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

Diocese of Bismarck
NORTH DAKOTA, BISMARCK

Diocese of Bismarck Archives
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Open: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: In 1909 the Diocese of Bismarck was erected for western North Dakota from part of the Diocese of Fargo. In 1999 the Bismarck Diocese reported 1,800 baptized Native American Catholics. The area of the diocese has included the following Indian missions and parishes:

1876-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)    St. Peter Church (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates
1889-1963(closes) (Bismarck, 1909-1963)  Immaculate Conception/ Sacred Heart Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Packineau Dam Site/Elbowoods
1890-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)    St. Elizabeth Mission (Hunkpapa), Cannonball
1896-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)    St. James Mission (Hunkpapa), Porcupine
1907-1921 (closed) (Bismarck, 1909-1921)  St. John Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Crow Heart's Landing
1911-present                                      St. Anthony Church (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Mandaree/Independence
1916-present                                      St. John the Baptist Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Trenton
1920-1937 (closed)                               St. Bernard Mission (Hunkpapa), Red Cedar
1928-present                                      St. Joseph Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Twin Buttes/ Crow's Heart
1955-1970 (closed)  
Queen of Peace Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Raub  
1963-present  
Sacred Heart Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), White Shield

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1868-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: 7 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 Parish Files
Inclusive dates: 1910-present
Volume: .3 cubic foot
Description: Correspondence arranged alphabetically by mission location.

/2 Financial and Statistical Reports
Inclusive dates: 1940-present
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: Arranged alphabetically by mission location.
   B. "Mandaree, Fort Berthold Reservation," 1940, 1955, 1970-present, 1 folder

/3 "Religious Men"
Inclusive dates: 1941-present
Volume: .2 cubic foot
Description: Correspondence with Benedictine abbeys, re: assignments and financial support at Fort Berthold and Standing Rock Reservations; arranged alphabetically by name of abbey.
   A. Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, 1948-present, .15 cubic foot: includes correspondence regarding the Fort Berthold Reservation missions; major correspondents include Bishops Vincent Ryan, Lambert Hoch, and Hilary Hacker and Abbots Cuthbert Goeb, O.S.B. and Robert West, O.S.B.
   B. Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri, 1941-present, 1 folder: includes correspondence regarding the Standing Rock Reservation missions; major correspondents include Bishops Vincent Ryan, Lambert Hoch, and Hilary Hacker and Abbots Stephen Schappler, O.S.B., Anselm Coppersmith, O.S.B., Kevin McGonigle, O.S.B., and Jerome Hanus, O.S.B.

/4 "National"
Inclusive dates: 1941-present
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: Contains 2 folders labeled "Indian Missions," which include correspondence between the bishops, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians.

/5 "Diocesan-General"
Inclusive dates: 1943, 1948, 1954
Volume: 5 letters
Description: Includes a folder labeled "Indian Missions."

/6 Sacramental Records
Inclusive dates: 1868, 1876-1954
Volume: 6 reels of microfilm
Description: Arranged alphabetically by mission location.
A. Bismarck, St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 1908-ca. 1930s, 1 reel: includes records for students at the Bismarck Government Indian School
B. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1868, 1877-1954, 1 reel
C. Elbowoods, Sacred Heart Church, 1889-1954, 1 reel
D. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1868, 1876-1954, 1 reel
E. Odense, St. John Church, 1916-1920, 1 reel: includes records for St. Bernard Mission, Red Cedar
F. Williston, St. Joseph Church, 1916-1954, 1 reel: includes records for St. John the Baptist Mission, Trenton

/7 Diocesan Newspaper
Inclusive dates: 1941-present
Volume: .1 cubic foot
Description: Dakota Catholic Action, includes occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization within the diocese.