



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, YANKTON

pub.1984/rev.2003,2007

Benedictine Sisters

Sacred Heart Monastery, Federation Archives

M-240

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Yankton, South Dakota 57078
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Open: By appointment only
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: The Benedictine Sisters erected the St. Gertrude Federation in 1937, which included the Sacred Heart and Queen of Peace Monasteries.

History of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota

The Benedictine Sisters erected Sacred Heart Monastery, which served American Indian students at the following Catholic schools:

1881-1906	St. Benedict School (Hunkpapa), Kenel, Standing Rock Reservation, South Dakota
1882-1924	Fort Yates Government Indian School (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota
1887-1961	Immaculate Conception School (Santee and Sisseton), Stephan, Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
1924-1961	St. Bernard School (Hunkpapa), Fort Yates, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota
1933-present	St. Joseph's Indian School (Brulé, Santee, and Sisseton), Chamberlain, South Dakota

History of Queen of Peace Monastery, Belcourt, North Dakota

Under the administration of Immaculate Conception Monastery, Ferdinand, Indiana, the Benedictine Sisters of Belcourt established Queen of Peace Monastery/ Priory in 1963, which closed in 2005. The Belcourt Benedictine Sisters taught at St. Ann School (Métis and Ojibwa), Belcourt, Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota, 1933-1990s.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1878-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 9.6 cubic feet

Description: The records of both monasteries include Native Catholic records:

Sacred Heart Monastery

Inclusive dates: 1878-present, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 1.6 cubic feet

/1 "Records of Ministries - Education"

Inclusive dates: 1878-1974, n.d.

Volume: .3 cubic foot

Description: Indian mission and school records are arranged alphabetically by location of the school.

- A. "Chamberlain, St. Joseph's School," 1929-1973, .1 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1951, 1953-1956, 1959, 1962, 9 letters: major correspondents include Mother M. Jerome, O.S.B., and Reverend Augustine Edele
 - 2. Chronicle of the Benedictine Sisters, 1933-1973, 94 handwritten pages: early entries appear annually, later entries are monthly and occasionally daily; includes some clippings and photographs
 - 3. Chronicle, 1929-1964, 192 typed pages: appears to be written by the Priests of the Sacred Heart
 - 4. Diary of Sister Raphael, O.S.B., 1954-1960, 23 typed pages: occasional entries containing information on school events, personnel, and daily routine
- B. "Fort Yates, Government Indian School and St. Bernard's Mission School, and Kenel, St. Benedict's School," 1878-1970s, n.d., .15 cubic foot:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1924, 1959, 1961, 6 letters
 - 2. Chronicle (copy), St. Bernard Mission School, 1924-1961, 41 typed pages
 - 3. Diary (copy), Reverend Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B., n.d.; copied in 1934
 - 4. Quarterly school reports, 1892-1894
 - 5. History of Fort Yates and a biography of Reverend Bernard Strassmaier, O.S.B., by Frank Fiske, n.d., 26 pages
 - 6. Scrapbook compiled by Sister Helen Marx, O.S.B., 1970s, 100 pages: contains summaries of Benedictine Sisters' chronicles, 1887-1974, copies of correspondence and photographs, clippings, and historical data
 - 7. Photographs, 1878, 1926, n.d., 6 photos
 - 8. Historical notes and clippings, n.d.
- C. "Stephan, Immaculate Conception Mission and School," 1887-1960s, n.d., 2 folders:
 - 1. Correspondence, 1887-1889, 1921, 1932-1933, 1935-1936, 1938, 1945, 1947, 1959-1960, 38 letters: major correspondents include Mother Gertrude, O.S.B., Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S., Mother M. Jerome, O.S.B., and Reverend Justin Snyder, O.S.B.; most letters are copies from the Archives of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, Bensalem, Pennsylvania
 - 2. Notes summarizing "Diary of Reverend Pius Boehm, O.S.B., 1893-1930," n.d.
 - 3. Scrapbook compiled by Sister Helen Marx, 1960s, 65 pages: contains summaries of Benedictine Sisters' chronicles, 1939-1965, a brief history of Immaculate Conception Mission written by Sister Marmion Maiers, 1961, and copies of the newsletter *Woepeedah*, 1941-1942, 1945-1946, 1949-1950, 1953, 1958
 - 4. Account of Catholic Indian education by Reverend Ambrose Mattingly, 1936, 8 pages
 - 5. Photographs, 1938, n.d., 2 prints

