



**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, MARTY

*pub1984/rev2003-2017*

**Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Archives**

**M-214b**

St. Sylvester Convent  
P.O. Box 217

Marty, South Dakota 57361  
Phone 605-384-3305

<https://martycatholic.wordpress.com/meet-the-oblate-sisters/>

Open: By appointment only

Access: Some restrictions apply

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

1935-present	St. Paul Church/ Mission (Yankton), Marty
1935-1980s	Marty Indian School/ St. Paul School (Yankton), Marty (became an independent community school, 1975)
1965-1980s	St. Joseph Church (Hunkpapa), Mobridge [religious education]
1966-1980s	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
1981-1980s	Kateri Indian Center (Sisseton, Wahpehton, and Yankton), Sioux Falls
1981-2008	St. Issac Jogues Church (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), Rapid City, the Rapid City Diocese (Brule, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and Sans Arc), and local educational and social welfare agencies via its Kateri Convent, Rapid City, 1981-2008 (closed)

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: ca. 1920-present, undated

Volume: At least 1 cubic foot

Description: The records at St. Sylvester's Convent had not been processed when surveyed in 1984. Consequently, the following dates and volumes are approximations or unknown.

- 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
  - 2. *Echoes*, 1957-present: publication of the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
  - 3. *Community Newsletter*, 1976-1977: publication of the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
  - 4. *Okodakiciye Newsletter*, 1980s-present: publication of the Okodakiciye Mission Association
- F. Photographs, ca. 1920-present, approximately 500 photos
- G. Historical writings and notes by Reverend Sylvester Eisenman, O.S.B., dates and volume unknown