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

Archdiocese of Omaha
NEBRASKA, OMAHA

Archdiocese of Omaha Archives

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Hours: By appointment only
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: In 1857 the Vicariate Apostolate of Nebraska was erected from the northern portion of the St. Louis Diocese for Nebraska, Wyoming Territory, Montana Territory east of the Rocky Mountains, and Dakota Territory west of the Missouri River. The vicariate was succeeded by the Diocese of Omaha in 1885 and the Archdiocese of Omaha in 1945. Within its area the following mission, parishes, and schools have served American Indians:

1876-1879 (transferred to Vicariate Apostolic of Dakota)
Standing Rock Reservation (Hunkpapa), Dakota Territory

1884-1887 (transferred to Diocese of Cheyenne Wyoming)
St. Stephen's Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), St. Stephens, Wyoming
St. Augustine Church (Winnebago and Omaha), Winnebago, Nebraska

1909-present
Sacred Heart Mission (Santee and Ponca), Santee, Nebraska

1912-1957 (closed)
Our Lady of Fatima Mission (Omaha), Macy, Nebraska

1947-present
St. William Mission (Santee and Ponca), Niobrara, Nebraska

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1859-present
Volume: .8 cubic foot
Description: 5 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 Parish files
Inclusive dates: 1876-1976
Volume: .4 cubic foot
Description: Correspondence arranged alphabetically by location of the mission or parish.
A. "Indian Missions," 1876-1904, 1 folder: major correspondents include Reverends J.B.M. Genin at Fort Totten Reservation, North Dakota, and Joseph Schell and Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S.

B. Macy, Nebraska, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, 1934-1963 (majority 1950s), 1 folder: major correspondents include Reverend Francis Hulsman and Bishop Gerald T. Bergan


D. Santee, Nebraska, Sacred Heart Mission, 1879, 1885-1889, 1904-1945 (bulk 1920s-1930s), .1 cubic foot: major correspondents include Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S., the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the superiors of St. Francis Mission, South Dakota, and St. Augustine Mission, Nebraska, and Bishops James O'Connor, Jeremiah J. Harty, Joseph F. Rummel, and James H. Ryan

E. Winnebago, Nebraska, St. Augustine Mission and School, 1891-1892, 1904-1910, 1923-1942, 1950-1976, .2 cubic foot: major correspondents include Bishops Richard Scannell (1845-1916), Jeremiah Harty, Joseph Rummel, James Ryan, and Gerald Bergan, and Reverends John H. Griese, Francis Hulsman, and Joseph Schell

/2 Bishops' papers
Inclusive dates: 1859-1892
Volume: .2 cubic foot
Description: Arranged chronologically by administration.
A. Bishop James O'Gorman (1814-1874), 1859-1874, 2 folders:
1. "Indian Matters," 1859-1876, 1 folder of correspondence: major correspondents include Reverend Francis N. Blanchet and J.B.M. Genin
2. "The Flathead Indians," 1877, 72 pages: a journal of Bishop James O'Gorman's trip to the Flathead Reservation in Montana

B. Bishop James O'Connor (1823-1890), 1876-1890, 121 letters:
1. "Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions," 1876-1888, 51 letters: major correspondents include the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, Reverend J.B.M. Genin and Bishops Martin Marty and Rupert Seldenbusch

/3 Priests' files
Inclusive dates: 1899-1943
Volume: 2 folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically by surname.
A. Griese, Reverend John H., 1899-1943, 1 folder: primarily financial matters and land transactions at St. Augustine Mission, Winnebago, Nebraska
B. Schell, Reverend Joseph, 1904-1908, 1 folder: pertains to St. Augustine Mission

/4 Financial and statistical reports
Inclusive dates: 1913-1946
Volume: 1 folder
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of the parish and includes a file on Winnebago, St. Augustine Mission. The reports are submitted annually to the Archdiocese.
Diocesan newspaper
Inclusive dates: 1903-present
Volume: Few articles
Description: The Catholic Voice includes occasional articles on America Indians and Catholic evangelization in the Archdiocese.