Welcome to the Martha Storyboards Virtual Albums!

The Martha Storyboards present **highlights** *of the Martha Story. For additional historical information, consult James Cameron,* ***And Martha Served*** *(2000):* And Martha Served.pdf

The stained-glass motifs and vibrant colours of the Storyboards are inspired by the Bethany Chapel Windows [Rambusch of Canada], *now located in the* **Heritage Gallery**, *Parkland.*

Except when noted, historical photographs on the Storyboards have been scanned from originals in the **CSM Archives, Bethany Resource Centre**, *Antigonish. Photographs on the Storyboards were edited to fit into the stained-glass designs. The original photographs, with full descriptions, are reproduced in the Storyboards Albums. [Information in square brackets added by archival staff, including estimated dates.]*

When professed, Sisters chose a **religious name**. *In 1967, Marthas could retain their religious name or revert to their baptismal name and surname. The Albums identify Sisters by both their religious and secular names.*

The **Notes** *suggest additional resources that are readily accessible online – many more are available at your local library. Consult the Martha website for information on* *current programs and activities.*

Saint Martha

"Competent, compassionate and comforting care": Expanding the Martha Healthcare Ministry beyond Antigonish

In 1902, Founders Sr. Mary Remegius (Laura) MacArthur and Sr. Mary Anne (Katie) MacAdam enrolled in the first nursing program in the Diocese of Antigonish, offered by St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay. They graduated in 1905 – two of the five successful candidates - and became the first nurses at Campbell House, Antigonish's first hospital (1906).
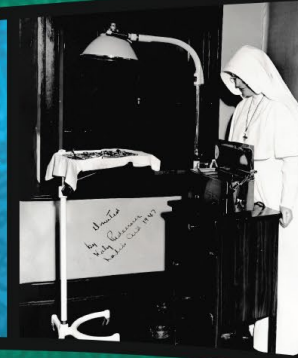
Martha hospitals followed in Glace Bay (1915), Sydney (1920), and Inverness (1925). In 1929, the Calgary Diocese invited the Marthas to operate a hospital in Lethbridge (Alberta), 3500 kilometres by rail from their Antigonish Motherhouse. Lethbridge became the first Martha healthcare ministry outside the Diocese. Welcoming all patients, regardless of religion, the Sisters often provided free treatment to those unable to pay, an action so crucial in the absence of universal healthcare.

St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, 1915-1977. The Marthas' first healthcare ministry outside Antigonish was hospital administration, St. Joseph's Hospital. The Sisters implemented an ambitious program of modernization and expansion, introducing X-Ray equipment, a hospital laboratory, and a medical records system. In 1921, St. Joseph's Hospital became the first accredited Catholic hospital in Nova Scotia.

Ross Memorial/St. Rita Hospital, Sydney, 1920-1988. In 1920, the Marthas converted a veterans' convalescent home, Sydney, into the Ross Memorial Hospital, later renamed St. Rita Hospital (1928). Parish societies, primarily women, supplemented meagre government grants. Few of these women had their own income, but they transformed their time, labour and skills into monies for specialised equipment and patient comforts.

St. Mary's Hospital, Inverness, 1925-1976. In 1924-5, the people of Inverness built a community hospital and petitioned the Marthas *"to … take charge."* St. Mary's Hospital's staff was managed by the *"Inverness Brigade"* of Marthas, headed by a Sister-Superintendent. Cash-strapped families contributed crops and produce to support the institution.

St. Mary's Hospital, T.B. Annex, and MacDonald Hall (ca. 1935)

First Martha nurses, 1905

The Martha Schools of Nursing. The Marthas established their first nursing school at St. Martha's Hospital (1911), assumed full responsibility for St. Joseph's Hospital and its School of Nursing (1915), and opened St. Rita Hospital School of Nursing (1928). Student nurses lived in residences on hospital property and trained on the job. In exchange for room and board, they provided (almost) free labour to the local hospital.

St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge, Alberta, 1929-1985. Bishop John Kidd, former rector, St. Augustine's Seminary, invited the Marthas to serve in his Calgary Diocese. The Sisters purchased a small, 25-bed hospital in Lethbridge (1929). They expanded St. Michael's General Hospital, borrowing $450,000, just as the Great Depression was devastating Alberta. Lethbridge became the largest Martha Mission in the Canadian West, a centre for Catholic healthcare, teaching, social work, and spirituality.

