Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
MONTANA, GREAT FALLS

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings Archives
121 Twenty-Third Street South
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Great Falls, Montana 59403-1399
Phone 406-727-6683
http://www.dioceseofgfb.org

Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings (formerly Diocese of Great Falls) was erected for Eastern Montana in 1904 from portions of the Diocese of Helena. In 1999 the Great Falls Diocese reported 12,000 baptized Native American Catholics. Great Falls and its predecessors have administered the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools in Montana:

1859-1917 (closed) (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-1917)
St. Peter Mission and School (Assiniboine, Atsina, Siksika, and Métis), Cascade/ Fort Shaw

1884-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)
St. Labre Mission and School (Cheyenne and Crow), Ashland
St. Paul Mission (Atsina, Assiniboine, and Métis), Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation
St. Francis Xavier Mission (Crow) and Pretty Eagle/ St. Francis Xavier School (Crow), St. Xavier, Crow Reservation
St. Charles Borromeo Mission (Crow), Pryor, Crow Reservation
Blessed Sacrament Church (Cheyenne), Lame Deer, Northern Cheyenne Reservation
St. Thomas Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa, and Métis), Lodge Pole, Fort Peck Reservation
St. Ann/ Our Lady of Loretto Mission (Crow), Crow Reservation, Lodge Grass
Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa), Poplar, Fort Peck Reservation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1905-present</td>
<td>St. Dennis Church</td>
<td>Crow Agency, Crow Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1907-1940 (closed)</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Mission</td>
<td>Wyola, Crow Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913-present</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception Mission</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Wolf Point, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913-1931 (closed)</td>
<td>St. Joseph Church</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Frazer, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-present</td>
<td>St. Thomas Mission</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-1980 (closed)</td>
<td>St. Patrick Church</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Medicine Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914-1968 (closed)</td>
<td>St. Thomas Mission</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Arthur Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Arthur, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Burch Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Burch, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Charlie Creek Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Charlie Creek, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Circle Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Circle, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Elder Creek/ Chelsea Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Excess City Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Excess City, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Nickwell Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Nickwell, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Red Water Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Red Water, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Riverside Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, near Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Riverside Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, near Vida, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Roosevelt Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Roosevelt, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>St. Isidore Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, St. Isidore, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1921, 1940-1950 (closed?)</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Mission</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Sprole, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<td>1917-1921 (closed?)</td>
<td>Vida Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Vida, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-present</td>
<td>St. Anthony/ Fort Kipp Chapel</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Fort Kipp, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1940 (closed)</td>
<td>St. Ann Mission</td>
<td>Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa, Milk River, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<td>Year Range</td>
<td>Location Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924-present</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Church (Atsina and Assiniboine), Fort Belknap, Fort Belknap Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927-present</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Church (Cheyenne), Birney, Northern Cheyenne Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929-1976 (closed?)</td>
<td>Christ the King Mission (Cheyenne), Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Busby</td>
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<td>1935-present</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo School (Crow), Pryor, Crow Reservation</td>
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<td>1936-present</td>
<td>St. Paul Mission and School (Atsina and Assiniboine), Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation</td>
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<td>1940-present</td>
<td>St. Joseph Church (Atsina and Assiniboine), Zortman</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949-1973 (closed)</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception School (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Wolf Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950-present</td>
<td>St. Anthony Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Fort Kipp, Fort Peck Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956-2004 (closed)</td>
<td>St. Francis Assisi Mission (Cheyenne), Muddy Creek, Northern Cheyenne Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965-present</td>
<td>Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church (Crow), Wyola, Crow Reservation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1880-present

Volume: Approximately 6 cubic feet

Description: 7 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 Bishops' Papers
Inclusive dates: 1883-present
Volume: Few items within approximately 5 cubic feet
Description: Divided by administration; topics include funding of Indian evangelization and visitations.
   A. Bishop Jean-Baptiste Brondel (1841-1903), ca. 1883-1904; includes 1 folder, re: St. Peter's Mission
   B. Bishop Mathias Clement Lenihan (1854-1943), ca. 1905-1937
   C. Bishop Edwin Vincent O'Hara (1881-1956), ca. 1930-1939
   F. Bishop Thomas Joseph Murphy (1932-1997), ca. 1978-1987
   G. Bishop Anthony Michael Milone (1932-), ca. 1987-present

