available for the class of 1916  
Record book identifies 4 graduates

**GRADUATES 1916**

- Margaret Hamilton
- Margery Lenhardt
- Edna McClarty
- Mabel McClarty



**1916**  
**ADDITION OF THE SURGICAL WING INCREASED HOSPITAL BEDS TO 155**

*Four nurses graduated from St Joseph's School of Nursing in 1916.  
Graduation ceremony was held in Undermount Nurses Residence.  
Graduates were Margaret Hamilton, Margaret Lenhard, Edna McClarty, and Mabel McClarty.*

*Prior to 1911 St Joseph's Hospital was staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph who had received their training under Sisters Martina Long and Leo Cass who had gone to Mercy Hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan. They returned to open a School of Nursing in Guelph. So numerous were the applications to that course that some were referred to St. Joseph's in Hamilton.*

*As the hospital increased in bed capacity the Sisters made the decision to open a school for lay nurses. The Sisters bought Adam Brown's residence at the corner of St. Joseph's Drive and Mountwood Avenue.*

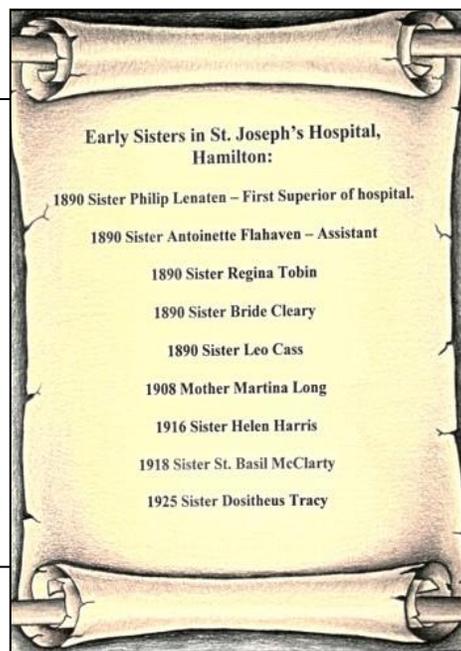
*The first two students entered the school of nursing on September 8, 1911*

*The remainder of graduates entered at various times until a sufficient number was reached in order to have a graduation.*

*The building was later demolished to build a new nurses' residence called "Undermount" under the direction of Mother Mary Thecla and Sister St. Basil. While construction was underway students were displaced in scattered living arrangements and some students lived in the hospital itself.*

**Information obtained from archival records indicate the following information**

- 1900**    *Sister M. St Basil*
- Sister M. Herman*
- 1902**    *Sister M. Evarista*
- 1910**    *Sister M. Angelica*
- Sister M. Gerard Moran*
- Sister M. Joseph*
- Sister M. Mildred*
- 1914**    *Sister M. Consill*
- Sister M. Dympha*
- 1915**    *Sister M. Loretto Gainer*
- Sister M. Vincent Bergin*



No graduation photo available for the class of 1921

Record book identifies 8 graduates.



Sister M. Leonie

GRADUATES 1921

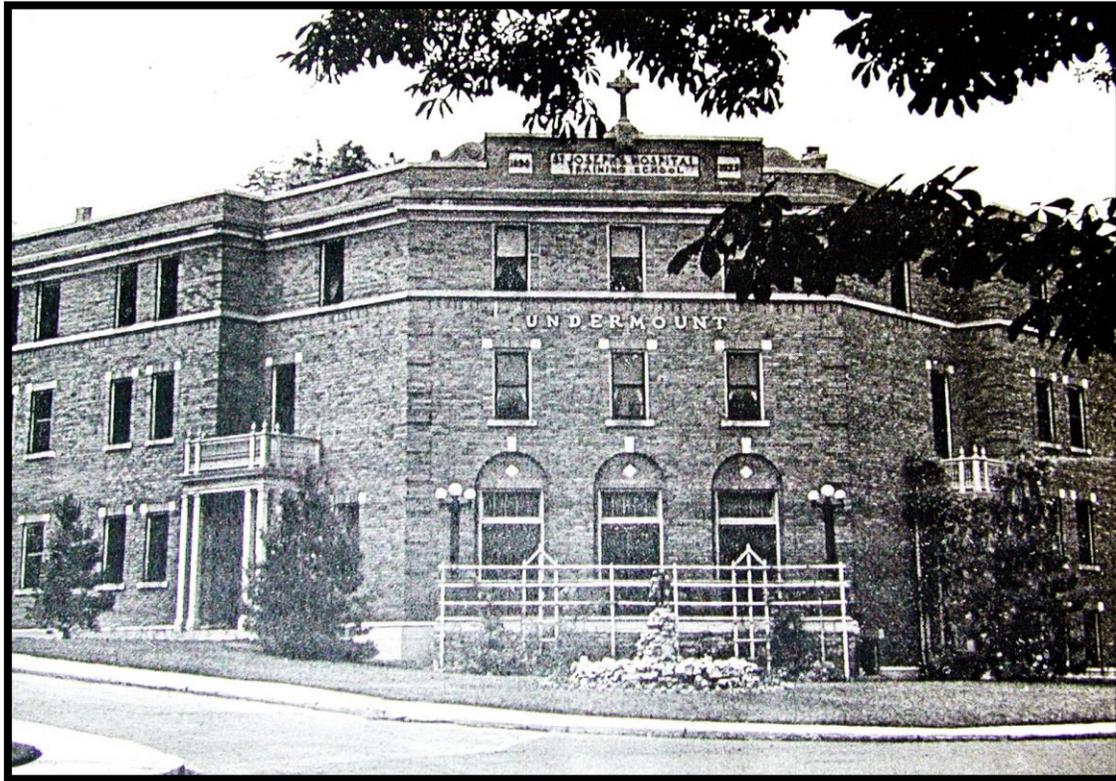
- Beatrice Alway
- Sarah Campbell
- Antoinette Goetz
- Tina Hergott
- Helen Power
- Agnes Short
- Ursula Start

