Change

Concealed in small variations hastening onward despite all attempts to stop them (not waiting for acceptance, granting no respite to laggards, expecting adaptation) tomorrows suddenly become todays.

—Margarita Acosta, S.P., 1993

Sr. Margarita (1942-1995) was a hospital administrator, teacher and writer. A selection of her poetry is kept in the Archives.

New Accession

This past August, part of the archives staff made a trip down to Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California, to assess and pack a large transfer of materials from the former St. Joseph Medical Center Historical Society. The Historical Society was formed in 1995 under the auspices of the hospital’s Foundation and was directed by Jane Rockford who was a member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees at the time.

As part of its mission to preserve and share the history of the Medical Center community, the Historical Society collected items relating to the history of the hospital including paper records, medical books, audiovisual materials, and artifacts. The main outreach of the Historical Society was done through historical displays throughout the hospital.

The accession contains nearly 200 artifacts, 7 cubic feet of paper records, and 8 cubic feet of photographs and other visual materials. Most of the artifacts were donated by retired physicians and include a wide array of medical equipment from various departments in the hospital including the Operating Room, Maternity, and Orthopedic Surgery.

Once these materials are fully incorporated into the existing collection for St. Joseph Medical Center, the collection will boast the most complete photograph collection and largest assemblage of medical artifacts in the archives.

Come to the Archives at St. Joseph Residence in West Seattle to view selected artifacts on display through January!

-Emily Hughes Dominick

Reader’s Corner

A new title relating to the history of the Sisters of Providence:


Recently published through the Sacred Heart School of Nursing’s Alumni Association, Living the Legacy chronicles the school’s history from its foundation in 1898 until its closure in 1973. This 256-page hardcover book is filled with over 200 images.

Proceeds will be used to establish an endowed nursing scholarship fund with the Sacred Heart Hospital Medical Foundation. Price: $40 plus $6 S/H. Contact: services@shmc.org.
During the coming year let us trust in Divine Providence and lay all our cares, our desires and our undertakings in the loving Heart of God. We need the assistance of this all-powerful Father for the accomplishment of our works. His are all the riches of the earth; His, all the gifts of heart and mind. He will give, and give abundantly, if only we trust in Him. At our Provincial House, which shelters a number of His dear poor, we have had repeated proofs of God’s loving care: not that we receive large gifts and legacies, but funds are always sure to come when an obligation is to be met.

-Sister Vincent Ferrier
Provincial Superior circular letter, December 16, 1929