Photo: SBM.02j  Thirty students from the White Earth Reservation attending St. Benedict's Industrial School (c. 1884), St. Joseph, MN.
There is a lot of current interest on this topic among students, faculty and others.

Goal:
To be culturally sensitive and historically accurate on a subject for which written records are scarce.

Event poster & 2019 02 05 Tribal Sovereignty panel handout (map)
the Sioux uprisings brought General Sherman's advice: "We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux, even to their extermination. men, women, and children."

President Grant took a different view of the problem and significantly called his plan for the American Indian a "Peace Policy."

In a major address, Grant stated that the settlers and the Indians “do not get on together, and one or the other has to give way in the end...I see no remedy for this except in placing all the Indians on large reservations...and giving them absolute protection there.”

Grant's 1868 campaign slogan, "Let us have peace," defined his policy toward... relations with the western Indian tribes.

It was a double-edged responsibility that the government took on, for in justice the nation owed the Indian restitution and the opportunity, both for his own good and the good of the country, to become an active citizen instead of a ward of the government. The plan was highly idealistic, and the United States is still attempting to realize the ideal. Indian schools, to be placed in charge of religious groups, were a prominent part of the program, but in many regions education remained inadequate.

Top text: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant
ST. JOHN'S INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL -- HISTORY -- 1885-1896  Scriptorium 1957 04 p.112
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/26385/rec/29
1878

2019 02 05 Tribal Sovereignty panel handout (map)
SBM.06a  Sketch of White Earth Mission in 1875
Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch [former St. John’s Abbot] asked for Benedictines to minister to the Indians at White Earth. Fr. Aloysius Hermanutz volunteered to be the monastery’s first Indian missionary.

“Abbot Rupert asked...St. Benedict’s Convent to provide teachers for White Earth...Sisters Philomena Ketten and Lioba Braun were sent to meet the challenges.”

SBM.06b  Sisters Lioba Braun and Philomena Ketten with an orphan girl at White Earth Mission
Quotation from description of SBM.06a Sketch of White Earth Mission in 1875.
McDonald, pp. 227-232
Other text paraphrased from Worship & Work, p. 138.
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/11064
Monks’ images from
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\SJP\People\Headmasters\Seidenbusch, Rupert
And O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Digital Archives\Depts&Programs\Indian Boys' Industrial School\SBM scans IndianInd&WhiteEarth\pg mn white earth-13 Hermanutz.jpg
Fr. Aloysius remained at White Earth until his death on Sept. 4, 1929.

The sisters and Fr. Aloysius arrived at White Earth with Bishop Seidenbusch on Nov. 5, 1878.

Fr. Aloysius’ ministry covered almost 5 million square miles – traversing the 80 miles between the White Earth and Red Lake reservations.

During the first two years, Father Aloysius gained sufficient mastery of the Chippewa language to preach to the Indians, while visiting numerous small Indian settlements where he began to make large numbers of converts. The Benedictines and their flocks desired to have churches and schools. There was an existing government school on the reservation directed by non-Catholics, but the Catholic Indians wished to have their children instructed in the Catholic faith.
Six days after they arrived, the sisters opened a day school for 15 pupils (12 girls and 3 boys), which increased to a total of 40 during the following week.

Eventually the sisters had over 60 pupils, and opened another school of 40 pupils near Buffalo River. Sister Philomena rode horseback 16 miles round trip to teach them every day.

SBM.06b  Sisters Lioba Braun and Philomena Ketten with an orphan girl at White Earth Mission
Quotation from description of SBM.06a Sketch of White Earth Mission in 1875. McDonald, pp. 227-232
Remaining text paraphrased from Reichert, 2005, p. 20.
SBM.06d  S. Philomena Ketten and Ojibwe at Buffalo River (Callaway) near White Earth Mission (Sister's black pony at the right)
SBM.06g  New church, parish house, convent, and school, St. Benedict's Mission, White Earth, MN
SBM.06j  Sister Lioba Braun at the organ, St. Benedict’s Mission, White Earth, MN
Ojibwe posing in their traditional festive attire at the mission school

Early 1880s

SBM.06f  White Earth - Ojibwe posing in their traditional festive attire at the mission school - early 1880s
Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania:

Richard Pratt founded the first Indian Industrial school in 1879 in Carlisle, PA, informed by his experience running an education program in an Indian prison.

