



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

*Diocese of Boise*  
IDAHO, DE SMET

*new 2006*

**Sacred Heart Mission**

**W-282**

P.O. Box 306  
De Smet, Idaho 83824  
Phone 208-274-5871

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| ca. 1814-1840s               | Lay Iroquois Indians from Canada, who were employed by the Northwest Fur Company, intermarried and catechized among the Salish Indians   |
| 1821                         | Hudson Bay Company employees in the Pacific Northwest [Montana, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington] petitioned for priests from the Vicar General of Upper Louisiana, St. Louis   |
| 1831, 1834, 1837, and 1841   | Four delegations of Salish, Iroquois, and Nez Perce Indians attempted to request Jesuit missionaries from Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M., in St. Louis whose diocese then apparently included Montana; only the first and fourth delegations reached St. Louis whereas the others were killed by Indians from enemy tribes |
| 1840-1841                    | In response to the fourth request, Reverend Pierre J. de Smet, S.J. visited the Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Salish, and other tribes throughout the Northwest  |
| 1843-1846 (closed)           | Reverend Nicholas Point, S.J. established a mission among the Coeur d'Alene Indians  |
| 1848-1877 (no longer Indian) | Jesuits (formerly Missouri, Turin, and California; now Oregon Province, Portland, Oregon) established and administered Sacred Heart Mission (Coeur d'Alene), Cataldo   |
| 1877                         | Coeur d'Alene Indians relocated to the Coeur d'Alene Reservation   |
| 1877-present                 | Jesuits established and administered Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, Coeur d'Alene Reservation  |
| 1878-1974 (closed)           | Sisters of Charity of Providence (formerly St. Ignatius; now Mother Joseph Province, Seattle, Washington) established and staffed Providence of Mary Immaculate School (Coeur d'Alene), De Smet  |

ca. 1916-1930                    Lawrence Nicodemus (1910-2004, Coeur d'Alene), a life-long devout Catholic and member of Sacred Heart parish, attended Sacred Heart School and Gonzaga High School, Spokane, Washington; he became a Columbia University scholar and linguist of the Coeur d'Alene language and a Coeur d'Alene tribal judge

1930s-present                    In honor of their ancestors, Coeur d'Alene Indians have visited Sacred Heart Mission and cemetery, Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, annually on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15<sup>th</sup>)

1939                                Fire destroyed Sacred Heart Mission, De Smet, which was rebuilt

Jesuits from Sacred Heart, Cataldo and DeSmet, have attended the following Indian missions:

1864-1880                        Spokan Mission (Spokane), Washington

1950-present                    St. Michael Mission (Coeur d'Alene), Worley, Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho

1970-present                    Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Coeur d'Alene), Plummer, Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1843-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at Sacred Heart Mission are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

- A. Sacramental records
  - Inclusive dates: 1843-present
  - Volume: Several volumes
  - Description: Sacred Heart Mission and its attended Indian missions; copies prior to 1937
- B. Coeur d'Alene Indian Hymnal and Song Recordings
  - Inclusive dates: Unknown
  - Volume: 2 audiocassettes and book
  - Description: Catholic worship in English and Coeur d'Alene.
- C. Photographs
  - Inclusive dates: Unknown
  - Volume: Several
  - Description: Prints (copies) of Sacred Heart Mission and Coeur d'Alene Indians; from Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.