



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans  
[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

Diocese of Duluth  
MINNESOTA, DULUTH

pub.1984/rev.2003

**Diocese of Duluth Archives**

**M-75**

Pastoral Center  
2830 East Fourth Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812  
Phone 218-724-9111  
<http://dioceseduluth.org/index.html>  
<http://dioceseduluth.org/IndianMinistry/index.html>

College of St. Scholastica  
1200 Kenwood Avenue  
Duluth, Minnesota 55811  
Phone 218-723-6137

Open: By appointment only  
Access: No restrictions  
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Duluth was established in 1889 and divided into the Crookston and Duluth dioceses in 1909. In 1900 Duluth reported no baptized Native American Catholics and in 1999 the National Council of Catholic Bishops estimated 952 and 1,020 respectively for Duluth and Crookston. In the Duluth Diocese, the following missions and parishes have ministered to Ojibwa Indians:

1865-present	Holy Rosary Mission, Grand Portage
1873-present (Duluth, 1889-1909)	St. Benedict Church, White Earth
1879-present (Duluth, 1889-1909)	St. Mary Mission, Red Lake
1880-present (Duluth, 1889-present)	Holy Family Church, Cloquet
1894-ca. 1950s (no longer Indian)	St. John/ St. Francis Xavier Church, Grand Marais
1895-ca. 1940 (no longer Indian) (Duluth, 1895-1909)	St. Michael Church, Mahnomen
1895-present (Duluth, 1895-1909)	St. Joseph Mission, Beaulieu
1896-1964 (closed)(Duluth, 1896-1909)	Sacred Heart Mission, Onigum/ Leech Lake
1901-1908 (closed)	Purest Heart of Mary Mission, Rosebud
1903-present (Duluth, 1903-1909)	St. Theodore Mission, Ponsford
1906-present	St. Joseph Mission, Ball Club
1908-1917 (no longer Indian) (Duluth, 1908-1909)	Assumption Mission, Callaway
1912-present	St. Patrick Mission, Brookston
1917-present	Immaculate Conception Mission, Nett Lake
1926-1952 (closed)	St. Catherine Mission, Cass Lake

1926-1952 (closed)	St. Joseph Mission, Mission Corner
1926-present	St. Ann Mission, Bena
1933-1940 (closed)	St. Francis Xavier Mission, Chippewa Village
1947-present	Ss. Mary and Joseph Mission, Sawyer
1948-present	St. Catherine Mission, Squaw Lake
1963-present	Sacred Heart Mission, Federal Dam

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1880-present, n.d.

Volume: 1 cubic foot

Description: 4 series include Native Catholic records. The majority are kept in the Chancery Office whereas the records of Reverend Joseph Buh are kept at the College of St. Scholastica.

Chancery Office

/1 Parish Files

Inclusive dates: 1921-present

Volume: .3 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence arranged alphabetically by parish location.

- A. Ball Club, St. Joseph Church, 1934-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverends Denis Parnell, O.S.B. and Athanase Fuchs and Bishops Thomas A. Welch, Francis J. Schenk, and Paul Anderson.
- B. Bena, St. Ann Mission, 1921, 1935, 1947, 1958, 5 letters
- C. Cass Lake, St. Charles Church and its Indian missions and stations, 1930 present, 1 folder: major correspondents include Reverend Severin Lauer and Bishop Thomas Welch
- D. Cloquet, St. Theodore Church, 1928-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverends Thomas Borgerding, O.S.B., Francis Bernick, Benno Watrin, O.S.B., Jude Koll, Clement Burns, and Alban Fruth, and Bishops Thomas Welch, Francis Schenk, and Paul Anderson
- E. Grand Marais, St. John the Baptist Church, 1933-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverends Oswald Johannes, Lawrence Schmidt, Ignatius Candrian, and Henry Anderl, and Bishops Thomas Welch, Francis Schenk, and Paul Anderson
- F. Grand Portage, Holy Rosary Mission, 1930-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverends Oswald Johannes, Lawrence Schmidt, Ignatius Candrian, and Henry Anderl, and Bishops Thomas Welch, Francis Schenk, and Paul Anderson
- G. Onigum, Sacred Heart Mission, 1921-1966, 1 folder: major correspondents include Reverends Felix Nelles, O.S.B., Benno Watrin, O.S.B., Maurice Hurrle, Humphrey Zdechlik, and Osmund Jacobs and Bishop Thomas Welch
- H. Orr, Holy Cross Church, 1967-present, 1 folder: includes references to the Nett Lake Mission; major correspondents include Reverends Lawrence Antus and Raymond Kirtz and Bishop Paul Anderson
- I. Sawyer, Ss. Mary and Joseph Mission, 1923-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverends Elias Lemire and Jude Koll and Bishop Thomas Welch
- J. Squaw Lake, St. Catherine Mission, 1939, 1941, 1960-present, 2 folders: major correspondents include Reverend J. Vincent Fitzgerald and Bishops Francis Schenk and Paul Anderson

/2 "Missions"

Inclusive dates: 1927-present

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence, re: primarily financial concerns; arranged alphabetically by subject or organization.

- A. "Indian and Negro Collection," 1927-present, 3 folders: major correspondents include Bishops Thomas Welch, Francis Schenk, and Paul Anderson and the Commission for Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians
- B. "Indian Mission-Nett Lake," 1930-1962, 1 folder: major correspondents include Reverends Leandre Gauthier, Emanuel Duplain, and Edward Coleman and Bishop Thomas Welch
- C. "Missions-Indian," 1935, 1943, 3 letters

/3 Financial and Statistical Reports

Inclusive dates: 1905-present

Volume: .4 cubic foot

Description: Annual reports for each Indian mission.

College of St. Scholastica

/4 Reverend Joseph Francis Buh Papers

Inclusive dates: 1880-1946, n.d.

Volume: .2 cubic foot

Description:

- A. "Personal items," 1880-1922, 1 folder:
  - 1. Correspondence, 1880, 1891, 1907, 1911, 1917-1922, 22 letters
  - 2. Citizenship papers
  - 3. Last will and testament
- B. Correspondence, re: Reverend Joseph Buh, 1916, 1929, 1933, 1938-1939, 1943, 1944-1946, 1 folder: correspondents include Mr. Gogola and Mr. Matt Pogorelc
- C. Biography of Reverend Joseph Buh by Monsignor John L. Zaplotnik, n.d., 29 pages typed
- D. Photographs (most oversize), 1886, 1898, 1905, 1913, n.d., 110 prints: not all Indian related