

Finding Aid to the Catholic Diocese of Fargo Historical Survey Sheets

Catholic Church. Diocese of Fargo (N.D.)

Catholic Diocese of Fargo Historical Survey Sheets, 1908

.4 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 258

[History](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Catholic Diocese of Fargo Historical Survey Sheets (MS 258), Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

In 1908 Bishop John Shanley of the Diocese of Fargo sent out a questionnaire to priests in the diocese in the attempt to gather historical information related to the Catholic Church in the Diocese. The introductory text on the form reads: "Rev. Dear Father: Please answer the questions on the accompanying pages as material for the history of the Diocese of Fargo which I am compiling. Accuracy above all is desired. There are, fortunately, still living in the different missions pioneer Catholics who remember all the important facts, and from whom any information you may not possess may be obtained. The work of securing the true statements should be done now. After a few years it will be too late. You will confer a

great favor on me personally, and on the Diocese by doing this little work, and by returning the documents not later than Oct. 1st, to Rev. J.A. Lemieux, at my residence. John Shanley, Bishop of Fargo.” No formal history is known to have been published; however portions of the historical information gathered may have been used in *The Bulletin of the Diocese of Fargo* which began publication in March 1909.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Catholic Diocese Historical Survey Sheets Collection** consists of old photocopies of a questionnaire sent to priests across the state by Bishop John Shanley in July 1908. The four-page form asked a series of questions with space for the priest to respond. A sampling of the questions includes: “The History of your place before it had a church,” “Record the visits of the earliest missionaries to your place or district,” “Were there any noteworthy laymen? Give their names,” “When was the first church built?,” “The history of your parish”, “listing of priests at that location, and biographical information on the priest completing the form.

The collection has been organized alphabetically by North Dakota town and name of the local parish. Most files contain only the completed form, although some are incomplete or only a letter is found in the file. Some of the correspondence dates to the 1930s. The Bismarck file is the one exception in that it contains copies of letters and also copies of a series of 1902 newspaper articles by Linda W. Slaughter from the *Fargo Forum*, detailing the Catholic Church in North Dakota. This file also includes “History of the Catholic Church, Bismarck, No. Dak.”(17 leaves) by unknown author, written circa 1907-1908’ and “A short sketch of missionary recollections of the Most Reverend Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., Bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota” (9 leaves), by Fr. Andrew Kolbeck, O.S.B. of Saint Anthony, North Dakota.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
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 North Dakota Town & Parish Series	
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1/3	Armstrong – St. Andrew
1/4	Astor
1/5	Beach – St. John’s
1/6	Berthol – St. Anne’s
1/7	Bismarck – Diocese Office
1/8	Blackwater
1/9	Bowbell – St. Joseph’s
1/10	Buford

1/11	Burkey – Mary’s
1/12	Cannonball – St. Elizabeth’s
1/13	Columbus
1/14	Crosby
1/15	Crown Butte – St. Margreth
1/16	Crows Heart’s Landing – John the Evangelist
1/17	Dickinson – St. Joseph’s
1/18	Dickinson – St. Patrick
1/19	Dodge – St. Martins
1/20	Donnybrook – St. Anthony’s
1/21	Driscoll – St. Camillus
1/22	Elbow Woods – Sacred Breast of Jesus
1/23	Endres – Adolph
1/24	Fallon
1/25	Fried – Fried Parish
1/26	Fort Yates – St. Peter’s
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1/32	Glen Ullin – St. Joseph’s
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1/34	Grassner – Trinity
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1/36	Hague – St. Mary’s
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1/38	Haymarch – St. Clemens
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1/41	Kenmare – St. Agnes
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1/43	Lefor – St. Elizabeth
1/44	Lefor – St. Stephen
1/45	Little Heart
1/46	Mandan – St. Joseph’s
1/47	Minot – St. Leo’s
1/48	Mohall – St. Jerome
1/49	Morton County – St. Placid
1/50	Mott – St. Vincent’s
1/51	New Hradec
1/52	New Hradec – SS. Peter and Paul
1/53	Odeuse – St. John the Baptist
1/54	Pembina

1/55	Plaza
1/56	Porcupine – St. James
1/57	Portal – St. John the Baptist
1/58	Pratt – Rock
1/59	Questad – St. Henry’s
1/60	Ray – St. Thomas
1/61	Rhame
1/62	Richardton – St. Mary’s
1/63	Rosebud – St. Anthony of Padua
1/64	Ryder – St. Charles
1/65	Sacred Heart
1/66	Schafer
1/67	Shell Creek – St. Michael’s
1/68	Sherwood
1/69	Stanley – St. John’s
1/70	Strasburg – SS. Peter and Paul
1/71	Tagus
1/72	Tolley – SS. Peter and Paul
1/73	Turtle Lake
1/74	Underwood – Bonaventures
1/75	White Earth
1/76	Williston – St. Joseph’s
1/77	Willow – Sacred Heart
1/78	Winona – Bernard