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1924

Montana, Rocky Boy Reservation, 1924

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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Archives and Institutional Repository - Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

MISSIONS-40
MONTANA
ROCKY BOY RESERVATION
1924

Archives and Institutional Repository - Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

40-35

12th May 1923
H. A. M. M. M.

The check enclosed repays my \$5.
covers donations received by the Bureau
for you through THE I. M. A. S. R. I. C. up
to and including December 31, 1923.

St. Anne Chaddron Church
Great Falls, Montana Jan. 19 24

Preservation Society
Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
Washington D.C.

Dear Rev. Father Hughes:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of
your check of \$5. in favor of the Rocky Boy Indian Mission

Yours sincerely,

John F. Corbett

RECEIVED
JAN 23 1924

40-35

Copy

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

Miss R.

March 17, 1934.

Rev. John P. Corbett,
Havre, Montana.

Dear Father Corbett:

I inclose a copy of correspondence with
Mr. Matthew V. Bushman.

I desire your opinion as to whether he could
make any success of the play.

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

WH/GM.

St. Paul's Church

March 22. '22

Rev. Mr. Hughes
Washington

Dear Rev. Father

I have just received the correspondence you kindly sent concerning the proposed Passion Play to be staged by Indians for the Indian Catholic Congress at St. Paul's Mission this coming summer. With you I cordially approve of the project. I think such a play would do much good among our poor Indians. I have no knowledge of Mr. Math. V. Ruchmann's capabilities in handling the play but from my experience of his work at the Rocky Boy Reservation I found him an efficient teacher and zealous for the religious welfare of the Indians. He is energetic and seems a good manager.

Yours sincerely John Brown

May 5, 1934. 40-35

Rev. John F. Corbett, S.J.,
Harve, Mont.

Dear Father Corbett:

Enclosed please find check for \$7.50 a donation
from Mr. Louis Bogan towards the building of an altar for
your chapel.

Wishing you every blessing, I remain

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

JS:mf

St. Jude Thaddeus Church

Great Falls, Montana May 13-24

Rev. J. M. Hughes
Washington D.C.

Dear Rev. Father:

Many thanks for the \$7.50
which applies on the furnishing of an altar for our
proposed Rocky Bay Indian Church. Kindly assure
the donor of our appreciation and our grateful prayerful
remembrance.

By an oversight the President's signature
does not appear on the check and at the local bank's
suggestion we are transmitting the check for the signature
notarized.

Yours devotedly in Christ
John & Robert

RECEIVED MAY 16 1924

ANSWERED 1924.5.1.10 JH

46-25

40-35-
May 16, 1924.

Rev. John F. Corbett, S.J.,
Havre, Montana.

Dear Father Corbett:

I have your letter of May 13. I regret that the check for \$7.50 went out without my signature. I am returning it, duly signed.

On the back of the check, I have put above your name "For deposit", so that it cannot be taken from the envelope and cashed by someone else. It is very dangerous to send a check with a blank endorsement through the mails.

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

46-35

June 19, 1924.

Rev. John F. Corbett, S.J.
Havre,
Montana.

Dear Father Corbett:

Miss E. N. Byrne, Executive Secretary of the Marquette League, New York, informs me that she has written you, stating that the Marquette League has \$1,000 for a chapel provided that certain conditions can be met. I hope that you can meet them and will write Miss Byrne and the Bureau.

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

WH:ER

St. Ade Thaddens (Catholic)
Huron Mount, June 24, 1924
COPIED FOR INDIAN BUREAU

Rev. J. M. Hughes
Washington, D. C.
RECEIVED JUN 30 1924
ACK. FRED
FOLLOWED

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Your letter of
last Thursday is before me and
I am glad you express the kind wish that
I may be able to meet the conditions of
the Marquette League for the \$1000.00
toward the erection of a chapel on the
Rocky Boy Reservation. The conditions
are easy of acceptance but I thought it
my duty to let our good Bishop Rt. Rev.
M. C. Lenihan decide for me. So I sent
him the letter, and in a few days I expect
to receive a favorable reply.

The Marquette League
secretary was good enough to mention
that this offer to my poor Indians, and due
to the initiative and zeal of the big-hearted
friend of the Indians Father Hughes may
God bless him. Yours sincerely John H. Hester

Yarriv 2

St Jude Thaddeus Church,

Navajo, Mont June 24 1924

Rev Wm Hughes

Washington D.C.

Dear Rev. Father Hughes

Thank you for the warning concerning
the unfortified Indian lands. I will
as an at. lookout for him I
sent a copy of the warning to
the Supt of the Rocky Boy Reservation.

Yours sincerely

John P. Coburn Jr.

July 16, 1924.

40-35

Rev. John F. Corbett, S.J.,
Havre, Montana.

Dear Father Corbett:

Enclosed please find check for \$1000, covering the donation of the Marquette League for a chapel for the Rocky Boy Indians of Montana. Miss Byrne tells me you will be able to meet the conditions that the chapel be dedicated under the patronage of St. Rosine.

Please send me a letter of thanks addressed to Miss Byrne, Executive Secretary of the Marquette League. I will forward the letter to her.

