Guide to Catholic-Related Records outside the U.S. about Native Americans

See User Guide for help on interpreting entries

Archdiocese of Sainte-Boniface

Archdiocèse de Sainte-Boniface

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History: In 1844, Sainte-Boniface was erected as the Vicariate Apostolic of Nord-Ouest (North-West) from portions of the Archdiocese of Québec. In 1847 and 1871 respectively, it was elevated to the Diocese and Archidiocèse of Sainte-Boniface. Sainte-Boniface and its predecessors administered the following Métis and Ojibwa Indian missions in Pembina, North Dakota/ Dakota Territory:

- 1818-1823 (closed) (Sainte-Boniface, 1844) St. Francis Xavier School
- 1821-1823 (closed) (Sainte-Boniface, 1844) St. Francis Xavier Church
- 1834-ca. 1870s (no longer Indian) Assumption (Sainte-Boniface, 1844?) Virgin Mary Church

Holding of U.S. Native Catholic records include:

Inclusive dates: 1815-1880, 1908, n.d.

Volume: Possibly 1 cubic foot or more

Description: Overall holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans in the United States are unknown. However, U.S. repositories cite that record copies of the following 5 record types originated from the Sainte-Boniface Archdiocesan Archives:

A. Bishop’s Papers
Inclusive dates: 1861-1868
Volume: 1 folder?
Description: Bishop Alexander-Antonine Taché (1823-1894), O.M.I.: correspondence from Reverend Jean Baptiste Genin and other missionaries, re: Métis and Ojibwa Indians in Pembina and the Red River Valley, Dakota Territory; majority in French.
B. Correspondence
Inclusive dates: Between 1815-1880
Volume: Possibly 1,000 pages
Description: re: Métis and Ojibwa Indians in Pembina and the Red River Valley, North Dakota; majority in French; major correspondents include Archbishop Joseph-Octave Plessis of Québec, Bishop Alexander-Antonine Taché, O.M.I. of Sainte-Boniface, Reverends Severe Joseph Nicholas Dumoulin, Joseph Norbert Provencher, Georges Antoine Belcourt, Joseph Goiffon, J. Lafleche, Lawrence Simonet, and Jean Baptiste M. Genin, O.M.I., and Joseph Rolette. Also includes historical notes by Reverend Julius Belleau and biographies of Reverends Joseph Goiffon and Georges Belcourt; from the Archdiocesan Archives of Saint-Boniface and/or Québec.

C. Sacramental Records
Inclusive dates: 1858-1862
Volume: 1 register
Description: Baptismal records for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mission, Pembina, North Dakota by Reverend Joseph Goiffon; from the Archdiocesan Archives of either Québec or Saint-Boniface.

D. Bilingual Dictionary
Inclusive dates: n.d.
Volume: 1 folder?
Description: French-Ojibwa dictionary compiled by Reverend Georges Antoine Belcourt; arranged alphabetically by words in French followed by Ojibwa equivalents.

E. Biographical Records
Inclusive dates: 1908, n.d.
Volume: 1 folder? (31 pages)
Description: Autobiography by Reverend Joseph Goiffon.