



**Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans**

[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

*Diocese of Roma*  
VATICAN CITY

*new 2008*

**Archivio Vaticano,  
Archivum Secretum Vaticanum**

**VA-1**

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[http://asv.vatican.va/home\\_en.htm](http://asv.vatican.va/home_en.htm) (English)

Hours: Variable

Restrictions: Some restrictions apply

Copying facilities: Yes

History: The origins of the Vatican library and archives began with the Scrinium in the fourth century. In ca. 1610, Pope Paul V established the Archivum Secretum Vaticanum (Vatican Secret Archives) as the repository of the Roman pontiffs. Its holdings include Papal documents since apostolic times with significant growth experienced in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries followed by notable losses in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1810, Napoleon moved the entire repository to Paris, which was returned by 1817 with significant losses incurred in transit. In 1870, Italy confiscated those portions kept outside of the Vatican, which now are held by the Roman State Archives.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans in the United States are unknown. For further information, see *Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to Historical Documents of the Holy See*, Francis X. Blouin, Jr., General Editor, Oxford University Press, 1998.