



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

*Diocese of Fargo*  
 NORTH DAKOTA, FORT TOTTEN

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**Seven Dolors Mission**

**M-130**

P.O. Box 299  
 Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335  
 Phone 701-766-4314

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1872                    | Reverend J.B. Genin established a school at Fort Totten   |
| 1874-1878               | Reverend Louis Bonin established and administered Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel and School (Sisseton and Wahpeton) near the present-day St. Michael Mission, St. Michael |
| 1874-1883               | The Soeurs grises (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) staffed Our Lady of Sorrows School   |
| 1878-1883 (closed)      | Benedictines (formerly St. Meinrad Abbey; now Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, South Dakota) administered Our Lady of Sorrows, which was destroyed by fire                   |
| 1885-1926, 1927-present | Benedictines established and administered Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church (Sisseton and Wahpeton), which was destroyed by fire and rebuilt                            |
| 1886-1926 (closed)      | The Soeurs grises staffed the Fort Totten Indian Industrial School, which was destroyed by fire and rebuilt   |
| 1926-1927               | The Soeurs grises staffed the Fort Totten Government Indian School  |

From 1885-1928, Seven Dolors Mission was the center of Indian evangelization on the Fort Totten Reservation. In 1929, with the opening of Little Flower School, St. Michael Mission became the center. From 1949-present, Benedictines have resided both at St. Michael's and Seven Dolors. Those from Seven Dolors have attended the following Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian missions:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1885-1929 (became a parish)                           | St. Michael Mission, St. Michael |
| 1892-1929 (transferred to St. Michael's, St. Michael) | St. Jerome Mission, Crow Hill    |
| 1916-1929 (transferred to St. Michael's, St. Michael) | St. James Mission, Warwick       |
| 1949-present  | St. Jerome Mission, Crow Hill    |

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1918-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately .6 cubic foot

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

- A. Sacramental records, 1918-present, 4 volumes: although Seven Dolors Church was the mission center until 1929, the early records for the reservation are kept at St. Michael Mission; baptisms, 1918-present, marriages, 1940-present, deaths, 1938-present, and first communions and confirmations, 1942-present
- B. Audio recordings, n.d., 10-20 tapes: By Reverend Timothy Sexton, O.S.B.; includes his reminiscences and interviews with Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians; in 2007 it was reported that the recordings were no longer at Seven Dolors Mission