



**Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans**  
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*Diocese of Sioux Falls*  
SOUTH DAKOTA, MARTY

*pub.1984/rev.2003&2008*

**Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Archives**

**M-214b**

St. Sylvester Convent  
P.O. Box 217  
Marty, South Dakota 57361  
Phone 605-384-3305

Open: By appointment only  
Access: Some restrictions apply  
Copying facilities: No

History: Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., founded the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul Mission in 1935. This predominantly Native American congregation has evangelized and ministered to Native Americans through administration, teaching, health care, and other ways. The sisters have served at the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools in South Dakota:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1935-present | St. Paul Church/ Mission and School (Yankton), Marty; school, in part to 1980s   |
| 1965-present | St. Joseph Church (Hunkpapa), Mobridge [religious education]   |
| 1966-present | Catechetical Center (Sans Arc), Eagle Butte, Cheyenne River Reservation  |
| 1968-1973    | St. Catherine Mission (Sisseton and Wahpehton), Sisseton   |
| 1974-1976    | St. Joseph's Indian School (Brulé, Santee, and Sisseton), Chamberlain  |
| 1981-present | Kateri Indian Center (Sisseton, Wahpehton, and Yankton), Sioux Falls   |
| 1981-present | St. Issac Jogues Church (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), Rapid City, the Rapid City Diocese (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), and various educational and social welfare agencies; via the Kateri Convent, Rapid City, 1981-2008 (closed) |

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: ca. 1920-present, n.d.

Volume: At least 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at St. Sylvester's Convent had not been processed when surveyed in 1984. Consequently, only approximations regarding dates can be made and, in most cases, volume cannot be determined.

- A. Subject files of mother superiors, ca. 1935-present, volume unknown:  
contain most prominently correspondence between the mother superiors, the sisters and priests at the missions and schools, the Sioux Falls Chancery Office, and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, Bensalem, Pennsylvania; minutes of Community meetings; and annual financial reports for St. Sylvester's Convent
- B. Chronicle of St. Sylvester's Convent, 1981-present, 1 volume
- C. Personnel files, 1935-present, volume unknown
- D. Audiotapes, 1978, n.d., several tapes: interviews with Sister Anthony Davis, O.S.B.S., and Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B.; and Dakota Indian hymns sung by the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
- E. Mission and Community publications, 1924-1977, .3 cubic foot:
  - 1. *The Little Bronzed Angel*, 1924-1972: publication of St. Paul Mission, Marty, South Dakota
  - 2. *Echoes*, 1957-present: publication of the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
  - 3. *Community Newsletter*, 1976-1977
- F. Photographs, ca. 1920-present, approximately 500 photos
- G. Historical writings and notes by Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., dates and volume unknown