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William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS-10
NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE SCHOOL
1926

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BUREAU OF
CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
2021 H STREET, N. W.

March 22, 1926.

Most Rev. Albert T. Daeger, C.F.M.,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Archbishop Daeger:

Referring again to your letter of March 9, I must be frank to say that the scandalous neglect of the religious education of the five hundred Indian children at Albuquerque Government school can, and in my humble opinion should be, promptly corrected by the proper action of His Grace of Santa Fe. I must further say that at the annual meeting last October I brought this scandalous case to the attention of the Board of Prelates consisting of His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, His Eminence, Cardinal Hayes and His Grace, Archbishop Curley. Monsignor Ketcham, as Director of this Bureau, brought such cases, fortunately few, to the direct attention of the Papal Delegate.

I have thought long and seriously of taking the same action as would be taken by Monsignor Ketcham, namely to refer the facts to the Papal Delegate. I have been deterred, however, principally, by the consideration that the case would reflect the greatest discredit both on the Jesuit and Franciscan orders, whose members are in all other Indian missions, except this one, strong, zealous and efficient in the spiritual care of their Indian charges.

It is simply beyond my comprehension that priests or Bishops can permit the souls of Catholic children to be left in jeopardy ~~as one~~ great numbers of them ~~are for want of religious attention~~ at the Albuquerque Indian School. ~~I should hate to face the judgment, or even the prospect of purgatory for the commission of such a deliberate sin of omission.~~

With the greatest respect for your episcopal office and character, but with the deepest concern for the souls of the Indian children, I remain

Yours faithfully,

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Wm. Hughes,
Director.

WH/MCS

Archbishop's House

Rec'd JUN 7 1926 Amt. _____ Cr.
Ans. _____ Pbi. _____ Cr.
Fol'd _____ Masses _____ Cr.
P.O. _____ P.O. _____ P.O. _____

Right Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Washington, D. C.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, June third, 1926.

Right Rev. dear Monsignor :-

When I came back home from Confirmation trip down in the South I found here your favor of the 28th ult. with check of fifty dollars for as many Masses as per list we received from the offices of Marquette League, New York, - for all of which we thank you. As per your request I have just written to Marquette League to tell them that the Masses were received and to thank them.

And now as to that Government Indian School question down in Albuquerque. I wrote to you some time ago telling you that I had written again - to the Very Rev. Provincial of the Jesuit Fathers in New Orleans. Well, he answered and said that he would do what was right, and what the Fathers were able to do, and that he was coming up here soon and then would look into this matter. He came and the matter was examined and looked into and talked over etc. etc. He even came up here to Santa Fe and for good luck I was home. He told me that the way things were going on at present out at that school, he did not know what else could be done, or if anything better could be done, - for now all or nearly all of the CATHOLIC pupils come to Mass in Immaculate Conception church on Sundays, and that possibly only four or five would miss Mass once in a while as they had to stay and do some special work. Well now, that is just what we wanted and what we were kicking about, - that only only sixty or seventy, but all the children be given an opportunity to go to Mass on Sundays. So I told him that - as far as I was concerned - all was O.K., but that the Fathers were responsible that things and conditions continued in this way.

One argument the Father Provincial told me (which was kind of new to me): That to hear Mass in a CHURCH made much more of an impression on the children, than to go to a HALL where they come for any entertainment or dance and any other thing and where they see nothing in the line of an Altar (but only a table up on the stage), Holy Pictures, and especially the Way of the Cross, Confessional etc. etc. And there is surely some truth in this. As I said, I hope that things will continue in this way.

Well, thanking you again for all and wishing you and all at the offices the Lord's very best blessings, and with kindest regards to you and all, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Fr. Albert G. Lagger, O.M.I.*
Archbishop of Santa Fe.

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June 3, 1926.

His Excellency:
Reverend Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, D. D.,
Papal Delegate,
1811 Biltmore Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency:

Pursuant to your directions, I am writing you this report on religious instruction among the Catholic children at the United States Government Indian School at Albuquerque, New Mexico. I visited Albuquerque in the summers of 1924 and 1925.

The Government school is situated about two miles from the principal parish church of Albuquerque, Immaculate Conception. Rev. H. S. Hering, S. J., pastor and superior has three assistants. Over five hundred of the seven hundred and fifty Indian children in the Government school are Catholics.

