History of Standing Rock Reservation Churches and Schools

1876-1879 Benedictines (St. Meinrad Abbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana) began evangelizing the Standing Rock Reservation (Hunkpapa)

1877-1878 Benedictines established and staffed an Indian school for boys and girls (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, North Dakota

1878-1881 Benedictine Sisters (Ferdinand, Indiana) staffed the Fort Yates Government Indian School (Hunkpapa)

1879-present Benedictines established and administered St. Peter Mission

1879-1906 Benedictines under Reverend Martin Kenel, O.S.B., established and administered the Indian Farm School/ St. Benedict Mission School (Hunkpapa), Kenel, South Dakota

1879-1906 Benedictine Sisters (formerly Ferdinand, Indiana; later Yankton, South Dakota) also staffed the Indian Farm School

1880-1971 (closed) Benedictines (formerly St. Meinrad’s; later Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri) established and administered Church of the Assumption of Our Lady/ St. Benedict Mission (Hunkpapa), Kenel, South Dakota, which was destroyed by fire

1881-1924 Benedictine Sisters staffed various Standing Rock Reservation government Indian schools (Hunkpapa)

1883-1919 (closed) U.S. government administered the Indian Farm School

1924-1961 Benedictine Sisters established and staffed St. Bernard School, Fort Yates, North Dakota

1960s-1980s Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana) served the parish with pastoral ministry and summertime religious education

Benedictines from St. Peter’s and St. Benedict’s attended the following Hunkpapa Indian missions and stations on the Standing Rock Reservation:
1882-1890 (became a mission) Cannonball station, North Dakota
1887-1890 (became a mission) Bullhead station, North Dakota
1887-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin, South Dakota) St. Bede Mission, Wakpala, South Dakota
1890-1908 (transferred to St. John's, Odense, North Dakota) St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1890-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin, South Dakota) St. Aloysius Mission, Bullhead, South Dakota
1896-1910 (became a parish) St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota
1896-1926 (transferred to St. Bede's, Wakpala, South Dakota) St. Edward Mission, Mad Bears Camp, South Dakota
1910-1920 (transferred to Sacred Heart, Solen, North Dakota) St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1912-1921 (transferred to St. Philomena's, Selfridge, North Dakota) St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota
1938-present St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1956-present St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota

Benedictines from St. Peter’s and St. Benedict’s attended the following Indian missions and stations elsewhere in South Dakota:

1879-1883 (transferred to Jesuits, Rosebud Reservation) Rosebud Reservation station (Brulé)
1879-1884 (transferred to Jesuits, Rosebud Reservation) Pine Ridge Reservation station (Oglala)
1883-1892 (transferred to Immaculate Conception, Stephan) Cheyenne River Agency station (Sans Arc)
1885-1910 (closed) St. Francis De Sales School (Sans Arc?), Flying Boy's Camp station
1910-1916 (closed) Flying Boy's Camp station (Sans Arc?)
1913-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin) St. Ambrose Mission (Sans Arc), Black Horse
1916-1918 (transferred to St. Bernard's, McLaughlin) Sacred Heart Mission (Sans Arc), Little Eagle

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1868, 1876-present

Volume: 9 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Peter Mission and St. Bernard School are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.
St. Peter Church

A. Sacramental records, 1868, 1876-present, 31 volumes:
1. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1868, 1876-present: baptisms, 1868, 1876-1921, 1940-present, marriages, 1876-present, deaths, 1881-present, first communions, 1878-present, and confirmations, 1880-present
3. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1868, 1877-present: baptisms, 1868, 1877-present, marriages, 1883-present, deaths, 1881-present, first communions, 1892-present, and confirmations, 1892-present

B. "Status Animarium" or census records, 1878-1960s, 7 volumes:
1. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1896-1906, 1913-1940, 2 volumes: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when sacraments were administered
2. Kenel, Assumption/St. Benedict Church, 1878-1960s, 3 volumes: include names, birth and death dates, and dates when sacraments were administered
3. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1887-1908, 1 volume: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when the sacraments were administered
4. Porcupine, St. James Mission, 1877-1919, 1 volume: includes names, birth and death dates, and dates when the sacraments were administered

C. Sodality membership lists, 1886-1947, 8 volumes:
1. Wakpala, St. Bede Mission, 1894-1910, 2 volumes: members of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Societies
2. Bullhead, St. Aloysius Mission, 1894-1907, 2 volumes: members of St. Joseph and St. Mary Societies

D. Financial records, 1890-1948, 5 volumes: include financial journals of St. Peter Church, 1890-1948, 2 volumes, and financial journals for all Indian missions on the Standing Rock Reservation, 1915-1936, 3 volumes

E. School records, 1889-1905, 1 volume: register of Indian students who attended the Farm School

St. Benedict School

A. "Teacher Registers," 1925-1963, 38 volumes: student reports of attendance and grades
B. Student files, 1964-present, 4 cubic feet: arranged alphabetically by surname; includes attendance reports, grades, biographical information, and progress reports