



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the Midwest about Native Americans
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Archdiocese of Chicago
ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

new 2003

Archdiocese of Chicago
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Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:45 and 1:00-4:30
Access: No restrictions
Copying facilities: Yes

History: In 1843, the Diocese of Chicago was erected for Illinois from portions of the Dioceses of St. Louis and Vincennes. With reduced area in 1880, Chicago was elevated to the Archdiocese of Chicago, which reported no baptized Native American Catholics in 1900 and 1,500 in 1999. The Chicago Archdiocese and its immediate predecessor administered the following Indian missions, parish, and school in Illinois:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1821-1833 | Fort Dearborn (Métis and Potawatomi) |
| 1833-ca. 1840 (no longer Indian) | St. Mary Church (Métis and Potawatomi), Chicago |
| 1883-1884 | St. Mary Training School (Santee and/or Sisseton and Wahpeton?), Feehanville [near Des Plaines] |
| 1952-present | Chicago Archdiocesan American Indian apostolate and Anawim Center (various), Chicago |

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans include sacramental records for (Old) St. Mary Church and school records for St. Mary Training School. Fort Dearborn and Old St. Mary Church had been served by Reverends Gabriel Richard and John Mary Irenæus St. Cyr. Parishioners included Chief Billy Caldwell or Sauganash (Potawatomi), 1780-1841).