"Competent, compassionate and comforting care":
Expanding the Martha Healthcare Ministry beyond Antigonish

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Martha hospitals followed in **Glace Bay** (1915), **Sydney** (1920), and **Inverness** (1925). In 1929, the Calgary Diocese invited the Marthas to operate a hospital in **Lethbridge** (Alberta), 3500 kilometres by rail from their Antigonish Motherhouse. Lethbridge became the first Martha healthcare ministry outside the Diocese.

Welcoming all patients, regardless of religion, the Sisters often provided free treatment to those unable to pay, an action so crucial in the absence of universal healthcare.

For a table outlining Martha healthcare initiatives, see: *Hospital Expansion within the Antigonish Diocese and beyond...*

*The title is inspired by the philosophy of Martha nurse-educator, **Sister Marie Simone (Eileen) Roach**, who proposed a model of compassionate caring for health care workers.*

The First Martha Nurses

First graduation ceremony, St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Glace Bay, 12 Aug. 1905 [clipping]. **Identified**: *Governor-General Earl Grey and wife Countess Alice (Holford) Grey, three graduate nurses (note their nurses' caps), Superintendent Janet Cameron (center),* **Sisters Mary Remegius (Laura) MacArthur** *and* **Mary Ann (Katie) MacAdam**.

An interesting aside on the photograph: **Sister Maris Stella (Catherine) MacDonald** *substituted in the photograph for Sr. M. Remegius. The priest is Rev. Ronald MacDonald, president, board of trustees, St. Joseph's Hospital.*

St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, N.S.

Sister Ann Marie (Mary Sarah Vivian) Cummings *instructing student nurses in the case room,*
St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay [between 1954 and 1960] -

St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, 1915-1977. The Marthas' first healthcare ministry outside Antigonish was hospital administration, **St. Joseph's Hospital**. The Sisters implemented an ambitious program of modernization and expansion, introducing X-Ray equipment, a hospital laboratory, and a medical records system.

In 1921, the **American College of Surgeons**, a medical regulatory body then operating in Canada, accredited St. Joseph's Hospital, the first Catholic hospital in Nova Scotia so certified.

Above: *Aerial view of St. Joseph's Hospital complex, Glace Bay, including the1939 wing, the Nurses' Residence, the Tubercular Unit, and first laundry plant, 1955*. The buildings are numbered, with annotations on back: (1) Sisters' Residence, demolished 1972 (2) Original Hospital, demolished 1962 (3) East Wing, built 1939 (4) Former T.B. Annex, built 1939, used as Sisters' Residence (5) School of Nursing and Residence, built 1903, demolished 1972.