At a convention of Baptist ministers in 1883, Pratt stated, “I believe in immersing the Indians in our civilization and when we get them under, holding them there until they are thoroughly soaked.”

Pratt thought he was helping American Indians.

Text: https://upstanderproject.org/firstlight/pratt/
Carlisle Indian School - Images of the Carlisle Indian School held by the Archives and Special Collections | by Dickinson Library
Richard Henry Pratt, Superintendent, Carlisle Indian School
https://www.flickr.com/photos/dickinsonlibrary/2497927178/in/album-72157605091893725/lightbox/
In his oft-referenced 1892 speech, Pratt stated, “A great general has said that the **only good Indian is a dead one**, and that ...has been an enormous factor in promoting Indian massacres.”

“I agree with the sentiment, but only in this: that all the Indian there is in the race should be dead. **Kill the Indian in him, and save the man.**”

Speech, "The Advantages of Mingling Indians With Whites" by Captain R. H. Pratt, 1892. 
https://upstanderproject.org/firstlight/pratt/.
https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=dpJIAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PR1
With the condition of the Chippewa Indians of northern Minnesota and the limited number of schools in mind, Congressman Knute Nelson of Minnesota asked Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey to help in the education of Indian boys and girls of the White Earth Reservation.

The consensus was that if the children's education was to be effective, schools should be provided off the reservations because the parents interfered too much and caused irregularities in procedure.

In July of 1884 Abbot Alexius wrote to the Reverend Joseph A. Stephan, director of the Catholic Indian Bureau, and requested him to arrange a contract with the government, under Grant's Peace Policy, for students for the Abbot's proposed school.
There could be no better place for educating Indian boys, and White Earth has plenty of Chippewa Indian boys who would embrace the opportunity with pleasure.3

After Congressman Knute Nelson had obtained permission from Secretary of the Interior Hiram Price for Abbot Alexius to enter the field of education of Chippewa Indians, a contract4 was made between the Catholic Indian Bureau and the government.

3 July 14, 1884 letter from Abbot Alexius to Rev. Joseph Stephan

“Reports showing the status and progress of the pupils must be furnished monthly. Accounts for their support may be rendered at the close of each quarter...”

“The pupils may be selected by you, with the approval and cooperation of the US Indian Agent, from any of the Indian reservations in Minnesota.”
I enclose herewith contract in quintuplicate for the education of twenty-five girls at St. Benedict’s Academy, St. Joseph...

The rate is fixed at one hundred and ten dollars ($110) per capita per annum...

Dec. 16, 1884
(All the contracts for St. Ben’s went through the Abbot at St. John’s)

Dec. 14, 1884
If the St. John's Industrial School for Chippewa Indian boys was a new experience for the Fathers and Brothers connected with its administration, the reaction of the first students, whose ages ranged from ten to seventeen, showed that leaving home for three years of boarding school life was not accepted by all the boys and their parents with the pleasure that Abbot Alexius had anticipated.

That's an understatement…
(and also applied to the girls coming to St. Ben’s)

3 July 14, 1884 letter from Abbot Alexius to Rev. Joseph Stephan

1957-04 *Scriptorium* Volume 16 Number 01 124,
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/26386/rec/29
“Educating children has always been of prime importance to the Ojibwe. At the time of western impact—as now—education was a holistic and lifelong experience...”

“Children learned from their parents, other relatives, and members of the community, particularly the elders, whose wisdom and experience ensured the survival of the culture.

But the Ojibwe tradition of training by observation, modeling, experience, and oral tradition was not acknowledged or validated—perhaps not even seen—by missionaries and policymakers in the 1800s.”

