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

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
KANSAS, KANSAS CITY

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Archives

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

History: The Vicariate Apostolate of Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains was erected in 1851; renamed the Vicariate Apostolate of Kansas in 1857; renamed and elevated to the Diocese of Leavenworth in 1877; renamed the Diocese of Kansas City in 1947; and elevated to the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas in 1952. Leavenworth reported no baptized Native American Catholics in 1900 and Kansas City reported 2,000 in 1999. The Kansas City Archdiocese and its predecessors have administered the following Indian missions and schools:

1836-1841 (closed) Kickapoo Mission and School
1838-1847 (closed) Sugar Creek Mission and School (Potawatomi)
1841-1848 Sugar Creek Mission School for Indian Girls (Potawatomi)
1848-1870s (no longer Indian) St. Mary Mission and School (Potawatomi), St. Marys
1847-1895 (closed) Osage Mission and School (Osage)
1870-1891 (closed) St. Francis Institute, Osage Mission
1901-present Haskell Indian Nations University/ Haskell Indian Junior College/ Haskell Institute (various), Lawrence
1912-1969 (closed) Our Lady of the Snows/ Resurrection Mission, Potawatomi Reservation

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1907-present

Volume: .2 cubic foot and 3 reels of microfilm

Description: 5 series include Native Catholic records:
/1 Parish Files
Inclusive dates: 1911-1970
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of the parish.
   A. Lawrence, St. John Church, 1942-1970, 1 folder: correspondence with occasional references to Haskell Institute

/2 Financial Records
Inclusive dates: 1951-1971
Volume: 2 folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of the parish.
   A. Lawrence, St. John Church, 1951-1971, 1 folder: annual reports to the diocese, which include references to work at Haskell Institute
   B. "Potawatomi Indian Reservation," 1951-1966, 1 folder: annual reports to the diocese

/3 "Abstracts"
Inclusive dates: 1907, 1948
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Includes records relating to land transactions on the Potawatomi Reservation.

/4 Sacramental Records
Inclusive dates: 1912-present
Volume: 3 reels of microfilm
Description:
   A. Emmett, Kansas, Holy Cross Church, 1912-1917, 1 reel: records for Our Lady of the Snows Mission
   B. Holton, St. Dominic Church, 1917-1969, 1 reel: contains records for Our Lady of the Snows Mission, 1918-1969; includes records of the mission when it was attended by priests from St. Francis Xavier Church, Mayetta, Kansas, and from St. Mary's College
   C. Lawrence, St. John Church, 1903-present, 1 reel: includes entries for students at Haskell Indian Junior College

/5 Diocesan Newspaper
Inclusive dates: 1939-present
Volume: 1 folder
Description: The Eastern Kansas Register, and its successor, The Leaven, have included occasional articles about American Indians and Catholic evangelization within the diocese. The Leaven is archived online, 2005-present.