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GLOSSARY OF CATHOLIC TERMS

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The glossary defines church officials, organizations, and institutions according to Library of Congress subject headings and other sources noted below. Notes regarding archival records pertaining to native peoples are also included.

Abbey (and Abbot)

In some men's religious institutes, e.g. Benedictines, monasteries are known as an abbeys and the head of such residences are abbots. Notable records about native peoples from these leaders include correspondence with local missionaries and high-ranking church and government officials regarding evangelization and schools. Abbots noted in the entries are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Abbot" and the initials of their religious institute.

Apostolic (or Papal) Nuncio

A diplomatic representative or ambassador of the Holy See. Apostolic nuncios noted in the entries are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with

officials regarding evangelization and schools for native peoples. Archbishops noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Archbishop" and the initials of their religious institute, if applicable.

Bishop

The head of a diocese or an auxiliary bishop in an archdiocese. Notable records about native peoples from these offices include correspondence with local missionaries and high-ranking church and government officials regarding evangelization and schools for native peoples. Bishops noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Bishop" and the initials of their religious institute, if applicable.

Brother

A man who is a member of a religious institute, but not ordained or studying for the priesthood. While few brothers created notable records, some are noted in the Marquette guides and alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Brother" and the initials of their religious institute.

Cardinal

Bishops who are advisors to the Pope. Cardinals noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Cardinal."

Chancellor

The principal official of a diocese or archdiocese who signs and maintains letters and official documents of the bishop and the diocese, including responsibility for the diocesan archives. This official may be a priest, religious, or lay person.

Confraternities

Native American confraternities (sodalities and congresses) noted in the Marquette guides are listed alphabetically in both the Master List of Catholic Organizations and the Master Index. In the Master Index, confraternities are listed independent of the heading "Catholic Church."

Congregatio Pro Gentium Evangelizatione

Founded in 1622, the "Congregatio Pro Gentium Evangelizatione (Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, formerly "Congregatio de Propaganda Fide"), is an agency of the Holy See charged with organizing the missionary activity of the Church and spreading Christianity where the Christian message had still not arrived. It is noted in the Marquette guides and listed alphabetically in both the Master List of Catholic Organizations and the Master Index. In the latter, it is listed under the heading "Catholic Church."

Convent

A residence for a community or congregation of women religious. Convents noted in the Marquette guides are listed alphabetically in the Master Index independent of the heading "Catholic Church." Notable records about native peoples from these institutions may include correspondence and publications with local missionaries and high-ranking church and government officials regarding evangelization and schools for native peoples.

Deacon

The first order in ordained ministry. The permanent diaconate was reinstated in 1967 for men who do not plan to become priests. The permanent diaconate is open to both married and unmarried men and has attracted a number of Native American Catholics. Few deacons created notable records.

Diocese (or Suffragan See) and Bishop

The standard division for organized territories of the Church under the leadership of a bishop. Within an ecclesiastical province, several dioceses (suffragan sees) are organized under the leadership of a metropolitan see (archdiocese) headed by an archbishop. Mission territories under development

Diocesan Priests

Priests who serve under the direction of the local bishop and do not belong to a religious community. Before the 1970s, diocesan priests were less likely than religious priests to serve as pastors of congregations comprised of mostly Native American Catholics. Also, fewer diocesan priests than religious priests have created notable writings about Native Americans. Diocesan priests noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Reverend." The terms "Fray" (Spanish) and "Père" (French) are not used.

Evangelistic Work (and Evangelization)

Spreading the Gospel. Organizations (religious institutes, friendly societies) involved in Native American evangelization in the United States are noted alphabetically in both the Master List of Catholic Organizations and the Master Index. In the latter, these organizations are listed independent of the heading "Catholic Church."

Fray

A Spanish-language clerical title used by Franciscan priests in New Spain and Mexico.

Friendly Societies

Friendly societies (fraternal or mutual aid societies) provided some

a designated assistant, usually on a part-time basis. "Mission" and "chapel" denote establishment of a facility for church purposes whereas "station" means that no special facility exists.

Mission and Superior

2. Among men's religious institutes, a church and residence serving as a headquarters for evangelization. Typically the operations of these missions include self-sufficient enterprises (e.g. farm, ranch, school, radio station, museum) on nearby lands. The heads of these missions are known as superiors. Mission superiors noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Reverend" and the initials of their religious institute.

Monastery (and Prior or Superior)

An autonomous and secluded community and residence (or house) in a men's or women's religious institute (e.g., Benedictines, Benedictine Sisters), which may be known as an abbey in some religious institutes. Monastery operations typically include self-sufficient enterprises (e.g. farm, ranch, school, radio station, museum) on nearby lands. The head of a monastery is known as a prior, prioress, or superior. Notable records about native peoples from these leaders include correspondence with local missionaries and high-ranking church and government officials regarding evangelization and schools for native peoples. Heads of monasteries noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Reverend" or "Sister" and the initials of their religious institute.