Right: St. Joseph [stained glass window].
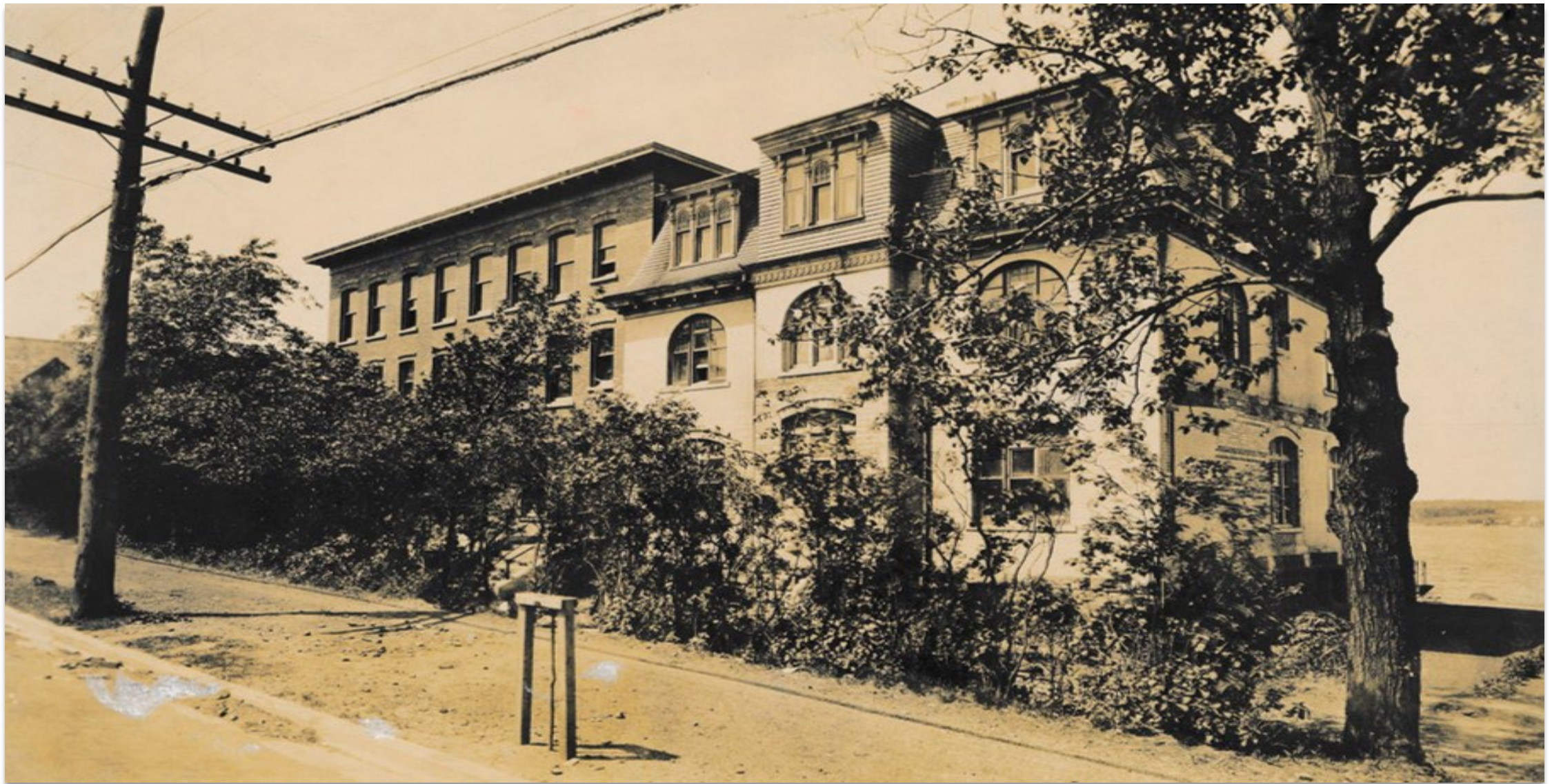The window has been preserved and installed at the **Bethany Resource Centre.**

St. Rita Hospital, Sydney, N.S.

Sr. John of the Cross (Margaret) Hanrahan
*with sterilizing instruments and equipment
donated by Holy Redeemer Ladies Aid to
St. Rita Hospital, Sydney,1947*

Ross Memorial/St. Rita Hospital, Sydney, 1920-1988. In 1920, the Marthas converted a veterans' convalescent home, Sydney, into the **Ross Memorial Hospital**. Initially intended as a maternity hospital, the facility quickly expanded into a 25-bed general hospital, staffed by four Marthas and three graduate nurses. The Marthas opened a Nurses' Residence (1923) and established a **School of Nursing** (1924). In 1928, Ross Memorial was renamed **St. Rita Hospital**. The Hospital served clients from East Bay, Mira, Westmount, Whitney Pier, Louisbourg, and Red Islands.

Parish societies, primarily women's groups, supplemented meagre government grants. Many hospital auxiliaries (*Ladies' Aids*) had originated in women's sewing circles that provided linens, gowns, and bandages for patients. Few of these women had their own income, but they transformed their time, labour and skills into monies for specialised equipment and patient comforts.

St. Rita Hospital, *Sydney, Nova Scotia* [1930]. The structure on the right is the original Ross Memorial Hospital. The rear extension was added in 1929 and the name of the hospital was changed to St. Rita Hospital. In 1944, the Hospital introduced an X-ray technology program; the first graduate was ***Florence MacLellan***, later ***Sister Florence Annette***.

