



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

*Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis*  
 MINNESOTA, ST. PAUL

*pub.1984/rev.2003&2007&2009*

**Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives**

**M-94**

226 Summit Avenue  
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
 Archives Phone 651-291-4429  
 Indian Ministry Phone 612-824-7606  
<http://www.archspm.org/>

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

**History:** The Diocese of St. Paul was erected in 1850 with territory derived from the Dioceses of Dubuque and Milwaukee. In 1889, St. Paul was elevated and renamed the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1999, with territory now reduced to primarily metropolitan St. Paul and Minneapolis, the archdiocese reported 10,900 baptized Native American Catholics. The Archdiocese and its predecessors have administered the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools in Minnesota and North Dakota/ Dakota Territory:

1818-1823 (closed) (St. Paul, 1874)	St. Francis Xavier School (Métis and Ojibwa), Pembina, Dakota Territory
1821-1823 (closed) (St. Paul, 1889)	St. Francis Xavier Church (Métis and Ojibwa), Pembina, Dakota Territory
1834-ca. 1870s (no longer Indian) (St. Paul, 1850-1875)	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (Métis and Ojibwa), Pembina, Dakota Territory
1851-1856 (closed)	Our Lady of Seven Sorrows/ Winnebago Mission and School (Winnebago), Long Prairie, Minnesota
1851-1884 (no longer Indian)	St. Joseph Academy (Ojibwa), St. Paul, Minnesota
1852-1873 (no longer an Indian mission center)	St. Francis Xavier Church (Ojibwa), Crow Wing, Minnesota
1853-1870s (no longer Indian) (St. Paul, 1865-1875)	St. Joseph Church (Ojibwa), St. Joseph, Dakota Territory
1856-1862 (closed)	Winnebago Mission (Winnebago), Blue Earth, Minnesota
1865-present (St. Paul, 1865-1875)	Holy Rosary Mission (Ojibwa), Grand Portage, Minnesota
1867-1879 (closed)	Mendota Convent School (Ojibwa), Mendota, Minnesota
1873-present (St. Paul, 1874-1875)	St. Benedict Church (Ojibwa), White Earth, Minnesota

1874-present (St. Paul, 1874-1875)	Seven Dolors/ Our Lady of Sorrows Church (Santee, Sisseton, Wahpeton), Fort Totten, North Dakota/ Dakota Territory
1884-1896 (closed) (St. Paul, 1884-1889)	St. Rose/ St. Francis Xavier School (Hunkpapa and Ojibwa), Avoca, Minnesota
1960s-present	St. Stephen Church (Ojibwa and others), Minneapolis, Minnesota
ca. 1975-present	Holy Rosary Church (Ojibwa and others), Minneapolis, Minnesota

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1835-1948, 1975-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 2.4 cubic feet

Description: The records of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives include those of the archdiocesan archives proper and the small collections received in the late 1980s from the former Catholic Archives of St. Paul. Four series and several collections include Native Catholic records:

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives

/1 Archbishops Papers

Inclusive dates: 1852-1880

Volume: 2 folders

Description: Arranged chronologically by administration.

- A. Bishop Joseph Cretin, Accession No. 1995.3, 1852-1853, 30 letters (translations): contain references to evangelization of Winnebago and Ojibwa Indians and Métis
- B. Bishop Thomas Langdon Grace, Accession No. 1989.4, 1861-1880, 1 folder: includes correspondence with references to Indian evangelization

/2 "General Files"

Inclusive dates: 1975-present

Volume: 1 folder

Description: Arranged alphabetically by subject or name. "Indian Ministry, Office Of": Correspondence between the Chancery and the Archdiocesan Office of Indian Ministry.

/3 "Sacramental Records"

Inclusive dates: 1848-1895

Volume: 1 reel of microfilm

Description: Reel number 390 includes sacramental records (baptisms, marriages, and confirmations) for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Churches (both Métis and Ojibwa), both Pembina, North Dakota.

/4 Archdiocesan Newspaper  
Inclusive dates: 1911-present  
Volume: Few articles  
Description: *The Catholic Bulletin*, formerly *The Northwest Chronicle*, includes occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization within the Archdiocese.

Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul

/1 "Aubert, Reverend F."  
Inclusive dates: 1846  
Volume: 1 letter (typed copy)  
Description: Re: his evangelization of the Ojibwa Indians and Métis in the Red River area of Manitoba, Canada and North Dakota.

