Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
See User Guide for help on interpreting entries

Diocese of Sioux Falls
SOUTH DAKOTA, MARTY

Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Archives
St. Sylvester Convent
P.O. Box 217
Marty, South Dakota 57361
Phone 605-384-3305

Open: By appointment only
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: No

History: Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., founded the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul Mission in 1935. This predominantly Native American congregation has evangelized and ministered to Native Americans through administration, teaching, health care, and other ways. The sisters have served at the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools in South Dakota:

1935-present St. Paul Church/ Mission and School (Yankton), Marty; school, in part to 1980s
1965-present St. Joseph Church (Hunkpapa), Mobridge [religious education]
1966-present Catechetical Center (Sans Arc), Eagle Butte, Cheyenne River Reservation
1968-1973 St. Catherine Mission (Sisseton and Wahpehton), Sisseton
1974-1976 St. Joseph’s Indian School (Brulé, Santee, and Sisseton), Chamberlain
1981-present Kateri Indian Center (Sisseton, Wahpehton, and Yankton), Sioux Falls
1981-present St. Issac Jogues Church (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), Rapid City, the Rapid City Diocese (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), and various educational and social welfare agencies; via the Kateri Convent, Rapid City, 1981-2008 (closed)

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: ca. 1920-present, n.d.

Volume: At least 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at St. Sylvester's Convent had not been processed when surveyed in 1984. Consequently, only approximations regarding dates can be made and, in most cases, volume cannot be determined.
A. Subject files of mother superiors, ca. 1935-present, volume unknown: contain most prominently correspondence between the mother superiors, the sisters and priests at the missions and schools, the Sioux Falls Chancery Office, and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, Bensalem, Pennsylvania; minutes of Community meetings; and annual financial reports for St. Sylvester's Convent
B. Chronicle of St. Sylvester's Convent, 1981-present, 1 volume
C. Personnel files, 1935-present, volume unknown
D. Audiotapes, 1978, n.d., several tapes: interviews with Sister Anthony Davis, O.S.B.S., and Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B.; and Dakota Indian hymns sung by the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
E. Mission and Community publications, 1924-1977, .3 cubic foot:
   2. Echoes, 1957-present: publication of the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
F. Photographs, ca. 1920-present, approximately 500 photos
G. Historical writings and notes by Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., dates and volume unknown