The Martha Schools of Nursing

The Marthas established their first nursing school at **St. Martha's Hospital** (1911), assumed full responsibility for **St. Joseph's Hospital** and its **School of Nursing** (1915), and opened **St. Rita Hospital School of Nursing** (1928). Student nurses lived in residences on hospital property and trained on the job. In exchange for room and board, they provided (almost) free labour to the local hospital.

Student nurses, Lucy Chiasson and Catherine MacNeil, with six toddlers, pediatric ward, St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay, 1955

St. Mary's Hospital, Inverness, Cape Breton

"The Inverness Brigade": Sisters of St. Martha, staff, St. Mary's Hospital, Inverness, Palm Sunday, 1936. Seated: *Sister Mary Philip Neri (Margaret Ann) MacDonald, Mother Mary (Mary Ann) Stanislaus MacDonald, Sister Mary de Chantal (Catherine) Maclean.* Standing: *Sister Antonia (Bridget) Flynn, Sister Mary Albert (Charlotte Mary) Gleason, and Sister Mary James (Stella) Campbell.*

L-R: *St. Mary's Hospital with extension for TB annex (1931) and MacDonald Hall, staff residence for Sisters and nurses, Inverness*. MacDonald Hall opened **1 March 1933**.

St. Mary's Hospital, Inverness, 1925-1976. In 1924-5, the people of Inverness built a community hospital and petitioned the Marthas "*to … take charge.*" **St. Mary's Hospital's** staff was managed by the "*Inverness Brigade*" of Marthas, headed by a Sister-Superintendent. Cash-strapped families contributed crops and produce to support the institution.

St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge

St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge, Alberta, 1929-1985.
Bishop John Kidd, former rector, St. Augustine's Seminary, invited the Marthas to serve in his Calgary Diocese. The Sisters purchased a 25-bed private hospital in Lethbridge (1929). They expanded **St. Michael's General Hospital**, borrowing $450,000, just as the Great Depression was devastating Alberta. Lethbridge became the largest Martha Mission in the Canadian West, a centre for Catholic healthcare, social work, and spirituality.

Sister Cyrilla (Catherine May) Gillis *in the Operating Room, St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge, 1947*

"I was sick and you cared for me": Consolidating the Martha Healing Ministry

In 1931, the Marthas replaced their 25-bed facility at Lethbridge with the new St. Michael's General Hospital, offering accommodations to 123 in-patients. During that decade, they also established hospitals at Banff, (1930) Alberta, and at Broadview (1936) and Melville (1940), Saskatchewan.

The Marthas expanded during the harsh Depression years when half of existing Canadian hospitals closed. In doing so, the Marthas often assumed responsibility for staggering and worrisome debts.

In the 1960s, the Marthas accepted the administration of several healthcare facilities in the Nova Scotia towns of Canso (1960) and New Waterford (1963), as well as in the American city, Lowell (1961), Massachusetts.

Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, 1930-1988. In 1930, the Marthas purchased the Brett Hospital, Banff, a private sanitarium that utilized mineral waters to treat arthritic complaints. They operated the Mineral Springs Hospital as a fully-equipped general hospital until 1988. They also partnered in the establishment of an innovative physical therapy department.

Serving tea to arthritic patient, Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, [1948]

St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview, Saskatchewan, 1936-1969. In 1935, a Citizens Committee *"representing the entire body of citizens"* of Broadview petitioned the Marthas to open a hospital in their small community of 900 people. The Sisters arrived the following year to set up a cottage hospital. That was replaced in 1940 by a 25-bed facility serving Indigenous and settler peoples.

Official opening, 4 Sept. 1938

St. Peter's Hospital, Melville, Saskatchewan, 1940-1980. Melville was small railway town (pop. 4000), located 130 kilometres east of Regina. Melville invited the Marthas to operate its 15-bed hospital that had fallen into disrepair during the Great Depression.

The Marthas determined to replace the *"poorly equipped and sorely neglected"* hospital with a modern building. Two years later, they opened a 55-bed facility, funded, in part, by the Antigonish Motherhouse.

St. John's Hospital, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1961-1992. Under the Marthas' administration, St. John's Hospital constantly expanded. During their tenure, a new wing (1966), a new cardiology department (1975), a new extension (1976) and new seniors' nursing facilities (1982) were completed. The Marthas also opened a Pastoral Care Department in 1975, offering spiritual solace to patients. Pastoral care became another key Martha ministry.

