



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
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Diocese of Boise
IDAHO, DE SMET

new 2006

Sacred Heart Mission
P.O. Box 306
De Smet, Idaho 83824
Phone 208-234-5871

W-282

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

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| ca. 1814-1840s | Lay Iroquois Indians from Canada, who were employed by the Northwest Fur Company, intermarried and catechized among the Salish Indians |
| 1821 | Hudson Bay Company employees in the Pacific Northwest [Montana, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington] petitioned for priests from the Vicar General of Upper Louisiana, St. Louis |
| 1831, 1834, 1837, and 1841 | Four delegations of Salish, Iroquois, and Nez Perce Indians attempted to reach and request Jesuit missionaries from Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M., in St. Louis whose diocese then apparently included Montana; only the first and fourth delegations reached St. Louis and made their requests whereas the others were killed in route by Indians from enemy tribes |
| 1840-1841 | In response to the fourth request, Reverend Pierre J. de Smet, S.J. visited the Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Salish, and other tribes along the upper Missouri River and throughout the Northwest |
| 1843-1846 (closed) | Reverend Nicholas Point, S.J. established a mission among the Coeur d'Alene Indians |
| 1848-1877 (no longer Indian) | Jesuits (formerly Missouri, Turin, and California; now Oregon Province, Portland, Oregon) established and administered Sacred Heart Mission (Coeur d'Alene), Cataldo |
| 1877 | Coeur d'Alene Indians relocated to the Coeur d'Alene Reservation |
| 1877-present | Jesuits established and administered Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, Coeur d'Alene Reservation |

1878-1974 (closed) Sisters of Charity of Providence (formerly St. Ignatius; now Mother Joseph Province, Seattle, Washington) established and staffed Providence of Mary Immaculate School (Coeur d'Alene), De Smet

ca. 1916-1930 Lawrence Nicodemus (1910-2004, Coeur d'Alene), a life-long devout Catholic and member of Sacred Heart parish, attended Sacred Heart School and Gonzaga High School, Spokane, Washington; he became a Columbia University scholar and linguist of the Coeur d'Alene language and a Coeur d'Alene tribal judge

1930s-present In honor of their ancestors, Coeur d'Alene Indians have visited Sacred Heart Mission and cemetery, Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, annually on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15th)

1939 Fire destroyed Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, which was rebuilt

Jesuits from Sacred Heart, Cataldo and DeSmet, have attended the following Indian missions:

1864-1880 Spokan Mission (Spokane), Washington

1950-present St. Michael Mission (Coeur d'Alene), Worley, Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho

1970-present Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Coeur d'Alene), Plummer, Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1843-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at Sacred Heart Mission are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

A. Sacramental records

Inclusive dates: 1843-present

Volume: Several volumes

Description: Sacred Heart Mission and its attended Indian missions; copies prior to 1937

B. Coeur d'Alene Indian Hymnal and Song Recordings

Inclusive dates: Unknown

Volume: 2 audiocassettes and book

Description: Catholic worship in English and Skitwish.

C. Photographs

Inclusive dates: Unknown

Volume: Several

Description: Prints (copies) of Sacred Heart Mission and Coeur d'Alene Indians; from Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.