Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
See User Guide for help on interpreting entries

Diocese of Phoenix
ARIZONA, SACATON

Diocese of Phoenix,
Office of Native American Ministry

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History: Established in ca. 1978 by a School Sister of Notre Dame, the Diocese of Phoenix, Office of Native American Ministry has administered the sacramental records for the missions and parishes of the Gila River and Salt River Reservations and San Lucy.

History of St. John the Baptist Church and School

1897-1909 Franciscans (formerly St. John the Baptist; now Santa Barbara Province, Oakland, California) established and administered St. John the Baptist Church (Pima), Laveen/Komatke, Gila River Reservation, from Immaculate Conception, Phoenix
1898-1901 Franciscans from Immaculate Conception, Phoenix established and administered St. John the Baptist School (Pima)
1901-1930 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (Los Angeles Province, Los Angeles, California) staffed the school
1910-present Franciscans have administered St. John’s
1931-1936 Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange (Orange, California) staffed the school
1938-1990 (closed) Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (Manitowoc, Wisconsin) staffed the school (now Apache, Pima, and Tohono O’odham)
1980-1990 (closed) Christian Brothers (San Francisco Province, Napa, California) also staffed the school

Franciscans from St. John’s attended the following Indian missions:

1910-1949 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton) St. Anthony Mission (Pima), Sacaton, Gila River Reservation
1912-1930 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Phoenix) St. Francis Assisi of Mission (Pima), Salt River, Salt River Reservation
1913-1949 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton) St. Francis Mission (Maricopa), Ak-chin, Ak-chin Reservation
1915 (transferred to Immaculate Conception, Ajo)  Ss. Simon and Jude Mission (Tohono O’odham), Gila Bend
1910-1940 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton)  St. Anne Mission (Pima), Santan, Gila River Reservation
1910-1949 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton)  St. Michael Mission (Maricopa and Pima), Sacaton Flats, Gila River Reservation, Gila River Reservation
1910-1949 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton)  St. Paschal Mission (Maricopa and Pima), Blackwater
1910-1949 (transferred to St. Peter’s, Sacaton)  St. Peter’s Mission (Pima), Casa Blanca, Gila River Reservation
1998-present  St. Francis Mission (Maricopa), Ak-Chin, Ak-Chin Reservation

Sisters from St. John School staffed the following Indian schools:

1930-1932 (closed)  Sacate Day School (Pima), Sacate, Gila River Reservation
1930-1932 (closed)  Santa Cruz Day School (Pima), Santa Cruz, Gila River Reservation
1930-1932 (closed)  Sacaton Flats Day School (Pima), Sacaton Flats, Gila River Reservation
1932-1950 (closed)  St. Francis Day School (Tohono O’odham and Pima), Ak-Chin, Ak-Chin Reservation
1932-1950 (closed)  St. Peter Day School (Pima), Casa Blanca, Gila River Reservation

History of St. Peter Mission and School

1873-1890s  Diocesan priests visited the Gila River Reservation (Pima) from Assumption Church, Florence
ca. 1934-1992  Franciscans (Santa Barbara Province, Oakland, California) established and administered St. Peter Mission (Pima), Sacaton/ Bapchule
1923-1931  Lay teachers (Pima) established and staffed St. Peter School (Pima)
1932-1935  Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange (Orange, California) staffed the school
1936-present  Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (Manitowoc, Wisconsin) have staffed the school
ca. 1992-present  Permanent deacons (Pima) have administered St. Peter’s

Priests and deacons from St. Peter’s attended the following Indian missions:

1949-present  Holy Family Mission (Pima), Blackwater, Gila River Reservation
1949-present  Our Lady of Victory Mission (Pima), Sacaton Flats, Gila River Reservation
1949-present  St. Anne Mission (Pima), Santan, Gila River Reservation
1949-present  St. Anthony Mission (Pima), Sacaton, Gila River Reservation
1949-present
St. Michael Mission (Maricopa and Pima), Sacaton Flats, Gila River Reservation

1949-present
St. Paschal Mission (Maricopa and Pima), Blackwater, Gila River Reservation

1949-present
St. Peter Mission (Pima), Casa Blanca, Gila River Reservation

1938-1998 (transferred to St. John’s, Laveen)
St. Francis Mission (Maricopa), Ak-chin, Ak-chin Reservation

History of St. Francis of Assisi Mission
c. 1900-1930
Franciscans (formerly St. John the Baptist; now Santa Barbara Province, Oakland, California) established and attended St. Francis of Assisi Mission (Pima), Salt River, Salt River Reservation, from St. John’s, Laveen

1972-1979
Diocesan priests attended St. Francis from St. Margaret, Tempe

1980
A Jesuit (California Province, Los Gatos, California) administered St. Francis and Salvatorians (U.S.A. Province, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) assisted from St. Margaret, Tempe

1981
A Jesuit administered St. Francis and Marianists (now United States Province, St. Louis, Missouri) assisted from St. Margaret, Tempe

1982
A Jesuit administered St. Francis and diocesan priests assisted from St. Margaret, Tempe

1983-present
Diocesan priests have attended St. Francis from St. Margaret, Tempe

History of St. Paschal Baylon Mission
1984-present
Diocesan priests established and have attended St. Paschal Baylon Mission (Pima), Lehi, Salt River Reservation, from St. Margaret, Tempe

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:
Inclusive dates: 1901-present
Volume: Approximately 2 cubic feet
Description: The records at the Diocese of Phoenix, Office of Native American Ministry, are not arranged according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records
Inclusive dates: 1901-present
Volume: 22 volumes
Description:
1. Sacaton/ Bapchule: St. Peter Mission and its attended Indian missions:
2. Laveen, St. John Church and its attended Indian missions: Baptisms, 1901-present, 6 volumes, in Latin to 1912; first communions, 1994-present, 1 volume; confirmations, 1902-present, 2 volumes; marriages, 1902-present, 3 volumes; and burials, 1912-present, 2 volumes

3. San Lucy: St. Lucy Mission, dates and volume unknown

4. Salt River Reservation: St. Francis Church, Salt River, and St. Paschal Mission, Lehi, 1978-present, 1 volume; baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, and burials

B. History File
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Clippings, newsletter, and notes, re: St. John Church and School and St. Peter Mission and School.