Eastern Memorial Hospital, Canso, 1960-1970. In 1948, Canso residents established an 11-bed hospital, financed and equipped by the Red Cross. The Marthas provided a building, rent-free. The hospital also served Dover, Hazel Hill, and Fox Island. In 1960, the Sisters agreed to manage Eastern Memorial Hospital.

New Waterford Consolidated Hospital, 1963-1995. Noting the administrative skills of the Marthas, New Waterford invited the Sisters to administer their new healthcare facility (1961). The New Waterford Consolidated Hospital opened on 5 August 1963, the Golden Jubilee of the coal town. The Marthas provided competent leadership until 1995.

"Science, Service, and Sanctity": Martha Nursing Schools. The Marthas established their last schools: St. Michael's General Hospital School of Nursing, Lethbridge (1953) and the New Waterford Consolidated School for Nursing Assistants (1963).

In total, 4900 individuals, almost all women – graduated from Martha schools in Antigonish, Glace Bay, Sydney, Lethbridge, and New Waterford. Graduates included 4000 nurses, 660 nursing assistants, and 240 X-ray and laboratory technicians.

"*I was sick and you cared for me*": Consolidating the Martha Healing Ministry

In 1931, the Marthas replaced their 25-bed facility at Lethbridge with the new **St. Michael's General Hospital**, offering accommodations to 123 in-patients and costing $450,000. During that decade, they also established hospitals at **Banff,** (1930), Alberta, and at **Broadview** (1936) and **Melville** (1940), Saskatchewan.

The Marthas expanded during the harsh Depression years when half of existing Canadian hospitals closed. In doing so, the Marthas often assumed responsibility for staggering and worrisome debts.

In the 1960s, the Marthas accepted the administration of several healthcare facilities in the Nova Scotia towns of **Canso** (1960) and **New Waterford** (1963), as well as in the American city, Lowell (1961), Massachusetts.

Sisters relaxing on dock at Banff

St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge, Alberta [ca. 1931]

Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, Alberta

Serving tea to arthritic patient, Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, 1947

Mineral Springs Hospital, Banff, 1930-1988. In 1930, the Marthas purchased the **Brett Hospital, Banff**, a private sanitarium that utilized mineral waters to treat arthritic complaints. They operated the **Mineral Springs Hospital** as a fully-equipped general hospital until 1988. They also partnered in the establishment of an innovative physical therapy department.

St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview, Saskatchewan

St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview, Saskatchewan, 1936-1969. In 1935, a Citizens Committee *"representing the entire body of citizens"* of Broadview petitioned the Marthas to open a hospital in their small community of 900 people. The Sisters arrived the following year to set up a cottage hospital. That was replaced in 1940 by a 25-bed facility serving Indigenous and settler peoples.

Official opening of St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview, 4 Sept. 1938. The opening was attended by 125 guests. Following the opening of the new hospital in 1940, this building became the nurses' residence.

St. Peter's Hospital, Melville, Saskatchewan

Sisters of St. Martha with their dog Doctor Sashmo in front of St. Peter's Hospital, Melville, Saskatchewan [195?]

St. Peter's Hospital, Melville, Saskatchewan, 1940-1980. Melville was a small railway town (pop. 4000), located 130 kilometres east of Regina. Melville invited the Marthas to operate its 15-bed hospital that had fallen into disrepair during the Great Depression.

The Marthas determined to replace the *"poorly equipped and sorely neglected"* hospital with a modern building. Two years later, they opened a 55-bed facility, funded, in part, by the Antigonish Motherhouse.

St. Peter's Hospital, Melville, Saskatchewan [circa 1942].
Left: *St. Peter's Convent, Melville*. Right: The original 15-bed, municipal hospital, renovated and opened by the Marthas in 1940. This became the *Nurses Residence* following the opening of the new hospital in 1942.

St. John's Hospital, Lowell, Massachusetts

Under the Marthas, **St. John's Hospital** constantly expanded: Completion of a new wing (1966); new cardiology department (1975); a new extension (1976); and new seniors' nursing facilities (1982). The Marthas opened a **Pastoral Care Department** in 1975, offering spiritual solace to patients. Pastoral care became another key Martha ministry.

