



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

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD

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Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Archives

M-6

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Open: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 and 1:00-4:00
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Springfield, Illinois, have staffed the following Catholic institutions serving American Indians:

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|--------------|--|
| 1949-1954 | St. Francis Home Nursing Center, Gallup, New Mexico |
| 1953-1980 | St. Isabel Mission (Navajo), Navajo Reservation, Lukachukai, Arizona |
| 1961-present | Our Lady of Fatima Mission (Navajo), Navajo Reservation, Chinle, Arizona |

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1940s-1970s

Volume: 1.3 cubic feet

Description: 3 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 "Missions"

Inclusive dates: 1949-1970s

Volume: .7 cubic foot

Description: This series is divided into active and closed missions and arranged alphabetically thereunder by location.

- A. Active Missions: Chinle, Arizona, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, 1961-1972, .1 cubic foot
 - 1. Mission Newsletter, 1961-1972, 1 folder
 - 2. Historical notes and newspaper clippings, 1961-1972, 2 folders
- B. Closed Missions
 - 1. Gallup, New Mexico, St. Francis Nursing Center, 1949-1954, .1 cubic foot:

- a. Correspondence, 1949-1950, 8 letters; major correspondents include Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., Sister M. Jean Sudkamp, O.S.F., and Reverend Anthony Korcek
- b. Historical notes and newspaper clippings, 1949-1954, 4 folders

2. Lukachukai, Arizona, St. Isabel Mission, 1952-1974, .5 cubic foot:
 - a. Correspondence, 1952-1959, 1965, 35 letters; major correspondents include Mother Canisia Kettman, O.S.F., Sister M. Jean Sudkamp, O.S.F., Reverend Blase Brickweg, and Bishop Bernard T. Espelage
 - b. Mission newsletters, 1954-1966, 2 folders
 - c. Mission histories, 1953-1967, 11 folders; noteworthy histories include a 9-page "History of St. Isabel Mission," n.d., by Reverend Emanuel Trockur, O.F.M.; a 29-page history of the mission written by a sister of the community in ca. 1965; a 42-page publication entitled the *Lukachukai* published in ca. 1958; and *The Navajo Indians*, a 31-page history written in 1955 by sisters at the mission

/2 "Mother Superiors' Correspondence Files"

Inclusive dates: 1949-1963

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: This series is arranged by administration and thereunder alphabetically by location of the mission. Most of the Mother Superiors' files from 1952-present remain in the administrative offices.

- A. Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., 1949-1954, 1 folder: correspondence between Mother Magdalene Wiedlocher, O.S.F., Reverend Anthony Korcek, and Bishop Bernard T. Espelage regarding St. Francis Home Nursing Center
- B. Mother Canisia Kettman, 1953-1954, 4 letters: regarding St. Francis Home Nursing Center
- C. Mother Ludwina Kraus, O.S.F., 1961-1963, 2 folders: correspondence with Sister Damascene Mehl, O.S.F., regarding Our Lady of Fatima Mission and with Sister Bonita Wagner, O.S.F., regarding St. Isabel Mission

/3 Photographs

Inclusive dates: 1940s-1970s

Volume: 725 prints

Description: Indian mission photographs are arranged alphabetically by location of the mission and chronologically thereunder.

- A. Chinle, Arizona, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, ca. 1964-1965, 75 prints
- B. Gallup, New Mexico, St. Francis Nursing Center, ca. 1940s-1950s, 150 prints
- C. Lukachukai, Arizona, St. Isabel Mission, 1950s-1970s, 400 prints
- D. Arizona Missions, 1940s-1950s, 100 prints