



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the East about Native Americans
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Archdiocese of Washington
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

new 2006

U.S.C.C.B. Migration and Refugee Services

E-7

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History: The Maya Pastoral Project was established in 1994 under the auspices of the United States Catholic Conference, Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees. It was established at the request of Maya Catholics from the Diocese of Huehuetenango (Huehuetenango, Guatemala), to aid and assist the then estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Maya Catholics who, since 1944, had fled the Civil War in Guatemala and settled in Arizona, California, Florida, and elsewhere in the United States.

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| 1999-present | Maya Catholics held the first National Encuentro of Maya Catholics at St. Raphael Parish, Los Angeles with representatives from Greenville, South Carolina; Canton, Georgia; Lake Worth, Florida; Mesa, Arizona; and San Diego and Los Angeles, California; a national board of directors was organized and subsequent national encuentros have been held |
| 1999-2004 | The project was administered from an office in Mesa, Arizona, under the direction of Sister Nancy Wellmeier, S.N.D.deN., and Padre David López Silvestre (Maya) |
| 2005-present | The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services has administered the project |

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans are unknown.