



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

*Diocese of Las Cruces*  
NEW MEXICO, LAS CRUCES

*new 2006*

**Diocese of Las Cruces Archives**

**W-365**

1280 Med Park Drive  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005  
Phone 505-523-7577  
<http://www.dioceseoflascruces.org/index.html>

Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00 Noon  
Access: Some restrictions apply  
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Diocese of Las Cruces was erected in 1982 from portions of the Dioceses of El Paso and Tucson. Las Cruces and its predecessors have administered the following Indian mission and parish in New Mexico:

1914-present (Las Cruces, 1982-present)	St. Joseph Mission (Apache), Mescalero, Mescalero Reservation
1921-present (Las Cruces, 1982-present)	Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (Tortugas), Mesilla Park

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1912-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: 6 series includes Native Catholic records:

/1 Sacramental Records

Inclusive dates: 1888-1960

Volume: 8 small volumes

Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name for Indian and non-Indian parishes with attended Indian missions and stations.

- a. Mescalero, St. Joseph Mission, 1944-1960, 6 volumes; includes record diary, 1944, chronicle, 1945-1955, mass intensions book 2, n.d., Mescalero Apache Indian family census, 1944, Mass intensions, 1960, chronology, 1959
- b. Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1921-ca. 1940, 2 volumes; sacramental records; mostly baptisms

/2 Parish Files

Inclusive dates: 1912-present

Volume: 4 folders

Description: Arranged alphabetically by location of parishes and there under by name; includes correspondence, clippings, histories, notes, and photographs (black and white and color prints and negatives); notable correspondents include pastors, bishops (Dallas and Las Cruces), Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and Commission for Catholic Missions among the Colored People and the Indians.

- a. Mescalero, St. Joseph Mission, 1912-present, 2 folders; includes:
  1. Biographical sketch of Reverend Albert Braun, O.F.M.
  2. Clippings, 1959-present
  3. Histories, 1956-present
  4. St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project, 1912-2005, n.d. (2004?)
- b. Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 1960-present, 2 folders
  1. "The Religious Rites of the Tiwa Indians Honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tortugas, New Mexico" by John Hass, 1981
  2. "The Guadalupe Triduum in Tortugas, New Mexico" by Reverend Giles Carrie, O.F.M.Conv., 1986

/3 Personnel Files

Inclusive dates: ca. 1982-present

Volume: Few folders

Description: Arranged alphabetically by surname.

/4 Photograph Files

Inclusive dates: 1924-present

Volume: 1 album and 1 folder

Description: Arranged alphabetically by name of community; includes Mesilla Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and School and St. Genevieve Church, 1924-1938, re: Tortugas parish, school, and community activities, Sisters of St. Francis, most likely Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis (Oldenburg, Indiana), and bishops, Franciscans, President Woodrow Wilson, and Cardinal Mercier.

/5 Religious Community Files

Inclusive dates: 1982, n.d. (1982?)

Volume: 4 folders

Description: Arranged alphabetically by name of community; including:

- a. Conventuals (Our Lady of Guadalupe Custody, Mesilla Park, New Mexico): with report to bishop re: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tortugas
- b. Franciscans (St. John the Baptist Province, Cincinnati, Ohio)
- c. Franciscans (Santa Barbara Province, Santa Barbara, California)
- d. Franciscans (Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

/6 Diocesan Newspaper

Inclusive dates: 1985-present

Volume: Few articles

Description: *Agua Viva*,

<http://www.dioceseoflascruces.org/agua/html/agua.html>, has included occasional articles on American Indians and the Catholic Church in the diocese.