Sister M. Leonie

**GRADUATION 1921**

**Graduation ceremony was held in Undermount Nurses Residence. There were 8 graduates in the class of 1921 Pictures of the nuns were not permitted in the school photos.**

**UNDERMOUNT NURSES RESIDENCE**



*The nurses residence was called "Undermount" and was opened November 28, 1922 .  
Student enrollment was 50 and the building could accommodate 100 students.  
The school had an up-to-date teaching unit, libraries and reception room.  
The building was erected at a cost of \$155,000.  
The furnishings cost another \$18,000 for a total cost of \$173,000*

*The building which is laid out in the form of an L and which is 206 feet long, is located on John Street South just south of the main buildings of St. Joseph's Hospital. Communication for the nurses and Sisters between the training school and the main hospital is afforded through a tunnel, well-lighted and heated which runs under the site of the proposed Mountain Roadway and which is 175 feet long.*

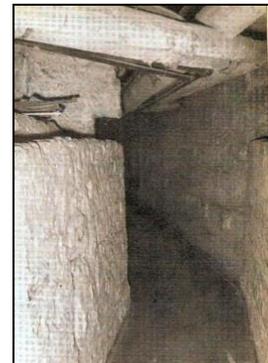
*Reception Room in Undermount Residence 1922*



**UNDERMOUNT CLASS ROOM**



**Bedrooms**



**Tunnel**

No graduation photo available for the class of 1926  
Record book identifies 13 graduates

GRADUATES 1926

Marie Brohman  
Margaret Brennan  
Blanche Dynes  
Gertrude Howard  
Myrtle Leitch  
Teresa McAgy  
Aloysia McKenney  
Edith Melody  
Emma Pree  
Phyllis Tyson  
Antoinette Williams  
Elsie Yacabucci

Sadie Russell (Sister M. Camilla Russell)



GRADUATION 1926

Graduation exercises took place in Undermount Nurses Residence  
Pictures of the nuns were not permitted in the class photos.

Graduation 1931

Rev. Dr. J. A. O'Reilly Chancellor of the Hamilton Diocese  
Stated training eminently qualified any woman for the duties of wifehood and motherhood.

St. Joseph's Nurses Win Prizes



Above are three of the graduates of St. Joseph's hospital school of nursing. This afternoon at the graduation exercises at Undermount, these young ladies were awarded prizes for distinction which they have attained in their training course. Left to right they are: Miss Ina Vokes, winner of the prize for general proficiency given by Dr. W. P. Downes; Miss Irene Guay, who was awarded the prize for efficiency in bedside nursing given by Dr. F. B. Mowbray, and Miss Doris Ionson, who won Dr. J. R. Parry's prize for highest standing in theory.

—Photo by Cunningham.

