



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

Diocese of Sioux Falls
SOUTH DAKOTA, CHAMBERLAIN

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St. Joseph's Indian School

M-201a

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Chamberlain, South Dakota 57326
Phone 605-734-3300
<http://www.stjo.org>

Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

1927-present	Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart (Hales Corners, Wisconsin) established and have administered St. Joseph's Indian School (Brulé, Sans Arc, Sisseton, and Wahpeton)
1929-1933	Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) staffed the school
1931	A fire destroyed the school, but it reopened later that same year
1933-1971	Benedictine Sisters (Yankton, South Dakota) staffed the school
1971-1972	Dominican Sisters (Oxford, Michigan) staffed the school, in part
1972-1974	Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Marty, South Dakota) staffed the school, in part
1974-1976	Sisters of Mercy (Regional Community of Vermont) staffed the school, in part

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1927-present, n.d.

Volume: 15.5 cubic feet

Description: The records at St. Joseph's School are not arranged according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

- A. House chronicle, 1977-present, 1 volume: handwritten daily entries with information on daily activities, special events, visitors, and the like
- B. "History of St. Joseph's School, 1927-1964, n.d., 199 pages: typed copy; authors not identified
- C. House council meeting minutes, 1948-present, 147 pages
- D. School records, 1927-present, 15.2 cubic feet:
 1. "Cumulative Records" of students, 1950s-present, 10 cubic feet: divided into inactive files (8 cubic feet) and active files (2 cubic feet); typical files contain an application for enrollment, including supporting

- documentation, such as transcripts, medical reports, photographs, baptismal records, progress reports, and standardized test scores
2. "Permanent School Record Cards," 1950s-present, 1 cubic foot: divided into active and inactive records and thereunder arranged alphabetically by surname; information on cards includes annual attendance record, annual scholastic record, and standardized test scores
 3. Cards on students, 1930s-1979, 1 cubic foot: arranged chronologically and alphabetically; include name and age of student and family members, data on religious background and past education, and dates when student enrolled and left the School
 4. "School Records for St. Joseph's Indian School, 1927-1948," 153 pages: records provide the following data: name of student, age, grade, names of parents, address, medical history, religious history, whether student left school or was dismissed, and occasionally photos, clippings, and written comments
 5. Notebook listing graduates, 1928-present, 1 volume: arranged chronologically and alphabetically
 6. "General School Administration," 1960s-present, 3 cubic feet: alphabetical subject files