The Vermilion Lake Indian School: from assimilation to termination
After being here for a few days, three boys ran off and returned to White Earth, spread a lot of lies, stirred up the old folks. Soon most of the parents came down to inspect. They found everything O.K. and returned. Another came down and took his two boys and two girls from St. Benedict's Academy along. Yesterday several parents came down from White Earth and took their children home. We have yet twenty-four boys here, and I hope they will soon clear out. I have enough of this business.5

5 Abbot Alexius to Joseph A. Stephan, February 8, 1885 (SJAA)
1887

An early Bulletin for the schools at St. John’s, St. Ben’s, and White Earth

O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Digital Archives\Abbey documents scanned 2016\Industrial School\Schools for the Chippewa Indians.pdf
p. 2, p. 3
SBM.02j  Thirty students from the White Earth Reservation attending St. Benedict's Industrial School (c. 1884), St. Joseph, MN
Worship & Work, p. 146
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUA archives/id/11072/rec/1
A fire in 1886 destroyed the complex that had housed the Industrial School. The sisters temporarily provided room and board in the convent for them. Immediately, the construction of Marmion Hall, the new Industrial School, was begun between the St. Joseph Church and St. Benedict’s Convent & Academy. It was ready for the fall term of 1886.

SBM.02k notes, SBMA
Image: SBM.02k  St. Benedict’s Industrial School, St. Joseph, MN, built in 1886 for girls from White Earth, MN
Because of the new quarters and the inspector’s good report of the St. Ben's Industrial School, the Indian Commissioner expanded the contract, permitting the sisters to take any number of pupils from any reservation.

However, even though the enrollment in the school increased to 100, only 25 were paid for by the government.

Later this building was renamed Marmion Hall.

SBM.02k notes, SBMA
Image: SBM.02k  St. Benedict's Industrial School, St. Joseph, MN, built in 1886 for girls from White Earth, MN
Because the government opened the contract for any number of students to attend St. Ben's Industrial School, an addition was constructed on the west end of Marmion Hall so that the building could accommodate 150 students.

SBMA; McDonald, p. 122
Image: O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\Buildings Photos\Monastery\Marmion Hall from CSB IA Smugmug 0632.jpg = Smugmug version of:
SBM.021 Addition to St. Benedict's Industrial School, St. Joseph, MN, built in 1887
THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL was established in 1884. It is beautifully and healthfully located in the village of St. Joseph, on the spacious grounds belonging to the “Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict”.

The building, 48x60 feet, three story high and of solid brick is comfortable and commodious, admirably adapted, in every respect, to the end in view at its erection. The object aimed at in the opening and conducting of above school, and which is never lost sight of, is the mental and moral training of Indian girls for that position in life, which they will be required to fill, namely, to give them a Christian and polite education and to teach them all that is necessary for a woman to know of house-keeping and such like female duties.

It is supported partly by Government Contracts made by Abbot Alexius Edelbrock and partly by Contracts with Rev. Jos. A. Stephan of the Catholic Indian Bureau: The first contract was issued by the Government for thirty (30) girls March 19th 1884. An additional Contract for twenty (20) girls was granted Jan. 1st 1885. August, 1886 the number was increased to one-hundred-and-five (100) by a contract with the Government per Catholic Indian Bureau.
When the government dropped the contract system of Indian education in 1896, the school remained open for two more years, when it was forced to close due to lack of funds.
After the closing of the Industrial School, the west end of Marmion Hall was converted to a school for little boys (age 6-12), often referred to as "Bethlehem School for Boys."

The east end of Marmion was used by the sisters.

SBMA; McDonald, p. 122
Photo: SBM.02m  St. Benedict's (Bethlehem) Boarding School for Little Boys, St. Joseph, MN. 1st floor porches added in 1905.
There were 7 boys the first year; the maximum number of boys per year was set at 36.

A total of 715 boys attended during the next 40 years.

In 1938, it transferred to Altoona, WI.