First Marthas to serve at St. John's Hospital, Lowell, Massachusetts [1960]: Sisters Mary Pius (Catherine) MacGillivray, seamstress, Marie Simone (Eileen) Roach, unit administrator for affiliated Catherine Laboure School of Nursing, Marie Barbara (Sarah Josephine) Muldoon, director of nursing, Mary Consolata (Catherine Rose) MacDonald, superior and administrator, Mary Anita (Jenette Gertrude) Chisholm, sacristan, Ann Frances (Jean Patricia) O'Neil, operating room supervisor, and Ann Bernardine (Frances Claire) Butler

Eastern Memorial Hospital, Canso, N.S.

Marthas with staff member on steps of Eastern Memorial Hospital, Canso
[between 1960 and 1970]

In 1948, Canso residents established an 11-bed hospital, financed and equipped by the Red Cross. The Marthas provided a building, rent-free. The hospital also served Dover, Hazel Hill, and Fox Island. In 1960, the Sisters agreed to manage the EASTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

New Waterford Consolidated Hospital, Cape Breton

Noting the administrative skills of the Marthas, New Waterford invited the Sisters to administer their new healthcare facility (1961). Their previous hospital had been troubled by financial and management issues.

The New Waterford Consolidated Hospital opened on 5 August 1963, the Golden Jubilee of the coal town. **Sister Ann Romuald (Genevieve) McArthur**, hospital administrator, successfully managed a staff of 120, with the assistance of 8 Marthas in key roles. The Marthas provided competent leadership until 1995.

Snapshots of the New Waterford Consolidated Hospital [197-?]

"Science, Service, and Sanctity": Martha nursing schools. The Marthas established their last schools: **St. Michael's General Hospital School of Nursing,** Lethbridge (1953) and the New Waterford Consolidated School for Nursing Assistants (1963).
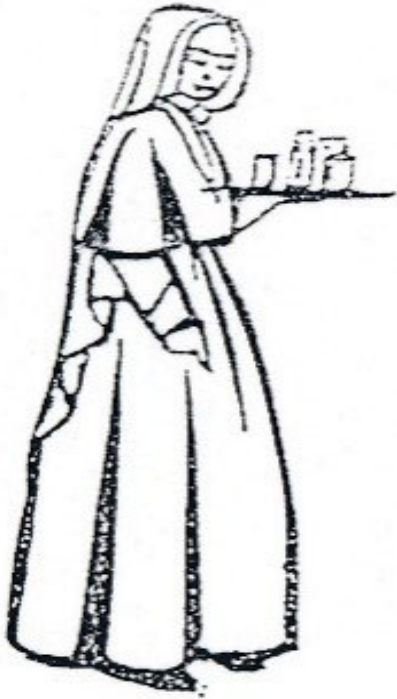
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Sister Leo Joseph (Caroline) Lahey and guest, *R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home, Antigonish, N.S.*

"I was sick and you cared for me."

Notes

linocut/Sr. Irene
(May Anselm) Doyle

These anniversary publications highlight events and activities of **St. Joseph's Hospital** and its **School of Nursing**, Glace Bay (1927; 1952; 2005)

Glace Bay: St. Joseph's Hospital 25th.pdf
Glace Bay: St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing 50th.pdf
Glace Bay: St. Josephs Hospital School of Nursing 100th.pdf

History of **St. Michael's General Hospital School of Nursing, Laboratory and X-Ray Technology**, Lethbridge, Alberta
Lethbridge: St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing Labratory and X-Ray, 1953-1973.pdf

Anniversary brochures for **Mineral Springs Hospital,** Banff (1930; 1950)
Banff: Mineral Springs Hospital, 1930-1960.pdf
Banff: Mineral Springs Hospital, 1930-1980.pdf

History of **St. Rita Hospital and its School of Nursing**, Sydney for years 1953-1995
Sydney: St. Rita's Hospital.pdf

Commemorative book on **New Waterford Consolidated Hospital** and **School for Nursing Assistants,** 1963-1988
New Waterford: Consolidated Hospital 25th.pdf