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

Diocese of Crookston
MINNESOTA, RED LAKE

St. Mary Mission
P.O. Box 189
Red Lake, Minnesota 56671
Phone 218-679-3614
http://www.crookston.org/Redlake/index.html

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

1858-1867 Reverends Francis Pierz and Lawrence Lautishear established and Reverend Pierz attended Red Lake station (Ojibwa) from St. Francis Xavier, Crow Wing
1867-1875 Reverend Joseph Buh attended Red Lake station from Holy Family, Belle Prairie
1875-1879 Reverend Ignatius Tomazin attended Red Lake station from White Earth
1879-1883 Reverend Tomazin established and administered St. Ignatius Church (Ojibwa), Red Lake
1883-1888 Benedictines (St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota) attended St. Ignatius from St. Benedict's, White Earth
1888 Became a parish; Benedictines administered St. Ignatius Church and established a day school staffed by Benedictine Sisters (St. Joseph, Minnesota)
1888-2009 Benedictine Sisters established and staffed St. Mary Mission School, which operated as a boarding school, 1889-1940, and a day school thereafter
1893-present Benedictines established and administered St. Mary/Immaculate Conception Mission
2009-present Lay teachers staffed the school, which began gradually decades before

Diocesan priests and Benedictines from St. Mary’s have administered the following Ojibwa Indian missions and stations:

1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) Cass Lake station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) Leech Lake station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) White Oak Point station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) Pokegama station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) Sandy Lake station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth) Lake Winnibigoshish station
1888-ca. 1890 (closed) Ottertail station
1888-ca. 1890 (closed) Pokegama station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) White Oak Point station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Lake Winnibigoshish station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Sandy Lake station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Ball Club station
1892-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Thief River Falls station
1893-1905 (closed) Fond du Lac station
1894-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Holy Family Mission, Cloquet
1894-1896 (became a parish) Leech Lake Station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Kettle River station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Sawyer station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Stoney Brook and Columbia Junction station
1895-1898 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet) Cass Lake station
1934 (transferred to St. Michael's, Mahnomen) St. Anne Mission, Naytahwaush
1934 (transferred to St. Michael's, Mahnomen) St. Agnes Mission, Island Lake
1939-1974 (closed) Christ the King Mission, Redby
1940-1955 (closed) Ponemah station

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1858-present

Volume: 7 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Mary Mission are kept in three locations and are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

**St. Mary Mission**

A. Sacramental records, 1858-present, 14 volumes: For Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary Mission, and its Indian chapels and stations; baptisms, 1858-present (records from 1858-ca.1874 are copies); marriages, 1869-present; deaths, 1879-present; first communions, 1941-present; confirmations, 1882-present
B. "Status Animarium" or census records, 1940s, 2 volumes: For St. Mary Mission; includes names of parents and children with birth and death dates
C. Financial records, 1948-1973, 9 volumes: Consists of 4 day books, 3 journals, and 2 cash books for Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary Mission


E. School records, 1939-1968, 1 volume: Lists of students arranged by grade

F. Photographs, majority from 1950s, 270 prints

St. Mary School

G. Student records, 1930s-present, .8 cubic foot of inactive records and 3 cubic feet of active records: Arranged alphabetically by surname and includes biographical information on each student and grades; inactive files less complete than more recent records; information on inactive files normally confined to a single card for each student

H. Videotape, 1958, 30 minutes: created by Reverend Alban Fruth and portrays Ojibwa Indian children at St. Mary Mission School in activities such as an Indian powwow and views of the mission and school

St. Mary Convent

I. "Task Force" notes, 1975, 1 folder: Summaries of interviews and responses to questionnaires designed to discover how the Catholic Church can better serve Red Lake Ojibwa Indians