PRIZE WINNERS 1931

Doris Ionson  
Ina Vokes  
Irene Guay  
Elsie Lindsay  
Frances Armstrong  
Doris Hartwick  
Hazel Waddell

Award for highest standing in theory  
Award for general proficiency  
Award for efficiency in bedside nursing  
Award for preventative medicine  
Award for gynecological nursing and examination  
Award for obstetrical nursing  
Award for medical nursing and examination

Rev. Dr. O'Reilly

Rev. Dr. J. A. O'Reilly, chancellor of Hamilton diocese, delivered the address to the graduating class, offering felicitations to the new nurses. As an inmate for a short time, of the hospital, he, too, could appreciate the kindness, patience and skill of the St. Joseph's nurses. Recently, he declared, a survey had been made, in a large United States hospital, inquiring as to the reasons for choosing nursing as a profession. Ninety per cent. had stated that it was a desire for service; the reasons given by the other 10 per cent. included "a desire for excitement and adventure," steady and remunerative employment, a chance to make a name, and also because it was believed that the nursing profession offered much promise for the matrimonial field.

Training for Wives

Certainly, declared the speaker, it was a training which eminently qualified any woman for the duties of wifehood and motherhood. During their training they had met and conquered many problems, difficult and new; they had adapted themselves to a routine; had cared for querulous unappreciative patients; had studied and worked hard. These items were counterbalanced now by the success which crowned their efforts. Back of their training was the importance of character forming, more necessary than book lore or mechanical ability. To the devoted sisters, doctors and supervisors they owed a gratitude which could be repaid by the success they might achieve in their careers.

Twenty-five years ago there were but two fields in which the nurse might operate; home or hospital. To-day in a modern world, an age of specialization, every profession offered many outlets. For the nurse there were various branches which she might take up; public health nursing, private duty, institutional, industrial, teaching, and there were many chances for a career in any of these lines. The care of the sick was most important. In private home nursing their chief difficulty would be to understand and win the female members of the household, for deep in every woman's heart was the solid conviction that she "was a born nurse." They must be subordinate, watchful, resourceful, alert. "You will be engaged in a consecrated work, the care of the sick, devoting your years to the easing of pain and the conquering of disease," he said, and in doing this, they would be performing a work of mercy, none the less merciful and altruistic because it was remunerative only to the extent of providing for them the ordinary human comforts.

Their common, daily task was lightened, if it were borne in mind that it was for God they labored. "Beneath the mask of the human sufferer," he said, "you will see Christ crucified."

GRADUATION DAY 1931



CLASS OF 1931

LEFT TO RIGHT

BACK ROW STANDING

DORIS QUINN, DOROTHY LANDERS, INA VOKES, LILLIAN DAY,  
PEGGY WYLIE, EDNA BRUCE, LAURA MARR, HAZAEL WADDELL,  
DORIS HARTWICK, JESSIE MOORE, ELEANOR HEWITT, MARY GORDON,  
MARGARET MACAULEY, IRENE GUAY, GERALDINE SCHUETTE.

FRONT ROW SITTING

GLADYS OLIVER, FRANCES ARMSTRONG, ELSIE LINDSAY, VIOLA LAQUYER,  
VERNA RODGERS, MISS GIBSON - SUPT. OF NURSES, FAY CLARKE,  
JULIA STAFFORD - CAREY, THELMA JONES, DORIS IONSON, FRANCES KELLY,  
FLORENCE KENNEY.

# Groove and Grave Are Closely Akin

So Declares Physician in Warning Nurses to Keep Abreast of Times—Twenty-six Nurses Receive Diplomas at St. Joseph's Hospital Training School for Nurses—May 1931

Surrounded by a throng of parents and friends, and with baskets of beautiful flowers everywhere, twenty-six young women were graduated yesterday from the St. Joseph's Hospital Training School for Nurses. The exercises were held at Undermount, the nurses' residence. An orchestra played before and after the program, which opened with the nurses, attired in their crisp white uniforms, and carrying bouquets of vivid red roses, marching to their places on the platform. Evidences of the interest in and affection for the graduates were to be found in the flowers which filled every room. Dr. W. F. Downes, chairman of the hospital staff, presided. At the conclusion of the exercises, all present were guests at afternoon tea, served in the attractive gardens of the home. The presentation of pins and diplomas to the following nurses was made by Mayor Peebles.

