



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

Diocese of Bismarck
NORTH DAKOTA, BISMARCK

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Diocese of Bismarck Archives

M-126

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Open: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: In 1909 the Diocese of Bismarck was erected for western North Dakota from part of the Diocese of Fargo. In 1999 the Bismarck Diocese reported 1,800 baptized Native American Catholics. The area of the diocese has included the following Indian missions and parishes:

1876-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)	St. Peter Church (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates
1889-1963(closes) (Bismarck, 1909-1963)	Immaculate Conception/ Sacred Heart Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Packineau Dam Site/ Elbowoods
1890-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)	St. Elizabeth Mission (Hunkpapa), Cannonball
1896-present (Bismarck, 1909-present)	St. James Mission (Hunkpapa), Porcupine
1906-1969 (closed) (Bismarck, 1909-1969)	St. Andrew Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Nishu/ Armstrong
1906-1969 (closed) (Bismarck, 1909-1969)	Holy Family/ St. Michael Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Shell Creek/ Shell Village
1907-1921 (closed) (Bismarck, 1909-1921)	St. John Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Crow Heart's Landing
1911-present	St. Anthony Church (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Mandaree/ Independence
1916-present	St. John the Baptist Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Trenton
1920-1937 (closed)	St. Bernard Mission (Hunkpapa), Red Cedar
1928-present	St. Joseph Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Twin Buttes/ Crow's Heart

1955-1970 (closed) Queen of Peace Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Raub
1963-present Sacred Heart Mission (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), White Shield

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1868-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: 7 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 Parish Files

Inclusive dates: 1910-present

Volume: .3 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence arranged alphabetically by mission location.

- A. "Elbowoods and Mandaree, Fort Berthold Reservation," 1910-present, .2 cubic foot: major correspondents include Reverends Reinhard Kaufmann, Aloysius Bittman, and Stephen Kranz, Bishops Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., Vincent J. Ryan, Lambert A. Hoch, and Hilary B. Hacker, and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- B. "Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation," 1924-1925, 1930, 1935-present, .1 cubic foot: major correspondents include Reverends Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B. and Alfred Meyer and Bishops Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., Vincent Ryan, Lambert Hoch, and Hilary Hacker

/2 Financial and Statistical Reports

Inclusive dates: 1940-present

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: Arranged alphabetically by mission location.

- A. "Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation," 1940-present, 3 folders: St. Peter Mission, Fort Yates, 1940, 1955, 1970-present; St. James, Porcupine, 1945, 1954-1955, 1957-1958, 1970-present; St. Elizabeth's, Cannonball, 1940, 1970-present
- B. "Mandaree, Fort Berthold Reservation," 1940, 1955, 1970-present, 1 folder

/3 "Religious Men"

Inclusive dates: 1941-present

Volume: .2 cubic foot

Description: Correspondence with Benedictine abbeys, re: assignments and financial support at Fort Berthold and Standing Rock Reservations; arranged alphabetically by name of abbey.

- A. Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, 1948-present, .15 cubic foot: includes correspondence regarding the Fort Berthold Reservation missions; major correspondents include Bishops Vincent Ryan, Lambert Hoch, and Hilary Hacker and Abbots Cuthbert Goeb, O.S.B. and Robert West, O.S.B.
- B. Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri, 1941-present, 1 folder: includes correspondence regarding the Standing Rock Reservation missions; major correspondents include Bishops Vincent Ryan, Lambert Hoch, and Hilary Hacker and Abbots Stephen Schappler, O.S.B., Anselm Coppersmith, O.S.B., Kevin McGonigle, O.S.B., and Jerome Hanus, O.S.B.

/4 "National"

Inclusive dates: 1941-present

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: Contains 2 folders labeled "Indian Missions," which include correspondence between the bishops, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians.

/5 "Diocesan-General"

Inclusive dates: 1943, 1948, 1954

Volume: 5 letters

Description: Includes a folder labeled "Indian Missions."

/6 Sacramental Records

Inclusive dates: 1868, 1876-1954

Volume: 6 reels of microfilm

Description: Arranged alphabetically by mission location.

A. Bismarck, St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 1908-ca. 1930s, 1 reel: includes records

for students at the Bismarck Government Indian School

B. Cannonball, St. Elizabeth Mission, 1868, 1877-1954, 1 reel

C. Elbowoods, Sacred Heart Church, 1889-1954, 1 reel

D. Fort Yates, St. Peter Church, 1868, 1876-1954, 1 reel

E. Odense, St. John Church, 1916-1920, 1 reel: includes records for St. Bernard

Mission, Red Cedar

F. Williston, St. Joseph Church, 1916-1954, 1 reel: includes records for St. John the Baptist Mission, Trenton

/7 Diocesan Newspaper

Inclusive dates: 1941-present

Volume: .1 cubic foot

Description: *Dakota Catholic Action*, includes occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization within the diocese.