The Indian children are supposed to attend Mass at the parish church. But there is no check kept by the Jesuit Fathers upon attendance at Mass. To cite one instance, a Catholic girl did not attend Mass for nearly six months. The child was kept on kitchen detail. Moreover, many of the boys leave the school to attend Mass but do not go to church. The Jesuits could prevent both conditions by reporting the facts to the Government superintendent and insisting that he carry out the Regulations. No arrangement is made for the attendance of the Catholic children at Mass on holy days of obligation. The Regulations provide for such attendance, making it obligatory on the superintendent to see that the Catholic children attend.

The children are instructed in catechism on Saturday only by the Sisters of Charity, seven or eight of whom give their services gratis. The Sisters are from St. Vincent's Academy, Albuquerque. They are very devoted. May I suggest the Sisters as a source of detailed information? The Regulations allow for two periods a week besides Sunday for religious instruction. The priest rather than the hard-worked Sisters should give the other week day instruction.

The Jesuit Fathers at Albuquerque complain that the parish church is too small to accommodate the Indian children and the white children. The answer is: The Indian children could be given a Mass for themselves. Or Mass could be said at the Government school. Under the Regulations, the superintendent must set aside a proper place for the purpose. The auditorium is the place.

The Jesuits complain that they have not a priest to spare. This Bureau, assisted by Mother Katharine Drexel, would manage to pay \$50 a month as some contribution towards the support of a priest.

It has been suggested that the chaplain of the diocesan orphanage which immediately adjoins the Government school, should take care of the Indian children. But the present chaplain, Rev. J. Hattmann,

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is temperamentally unfit to deal with Indian children and especially with Government employees. The priest assigned to this work should be a man of strength as well as tact.

It would, no doubt, be an ideal thing if there were adjoining the Government grounds a chapel where the Indian children could attend. It would be unwise for the Indian children to attend Mass at the orphanage chapel. The orphanage chapel is not big enough. And attendance there would probably cause conflict, especially in the matter of health regulations. But there is no money available for building a chapel. It would cost at least \$20,000. It is not necessary. Either the parish church or the Government auditorium will supply the need.

Superintendent Perry has too long bluffed the Jesuit Fathers out of giving proper religious attention to the Catholic Indian children. Superintendent Perry can easily be made to obey the letter and spirit of the Regulations for Religious Instruction in Government Schools. I have had a frank talk with Superintendent Perry. Father Mering has fallen under the same influence of Superintendent Perry as Father Mandulani did for so many years fall. The Jesuits need only to report any violation of the Regulations by Superintendent Perry to this Bureau. This Bureau will report the facts to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and have Superintendent Perry either corrected or removed.

I enclose copy of the Regulations which bind every Government superintendent. I have furnished the Jesuit Fathers with copies of these Regulations.

One of the specious objections of Superintendent Perry to having Mass at the school, is that the Protestant ministers would also wish to have their services and that Catholic children would come in contact with Protestant influences. This is ridiculous. The Regulations expressly forbid proselytizing. If Superintendent Perry should permit the Catholic children to attend Protestant services he would be promptly reprimanded by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Thanking Your Excellency for your sympathetic interest in the Indian children, I remain

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

Right Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nº 3848-g

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

Right Reverend William Hughes,
Director,
Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions,
2021 H Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

1811 Billmore Street
Washington, D. C.
June 7, 1926.

Rec'd JUN 8 1926 Amt. _____ Ch.
Ans. _____ Est. _____ Co.
Fol'd _____ Masses _____ Dr.
Order filled _____ Refund listed _____ P.G.
Supt. _____ Svc. ON _____ S.O.
Copy to L.B. _____ D. G. or Ref. _____ Sp.
Copy to _____ Check sent _____ R.R.

Right Reverend and dear Monsignor:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed communication of June the third, in which you kindly report on religious instruction among the Catholic children at the United States Government Indian School at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kindly accept this expression of my appreciation and thanks for your adequate report and for the copy of Regulations for Religious Worship issued by the Department of the Interior.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ P. Tumaoni - Prandi *Alf. of Bolivia*

Apostolic Delegate.