Frances C. Kelly, Hamilton; Hazel G. Waddell, Hamilton; Jessie E. Moore, Dundas; Geraldine R. Schuette, Chesham; Faye L. Clark, Allenby; Ina L. Vokes, Nanitoe; Veronica M. Rodgers, Hamilton; Florence A. Kenney,

Cargill; Laura R. E. Marr, Jarvis; Margaret McCauley, Brantford; Dora M. Quinn, Ingersoll; Julia Stafford-Carey, Rouyn, P.Q.; Frances L. Armstrong, Hamilton; Eleanor Hewitt, Hamilton; Doris E. Lonson, Jarvis; Mary B. Gordon, Rochester, N.Y.; Edna M. Bruce, Brechin; Margaret B. Wylie, Vineland; Thelma I. Jones, Brantford; Doris C. Hartwick, Fisherville; Irene F. Guss, Hamilton; Viola M. Lequay, Orillia; Gladys I. Oliver, Thamesford; Lillian M. Davy, Arris; Dorothy L. Lander, Hamilton; Elsie M. Lindsay, Selkirk.

### Prize Winners

Special prizes were awarded to the following seven graduates: For highest standing in theory, given by Dr. J. R. Parry, to Miss Doris Lonson; for general proficiency, given by Dr. W. F. Downes, to Miss Ina Vokes; for efficiency in bedside nursing, given by Dr. F. B. Mowbray, to Miss Irene Guay; for preventive medicine, given by Dr. A. C. Martin, to Miss Elsie Lindsay; for gynecological nursing and examination, given by Dr. L. L. Jamieson, to Mrs. Frances Armstrong; for obstetrics, given by Dr. L. A. Richmond, to Miss Doris Hartwick; for medical nursing and examination, given by Dr. L. L. Playfair, to Miss Hazel Waddell.



Thelma Jones '31

Left to right

GRADUATION 1931

BACK Row Standing: Dora Quinn, Dorothy Landers, Ina Vokes, Lillian Day, Peggy Wylie, Edna Bruce, Laura Marr, Hazel Waddell, Doris Hartwick, Jessie Moore, Eleanor Hewitt, Mary Gordon, Margaret MacCauley, Irene Guay, Geraldine Schuette

Front Row Sitting: Gladys Oliver, Frances Armstrong, Elsie Lindsay, Viola LaQuyer, Verna Rogers, Miss Gibson (Supt of Nurses), Faye Clark, Julia Stafford-Casey, Thelma Jones, Doris Lonson, Frances Kelly, Florence Kenney



### Mayor Peebles

Mayor Peebles voiced the regret which all felt at the absence of Rt. Rev. J. T. McNally, D.D., bishop of Hamilton. It was, he said, a great pleasure to take part in the exercises and he felt honored when he had been requested to present the diplomas. He congratulated the sisters of St. Joseph and declared that the interest felt in their work was evidenced by the large attendance. "I assure them that the city appreciates their work," he said. "It has saved the city and the citizens hundreds of thousands of dollars, which must have been expended in extensions to the General Hospital if St. Joseph's had not been established." There should be close co-operation between the city and the hospital, he said, as well as between the General Hospital and St. Joseph's.

### Addresses Graduates

To the graduates he said: "You have fitted yourselves for an important profession, as important as any that could be mentioned." During the months of his own illness last year, the mayor said, he had learned to appreciate what the skilled attentions of a professional nurse meant to the comfort and welfare of a patient. "Many of these young ladies," he continued, paying a charming compliment to the pretty graduates, "will not stay long in the nursing profession. They will marry." But their present calling gave them great opportunities for real service; and opportunities were accompanied by responsibilities. Their services, to be of great good, must be unselfish. The patient must be their first thought, and they could minister to body, mind and soul. The manner in which they met responsibilities would mean success in their calling in larger or smaller measure, and properly met would give them the consciousness of having served well those who depended on them; and would bring honor to

their alma mater and the sisters of St. Joseph. In conclusion, he wished them every possible success.

**Dr. Downes**  
Dr. Downes, chairman of the staff, extended a cordial welcome to the visitors and congratulated the graduates. "These 26 young women," he said, "are now members of a profession as old as the human race, and one noted for sacrifice and noble traditions." It was a profession which attracted women of character and intellect, and no other career brought out the nobility of womanhood as did nursing. The St. Joseph's training school for nurses was opened in 1910, and had trained 283 young women, who were practising their profession with great success in all parts of the world. It was an important educational center in the city. The current depression had hurt the nursing profession, caus-

ing unemployment. This, how should not be. Every individual was entitled to a free education, why not medical and nursing in illness? The state, he declared, should pay and hire nurses, when they were unable to do so, should provide a pension. For skilled services of 12 hours a day the nurse received \$6. A mechanic, for similar time, received \$15, and an unskilled laborer made \$6 to \$6.50 per day. He urged the graduates not to forget lessons of punctuality and industry in carrying out orders; their skill they must add with sympathy and cheerfulness. To learn, he pointed out, was to live; he advised them to be abreast of new discoveries in their profession, to join nursing organizations, read current literature, and not to fall into a groove, for there was little difference between a groove and

