Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans

Diocese of Fargo
NORTH DAKOTA, ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael Church
P.O. Box 84
St. Michael, North Dakota 58370
Phone 701-766-4151

History:

1874-1878 Reverend Louis Bonin established and administered Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel and School (Sisseton and Wahpeton) near present-day St. Michael Mission, Fort Totten or Spirit Lake/ Devil’s Lake Reservation, St. Michael

1884-present Benedictines established and have administered St. Michael Mission (Sisseton and Wahpeton)

1929-1971 The Soeurs grises established and staffed Little Flower Indian School at St. Michael's

1971-present A Fort Totten community corporation (Sisseton and Wahpeton) has administered Name unknown/ Little Flower School

From 1885-1928, Seven Dolors Mission was the center of Indian evangelization on the Fort Totten or Spirit Lake/ Devil’s Lake 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 St. Michael's have attended the following Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian missions:

1929-1949 (became a parish) Seven Dolors Mission, Fort Totten
1929-1949 (transferred to Seven Dolors, Fort Totten) St. Jerome Mission, Crow Hill
1929-1950 (no longer Indian) St. James Mission, Warwick
1929-present Christ the King Mission, Tokio
1936-1961 (closed) East End station
1936-1961 (closed) Graham's Island station

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1874-present, n.d.

Volume: 5.5 cubic feet
Description: The records at St. Michael Mission are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records, 1874-present, 13 volumes: baptisms, 1874-present, marriages, 1908-present, deaths, 1920-present, and first communions and confirmations, 1914-present; the sacramental records of baptisms, 1874-1907, first communions, 1914-1952, and confirmations, 1914-1968, are copies; the original books for the baptisms, 1874-1907, marriages, 1875-1907, and deaths, 1905-1920, are at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, South Dakota

B. Minutes of St. Michael's Indian Mission, Inc., meetings, 1956-present, 1 folder

C. Financial records, 1971, n.d., 1 folder: documents related to land transfers, such as deeds, abstracts, and patents

D. Mission publication, Northern Lights, 1932-1970, .3 cubic foot

E. Subject file, 1930s-present (bulk: 1960s-present), 4 cubic feet: primarily related to financial matters