/2 "Membership"

Inclusive dates (created or copied): 1930s-present

Volume: Approximately 1 cubic foot

Description: Records of Sister M. Claudia Duratschek, O.S.B., who wrote extensively on Catholic Indian missions and schools in North and South Dakota. Includes correspondence (copies), transcripts of interviews, photographs, research notes, and clippings, which are arranged by mission or school and by subject.

/3 "Picture File"

Inclusive dates 1883-1970, n.d.

Volume: 326 prints

Description: Indian mission photographs are arranged alphabetically by location of the school. An exception is the category of "Other Indian Schools" which includes photographs from schools not staffed by the community.

- A. "Chamberlain [South Dakota], St. Joseph's School," 1927, 1948, 1970, n.d., 52 prints
- B. "Fort Yates [North Dakota], St. Peter's Mission, and St. Bernard's School," 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892, 1895-1896, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1910, 1912, 1919-1920, 1922-1923, 1929, 1934, 1946, n.d., 152 prints
- C. "Kenel [South Dakota], Kenel Farm School," 1887-1888, 1908, 1915, 1943, n.d., 41 prints
- D. "Stephan [South Dakota], Immaculate Conception Mission School," 1888, 1910, 1917, 1932, 1936-1937, 1943, 1951, 1959, n.d., 61 prints
- E. "Other Indian Missions and Schools," 1885, 1888, 1916, 1932, n.d., 20 prints: include photographs from St. Francis Mission, St. Francis, South Dakota; St. Paul's Mission, Marty, South Dakota; Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota; and Seven Dolores Mission, Fort Totten, North Dakota

Queen of Peace Monastery

Inclusive dates: 1933-1990s, n.d.

Volume: Approximately 9 cubic feet and 11 audiotapes

Description: The records at Queen of Peace Monastery are not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is by record type.

- A. Prioresses' records, 1956-1981, approximately 5 cubic feet:
 1. Sister Martin Buckman, O.S.B., 1956-1967, approximately 2 cubic feet: alphabetical subject file containing most prominently correspondence with Bishop Leo Dworschak and minutes of house and community meetings
 2. Sister Maura Schnur, O.S.B., 1967-1977, 2 cubic feet: alphabetical subject file containing most prominently correspondence with Bishop Justin Driscoll and minutes of house and community meetings
 3. Sister Mary Daniel Schlomer, O.S.B., 1977-1981, approximately 1 cubic foot: primarily correspondence files
- B. Sisters' files, 1963-present, 1.5 cubic feet: largely biographical information on all members of the community, including the deceased and those who left the community
- C. House chronicle, 1956-1967, 1975-1983, 1 volume
- D. Monastery newsletter, *Echoes from the Queen's Palace*, 1956-1969, 1 folder
Benedictine Sisters, Queen of Peace Priory

- E. Audiotapes, 1972, 1976, 1980-1982, 11 tapes: include a history of Queen of Peace Priory, 1956-1982, with transcripts through 1981; interviews with sisters; and recordings of celebrations, jubilees, and installations of new sisters
- F. Photographs, 1933-1990s, n.d., ca. 2,000-3,000 prints and slides: prominent subjects include members of the community, mission events or celebrations, school children, and mission buildings
- G. Historical notes and clippings, 1960-1990s, n.d., .3 cubic foot: prominent subjects include community and reservation history