1931

*Twenty-six graduates were surrounded by a throng of parents and friends, and baskets of beautiful flowers everywhere*

*Mayor Peebles presented the diplomas and graduation pins. He congratulated the Sisters of St Joseph and declared that the interest felt in their work was evidenced by the large attendance.*

*"I assure them that the city appreciates their work. It has saved the city and the citizens hundreds of thousands of dollars, which must have been expended in extensions to the General Hospital if St Joseph's had not been established. There should be close co-operation between the city and the hospital as well as between the General Hospital and St Joseph's."*

*He commented that for skilled services of 12 hours a day, the nurse received \$6.*

*A mechanic for similar time, received \$15 and an unskilled labourer received \$6 to \$6.50*

*At the conclusion of the exercises, all present were guests at afternoon tea, served in the attractive gardens.*



Class of 1936  
Picture donated by Gary Barr son of Anne Federchuk



CLASS OF 1936  
CELEBRATING  
70 YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

1936  
LEFT TO RIGHT  
DOLORES SHERK, AGNES O'NEIL, DOROTHY HURST, BILLIE LOTHIAN,  
MARGARET NELLIGAN, KAY GILLEN, KAY BARRY, IRENE WHITTAKER,  
IRENE MCCARTHY, ANN FEDERCHUK, MARCELLA CARR, GWEN KEARY,  
MISS FLORENCE ROACH - INSTRUCTRESS, JEAN FOX, GERTRUDE BOYD,  
MARY KELLY, MARY MILLER, MARGUERITE CUPPLES, RUTH DECKER,  
DOROTHY DWYER, LENA EVERETT, MARION FLEMING, NELLIE FERGUSON,  
BETTY COCKER, HELEN BALFE, JESSIE McNAUGHTON.

1936

Graduation exercise took place in the flower decked reception room of the Undermount Nurses Residence. The nurses were charming in their immaculate white uniforms and carried bouquets of red roses tied with gold. Later, refreshments were enjoyed in the garden. There were 26 graduates in the class of 1936

Dr Downes presided over the celebration. He complimented Sister Superior Mother Martina, noting she had been at St Joseph's for 46 years. He spoke of many things accomplished in the pathological and X-ray departments of the hospital. The School of Nursing was established 25 years ago and he paid tribute to the efficiency of the present superintendent, Sister Monica '27

There had been recent criticisms of the long hours of duty of nurses. Dr Downes said that St Joseph's nurses worked eight and a half hours per day, those on day duty getting two half-days per week and two hours off every day. Night nurses had two days and two nights off each month.

1936

HAPPY GROUP OF GRADUATES OF ST. JOSEPH'S TRAINING SCHOOL



The charming group of nurses who graduated on Tuesday from the training school of St. Joseph's hospital appears above, smiles and roses marking the auspicious occasion. The graduates are, left to right: Top row—Misses Dolores Sherk, Agnes O'Neil, Dorothy Hurst, Wilhelmine Lothian, Margaret Nelligan, Katherine Gillen, Kathleen Barry, Irene Whittaker, Irene McCarthy. Second row—Misses Anne Federchuk, Marcella Carr, Gwendolyn Keary, Florence Roach, Reg. N. (instructress of nurses), Jean Fox, Gertrude Boyd, Mary Kelly, Mary Miller, Marguerite Cupples. Third row—Misses Ruth Decker, Dorothy Dwyer, Lena Everett, Marion Fleming, Nellie Ferguson, Elizabeth Cocker, Mrs. John Lawlor (Helen Balfe), Jessie MacNaughton. (Sister M. St. Joseph, who does not appear above, was also a graduate.)

- TOP ROW** left to right Dolores Sherk, Agnes O'Neil, Dorothy Hurst, Wilhelmine Lothian, Margaret Nelligan, Katherine Gillen, Kathleen Barry, Irene Whittaker, Irene McCarthy
- MIDDLE ROW** left to right Anne Federchuk, Marcella Carr, Gwendolyn Keary, Florence Roach Reg. N. – Instructress of Nurses Jean Fox, Gertrude Boyd, Mary Kelly, Mary Miller, Marguerite Cupples.
- THIRD ROW** left to right Ruth Decker, Dorothy Dwyer, Lena Everett, Marion Fleming, Nellie Ferguson, Elizabeth Cocker, Helen Balfe, Jessie MacNaughton,
- Absent from Photo:** Sister M. St. Joseph