



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

Diocese of Crookston  
MINNESOTA, RED LAKE

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**St. Mary Mission**

**M-91**

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<http://www.crookston.org/Redlake/index.html>

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

1858-1867	Reverends Francis Pierz and Lawrence Lautishar established and Reverend Pierz attended Red Lake station (Ojibwa) from St. Francis Xavier, Crow Wing
1867-1875	Reverend Joseph Buh attended Red Lake station from Holy Family, Belle Prairie
1875-1879	Reverend Ignatius Tomazin attended Red Lake station from White Earth
1879-1883	Reverend Tomazin established and administered St. Ignatius Church (Ojibwa), Red Lake
1883-1888	Benedictines (St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota) attended St. Ignatius from St. Benedict's, White Earth
1888	Became a parish; Benedictines administered St. Ignatius Church and established a day school staffed by Benedictine Sisters (St. Joseph, Minnesota)
1889-1940 (closed)	Benedictine Sisters established and staffed St. Mary Mission Boarding School
1940-present	Benedictine Sisters continued to staff St. Mary's, which became a day school
1893-present	Benedictines established and administered St. Mary/Immaculate Conception Mission

Diocesan priests and Benedictines from St. Mary's have administered the following Ojibwa Indian missions and stations:

1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Cass Lake station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Leech Lake station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	White Oak Point station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Pokegama station
1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Sandy Lake station

1879-1883 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Lake Winnibigoshish station
1888-ca. 1890 (closed)	Ottertail station
1888-ca. 1890 (closed)	Pokegama station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	White Oak Point station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Lake Winnibigoshish station
1888-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Sandy Lake station
1892-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Ball Club station
1893-1905 (closes)	Thief River Falls station
1894-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Fond du Lac station
1894-1896 (became a parish)	Holy Family Mission, Cloquet
1895-1896 (transferred to St. Benedict's, White Earth)	Leech Lake Station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Kettle River station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Sawyer station
1895-1896 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Stoney Brook and Columbia Junction station
1895-1898 (transferred to Holy Family, Cloquet)	Cass Lake station
1934 (transferred to St. Michael's, Mahnomen)	St. Anne Mission, Naytahwaush
1934 (transferred to St. Michael's, Mahnomen)	St. Agnes Mission, Island Lake
1939-1974 (closed)	Christ the King Mission, Redby
1940-1955 (closed)	Ponemah station

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1858-present

Volume: 7 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Mary Mission are kept in three locations and are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

St. Mary Mission

- A. Sacramental records, 1858-present, 14 volumes: For Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary Mission, and its Indian chapels and stations; baptisms, 1858-present (records from 1858-ca.1874 are copies); marriages, 1869-present; deaths, 1879-present; first communions, 1941-present; confirmations, 1882-present
- B. "Status Animarium" or census records, 1940s, 2 volumes: For St. Mary Mission; includes names of parents and children with birth and death dates
- C. Financial records, 1948-1973, 9 volumes: Consists of 4 day books, 3 journals, and 2 cash books for Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary Mission

- D. Parish bulletins and announcements, 1947, 1950-1952, 1956-1972, 1974-present, 2 folders
- E. School records, 1939-1968, 1 volume: Lists of students arranged by grade
- F. Photographs, majority from 1950s, 270 prints

St. Mary School

- G. Student records, 1930s-present, .8 cubic foot of inactive records and 3 cubic feet of active records: Arranged alphabetically by surname and includes biographical information on each student and grades; inactive files less complete than more recent records; information on inactive files normally confined to a single card for each student
- H. Videotape, 1958, 30 minutes: created by Reverend Alban Fruth and portrays Ojibwa Indian children at St. Mary Mission School in activities such as an Indian powwow and views of the mission and school

St. Mary Convent

- I. "Task Force" notes, 1975, 1 folder: Summaries of interviews and responses to questionnaires designed to discover how the Catholic Church can better serve Red Lake Ojibwa Indians