



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of the Sisters of Service 1926-1991

Submitted by Sacred Heart Parish, Edson

The Sisters of Service came to Edson in 1926, purchased a two-story frame building erected in 1914 for a hospital (which had been vacant for many years), renovated it and opened the 12-bed St. John Hospital in December of 1926. In 1931, this structure was replaced by a red brick building, having a capacity of 38 beds. In 1969 a third hospital was erected with a 50 bed capacity. An extended care facility was added in 1980, bringing the capacity of the St. John's Health Care Complex to 106 beds. In 1991 the Sisters of Service transferred management of the hospital to the Edson Municipality.

The Sisters of Service have been apostles of mercy in serving the people of Edson and its surrounding communities. Over 50 Sisters have served here. Teaching religion has been one of their works from the time of their arrival to the present. A number of individual Sisters taught catechism for over 30 years. The sisters also went as catechists into the mining camps south of Edson, where there were some 5,000 miners in the coal fields. Many visits were also made to poor families in the rural areas. The sisters also led Bible Study classes for adults.

The Sisters led the Sunday liturgy and performed funeral services when the parish priest was unavailable. They also took care of the collections for many years. A number of sisters also helped the music ministry by playing the organ.

Pioneer work is the special calling of the Sisters who have taken as the motto of their life the words of the Master, "I have come to serve."

Those 65 years of service are now remembered in four stained glass panels in the Sacred Heart Church in Edson.