/2 Sacramental Records
Inclusive dates: 1880-1970s
Volume: Portions of 17 reels of microfilm
Description: Arranged alphabetically by parish location and there under by name; includes baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, burials, and annual reports for Indian and non-Indian parishes with attended Indian missions and stations and/or a few Indian parishioners; parishes hold the original records.
   A. Reel 1: Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, 1930-1970s, from 3 volumes; includes Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Reservations, 1945-1970s; Wolf Point, Immaculate Conception Church, 1917-1970s, from 5 volumes
B. Reel 2: Belt, St. Mark Church, 1905-1970s, from 3 volumes; Great Falls/Fort Shaw, St. Peter’s Mission, 1855-unknown, from 2 volumes
C. Reel 4: Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1904-1976, from 5 volumes; Harlem, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1943-1976 from 2 volumes; and Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1890-1924, from 3 volumes
D. Reel 5: Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1915-1976, from 9 volumes
E. Reel 6: Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1954-1977, from 1 volume; Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1909-1977; includes Culbertson, St. Anthony Mission, 1909-1977, from 5 volumes; Poplar, Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church, 1904-1946, from 3 volumes
F. Reel 7: Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1862-1961, from 7 volumes
G. Reel 9: Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1904-1977, from 4 volumes
H. Reel 10: Fort Benton, Immaculate Conception Church, 1880-1976, from 4 volumes
I. Reel 11: Poplar, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1920-1976, from 1 volume
J. Reel 12: Ashland, St. Labre Mission, 1883-1953, from 5 volumes; Crow Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1965-1970s, from 1 volume; Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1904-1977, from 4 volumes; Lame Deer, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1935-1947, from 1 volume; Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Loretto/ St. Ann Mission, 1904-, from 2 volumes
K. Reel 13: Ashland, St. Labre Mission, 1953-1977, from 2 volumes; Harden, St. Joseph Church, 1910-1977, from 2 volumes; Pryor, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1908-1977, from 3 volumes; St. Xavier, St. Francis Xavier Mission, 1880-1977, from 5 volumes

/3 Photographs
Inclusive dates: 1887-present
Volume: Approximately 3 cubic feet
Description: 2-8 photographs/folder, mostly black and white with some in color. The holdings are divided into 3 sections alphabetized there under by name: local communities with parishes and other institutions including attended missions and stations, men’s religious institutes, and women’s religious institutes.

A. Local Communities
1. Ashland, St. Labre Mission
   b. Children’s Home, 1986-, 1 folder
   c. Mission, 1926-present, 13 folders
   d. School, 1926-present, 6 folders
   e. School Education Association, 1979-present, 6 folders
2. Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, n.d., 2 folders
3. Birney, Sacred Heart Church, 1928-present, n.d., 1 folder
4. Brockton, St. Thomas Church, 1926-present, 2 folders
5. Busby, Christ the King Church, 1929-present, 1 folder
6. Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1955-present, n.d., 4 folders
7. Crow Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1933-present, 3 folders
8. Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1924-present, 6 folders
9. Fort Belknap, Sacred Heart Church, 1998-present, 1 folder
10. Fort Kipp, St. Anthony Church, n.d., 1 folder
11. Fort Shaw, St. Peter Church, n.d., 4 folders
12. Frazer, St. Joseph Church, 1959-present, 2 folders
13. Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1950-present, 11 folders
14. Harden, St. Joseph Church, 1920-present, 4 folders
15. Harlem
   f. Sacred Heart Church, n.d., 1 folder
   g. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1986-present, 3 folders
16. Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1954-present, 13 folders
17. Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1903-present, 3 folders
18. Lame Deer, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1943-present, 3 folders
19. Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Loretto/St. Ann Church, 1970s-present, 3 folders
20. Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1965-present, 3 folders
21. Miles City, Ursaline Convent, n.d., 1 folder
22. Poplar, St. Ursula's/Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1926-present, 2 folders
23. Pryor, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1939-present, 6 folders
24. Rocky Boy, St. Mary Church, 1960-present, 3 folders
25. St. Peter Church, 1887?-present, 10 folders
26. St. Xavier, St. Francis Xavier Mission, ca. 1900-present, 10 folders
27. Wolf Point, Immaculate Conception Church, 1920s-present, 11 folders
28. Wyola, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1970s-present, 1 folder
29. Zortman, St. Joseph Church, n.d., 1 folder

