



**Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the East about Native Americans**

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*Archdiocese of New Orleans*  
LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS

*new 2006*

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives**

**E-17**

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<http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/page4.htm>

Hours: By appointment only, Fall, Winter, and Spring, Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00; and Summer, Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00; religious and civil holidays excepted  
Some restrictions apply  
Copying facilities: Yes

History: New Orleans was erected in 1793 as the "Diocese of Louisiana and the Two Floridas" (also known as the Diocese of St. Louis of Louisiana) and elevated to an archdiocese in 1850. Originally it included all of the Spanish Province of Florida and the Louisiana Purchase (formerly the French and Spanish Province of Louisiana). Gradually it was diminished substantially and when the Diocese of St. Louis was established in 1826, it was limited to the State of Louisiana. Previously New Orleans had been a part of the Dioceses of Québec, 1674-1763, Santiago de Cuba, 1763-1787, and San Cristóbal de la Habana, 1787-1793. Prior to 1698 to at least the 1860s, Capuchins, Jesuits, diocesan, and other priests intermittently evangelized Apalachee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Illinois, Yazoo, and other American Indians within the former areas of the New Orleans Diocese.

Before 1761	Mary Turpin (1709-1761), a mixed-blood Illinois Indian who joined the Ursulines (New Orleans), became the first American-born professed nun in the present-day United States
1818	St. Philippe Duchesne and Religious of the Sacred Heart opened a convent at Florissant, Missouri
By 1821	Oregon Catholics on the Columbia River appealed for priests to Bishop Dubourg
1823	U.S. Government provided an allowance of \$200/year for 4-5 missionaries to evangelize Indians west of the Mississippi following a request by Bishop Dubourg

Known holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1576-1897 with 1820s-1860s Native Catholic

Volume: 32.0 cubic feet with approximately .1 cubic foot Native Catholic

Description: Includes a limited amount of correspondence between the Archbishop and missionaries or other bishops regarding Indian mission and school activity. A prominent correspondent is Reverend Adrian Rouquette, who evangelized Choctaw Indians in Louisiana during the 1850s and 1860s. Beginning in 1718, the sacramental records presumably include a few records of Choctaw and other Indians. The published version is titled Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, volumes 1-18 (1718 - 1829). The *Morning Star*, official newspaper of the diocese, was established in 1868.