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, YANKTON

Benedictine Sisters  
Sacred Heart Monastery, Federation Archives  
1005 West Eighth Street  
Yankton, South Dakota 57078  
Phone 605-668-6000

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

History: The Benedictine Sisters erected the St. Gertrude Federation in 1937, which included the Sacred Heart and Queen of Peace Monasteries.

**History of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota**

The Benedictine Sisters erected Sacred Heart Monastery, which served American Indian students at the following Catholic schools:

- **1881-1906**  
  St. Benedict School (Hunkpapa), Kenel, Standing Rock Reservation, South Dakota
- **1882-1924**  
  Fort Yates Government Indian School (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota
- **1887-1961**  
  Immaculate Conception School (Santee and Sisseton), Stephan, Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
- **1924-1961**  
  St. Bernard School (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota
- **1933-present**  
  St. Joseph’s Indian School (Brulé, Santee, and Sisseton), Chamberlain, South Dakota

**History of Queen of Peace Monastery, Belcourt, North Dakota**

Under the administration of Immaculate Conception Monastery, Ferdinand, Indiana, the Benedictine Sisters of Belcourt established Queen of Peace Monastery/ Priory in 1963, which closed in 2005. The Belcourt Benedictine Sisters taught at St. Ann School (Métis and Ojibwa), Belcourt, Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota, 1933-1990s.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1878-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 9.6 cubic feet

Description: The records of both monasteries include Native Catholic records:
Sacred Heart Monastery

Inclusive dates: 1878-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 1.6 cubic feet

1/ "Records of Ministries - Education"
Volume: .3 cubic foot
Description: Indian mission and school records are arranged alphabetically by location of the school.
A. "Chamberlain, St. Joseph’s School," 1929-1973, .1 cubic foot:
1. Correspondence, 1951, 1953-1956, 1959, 1962, 9 letters: major correspondents include Mother M. Jerome, O.S.B., and Reverend Augustine Edele
2. Chronicle of the Benedictine Sisters, 1933-1973, 94 handwritten pages: early entries appear annually, later entries are monthly and occasionally daily; includes some clippings and photographs
3. Chronicle, 1929-1964, 192 typed pages: appears to be written by the Priests of the Sacred Heart
1. Correspondence, 1924, 1959, 1961, 6 letters
2. Chronicle (copy), St. Bernard Mission School, 1924-1961, 41 typed pages
3. Diary (copy), Reverend Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B., n.d.; copied in 1934
4. Quarterly school reports, 1892-1894
6. Scrapbook compiled by Sister Helen Marx, O.S.B., 1970s, 100 pages: contains summaries of Benedictine Sisters' chronicles, 1887-1974, copies of correspondence and photographs, clippings, and historical data
7. Photographs, 1878, 1926, n.d., 6 photos
8. Historical notes and clippings, n.d.
C. "Stephan, Immaculate Conception Mission and School," 1887-1960s, n.d., 2 folders:
4. Account of Catholic Indian education by Reverend Ambrose Mattingly, 1936, 8 pages
5. Photographs, 1938, n.d., 2 prints
/2 “Membership”
Inclusive dates (created or copied): 1930s-present
Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot
Description: Records of Sister M. Claudia Duratschek, O.S.B., who wrote extensively on Catholic Indian missions and schools in North and South Dakota. Includes correspondence (copies), transcripts of interviews, photographs, research notes, and clippings, which are arranged by mission or school and by subject.

/3 “Picture File”
Volume: 326 prints
Description: Indian mission photographs are arranged alphabetically by location of the school. An exception is the category of “Other Indian Schools” which includes photographs from schools not staffed by the community.


Queen of Peace Monastery

Inclusive dates: 1933-1990s, n.d.
Volume: Approximately 9 cubic feet and 11 audiotapes
Description: The records at Queen of Peace Monastery are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Prioresses' records, 1956-1981, approximately 5 cubic feet:
   1. Sister Martin Buckman, O.S.B., 1956-1967, approximately 2 cubic feet: alphabetical subject file containing most prominently correspondence with Bishop Leo Dworschak and minutes of house and community meetings
   2. Sister Maura Schnur, O.S.B., 1967-1977, 2 cubic feet: alphabetical subject file containing most prominently correspondence with Bishop Justin Driscoll and minutes of house and community meetings
B. Sisters' files, 1963-present, 1.5 cubic feet: largely biographical information on all members of the community, including the deceased and those who left the community
D. Monastery newsletter, Echoes from the Queen’s Palace, 1956-1969, 1 folder

Benedictine Sisters, Queen of Peace Priory

F. Photographs, 1933-1990s, n.d., ca. 2,000-3,000 prints and slides: prominent subjects include members of the community, mission events or celebrations, school children, and mission buildings

G. Historical notes and clippings, 1960-1990s, n.d., .3 cubic foot: prominent subjects include community and reservation history