Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans

Diocese of Gallup

ARIZONA, WHITERIVER

St. Francis Church

9 West Elm Street

P.O. Box 679

Whiteriver, Arizona 85941

Phone 928-338-4432

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

1909 Geronomo (Apache) was baptized at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, by Reverend Isidore Ricklin, O.S.B. from St. Patrick’s, Anadarko, Oklahoma

1921-present Reverend Justin Deutsch, O.F.M., established and Franciscans have administered St. Francis Church (Apache), Fort Apache Reservation

1923-1925, 1930-1935 Reverend Augustine Schwarz, O.F.M. administered St. Francis

Franciscans from St. Francis attended the following Apache Indian missions on the Fort Apache Reservation:

1939-1970 (became a parish) St. Catherine Mission, Cibecue

1939-1970 (transferred to St. Catherine’s, Cibecue) St. Anthony Mission, Cedar Creek

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1921-present

Volume: Approximately 2-3 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Francis Church are not arranged according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Correspondence
Inclusive dates: 1921-1976

Volume: Approximately .2 cubic foot

Description: Mostly correspondence and reports with the bishops of Tucson and Gallup, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and the Marquette League for Catholic Indian Missions.
B. Chronicles, Journals, and History Notes  
Inclusive dates: 1931-1980  
Volume: Approximately .2 cubic foot (includes 2 volumes)  
Description: Includes 1962 clipping on Geronomo’s baptism and list of Pastors.

C. Reports  
Inclusive dates: 1923-1988  
Volume: Approximately .1 cubic foot  
Description: Includes the following:  
1. Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, 1923-1930, 1 folder; re: mission and catechetical reports  
2. Diocese of Gallup, 1941-1988, 1 folder, re: financial  
3. Franciscan Santa Barbara Province, 1935-1944, 1 folder; re: financial

D. Sacramental Records  
Inclusive dates: 1921-present  
Volume: Approximately .4 cubic foot  
Description: Includes baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, and burials.

E. Photographs  
Inclusive dates: 1922, n.d.  
Volume: 1 album  
Description: 19 black and white and 8 color prints and captions to several black and white prints, re: parishioners, pastors, and 1922 construction of church.

F. Clippings and Printed Materials  
Inclusive dates: 1931-2004  
Volume: Approximately .1 cubic foot  
Description: Includes article draft, “A Year at Whiteriver, Arizona,” Reverend Justin Deutsch, O.F.M., 1923

G. Parish Publications  
Inclusive dates: 1971, 1974-1976  
Volume: Approximately .1 cubic foot  
Description: 50th anniversary booklet, 1971, and parish bulletins, 1974-1976