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

See User Guide for help on interpreting entries

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD

Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Archives

St. Francis Convent
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Open: By appointment only, Monday–Friday, 8:30–11:30 and 1:00–4:00
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Springfield, Illinois, have staffed the following Catholic institutions serving American Indians:

1949-1954     St. Francis Home Nursing Center, Gallup, New Mexico
1953-1980     St. Isabel Mission (Navajo), Navajo Reservation, Lukachukai, Arizona
1961-present  Our Lady of Fatima Mission (Navajo), Navajo Reservation, Chinle, Arizona

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1940s-1970s
Volume: 1.3 cubic feet
Description: 3 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 "Missions"
Inclusive dates: 1949-1970s
Volume: .7 cubic foot
Description: This series is divided into active and closed missions and arranged alphabetically thereunder by location.
   A. Active Missions: Chinle, Arizona, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, 1961-1972, 1 cubic foot
      1. Mission Newsletter, 1961-1972, 1 folder
      2. Historical notes and newspaper clippings, 1961-1972, 2 folders
   B. Closed Missions
      1. Gallup, New Mexico, St. Francis Nursing Center, 1949-1954, .1 cubic foot
a. Correspondence, 1949-1950, 8 letters; major correspondents include Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., Sister M. Jean Sudkamp, O.S.F., and Reverend Anthony Korcek
b. Historical notes and newspaper clippings, 1949-1954, 4 folders

2. Lukachukai, Arizona, St. Isabel Mission, 1952-1974, .5 cubic foot:
   a. Correspondence, 1952-1959, 1965, 35 letters; major correspondents include Mother Canisia Kettman, O.S.F., Sister M. Jean Sudkamp, O.S.F., Reverend Blase Brickweg, and Bishop Bernard T. Espelage

/2 "Mother Superiors' Correspondence Files"
Inclusive dates: 1949-1963
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: This series is arranged by administration and thereunder alphabetically by location of the mission. Most of the Mother Superiors' files from 1952-present remain in the administrative offices.
   A. Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., 1949-1954, 1 folder: correspondence between Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., Reverend Anthony Korcek, and Bishop Bernard T. Espelage regarding St. Francis Home Nursing Center
   B. Mother Canisia Kettman, 1953-1954, 4 letters: regarding St. Francis Home Nursing Center
   C. Mother Ludwina Kraus, O.S.F., 1961-1963, 2 folders: correspondence with Sister Damascene Mehl, O.S.F., regarding Our Lady of Fatima Mission and with Sister Bonita Wagner, O.S.F., regarding St. Isabel Mission

/3 Photographs
Inclusive dates: 1940s-1970s
Volume: 725 prints
Description: Indian mission photographs are arranged alphabetically by location of the mission and chronologically thereunder.
   A. Chinle, Arizona, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, ca. 1964-1965, 75 prints
   B. Gallup, New Mexico, St. Francis Nursing Center, ca. 1940s-1950s, 150 prints
   C. Lukachukai, Arizona, St. Isabel Mission, 1950s-1970s, 400 prints
   D. Arizona Missions, 1940s-1950s, 100 prints