Monsignor

An honorary title for exemplary service granted to diocesan priests by the Pope. Notable monsignors are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Monsignor."

Mother, Reverend Mother

The head of a local community, convent, or house of women religious. By 1970 many religious institutes no longer used this title. In the Marquette guides notable sisters who led communities (as well as schools serving native children) are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Mother" and the initials of their religious institute.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is a civil corporation through which the U.S. bishops collectively exercise their mission as church leaders.

Parish (and/or School) and Pastor

An established congregation of the local church with its own church building that is administered by a pastor who is responsible for keeping the parish's past and present sacramental records, including those of any attended missions, chapels, and stations. Before the 1970s, all pastors were diocesan or religious priests. Since then some have been deacons or lay administrators. In the Master Index, local parishes, missions, and schools are listed independent of the term "Catholic Church," arranged alphabetically by name and there under by place if more than one institution is listed with the same name. Parishes are presented as "(Name) Church, Mission, and/or School (Community, State/ Province)."

Besides sacramental records, parish histories and anniversary books, parish censuses, records of contributors, and church society membership lists can be valuable sources for genealogical and historical researchers. While contents vary greatly, most dioceses and parishes have published books to commemorate anniversaries (fiftieth, one hundredth, etc.) of their founding. The books may include membership lists, group photographs, histories of the parish, school, and attached missions and stations, and highlights on bishops and notable priests, religious, and laity. Local churches, libraries, and historical societies and the diocesan archives may have copies. Also Marquette University maintains copies of such publications when Native Americans comprise a significant portion of the population.

Identifying appropriate parishes for genealogical research can be accomplished through death notices, obituaries, cemetery records, and marriage notices. Other useful aids include city directories, diocesan websites, the Official Catholic Directory, and U.S. census records. Priests and nuns were enumerated by census takers like everyone else and their presence will indicate a parish and location. See Diocesan Archives and Sacramental Records for further information.

Padre

A Spanish-language clerical title meaning "Father" that except for the Franciscans, was used by diocesan and religious priests in New Spain and Mexico. Priests noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Padre (Spanish)" and the initials of their religious institute, if applicable.

Père

A French-language clerical title meaning "Father" that was used by diocesan and religious priests in New France. Religious priests noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Père (French)" and the initials of their religious institute, if applicable.

Province (Ecclesiastical)

1. An administrative region comprised of "suffragan sees" (dioceses) under the leadership of a "metropolitan see" (archdiocese) headed by an archbishop.

Province (Religious Institute) and Provincial

2. An administrative region of local communities, houses, and missions under the leadership of a provincial that is used by some larger religious institutes (.e.g. Franciscans, Jesuits).

Religious Institutes (or Orders)

Organizations (communities) of men or women living in consecrated life. Members involved in evangelization and the ministry of local parishes, missions, and schools served under the direction of the local bishop as well as their religious superior. Religious institutes noted in the Marquette Native Catholic guides are listed alphabetically in both the Master List of Catholic Organizations and the Master Index. In the latter, the organizations are listed independent of the heading "Catholic Church." In the Master List of Catholic Organizations, religious institutes are presented by Library of Congress subject terms followed by alternative names and institute initials used by individuals to denote membership.

Each religious archives (of the province, community, and/or institute) keeps records on the service of its members. The files often include photographs and a complete summary of the person's service.

Religious Priests

Priests who are members of a religious institute. If involved in pastoral ministry (e.g. pastor or assistant pastor of a mission or parish), they also served under the direction of the local bishop. Before the 1970s, religious priests were more likely than diocesan priests to serve as pastors of congregations largely comprised of Native American Catholics. Also, more religious priests than diocesan priests have created notable writings about Native Americans. Religious priests noted in the Marquette guides are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the titles "Fray (Spanish; used by Franciscans)," "Padre (Spanish; not used by Franciscans),"

church staffing was transferred from the missionaries (religious priests) to diocesan priests, if available.

Sister

A woman who is a member of a religious institute. "Soeur" (French) and the French language is used for the names of religious institutes based in French Canada (e.g. Soeurs grises" [Grey Nuns]). In the Marquette guides notable sisters are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Sister" and the initials of their religious institute. In the Marquette guides notable sisters are alphabetized independently in the Master Index with the title "Sister" and the initials of their religious institute.

More Information on Roman Catholic Terms

Stylebook on Religion 2000, A Reference Guide and Usage Manual, Catholic News Service, 2000; *Thesaurus of Catholic Diocesan Terms*, Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists, 2000; and the Catholic Encyclopedia.