/2 "Auclair, Elie"  
Inclusive dates: 1908  
Volume: 1 folder  
Description: Includes a paper (copy) on Reverend Joseph Goiffon from an annual Report of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

/3 "Baraga, Reverend Frederick"  
Inclusive dates: 1849  
Volume: 2 letters  
Description: The letters (copies), re: evangelization of the Ojibwa Indians on Lake Superior in Michigan.

/4 "Belcourt, Reverend George A. [Georges Antoine]"  
Inclusive dates: 1850-1859  
Volume: 1 folder  
Description: 6 letters (copies) to Bishops Mathias Loras and Joseph Cretin, Re: activities among the Ojibwa Indians and Métis and 2 copies of Reverend Belcourt's Indian catechism, *Amamihe-Masinahigan Jesus of Ijittawin*, published in 1859.

/5 "Chambers, [Iowa] Governor John"  
Inclusive dates: 1842-1846, 1851-1856, 1860  
Volume: 1 folder  
Description: Correspondence (copies) and Indian agents' reports, re: Catholic evangelization of the Winnebago Indians in Iowa.

/6 "Clontarf Industrial School"  
Inclusive dates: 1877-1901  
Volume: .5 cubic foot  
Description: St. Paul Industrial School, Clontarf, Minnesota.  
A. Correspondence, 1880-1901, 352 letters and 1 letterpress book of outgoing correspondence: major correspondents include Reverends Anatole Oster and John Malo and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
B. Financial records, 1877-1898, 8 folders and 4 volumes: includes 3 day books, a ledger listing receipts and expenditures of each student, and receipts  
C. School records, 1884-1893, 2 folders: includes attendance reports and contracts

/7 "Cretin, Bishop Joseph"

Inclusive dates: 1846, 1850s, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 20% of .5 cubic foot

Description:

- A. Correspondence, 1850s, 2 folders (includes copies): major correspondents include Canon Francis de Vivaldi, Reverend Augustine Ravoux, and General George W. Jones; a prominent subject is the Winnebago Mission at Long Prairie, Minnesota
- B. Petition from the Ojibwa Indians in Minnesota, 1846
- C. A biography of Bishop Joseph Cretin by Reverend James Reardon, n.d., 1 folder

/8 "De Smet, Reverend J."

Inclusive dates: 1849, 1853

Volume: 1 folder

Description: Reports (copies) of Indian evangelization by Reverend Pierre-Jean de Smet, S.J.

/9 "Fletcher, J.E."

Inclusive dates: 1856

Volume: 1 letter

Description: To Bishop Thomas Grace from Fletcher, re: Canon Francis de Vivaldi and the Winnebago Mission, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

/10 "Galtier, Reverend Lucien"

Inclusive dates: 1864

Volume: 1 letter

Description: To Bishop Thomas L. Grace from Reverend Galtier at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, re: evangelization of the Winnebago Indians.

/11 "Goiffon, Reverend Pierre"

Inclusive dates: 1877, 1908-1910, n.d.

Volume: 1 folder

Description:

- A. Correspondence, 1877, 1908-1910, 4 letters
- B. Partial autobiography beginning in 1824, n.d., 50 pages: handwritten in French
- C. Last will and testament

/12 "Grace, Bishop Thomas"

Inclusive dates: 1860-1864, 1869, 1873

Volume: .5 cubic foot with approximately .1 cubic foot Native Catholic

Description:

- A. Correspondence to/ from Bishop Grace, in a 'folder labeled "Grace and Indian Affairs," 1860-1864, 1869, 1873, 26 letters
- B. Journal of Bishop Grace's trip on the Red River, August-September, 1861, 1 volume

/13 "Jesuit Fathers, St. Francis, S.D."

Inclusive dates: 1927

Volume: 1 volume

Description: Hymnal and prayer book in Dakota.

/14 "Keenan, Agnes"

Inclusive dates: n.d.

Volume: 6 pages

Description: A paper, re: Reverend Joseph Goiffon.

/15 "Loras, Bishop, Accession No. 2001.35"

Inclusive dates: 1840s

Volume: Approximately 40% of .25 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence with references to evangelization of the Santee, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Menominee, and Winnebago Indians; major correspondents include Bishop Joseph Cretin and Reverends Lucien Galtier and Augustin Ravoux.

