

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish Fonds
1885-1920**

ARCAE - 119

Prepared by Lea M. de la Paz, February 2019

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish Fonds

1885-1920

4 cm. of textual records.

Administrative History:

On Ermineskin Reserve, a house-chapel, 14' x 28' was erected in 1885 by Brothers Patrick Bowes and Alexandre Lambert, omi. Father Gabillon, omi, began his arduous work among the Indigenous people. They were visited as early as 1881 by Rev. Zacharie Touze, omi.

In 1894, Brothers Lambert and Bowes, omi built the second church, the nave, measuring 26' x 40' and the sanctuary 12' x 18'. It was inaugurated at Midnight Mass of Christmas, 1894, and dedicated to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows by the pastor, Rev. Father Victorin Gabillon, omi. He can be considered the "founder" of the permanent Catholic mission at Hobbema.

The third church constructed on the Ermineskin Reserve was inaugurated by Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald on June 2, 1940. Father Edouard Rheume, omi, was the Pastor at the time. The Archbishop blessed the church and a bell and erected canonically the stations of the Cross.

The fourth church on the Ermineskin Reserve was the teepee church built in 1959 and capable of seating 640 worshippers. Coadjutor Archbishop Anthony Jordan, omi solemnly dedicated the new church on October 27, 1960. On December 18, 1960, Hobbema became a parish canonically erected.

The Sisters of Assumption arrived in Hobbema on August 30, 1894. Our Lady of Seven Sorrows is the "Mother Church" of four Cree reserves in the area of Hobbema. Each reserve, Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull and Montana has its own chief and council.

In January 1, 2013, the community name of Hobbema was officially changed to Maskwacis.

Scope and Content: Fonds consists of Baptism, Marriage and Burial registers, 1885-1920; Confirmation registers, 1890-1917 and First Communion registers, 1895-1918.

Archival/Custodial History:

The records formed part of the holdings of Archives of the Oblates of Missionary Immaculate (OMI) that were housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

When the Provincial Archives of Alberta was negotiating the donation/acquisition of all OMI Lacombe Canada records, it became very clear to the Oblates that they did not consider the sacramental registers to be Oblate records. Hence the decision by both OMI Lacombe Canada and the Provincial Archives to facilitate their return to the appropriate dioceses.

The registers of parishes within the present jurisdiction of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton were obtained from OMI Lacombe Canada on June 28, 2017.

Accession No.	Box-file	File description	Dates
2019/478	File 1	Hobbema Baptisms, Marriages, Burials	1885-1895
	File 2	Hobbema Baptisms, Marriages, Burials	1896-1920
		Confirmation	1890-1917
		First Communion	1895-1918