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

40-35

St. Jude Thaddeus Church,
Haute, Mont. July 21st 1924

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Rev. Wm. Hughes
 Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions,
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Father:

Thanks to your kindly
 interest and intervention the \$1000.
 check from the Marquette League
 for Catholic Indian Missions has
 been received by me. This providential
 gift to build a chapel on the
 Rocky Boy Reservation for the benefit
 of the Rocky Boy Indians fills me
 with gratitude to the good God for
 His loving kindness. And God be
 blessed too for your devoted paternal
 interest in aiding my Indians-the
 poor relations of Jesus Christ. The
 Indians will be taught to bless you
 and pray for you and your noble
 co-workers of the Bureau of Catholic
 Indian Missions. Our Bishop Rt. Rev. C.
 Leachman is delighted.

Yours in Our Lord
 John A. O'Brien

Copy for: Bureau.

ENCLOSURE

St. Jude Thaddeus Church,
Havre, Montana, July 22, 1924.

N. R. Byrne,
Marquette League for Catholic Indian Missions,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Friend:

Your kind letter of July 11 stating your issuance of a check for \$1,000 to be transmitted to me through Father Hughes of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions arrived in due time and was shortly followed by the \$1,000 check from Father Hughes' Office.

I thankfully accept your generous gift which will enable me to build a memorial chapel in honor of St. Rose for the benefit of the Rocky Boy Indians. God bless the noble benefactors for the faith, charity and zeal that prompted them to give our Savior a home amongst His Rocky Boy Indians. Our prayers will better express the gratitude we feel.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Corbett, S.J.

Copied by MF.

734

40-35

July 23, 1924.

v. J. F. Corbett,
Havre, Montana.

Dear Father Corbett:

Enclosed please find check for \$100, covering
your salary for attending the Rocky Bay Indians during
the year 1924.

Yours fraternally,

Rev. William Hughes,
Director.

Archives and Institutional Repository - Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

40-35-

Yam, Mont. Dec. 21st 1924

Dear Father Hughes,

This will acknowledge receipt of your check for \$15.00 covering donations received through THE INDIAN SENTINEL up to and including Oct. 31, 1924.

John A. R. J.

437

BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS
2021 H Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Rev. John F. Corbett, S.J.
Box 1617.
Havre, Montana.

23

Dear Father:

The check attached hereto for \$ 9.25
covers donation received by the Bureau
for you through the INDIAN SENTINEL. up
to and including December 31, 1924.

No. 1 the Rocky Boys.

^{apt.} Out of the abandoned Fort Assinaboine, ^{now abandoned as a} Military
^{reservations} Lands (Congress) in 1916 set aside three townships to serve
 as ^{the} home for a roving band of Chippewas and Crees
 then under the leadership of Chief Rocky Boy. According
 the new reservation was called Rocky Boy and its tenants
 the Rocky Boy Indians. Of the 480 on the official rolls
 160 are baptized Catholics sadly in need of religious
 instructions. Many of the full-bloods are addicted
 to the worship of spirits and to the superstition of the
 Indian dance. Nearly all the half-breeds are of the
 household of the faith.

On the reservation there are 75 children of school age.
 The Government conducts a day school with accommodations
 for 45 pupils but the average attendance is 30. The staff
 is composed of one teacher, Matthew V. Buchmann aided
 by his wife who acts as Matron serving a noon-day meal
 to the children. Both are practical Catholics and therefore
 a great help in many ways to the priest.

A Jesuit Father from Havre 25 miles distant visits
 the reservation once a month to offer up holy Mass in the
 Government School, to preach the word of God, to administer
 the Sacraments and to look after the sick. On learning
 that an incoming protestant minister had secured from
 the Indian Department an allotment of 80 acres for a
 "non-sectarian" mission, I applied through the Catholic Indian
 Bureau for similar recognition and as a consequence
 4 acres of land were set aside by the Government for
 a Catholic mission site. Both the Government and the
 Indians expect us to put this land to use. If we are
 to conserve the faith of the Catholic Indians and win over
 the pagans some concrete symbol of our intentions
 must soon be in evidence on this Catholic mission site.

What is to be done? Our most pressing need is a simple log chapel. Just now my Indians are busied with the assembling - the logs which later they will hew and put in place; but to build this chapel - and build it we must - will mean an outlay of \$1000. How to get it we don't know: perhaps some of the readers of the "Indian Sentinel" can advise us. Well, we are in a "receptive" mood for ideas, for cash and for articles which can be converted into cash.

A Catholic Chapel on the Rocky Boy Reservation will give prestige to the Catholic faith - it will enable us to surround the sacred mysteries with some degree of dignity and reverence; it will serve as a rallying place for our poor Catholics and with the standard of the Cross in evidence there will be an abiding appeal to the passing pagans to "come and see" and follow Christ their Redeemer.

This Chapel with the sanctuary partitioned off could be used on week-days as a Catholic day school to accommodate 30 or 40 Catholic pupils. With the salary of one Catholic teacher and his wife provided for the Rocky Boy Catholic Mission could be opened in September of this year with Church and school under one roof. He who goes about doing good pleads for a home among the Rocky Boys. Who will provide it?

Havre, Mont.

(Rev) John T. Corbett S.J.