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Montana, Flathead Reservation, Polson, Immaculate Conception Mission, 1925

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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MISSIONS-40
MONTANA, FLATHEAD RESERVATION
POLSON, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSION
1925

40-31

January 9, 1925.

Rev. William M. O'Malley,
Polson, Montana.

Dear Father O'Malley:

On November 13, I wrote to you inquiring as to whether you ever received a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Dayton Creek Chapel. I received a donation for this statue, but I do not know whether it was ever sent to you.

Kindly send me the dimensions and style you wish. So that I may be able to order a statue for you in case you have not already received it. I am anxious to settle this matter.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

JS:lg

Rec'd FEB 18 1925 Amt.
 Ans. JUN 9 - 1925 Water Filled
 Vol'd Stan. comp'd
 Not'd. Size, ant.
 Copy to L. S. Masses

Polson, Montana,
 February 6, 1925.

My Dear Monsignor Hughes,

The enclosed letter is merely a formal reply to your communications, and is intended for your files. These pages are addressed to you personally.

Let me assure you that your communications were not neglected. In fact I have written to you several times; but the letters were consigned to the waste-basket. I was sure you had enough worries of your own. If I confide my troubles to you now, it is only in the hope that some good may come of it.

The point at issue is this: Several parishes of this diocese receive annually assistance from the Indian Collection. When sending this money to ^{the} Bishop, the Bishop has directed that it be applied on the church debt. In principle this may be all right; but I believe the practice defeats the purpose of the Collection. Let me explain.

In this diocese the parish is expected to provide and maintain a rectory (all expenses including table) and contribute a minimum cash salary of \$500.00 for the pastor. This parish has never been able to provide a housekeeper for the pastor; and my annual reports for the past six years show that during these years the parish has given me a total of \$115.54 in cash salary. The Bishop has received these reports each year. He must know the conditions.

With my annual report for 1924 I sent in a letter explaining some items of the report. From this letter let me quote this passage:- "The following sums were paid out for the pastor's maintenance:-

<u>Rectory:-</u>	
Rent.....	\$240.00
Light.....	20.00
Water.....	30.00
Table.....	290.00
Salary.....	109.50
	4.22
Total.....	\$404.09 "

Add to this sum my stipends for the year and the total does not allow me \$2.50 a day for food, lodging, board, clothes and medical care. In the face of these figures the Bishop still maintained that the Indian Collection check - \$500.00 - be applied on the debt. At the time our debt was \$2500.12.

Some years ago the Indian Sentinel carried an article emphasizing the efficiency of the regulars as compared with the diocesan clergy in Indian work. I took severe exception to the article. If the comparison can be substantiated in fact, I do not think it is due to lack of priestly zeal on the part of the diocesan priest. His superiors can chill this zeal to the point where he adopts a "cui bono" philosophy, and cultivates ambition for the honors of diocesan position and the emoluments of jura stolae.

Do not let me leave with you a wrong impression of the Bishop. He is a very saintly, and an exceedingly zealous man. We have not had a quarrel. But I do not think that an Indian missionary should be required to support himself from his personal revenues when funds are made available for that purpose.

Another point of view! I am expected to look after the spiritual welfare of these Indians during the coming year. But such missionary work can not be carried on without funds, and no funds are available. For twelve years I have been trying to educate these Indians to a sense of their obligation to help support the parish. A year ago, during my absence, an agent selling Extension magazine informed the Indians and breeds that they were not expected to contribute to the church because the "Indian Bureau at Washington paid for them every year". This may have been a good selling argument; but it helped to put us in a position where I had to advance \$137.00 to keep the parish going, and had to provide fuel xxx for church and rectory out of my own resources.

My dear Monsignor, this letter is not an appeal for financial help. I have asked for a city parish and hope to get it. But I do ask for my successor any assistance you can give him. Crop failures and bank failures have sent the whites out of the parish. If the Indian is to be taken care of, some one will have to care for the missionary.

Let me assure you that I am indeed grateful to you for your many kindnesses to me, and that I ardently hope that the powers that be will give to you and the Bureau the support that you deserve.

Very sincerely,

Father Finaley

P.S. A breed just told me that Extension Magazine claims that the sums of \$500 and \$400 were given to this parish. Possibly the assistance given this parish was from Extension and not from the Indian Collection. Has the Bureau ever given any money to anyone other than \$334.00 for Dayton Green?

