

4TH ANNUAL
FOUNDER'S
DAY
CELEBRATION

Join us to commemorate the arrival of the RHSJ in St. Catharines and their mission of compassionate care for the poor, the sick, most needy and for you who continue that mission today.

Tuesday, September 19th

Lunch: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Speeches: 12:00pm

LOU CAHILL MEETING ROOM

Good afternoon, and welcome to our fourth celebration of Commemorating Founders Day and to remember the RHSJ, and especially the three Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph who set out from Kingston in 1845 to open a second acute care hospital in St Catharines and while the hospital was being built the Sisters opened and operated a 28 bed maternity hospital.

In 2015, we celebrated 70 years since the arrival of the Sisters in St Catharines and co-incidently, there have been a total of 70 RHSJ's who have served in this community.

The powerpoint presentation depicts the early beginnings in LaFleche, France over 380 years ago.

The legacy which the Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph have left us is immense. (Please take the time to browse some materials on front table)

Their mission which began in France in 1636 under the leadership of our founder, Jerome LeRoyer de la Dauversiere, co-foundress Mother Marie de la Ferre and Jeanne Mance, "to care for the sick, the poor and most needy", continues today in this wonderful place of healing and caring which we know as Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre.

We are known and respected in this community ,the Niagara Region and beyond as a welcoming facility where excellent care is provided everyday. This reputation is only sustained by a staff dedicated and committed to the values and mission which we embrace.

Our diverse Culture and Mission is what makes us unique but what has driven the Sisters and continues today is: Believing that we are

responding to and meeting unmet needs and continuing the healing mission of Christ in caring for body, mind and spirit.

The RHSJ's have thrived for over 380 years continuing to change with the times and to meet the growing needs of the community's in which we serve.

We are grateful to you as you continue to contribute to the on-going history and heritage which we all share with great pride and enthusiasm.

Invocation: Creator God, we celebrate with great pride our heritage and our founding sisters and those who have collaborated with us through the years.

It was the spirit that moved the Sisters to bring their courage, their sacrifice, their compassion, heart and hands together to build a place of welcome and healing.

We pray that this same Spirit will bless our efforts and guide us as we continue to meet the needs of our community. In the Spirit of our predecessors, the Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph, we ask your blessing on each of us as we continue the mission of the Sisters by listening to and responding to unmet needs and enhancing the lives of those we serve.

In closing I paraphrased a quote by Pope Francis :

“To Serve is caring for the needs of others/the vulnerable , meeting unmet needs and respecting the dignity of those we serve”. I believe this sums up well our Mission, Vision and Values at HDSHRC in providing COMFORT, CARE & HOPE!