/16 "Oster, Monsignor Anatole and Contarf School, Accession 2001.29"

Inclusive dates: 1881-1899

Volume: Approximately .5 cubic foot within 1.5 cubic feet

Description:

- A. Correspondence, 1881-1899, .2 cubic foot; includes references to St. Paul Industrial School, Clontarf, Minnesota
- B. Financial records for St. Paul Industrial School, 1884-1893, 5 volumes
- C. Register of students at St. Paul Industrial School, 1885-1890, 1 volume (94 pages); includes name, age, ethnic group, parents, trade, religion, date entered and left, and remarks
- D. Photograph, n.d.; 1 print of school
- E. Clippings, n.d.

/17 "Parish Records"

Inclusive dates: 1948

Volume: .2 cubic foot

Description: Arranged alphabetically by parish with a folder for each Indian parish in Minnesota and some in North and South Dakota. The historical data was derived for parish chronicles, which were published as an appendix to Reverend James Reardon's *The Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Paul*. The folders typically include a questionnaire containing historical data clippings, pamphlets, and historical notes.

/18 "Pierz, Reverend Franz, CHS No. 85"

Inclusive dates: 1835-1839, 1852-1864

Volume: 1 folder

Description:

- A. Correspondence, 1852-1853, 1855, 1857, 1864, 6 letters: re: St. Francis Xavier Church, Crow Wing, Minnesota, and its Ojibwa Indian missions and stations
- B. Land deeds, 1864: for St. Francis Xavier Church, Crow Wing
- C. Baptismal records, 1835-1839: for St. Francis Xavier Church, Crow Wing, and its Ojibwa Indian missions and stations on Lakes Michigan and Superior: La Croix, Saut, Arbre Croche, Canada, Cachkewang/St. Joseph, Lacloche, Michipicoten, Okwanikisinong (a) Riviere de Sabre, Grand Portage, Fort William, Kaochabaminagajikak, and Pik

/19 "Ravoux, Monsignor Augustin, Accession No. 1998.6"

Inclusive dates: 1840s-1906, n.d.

Volume: .5 cubic foot

Description: Re: Santee, Sisseton, and Wahpeton Indians.

- A. Correspondence, 1840s-1906, several letters (copies): to/from Bishops Mathias Loras and Thomas L. Grace and Canon Francis de Vivaldi
- B. Sacramental records, 1841-1847, 1862-1863, .1 cubic foot:
  1. List of baptisms (copies) from Mankato (24: the condemned of Minnesota uprising) and Fort Snelling (184), Minnesota, 1862-1863, 1 folder

2. "Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths among Sioux Indians, CHS No. 131," Missouri River, Lac qui Parle, Fort Pierre, Fort M. Bouis, and Council Bluffs, 1841-1847, 1 volume
- C. Works by Reverend Augustin Ravoux, 1890, 1899, n.d., 3 volumes:
1. *Reminiscences, Memoirs, and Lectures*, published in 1890, 1 volume
  2. "The History of the Christian Religion in the Sioux or Dakota Indian Language," n.d., 1 volume
  3. "Book of Instructions, Prayers and Hymns in the Sioux Language," n.d., 1 volume: collection also contains *Prayers, Instructions, and Hymns in the Sioux Indian Language*, published by Reverend Jerome Hunt in 1899 from Reverend Ravoux's work
- D. Scrapbook and Clippings, 1903-1905

/20 "Shanley, Bishop John"

Inclusive dates: 1908

Volume: 32 pages

Description: Includes an article on the establishment of the Catholic Church in North Dakota.

/21 "Smyth, Henry"

Inclusive dates: 1856

Volume: 1 letter

Description: To Governor Gorman, re: financial assistance to Canon Francis de Vivaldi for the Winnebago School, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

/22 "Verwyst, Reverend Chrysostom [O.F.M.]"

Inclusive dates: 1912

Volume: 15 pages

Description: An historical account of the Ojibwa Indian mission at Fond du Lac, Minnesota.

/23 "Vivaldi, Canon Francis de"

Inclusive dates: 1853-1857

Volume: 1 folder

Description:

- A. Correspondence, 1854, 1856-1857, 11 letters: re: the Winnebago Mission, Long Prairie, Minnesota
- B. Receipts, 1853-1856: regarding the Winnebago Mission, Long Prairie, Minnesota