JUN 8 - 1925

Polson, Montana,
February 6, 1925.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hughes,
Bureau Catholic Indian Missions,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Monsignor,

Let me thank you very kindly for the stipendia you sent me recently. The receipt for the same is herewith enclosed.

As to the statue of our Blessed Lady, you can make your own choice. I shall have to place the statue on a pedestal, hence the dimensions are of no importance. Send the statue to Polson, as there is no station at Dayton, Montana.

Let me thank you for your kindness and patience in this matter, and for all your kindnesses these past years.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very gratefully,

John O'Nalley

Mr. O'Malley
Re: C. M. J.

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

40-31

1925

Dear Father:

The check attached hereto for \$ 5.00
covers donation received by the Bureau
for you through the INDIAN SENTINEL. up
to and including April 1, 1925

40-31
June 9, 1925.

Rev. William O'Maley,
Polson, Montana.

Dear Father O'Maley:

After long delay the statue of the Mother of Grace for the Dayton chapel has at last been ordered. Copy of the order to Daleiden went to you in the mail yesterday. The freight is prepaid to Polson. If not, please pay and I will reimburse you.

I regret my failure to answer sooner your letter of February 6. It is unfortunate that the allocation of \$500 does not go to the pastor as salary. Perhaps you could get the Bishop to split it 50-50 as salary and payment on debt. The Commission declares that the Bishop has the authority to apply the donation.

I note your comments on THE INDIAN SENTINEL article concerning the efficiency of the regulars as compared with the secular clergy in Indian work. I doubt that I used the word efficiency. My thought is the continuity. I am a secular myself, have been actually on the missions and admit that I did as good work as any regular. (Chorus of stenographers: "How the boss hates himself.")

Your plan of trying to educate the Indians to a sense of their obligation to support the parish is the right one. Without it we will never get any place.

The action of the Extension Magazine agents is typical of them. They are a gang of trouble makers in almost every parish they enter. For this reason, this Bureau employs no such agents.

I have no record of any other donations for Dayton Creek except the one you mention. You understand that the Lenten Collection is not distributed through this Bureau, but through Doctor Dyer, Baltimore.

If you need intentions, let me know.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes, Director.

WH:J

15-6144
 Date: 11 1925 Am.
 At: O-10 21147
 To: Sam. 20147
 No. 18. 20147
 Copy to: 20147

Hotel Dieu Hospital
 Polson, Montana. July 6/25.

Right Reverend William Hughes.
 Indian Mission Bureau.
 Washington, D.C.

Very Dear Reverend Father,

I am enclosing a check of \$15.00 which I received this A.M. from our Benefactor, Mrs. R.C. Klorer, Canton, O.K., you requested me to do so when we got same. We are so grateful, Very dear Father for this help, as our plant will cost us \$3500.00, and we only have \$1036.00 as yet collected. If you, in your great charity can help a struggling little Community Dear Father, God will surely bless you. We are praying so earnestly to the "Little Flower" for assistance, and I beg of you to plead in our behalf, She will hear your holy prayers more speedily than our poor humble ones.

Thanking you for your past kindness and interest, with kind and respectful regards from myself and little Community, also to Reverend Father Flynn, who visited us last summer.

Very sincerely and gratefully yours in Cor Jesu.

Mother St. Joseph.
 Superior.

chk in form
 of Mother St. Joseph
 Entered on both
 sides of book

40-31

July 20, 1925.

Mother St. Joseph,
Hotel Dieu Hospital,
Polson, Mont.

Dear Mother St. Joseph:

I thank you for your letter of July 6, enclosing check for \$15.00 which you received from Mrs. Rose C. Klorer. I appreciate your kindness in forwarding this check to me so that the amount may be credited on our books.

I would suggest that the next time you receive a check direct, that you either endorse it to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and send it to me, or that you deposit it and send me your check for the amount. I will immediately return to you our check to cover.

I have made special note of your request for help. But I am sorry we have no money available at this time. Should we receive a donation for the purpose, I will be delighted to send it to you. I will insert your appeal in the October number of THE INDIAN SENTINEL.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Hughes,
Director.

J