

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do the Archives have early records on American Indians?

There are several sources of information on American Indians in the Archives. The earliest baptismal and marriage records are the Fr. Pierz register, which details sacraments



administered in the upper great lakes (Michigan and Minnesota) (1838 – 1840). The Ravoux registers contain baptisms and marriages in central Minnesota done during the 1840s. the Kempker collection contains copies of baptisms and marriages done by Bishop Loras and others at Mendota and other central Minnesota locations. There is also a list of baptisms done while the Dakota were interned at Fort Snelling following the Dakota War of 1862. There is a list of those Dakota that were baptized before being hung at Mankato. References to Indians and tribal affairs occur in the reports to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, and in the Bishop Grace papers. The Clontarf Industrial School records in the Oster collection contain medical and statistical reports on Indians who were students at the school during the 1880s and 1890s. Tribes represented include Ojibwe, Dakota, and Winnebago.

What resources do the Archives have to help me research a parish history?

The Archives contains many different sources that can be used for parish history. The parish correspondence files contain letters on financial matters, and also sometimes old parish directories. There is also a historical questionnaire that each parish filled out for the Reardon "History of the Diocese of St. Paul" which was published in 1952. The Chaplain's reports and parish rosters collection has forms which were filled out by service men and women in each parish, detailing their assignments during World War II. The Archives has a collection of parish histories, which contains previous histories that parishes published for past anniversaries. The parish legal files (available from the Records Manager) contain the original articles of incorporation for each parish, and often a description of parish boundaries. The Parish Financial Reports contain both financial and statistical information on each parish for most years. The photo collection contains photos of most parishes in the Archdiocese and many of the priests that have served here. Copies are available in electronic form. See the Archivist or Assistant Archivist to set up an appointment for research.



What collections do the Archives contain that might be useful for academic research?

While this question depends on your chosen subject, there are several collections that have been used in the past, or would make good candidates for research. The papers of the Bishops and Archbishops are a historical resource to the activities of the church during many different eras from the



1850s to the present. There is a large collection of Temperance materials, as well as biographies and papers of many priests of the Archdiocese. The Catholic Historical Society A to Z collection has many different subject areas with relatively small amounts of information. There is a very well organized collection of the papers of the 1941 National Eucharistic Congress which was held in the Twin Cities. The Kempker Collection has material on the early Catholic Church in Iowa and Minnesota.