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

Diocese of Las Cruces
NEW MEXICO, LAS CRUCES

Diocese of Las Cruces Archives
1280 Med Park Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
Phone 505-523-7577
http://www.dioceseoflascruces.org/index.html

Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00 Noon
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Las Cruces was erected in 1982 from portions of the Dioceses of El Paso and Tucson. Las Cruces and its predecessors have administered the following Indian mission and parish in New Mexico:

1914-present (Las Cruces, 1982-present) St. Joseph Mission (Apache), Mescalero, Mescalero Reservation
1921-present (Las Cruces, 1982-present) Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (Tortugas), Mesilla Park

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1912-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: 6 series includes Native Catholic records:

/1 Sacramental Records
Inclusive dates: 1888-1960
Volume: 8 small volumes
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name for Indian and non-Indian parishes with attended Indian missions and stations.
   b. Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1921-ca. 1940, 2 volumes; sacramental records; mostly baptisms
/2 Parish Files
Inclusive dates: 1912-present
Volume: 4 folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name; includes correspondence, clippings, histories, notes, and photographs (black and white and color prints and negatives); notable correspondents include pastors, bishops (Dallas and Las Cruces), Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Commission for Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians.
   a. Mescalero, St. Joseph Mission, 1912-present, 2 folders; includes:
      1. Biographical sketch of Reverend Albert Braun, O.F.M.
      2. Clippings, 1959-present
      3. Histories, 1956-present
   b. Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1960-present, 2 folders

/3 Personnel Files
Inclusive dates: ca. 1982-present
Volume: Few folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically by surname.

/4 Photograph Files
Inclusive dates: 1924-present
Volume: 1 album and 1 folder
Description: Arranged alphabetically by name of community; includes Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and School and St. Genevieve Church, 1924-1938, re: Tortugas parish, school, and community activities, Sisters of St. Francis, most likely Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), and bishops, Franciscans, President Woodrow Wilson, and Cardinal Mercier.

/5 Religious Community Files
Volume: 4 folders
Description: Arranged alphabetically by name of community; including:
   a. Conventuals (Our Lady of Guadalupe Custody, Mesilla Park, New Mexico):
      with report to bishop re: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tortugas
   b. Franciscans (St. John the Baptist Province, Cincinnati, Ohio)
   c. Franciscans (Santa Barbara Province, Santa Barbara, California)
   d. Franciscans (Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

/6 Diocesan Newspaper
Inclusive dates: 1985-present
Volume: Few articles
Description: Agua Vivía,
http://www.dioceseoflascruces.org/agua/html/agua.html, has included occasional articles on American Indians and the Catholic Church in the diocese.