Seven Dolors Mission
P.O. Box 299
Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335
Phone 701-766-4314

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

1872  Reverend J.B. Genin established a school at Fort Totten
1874-1878  Reverend Louis Bonin established and administered Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel and School (Sisseton and Wahpeton) near the present-day St. Michael Mission, St. Michael
1874-1883  The Soeurs grises (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) staffed Our Lady of Sorrows School
1878-1883 (closed)  Benedictines (formerly St. Meinrad Abbey; now Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, South Dakota) administered Our Lady of Sorrows, which was destroyed by fire
1885-1926, 1927-present  Benedictines established and administered Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church (Sisseton and Wahpeton), which was destroyed by fire and rebuilt
1886-1926 (closed)  The Soeurs grises staffed the Fort Totten Indian Industrial School, which was destroyed by fire and rebuilt
1926-1927  The Soeurs grises staffed the Fort Totten Government Indian School

From 1885-1928, Seven Dolors Mission was the center of Indian evangelization on the Fort Totten Reservation. In 1929, with the opening of Little Flower School, St. Michael Mission became the center. From 1949-present, Benedictines have resided both at St. Michael's and Seven Dolors. Those from Seven Dolors have attended the following Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian missions:

1885-1929 (became a parish)  St. Michael Mission, St. Michael
1892-1929 (transferred to St. Michael's, St. Michael)  St. Jerome Mission, Crow Hill
1916-1929 (transferred to St. Michael's, St. Michael)  St. James Mission, Warwick
1949-present  St. Jerome Mission, Crow Hill

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:
Description: The records at Seven Dolors Mission are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records, 1918-present, 4 volumes: although Seven Dolors Church was the mission center until 1929, the early records for the reservation are kept at St. Michael Mission; baptisms, 1918-present, marriages, 1940-present, deaths, 1938-present, and first communions and confirmations, 1942-present

B. Audio recordings, n.d., 10-20 tapes: By Reverend Timothy Sexton, O.S.B.; includes his reminiscences and interviews with Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians; in 2007 it was reported that the recordings were no longer at Seven Dolors Mission