SBMA; McDonald, p. 122
Photo: SBM.02m St. Benedict's (Bethlehem) Boarding School for Little Boys, St. Joseph, MN. 1st floor porches added in 1905.
1959 Aerial Photo of the College of Saint Benedict, looking SW, with part of campus visible beyond the St. Joseph church and school
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/11
June 5 was a sad day in St. Joseph as one of its oldest landmarks had to be torn down. Marmion Hall, right next to the Lab School, had been used for many years as a residence for Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict. However, the building had become so rickety it was next-to-impossible to insure. More than 100 years old, it was at one time an industrial school for Native American boys and later used as a boys' elementary school. A new residence for the Sisters will be built on the site.
The “New Marmion” at St. Ben’s Monastery

(looking NW)

(The top of the St. Joe Catholic School is visible at left.)

Photo courtesy of St. Benedict’s Monastery.
When the Industrial School was closed, the education of the Indians in northern Minnesota was carried on by the Benedictine monks and nuns on the reservations. The small log cabin built in 1889 at Red Lake to accommodate forty children was enlarged. The one-room log school house at White Earth gave way to a brick building in 1891; the facilities were increased at White Earth and in 1902 the mission adopted the name, St. Benedict's Industrial Orphans' School. The idea of teaching formal school subjects and industrial arts, handicrafts, and the trades has continued at both of the missions.

Abbot Peter had written that the Indian children had left "never to return," but the Benedictine Fathers and Sisters were already at the reservations to take up the work.
The school at White Earth was so successful that it was noticed by Katherine Drexel in Philadelphia, who had devoted her life to working for American Indians and African Americans.

SBMA McDonald, pp. 241-246
Image: SBM.06l Classroom of students in newly-built St. Benedict's Mission School, White Earth, MN
She visited White Earth and was so impressed by the work of the Benedictines there that she made arrangements for the building of a new school that would house 150 orphaned and dependent children.

The school opened in 1892.

SBMA McDonald, pp. 241-246
Image: SBM.06n Boarding School Dormitory, St. Benedict's Mission, White Earth, MN
003\PG MN White Earth-12 White Earth - bathroom
The school opened in 1892, became a day school in 1945, and closed in 1969.

SBM.06h  New school (built by Katherine Drexel) at St. Benedict's Mission, White Earth, MN  
https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=saint_benedicts_monastery_books
Major Sources

- Olaf Skjolsvik, OSB. “Saint John’s Indian Industrial School,” *Scriptorium* v.16 n.1, April 1957, p.111-123.
- “Saint John’s Industrial,” *The Record*, June 1894, p. 138-139.

1874 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota* –Stearns County, p. 155

http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/mhs/id/1020

Most of the images in this file were from/saved to O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Digital Archives\Depts&Programs\Indian Boys' Industrial School\SBM scans IndianInd&WhiteEarth.
The complete historical background of the Marmion building:

1886 - built (east wing of Marmion) as Industrial School
1887-1888 - added west wing for the expanding Industrial School
1896 - Government ended funds for Industrial School but Sisters kept it open for 2 more years
1887 - West wing opened for the Boys School
1899 - East wing became the novitiate and was connected by cloister walk to Benedict Hall
1905 - 1st floor porches were added
1920 - 2nd floor (sleeping) porches added
1938 - Boys School transferred to Altoona, WI
1938-1969 - West wing became the Juniorate (except for 1956-1959 when the Juniors moved to Loretto and the postulants to the west wing of Marmion
1939 - 3rd floor added for professed Sisters' private rooms and dormitories for the Juniors (building renamed Marmion)
1960-1969 - East and west wings became the Juniorate when novices moved to S. Rosamond
1968-69 - renovated for administrative offices on 1st floor and residences on 2nd and 3rd
1974 - Marmion used for Formation (Sisters in formation lived among the professed on 2-3 floors
1976 - Formation moved to Caedmon and the 1st floor was renovated for small-group living.

Notes from 006\SBM02k.JPG, St. Benedict's Industrial School, St. Joseph, MN, built in 1886 for girls from White Earth, MN.