



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

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Archdiocese of Baltimore
MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

1979; rev. 2004-2006

Archdiocese of Baltimore Archives

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History: Beginning in 1634, the Jesuits (English Province) evangelized Piscataway Indians along Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Intermittently to ca. 1773 this ministry continued and then expanded to include other tribes in portions of Pennsylvania and New York. The Prefecture Apostolate of the United States of America was erected in 1784 and succeeded by the Diocese of Baltimore in 1789. In 1808 Baltimore became an archdiocese and the Metropolitan See of the United States, which presided over the Plenary Councils of Baltimore of the bishops of the United States. From 1939-1947 Baltimore was renamed the Archdiocese of Baltimore-Washington.

- 1874 Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions was established in Washington, D.C. to protect, promote, and administer Catholic evangelization of Native Americans in the United States; the Bureau also served as an advocate for Catholic missions and Native American social and cultural issues and facilitated the dispersal of federal and tribal funds used to support Catholic schools serving Native Americans
- 1884 The Third Plenary Council of Baltimore recognized the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions as a church institution and established the Commission for the Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians as a fund-raising organization

Known holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1820s-1960s?

Volume: Less than 1 cubic foot

Description: Archbishops papers; the correspondence includes legal and financial concerns of Catholic Indian missions throughout the United States:

/1 Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley (1814-1877), 1842-1878; appointed General Charles Ewing first Commissioner of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and later served on the Board of Directors of the Bureau

- /2 James Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921), 1861-1921; served on the Board of Directors of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Commission for the Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians; he was president of the Bureau's board, 1896-1921 and president of the Commission, 1884-1921
- /3 Archbishop Michael J. Curley (1879-1947), 1921-1946; served on the Board of Directors of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Commission for the Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians