



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
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Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
MONTANA, GREAT FALLS

new 2006

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings Archives

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Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00

Access: Some restrictions apply

Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings (formerly Diocese of Great Falls) was erected for Eastern Montana in 1904 from portions of the Diocese of Helena. In 1999 the Great Falls Diocese reported 12,000 baptized Native American Catholics. Great Falls and its predecessors have administered the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools in Montana:

1859-1917 (closed) (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-1917)	St. Peter Mission and School (Assiniboine, Atsina, Siksika, and Métis), Cascade/ Fort Shaw
1884-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Labre Mission and School (Cheyenne and Crow), Ashland
1884-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Paul Mission (Atsina, Assiniboine, and Métis), Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation
1887-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Francis Xavier Mission (Crow) and Pretty Eagle/ St. Francis Xavier School (Crow), St. Xavier, Crow Reservation
1890-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Charles Borromeo Mission (Crow), Pryor, Crow Reservation
1894-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	Blessed Sacrament Church (Cheyenne), Lame Deer, Northern Cheyenne Reservation
1898-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Thomas Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa, and Métis), Lodge Pole, Fort Peck Reservation
1904-present (Great Falls-Billings, 1904-present)	St. Ann/ Our Lady of Loretto Mission (Crow), Crow Reservation, Lodge Grass
1905-present	Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa), Poplar, Fort Peck Reservation

1905-present	St. Dennis Church (Crow), Crow Agency, Crow Reservation
1907-1940 (closed)	Sacred Heart Mission (Crow), Wyola, Crow Reservation
1913-present	Immaculate Conception Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Wolf Point, Fort Peck Reservation
1913-1931 (closed)	St. Joseph Church (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Frazer, Fort Peck Reservation
1915-present	St. Thomas Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation
1915-1980 (closed)	St. Patrick Church (Assiniboine), Medicine Lake
1914-1968 (closed)	St. Thomas Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Arthur Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Arthur, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Burch Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Burch, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Charlie Creek Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Charlie Creek, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Circle Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Circle, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Elder Creek/ Chelsea Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Excess City Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Excess City, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Nickwell Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Nickwell, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Red Water Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Red Water, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Riverside Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), near Brockton, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Riverside Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), near Vida, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Roosevelt Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Roosevelt, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	St. Isidore Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), St. Isidore, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921, 1940-1950 (closed?)	St. Nicholas Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Sprole, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1921 (closed?)	Vida Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Vida, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-present	St. Anthony/ Fort Kipp Chapel (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Fort Kipp, Fort Peck Reservation
1917-1940 (closed)	St. Ann Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Milk River, Fort Peck Reservation

1924-present	Sacred Heart Church (Atsina and Assiniboine), Fort Belknap, Fort Belknap Reservation
1927-present	Sacred Heart Church (Cheyenne), Birney, Northern Cheyenne Reservation
1929-1976 (closed?)	Christ the King Mission (Cheyenne), Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Busby
1935-present	St. Charles Borromeo School (Crow), Pryor, Crow Reservation
1936-present	St. Paul Mission and School (Atsina and Assiniboine), Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation
1940-present	St. Joseph Church (Atsina and Assiniboine), Zortman
1949-1973 (closed)	Immaculate Conception School (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Wolf Point, Fort Peck Reservation
1950-present	St. Anthony Mission (Assiniboine, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Hunkpapa), Fort Kipp, Fort Peck Reservation
1956-2004 (closed)	St. Francis Assisi Mission (Cheyenne), Muddy Creek, Northern Cheyenne Reservation
1965-present	Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church (Crow), Wyola, Crow Reservation

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1880-present

Volume: Approximately 6 cubic feet

Description: 7 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 Bishops' Papers

Inclusive dates: 1883-present

Volume: Few items within approximately 5 cubic feet

Description: Divided by administration; topics include funding of Indian evangelization and visitations.

- A. Bishop Jean-Baptiste Brondel (1841-1903), ca. 1883-1904; includes 1 folder, re: St. Peter's Mission
- B. Bishop Mathias Clement Lenihan (1854-1943), ca. 1905-1937
- C. Bishop Edwin Vincent O'Hara (1881-1956), ca. 1930-1939
- D. Bishop William Joseph Condon (1895-1967), ca. 1926-1967, .8 cubic foot
- E. Bishop Eldon Bernard Schuster (1911-1998), ca. 1967-1977
- F. Bishop Thomas Joseph Murphy (1932-1997), ca. 1978-1987
- G. Bishop Anthony Michael Milone (1932-), ca. 1987-present

/2 Sacramental Records

Inclusive dates: 1880-1970s

Volume: Portions of 17 reels of microfilm

Description: Arranged alphabetically by parish location and there under by name; includes baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, burials, and annual reports for Indian and non-Indian parishes with attended Indian missions and stations and/or a few Indian parishioners; parishes hold the original records.

- A. Reel 1: Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, 1930-1970s, from 3 volumes; includes Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Reservations, 1945-1970s; Wolf Point, Immaculate Conception Church, 1917-1970s, from 5 volumes

- B. Reel 2: Belt, St. Mark Church, 1905-1970s, from 3 volumes; Great Falls/
Fort Shaw, St. Peter's Mission, 1855-unknown, from 2 volumes
- C. Reel 4: Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1904-1976, from 5 volumes; Harlem,
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1943-1976 from 2 volumes; and Havre, St.
Jude Thaddeus Church, 1890-1924, from 3 volumes
- D. Reel 5: Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1915-1976, from 9 volumes
- E. Reel 6: Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1954-1977, from 1 volume;
Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1909-1977; includes Culbertson, St.
Anthony Mission, 1909-1977, from 5 volumes; Poplar, Our Lady of
Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church, 1904-1946, from 3 volumes
- F. Reel 7: Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1862-1961, from 7 volumes
- G. Reel 9: Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1904-1977, from 4 volumes
- H. Reel 10: Fort Benton, Immaculate Conception Church, 1880-1976, from 4
volumes
- I. Reel 11: Poplar, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1920-1976, from 1 volume
- J. Reel 12: Ashland, St. Labre Mission, 1883-1953, from 5 volumes; Crow
Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1965-1970s, from 1 volume; Glasgow, St.
Raphael Church, 1904-1977, from 4 volumes; Lame Deer, Blessed Sacrament
Church, 1935-1947, from 1 volume; Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Loretto/ St.
Ann Mission, 1904-, from 2 volumes
- K. Reel 13: Ashland, St. Labre Mission, 1953-1977, from 2 volumes; Harden,
St. Joseph Church, 1910-1977, from 2 volumes; Pryor, St. Charles
Borromeo Church, 1908-1977, from 3 volumes; St. Xavier, St. Francis
Xavier Mission, 1880-1977, from 5 volumes

/3 Photographs

Inclusive dates: 1887-present

Volume: Approximately 3 cubic feet

Description: 2-8 photographs/folder, mostly black and white with some in
color. The holdings are divided into 3 sections alphabetized there under by
name: local communities with parishes and other institutions including
attended missions and stations, men's religious institutes, and women's
religious institutes.

A. Local Communities

- 1. Ashland, St. Labre Mission
 - a. Cheyenne Retirement Home, 1981-1991, 1 folder
 - b. Children's Home, 1986-, 1 folder
 - c. Mission, 1926-present, 13 folders
 - d. School, 1926- present, 6 folders
 - e. School Education Association, 1979-present, 6 folders
- 2. Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, n.d., 2 folders
- 3. Birney, Sacred Heart Church, 1928-present, n.d., 1 folder
- 4. Brockton, St. Thomas Church, 1926-present, 2 folders
- 5. Busby, Christ the King Church, 1929-present, 1 folder
- 6. Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1955-present, n.d., 4 folders
- 7. Crow Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1933-present, 3 folders
- 8. Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1924-present, 6 folders
- 9. Fort Belknap, Sacred Heart Church, 1998-present, 1 folder
- 10. Fort Kipp, St. Anthony Church, n.d., 1 folder
- 11. Fort Shaw, St. Peter Church, n.d., 4 folders
- 12. Frazer, St. Joseph Church, 1959-present, 2 folders
- 13. Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1950-present, 11 folders
- 14. Harden, St. Joseph Church, 1920-present, 4 folders
- 15. Harlem
 - f. Sacred Heart Church, n.d., 1 folder
 - g. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1986-present, 3 folders
- 16. Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1954-present, 13 folders

17. Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1903-present, 3 folders
18. Lame Deer, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1943-present, 3 folders
19. Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Loretto/ St. Ann Church, 1970s-present, 3 folders
20. Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1965-present, 3 folders
21. Miles City, Ursaline Convent, n.d., 1 folder
22. Poplar, St. Ursula's/ Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1926-present, 2 folders
23. Pryor, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1939-present, 6 folders
24. Rocky Boy, St. Mary Church, 1960-present, 3 folders
25. St. Peter Church, 1887?- present, 10 folders
26. St. Xavier, St. Francis Xavier Mission, ca. 1900-present, 10 folders
27. Wolf Point, Immaculate Conception Church, 1920s-present, 11 folders
28. Wyola, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1970s-present, 1 folder
29. Zortman, St. Joseph Church, n.d., 1 folder
- B. Religious Communities of Men
 30. Capuchins, 1954-present, 10 folders
 31. Jesuits, 1890s-present, 11 folders; includes Reverend John J. Brown, S.J. (Siksika)
- C. Religious Communities of Women
 32. Benedictine Sisters, 1998-present, 1 folder
 33. Dominican Sisters, 1954-present, 4 folders
 34. School Sisters of St. Francis (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), n.d., 2 folders; includes Sister M. Claire Hartman, O.S.F.
 35. Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), n.d., 3 folders; includes Sister José Hobday, O.S.F. (Seneca)
 36. Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), n.d., 3 folders
 37. Ursulines, Western Province, 1954-, 11 folders; includes Sister Bertha Casimir (Eskimo) and Sister Cecilia Augustine (Eskimo)

/4 Parish Files

Inclusive dates: 1924-present

Volume: Approximately 2 cubic feet

Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name; includes clippings, correspondence, histories and notes, and annual reports for parishes and attended missions and stations.

- A. Ashland, St. Labre Church and School, 1926-present, .2 cubic foot
- B. Big Sandy, St. Margaret Mary Church, 1934-1986, 2 folders
- C. Birney, Sacred Heart Church, 1960-1980, 1 folder
- D. Brockton, St. Thomas Church, 1940-80, 1 folder
- E. Busby, Christ the King Church, 1952-1991, 1 folder
- F. Chinook, St. Gabriel Church, 1929-present, 3 folders
- G. Crow Agency, St. Dennis Church, 1970-present, 1 folder
- H. Culbertson, St. Anthony Church, 1918-present, 4 folders
- I. Fort Belknap, Sacred Heart Church, 1934-1989, 1 folder
- J. Fort Peck, St. Thomas Church, 1973-1991, 1 folder
- K. Fort Shaw, St. Peter Church, 1934-present, 1 folder
- L. Frazer, St. Joseph Church, 1938-1990, 1 folder
- M. Glasgow, St. Raphael Church, 1919-present, 5 folders
- N. Harden, St. Joseph Church, 1924-present, 2 folders

- O. Harlem, St. Thomas the Apostle/ St. Stephen Church, 1934-present, 2 folders
- P. Havre, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, 1932 present, 6 folders
- Q. Hays, St. Paul Mission, 1930-present, 6 folders
- R. Lame Deer, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1937-present, 1 folder
- S. Lodge Grass, Our Lady of Lorretto/ St. Ann Church, 1958-1990, 1 folder
- T. Medicine Lake, St. Patrick Church, 1934-1991, 2 folders
- U. Poplar, Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Ursula Church, 1926-1995, 4 folders
- V. Pryor, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1933-present, 2 folders
- W. Rocky Boy, St. Mary Church, 1934-present, 1 folder
- X. St. Xavier, St. Francis Xavier Mission, 1934-1991, 2 folders
- Y. Wolf Point, Fort Peck, Immaculate Conception Church, 1933-1996, 3 folders
- Z. Wyola, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha/ Sacred Heart Church, 1965-1984, 1 folder

/5 Personnel Records

Inclusive dates: 1904?-present

Volume: Few folders

Description: Arranged alphabetically 1 folders/person; mostly diocesan priests not involved in Indian evangelization.

/6 Religious Community Records

Inclusive dates: 1905-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: Divided by men's and women's communities and arranged alphabetically by name there under.

A. Men

- 1. Benedictines, 1940-1990, .1 cubic foot
- 2. Capuchins, 1936-1995, .2 cubic foot
- 3. Jesuits, 1931-present, .2 cubic foot
- 4. Jesuit Volunteers, 1974-present, .1 cubic foot; re: Lay men and women

B. Women

- 1. Dominican Sisters (Sparkill, New York) and Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary (Sinsinawa, Wisconsin), 1948-present, .2 cubic foot
- 2. School Sisters of St Francis (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1959-1992, 1 folder
- 3. Sisters of [the Third Order of] St. Francis of Assisi (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1977-1990, 1 folder; includes Sister José Hobday, O.S.F. (Seneca)
- 4. Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), 1950-1991, 1 folder
- 5. Ursulines, 1905-1991, .8 cubic foot

/7 Diocesan Newspapers

Inclusive dates: 1917-present

Volume: Several articles

Description: The following newspapers have included occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization in the diocese.

- A. *The Great Falls Catholic Review*, 1917-1931
- B. *The Montana Catholic Register*, 1931-1985
- C. *The Harvest*, <http://dev.dioceseofgfb.org/The%20Harvest%20Newspaper.htm>, 1985-present; articles from 2005-present are archived online.