Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives

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Hours: By appointment only
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Vancouver’s Island was erected in 1846 (as a suffragan of Oregon City) and succeeded by the Archdiocese of Vancouver (as a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Quebec). The Vancouver Diocese included the east shore of Puget Sound (now the Archdiocese of Seattle in Washington State) until 1853 and Alaska until 1894. Bishop Augustin Magloire Alexandre Blanchet served as the diocese’s first bishop. Vancouver administered the following Indian and Eskimo missions and schools in Alaska:

1867-1915 (closed) (Vancouver, 1846-1894) St. Stanislaus/ St. Paul the Apostle Mission (Koyukon), Kokrines
1873-present (Vancouver, 1846-1894) St. Michael Mission (Eskimo), St. Michael
1879-present (Vancouver, 1846-1894) St. Rose of Lima Church (Tlingit) Wrangell/ Fort Wrangell
1887-present (Vancouver, 1846-1894) Church of the Nativity/ St. Mary’s Mission (Eskimo and Ingaliik), St. Marys/ Akularak
1887-present (Vancouver, 1846-1894) St. Aloysius Mission (Eskimo), Tanana
1888-present (Vancouver, 1846-1894) Holy Cross Mission (Eskimo and Ingaliik), Holy Cross/ Koserefsky
1889-1894 (closed) (Vancouver, 1846-1894) St. Alphonsus Mission and School (Eskimo), Tununak
1889-1956 (closed) (Vancouver, 1846-1894) Holy Cross School and Orphanage (Eskimo, Ingaliik, and others), Holy Cross/ Koserefsky

The archdiocesan archives reports no holding of Catholic-related records about Native Americans in the United States. It is believed that these records were transferred to the Oblate repositories in Canada (e.g. bishops’ papers) and the respective U.S. dioceses.