



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

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
MISSOURI, CONCEPTION

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Benedictines, Conception Abbey Archives

M-103

P.O. Box 501
Conception, Missouri 64433
Phone 660-944-2821
<http://www.conceptionabbey.org/>

Hours: By appointment only
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

History: Founded in 1873, Benedictines from Conception Abbey administered the following missions and parishes among the Hunkpapa Indians on the Standing Rock Reservation:

1879-present	St. Peter Church, Fort Yates, North Dakota
1880-1971 (closed)	Assumption/ St. Benedict Church, Kenel, South Dakota
1887-present	St. Bede Mission, Wakpala, South Dakota
1890-present	St. Aloysius Mission, Bullhead, South Dakota
1890-present	St. Elizabeth Mission, Cannonball, North Dakota
1896-1950 (closed)	St. Edward Mission, Mad Bear's Camp, South Dakota
1896-present	St. James Mission, Porcupine, North Dakota
1913-1970 (closed)	St. Ambrose Mission, Black Horse, South Dakota
1916-1971 (closed)	Sacred Heart Mission, Little Eagle, South Dakota
1920-1937 (closed)	St. Bernard Mission, Red Cedar, North Dakota
1920-1950 (closed)	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission, La Compte, South Dakota

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1873-present, n.d.

Volume: 2.3 cubic feet and 3 reels microfilm

Description: 4 series include Native Catholic records, which excluding photographs and publications, were microfilmed in 1982 by Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

/1 "B-Journals"

Inclusive dates: 1873-1966, n.d.

Volume: .8 cubic foot

Description:

- A. Abbot Frowin Conrad, O.S.B., "Diary," 1873-1920, 4 volumes: include occasional references to Indian mission and school activities

- B. Reverend Othmar Buerkler, "Diary," 1920-1966, 4 notebooks: include occasional references to Indian mission activities
- C. Samples of Indian students' work, e.g., artwork, essays, maps, math, sewing, and penmanship, 1893-1894, 1896, n.d., 9 volumes
- D. Photograph album, n.d. (bulk ca. 1890-1910), 126 prints: primarily Indian children at Standing Rock Reservation mission schools

/2 "C-Pictures"

Inclusive dates: 1885-1965 (bulk 1885-1920)

Volume: 328 photographs

Description: Primarily people and buildings on the Standing Rock Reservation, including portraits of a number of Indians by commercial photographers, such as S.J. Fansler, Frank B. Fiske, and D.E. Miller.

/3 "D-II-Parishes, Missions, and Chaplaincies"

Inclusive dates: 1876-1980, n.d.

Volume: .9 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence arranged alphabetically by location of the mission or parish.

- A. "Cannonball, St. Elizabeth's," 1907, 1 folder
- B. "Elbowoods, Sacred Heart," 1910, n.d., 1 folder
- C. "Fort Yates, St. Peter's," 1876-1878, 1881-1957, 1962, 1973, n.d., .4 cubic foot: bulk 1881-1929; contains both incoming and outgoing correspondence; major correspondents include Reverends Martin Marty, O.S.B. and Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B., Abbot Frowin Conrad, O.S.B., Sisters M. Gertrude, O.S.B. and M. Mathilda, O.S.B., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- D. "Kenel, St. Benedict's," 1882-1912, 1919, 1924, 1928, 1937, 1940-1941, 1961, n.d., .3 cubic foot: majority of correspondence is from the years 1881-1912; contains both incoming and outgoing correspondence; major correspondents include Reverend Martin Kenel, O.S.B., Abbot Frowin Conrad, O.S.B., Sister M. Mathilda, O.S.B., and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- E. "McLauahlin, St. Bernard's," 1918-1921, 1923, 1937, 1940, 1972, 1 folder
- F. "Selfridge, St. Philomena," 1924, 1932, 1937, 1940-1943, 1947, 1948, 1950-1951, 1 folder: includes correspondence re: St. James Mission, Porcupine
- G. "Shields, St. James," 1911-1912, 1 folder
- H. "Stephan, Immaculate Conception," 1897, 1916, 1 folder: includes drawings by Indian students
- I. "Wakpala, St. Bede's," 1933, 1935-1937, 1940, n.d., 1 folder
- J. "Yankton, Sacred Heart Convent (O.S.B.)," 1880-1897, 1902-1904, 1906-1909, 1911-1912, 1914, .2 cubic foot: bulk 1880-1897; primarily incoming correspondence; major correspondents include Sisters M. Gertrude, O.S.B., M. Hildegard, O.S.B., and M. Xaveria, O.S.B., Reverend Martin Marty, O.S.B., and Abbot Frowin Conrad, O.S.B.
- K. "Standing Rock. Reservation Missions, Historical Notes and Publications," 1909-1980, n.d., 1 folder

/4 "G-Publications"

Inclusive dates: 1905-present

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: 3 publications of Conception Abbey with occasional articles on or references to American Indians and Catholic evangelization.

- A. *The Morning Star*, 1905-1926, and intermittently to 1952
- B. *Tower Topics*, 1954-present
- C. *Inter Nos*, 1959-1976