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

Diocese of Superior

WISCONSIN, BAYFIELD

Holy Family Church

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Access: Some restrictions apply

History of Holy Family Church and St. Joseph Mission

1835-1860  Reverend Frederic Baraga established and diocesan priests administered St. Joseph Church and School (Ojibwa and Métis), La Pointe, Madeline Island

1860-1878  Diocesan priests established and administered Christ Church (Ojibwa and Métis), Bayfield

1878-1969  Franciscans (Sacred Heart Province, St. Louis, Missouri) administered Holy Family/Christ Church and dedicated a new Holy Family Church building in 1900

1879-present  Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (Joliet, Illinois) established and staffed Holy Family Mission Day School

1880-1936 (closed)  Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate established and staffed Holy Family Mission Boarding School

1883-ca. 1888 (closed)  Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate reestablished and staffed St. Joseph School

1901  St. Joseph Mission was destroyed by fire and rebuilt the following year

1969-present  Diocesan priests have administered Holy Family Church

Diocesan priests from St. Joseph’s attended the following Ojibwa Indian missions and stations:

1835-1860 (transferred to Christ Church, Bayfield)  Fond du Lac Reservation station, Minnesota

ca. 1845-1860 (transferred to Christ Church, Bayfield)  Lac Court Oreilles Reservation Station

1854-1855 (became a mission)  Superior City station

1855-1860 (transferred to Christ Church, Bayfield)  Assumption of Our Lady Mission, Superior

1855-1860 (transferred to Christ Church, Bayfield)  Bad River Reservation station

Diocesan priests from Holy Family/Christ Church attended the following Ojibwa Indians missions and stations:
1860-1861 (closed)  Lac du Flambeau Reservation station
1860-1872 (transferred to Sacred Heart, Duluth)  Fond du Lac Reservation station, Minnesota
1860-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Lac Court Oreilles Reservation station
1860-1888 (became a mission)  Bad River Reservation station
1860-1878 (became a parish)  St. Francis Xavier/ Assumption of Our Lady Mission, Superior
1860-1927 (transferred to St. Francis, Red Cliff)  St. Joseph Mission, La Pointe
1868-1886 (transferred to St. Agnes, Ashland)  Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission, Odanah, Bad River Reservation
1872-1878 (became a mission)  Ashland station
1878-1886 (became a parish)  St. Agnes Mission, Ashland
c. 1875 (closed)  Lac du Flambeau Reservation station
1878-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Gordon station
1878-1893 (becomes a mission)  Red Cliff Reservation station
1879-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Trade River station
1879-1880 (became a mission)  Flambeaufarm station
1880-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Flambeaufarm
1880-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Mouth of Yellow River station
1880-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Belilfalls station
1880-1882 (transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Superior)  Pakawong station
1880-1885 (closed)  Gordonsfarm station
1893-1927 (becomes a parish)  St. Francis Mission, Red Cliff, Red Cliff Reservation
1899-1900 (became a mission)  Belanger Settlement station
   (transferred to St. Francis, Red Cliff)
1900-1927 (transferred to St. Francis, Red Cliff)  St. Anthony Mission, Belanger Settlement
1908 (closed)  Balsalm Lake station
1950-present  St. Joseph Mission, La Pointe
1960-1962 (closed)  St. Anthony Mission, Belanger Settlement
1960-1964 (became a parish)  St. Francis Mission, Red Cliff, Red Cliff Reservation

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1835-present

Volume: 2 cubic feet

Description: The records at Holy Family Church are not arranged according to a classification scheme. Consequently, the description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records, 1835-present, 10 volumes: for Holy Family, St. Joseph's, and their Indian missions and stations; baptisms and marriages, 1835-present; deaths, 1859-present; first communions, 1879-present; confirmations, 1882-present
B. Annals of the Sisters of St. Francis, 1879-1969, 3 volumes: from 1879-1926 entries appear annually; thereafter entries appear daily

C. Financial records, 1924-1959, 1966-1977, 10 volumes: annual and monthly financial journals containing receipts and expenditures

D. School records (copies), 1897-1923, 2 volumes:
   1. Holy Family School, 1897-1918, 1 volume: includes name of student, date of birth, arrival and departure dates, and remarks
   2. St. Francis School, Red Cliff, 1909-1923, 1 volume: lists student attendance