



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

Diocese of Bismarck
NORTH DAKOTA, RICHARDTON

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**Benedictine Sisters,
Sacred Heart Monastery Archives**

M-136

P.O. Box 364
Richardton, North Dakota 58652
Phone 701-974-2121
<http://www.sacredheartmonastery.com/>

Open: By appointment only
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Richardson Benedictine Sisters taught at Sacred Heart Mission School (Arickara, Hidatsa, and Mandan), Elbowoods, 1910-1936.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1887-1975, n.d.

Volume: .4 cubic foot

Description: 6 series include Native Catholic records:

/1 "Houses of Origins - Elbowoods"

Inclusive dates: 1887-1967, n.d.

Volume: .2 cubic foot

Description: The records are divided into 8 sub-series. Most are copies, primarily from the Assumption Abbey Archives, Richardton, North Dakota.

- A. "Elbowoods Indian missions and other Indian missions in North Dakota," 1908, 1913, 1919, 1938, 1948, 1955-1956, n.d., 11 items: Published and unpublished histories of Sacred Heart Mission, Elbowoods, or of other Indian missions in North Dakota; notable authors include Reverends John Odermann and Paul Lotter and Reverends William Ketcham and William Hughes, both former Directors of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- B. "Indian Sisterhoods," 1890-1891, 1893-1894, 1896, 1939, n.d., 8 items: Published and unpublished histories of communities comprised of Indian Sisters
- C. "Letters to and from Father Francis M. Craft," 1887-1889, 17 letters: Major correspondents include Bishop Martin Marty, O.S.B. and Reverend George Willard
- D. "Letters to and from Father Leon Favreau," 1905-1912, 50 letters: Major Correspondents include Reverend William Ketcham, Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Bishop Vincent Wehrle

- E. "Letters to and from Elbowoods and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, Washington, D.C.," 1910-1912, 30 letters: Major correspondents include Reverend William Ketcham, Bishop Vincent Wehrle, and Reverend Paul Lotter
- F. "Mother Drexel's [S.B.S.] Correspondence and Articles About Her Life and Work," 1909-1912, 1941, 1952, 1955, n.d., 8 letters and 7 clippings or biographical notes: Major correspondents include Reverend William Ketcham and Mr. Charles Lusk of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
- G. "Benefactors and Friends," 1961-1962, 1965-1967, n.d., 10 items: Remembrances or recollections of individuals about Sacred Heart Mission and School, appearing primarily in the form of interview notes or letters
- H. "Celebrations and Activities," 1951, n.d., 4 items: The major topic is the 1951 Catholic Indian Congress

/2 "Histories of Sacred Heart Priory"

Inclusive dates: 1955, n.d.

Volume: 4 items comprising a total of 40 pages

Description:

- A. "History of the Community," by Sister M. William, O.S.B., 1955, 20 typed pages
- B. "Elbowoods History," n.d., 13 handwritten pages: notes, remembrances by Sister Josephine, O.S.B.
- C. "History of Elbowoods" by Sister Cecelia Bauer, O.S.B., n.d., 5 pages
- D. "History of Elbowoods, 1910-1920," n.d., 2 pages; author unidentified

/3 "Administration and Government"

Inclusive dates: 1919, n.d.

Volume: 2 folders

Description: Most of the records of the prioresses have not been transferred to the archives. They are presently stored in a vault in the prioress' office. Records within the vault include correspondence between the prioresses, the bishops, and the priests; visitation reports; personal files of sisters; minutes of chapter meetings; and legal papers. In 1982, only 10 folders from the prioress' office were in the archives. Of these records, only a few items relate to Sacred Heart Mission School.

- A. Mother Pia, O.S.B., July 3, 1919, 1 folder: Contract (copy) between the community and the Diocese of Bismarck
- B. Mother Cecelia Bauer, O.S.B., n.d., 1 folder: Her remembrances of Sacred Heart Mission and School

/4 "Education - Schools"

Inclusive dates: 1910, 1916-1936, 1941-1950, 1953, 1958, 1965-1969, 1975

Volume: 100-150 letters

Description: Correspondence (copies) from the Archives of the Diocese of Bismarck, re: Sacred Heart Mission and School. Major correspondents include Mothers Pia, O.S.B., Cecelia Bauer, O.S.B., Benedict Beehler, O.S.B., and Mary Anita Soukup, O.S.B., and Bishops Vincent Wehrle, Vincent J. Ryan, and Hilary B. Hacker, and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

/5 "Indian Missions"

Inclusive dates: 1918-1926, 1939, n.d.

Volume: 2 folders

Description: Historical notes and publications about Sacred Heart Mission.

/6 Photographs

Inclusive dates: 1911, 1920s-1960s

Volume: 144 prints

Description: Sacred Heart Mission and School, Elbowoods, St. Joseph Mission,
Twin Buttes, and Holy Family Mission, Shell Creek.