B. Religious Communities of Men
30. Capuchins, 1954-present, 10 folders
31. Jesuits, 1890s-present, 11 folders; includes Reverend John J. Brown, S.J. (Siksika)

C. Religious Communities of Women
32. Benedictine Sisters, 1998-present, 1 folder
33. Dominican Sisters, 1954-present, 4 folders
34. School Sisters of St. Francis (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), n.d., 2 folders; includes Sister M. Claire Hartman, O.S.F.
35. Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), n.d., 3 folders; includes Sister José Hobday, O.S.F. (Seneca)
36. Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), n.d., 3 folders
37. Ursulines, Western Province, 1954-, 11 folders; includes Sister Bertha Casimir (Eskimo) and Sister Cecilia Augustine (Eskimo)

/4 Parish Files
Inclusive dates: 1924-present
Volume: Approximately 2 cubic feet
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name; includes clippings, correspondence, histories and notes, and annual reports for parishes and attended missions and stations.
A. Ashland, St. Labre Church and School, 1926-present, .2 cubic foot
B. Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, 1934-1986, 2 folders
C. Birney, Sacred Heart Church, 1960-1980, 1 folder
D. Brockton, St. Thomas Church, 1940-80, 1 folder
E. Busby, Christ the King Church, 1952-1991, 1 folder
F. Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1929-present, 3 folders
G. Crow Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1970-present, 1 folder
H. Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1918-present, 4 folders
I. Fort Belknap, Sacred Heart Church, 1934-1989, 1 folder
J. Fort Peck, St. Thomas Church, 1973-1991, 1 folder
K. Fort Shaw, St. Peter Church, 1934-present, 1 folder
L. Frazer, St. Joseph Church, 1938-1990, 1 folder
M. Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1919-present, 5 folders
N. Harden, St. Joseph Church, 1924-present, 2 folders
O. Harlem, St. Thomas the Apostle/ St. Stephen Church, 1934-present, 2 folders
P. Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1932-present, 6 folders
Q. Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1930-present, 6 folders
R. Lodge Deer, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1937-present, 1 folder
S. Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Loretto/ St. Ann Church, 1958-1990, 1 folder
T. Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1934-1991, 2 folders
U. Poplar, Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church, 1926-1995, 4 folders
V. Pryor, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1933-present, 2 folders
W. Rocky Boy, St. Mary Church, 1934-present, 1 folder
X. St. Xavier, St. Francis Xavier Mission, 1934-1991, 2 folders
Y. Wolf Point, Fort Peck, Immaculate Conception Church, 1933-1996, 3 folders
Z. Wyola, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha/ Sacred Heart Church, 1965-1984, 1 folder

/5 Personnel Records
Inclusive dates: 1904?-present
Volume: Few folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically 1 folders/person; mostly diocesan priests not involved in Indian evangelization.

/6 Religious Community Records
Inclusive dates: 1905-present
Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot
Description: Divided by men’s and women’s communities and arranged alphabetically by name there under.
A. Men
  1. Benedictines, 1940-1990, .1 cubic foot
  2. Capuchins, 1936-1995, .2 cubic foot
  3. Jesuits, 1931-present, .2 cubic foot
  4. Jesuit Volunteers, 1974-present, .1 cubic foot; re: Lay men and women
B. Women
  1. Dominican Sisters (Sparkill, New York) and Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary (Sinsinawa, Wisconsin), 1948-present, .2 cubic foot
  2. School Sisters of St Francis (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1959-1992, 1 folder
  3. Sisters of [the Third Order of] St. Francis of Assisi (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1977-1990, 1 folder; includes Sister José Hobday, O.S.F. (Seneca)
  4. Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), 1950-1991, 1 folder
  5. Ursulines, 1905-1991, .8 cubic foot

/7 Diocesan Newspapers
Inclusive dates: 1917-present
Volume: Several articles
Description: The following newspapers have included occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization in the diocese.
A. The Great Falls Catholic Review, 1917-1931
B. The Montana Catholic Register, 1931-1985
C. The Harvest, http://dev.dioceseofgfb.org/The%20Harvest%20Newspaper.htm, 1985-present; articles from 2005-present are archived online.