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Montana, Flathead Reservation, Polson, Immaculate Conception Mission, 1926

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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MISSIONS-40
MONTANA, FLATHEAD RESERVATION
POLSON, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSION
1926

40-33
April 8, 1926.

Rev. William O'Maley,
c/o Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church,
Polson, Mont.

Dear Father O'Maley:

On May 7, 1925, we mailed you a check for \$5, which has not yet been returned to our bank. As we do not like to have our checks remain outstanding for any great length of time I would ask you to be kind enough to have it cashed at your earliest convenience.

I understand that you have left Polson, but as I do not know your present address, I am writing this letter to you in care of your successor, with the request to him to forward it to you.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Magr. William Hughes,
Director.

CSL:JR

Ch. 7890 Cont. 5/1/25
Replaced by Ch. 10272. 7/9/26.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

POLSON, MONTANA

[APRIL 26, 1926]

April 20, 1926.

Rec'd	MAY 1 1926	Am't	On
Ans		Ent	Ch
Foll'd		Masses	De
Order filled		Refund filed	P.O.
Ship't		Spec OK	W.D.
Copy to I.S.		O. of Ref	Sp.
Copy to			

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

Right Reverend and Dear Monsignor,

500
in the matter of
your inquiry of April 9, regarding a check for
\$5.00 sent to me on May 1, 1925, I beg to say that
I have been unable to find the letter among my
mail; nor do I find any record of the check in
my church accounts, or in my Mass stipends record.
I fear that the letter must have been lost.

Our mail is placed in boxes at the Post
Office. If a letter is placed in the wrong box
it may never reach its destination.

The clothing sent us thru the Bureau from
Mr. John Herman, Hays, Montana, has been distributed
to the Indians.

My dear Monsignor I am sure that I must
appear to you as very ungrateful for your generous
interest in this parish. The truth is that I am
indeed very grateful for your many kindnesses to
us; but I do not regard myself as the pastor of
the parish. I am here merely because I have no
recourse except to the Apostolic Delegate, and
I do not suppose he would give me a hearing.
In this diocese the parish is expected to pro-
vide the pastor with board and lodging and \$100.00
in cash each year. During the past eight years
I have had to provide in large part for my board
and lodging from my personal resources, and the
parish has given me in cash less than ~~\$100.00~~
\$200.00 during the entire eight years. Benefactions
from the Indian Commission and others go to the
parish; I do not receive this money.

The Diocese has called on me to serve in its
Curia on matrimonial cases, and it has sent me out
to preach retreats to religious and the laity. But
it will not give me the nonesta sustentatio as pre-
scribed in Canon Law. Hence I am constrained to

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
POLSON, MONTANA

earn my living by selling coal and real estate. The Diocese knows this, but has taken no action in the case. Vacancies have occurred, but younger men have been appointed to them.

Under these circumstances I consider myself merely as "here".

Please do not be too severe in your judgment on my apparent neglect of your good services toward my Indian people.

With all good wishes for your continued success, I am,

very sincerely,

W. M. Mahoney
Box 555.

40-33
July 9, 1926.

Rev. William O'Maley,
Immaculate Conception Parish,
Box 852,
Polson, Montana.

Dear Father O'Maley:

As the Bank statement for June fails to show that Bureau check 7890 drawn to your order has been presented for payment, I presume it is lost. I am, therefore, enclosing Bureau check 10272, in the sum of \$5, to replace the lost check. I shall not stop payment on previous check. If it should turn up at any time, you can just return it to me.

It is painful to learn of your discouraging circumstances. I suppose you have formally represented matters long since.

Yours fraternally,

Ht. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes,
Director.

EF:ER

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46.33

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

POLSON, MONTANA

July 14, 1926.

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

Rec'd JUL 10 1926 Amt _____
Ans. _____ Ent. _____
Fol'd _____ Masses _____ Dr. _____
Order filled _____ Bkfst. _____ P.O. _____
Ship _____ Stm. _____ E.O. _____
Copy to I. S. _____ Ref. _____
Copy to _____

My Dear Monsignor,

Let me thank you very kindly for your check #10212 for Mass intentions which has just been received. May I hope that this matter has not caused you too much trouble. I have had occasion to go thru last mail several times recently; but have not found any trace of your check #7390. I am convinced that it is lost.

My situation has not been changed. I have asked the Administrator to take some action; but he insists, "Nihil innovetur". One of the large parishes of Butte still remains vacant, and is administered by a young priest.

Rumor has it that the Diocese was offered to a Father Shanon of Chicago; but he refused it. It seems that the report has gone forth that the diocese is top-heavy with debt, and that the College is a white elephant. I believe the report is quite exaggerated. The entire State went thru a financial crisis a few years ago; but that is past. The consultants do not seem to be worried about the financial situation of the diocese. There are funds available, but can not be used until a Bishop is appointed. I think the priests of the diocese would welcome a man of the missionary type. Please don't turn it down if the piece is offered to you.

A committee of Northern Pacific men are announced for to-morrow to get some of my Indians to attend the Indian Congress at Spokane. I shall do what I can for them; but my finances will not allow me to attend the Congress this year. I hope the Bureau will be represented this year, as most of the Indians are our people.

With many thanks, and all good wishes,
I am,
very sincerely, *Father O'Malley*

INDIANS OF MONTANA TO ATTEND CONGRESS

Second Annual Event Will
Be Held at Spokane
Starting July 21.

With Flathead and Blackfoot Indians scheduled to participate, with Hon. Scott Leavitt on the speaking program, and with Charles Russell of Great Falls invited to act on an Indian princess beauty contest judging committee, Montana is to contribute an important share to the Second National Indian congress at Spokane, July 21 to 27.

A resume of plans for the great convocation of 23 Indian tribes, with Montana's participation stressed, was given The Missoulian by Carl W. Art of Spokane, a visitor at the Flathead reservation. Mr. Art is one of several field men from the National Indian congress executive committee, visiting the various reservations to make final plans for the congress. Mr. Art was accompanied by F. J. Greene of the Northern Pacific office at Spokane, and R. J. Dee, general agent of the Northern Pacific at Helena, conferring today with Charles E. Coe, Indian agent at Dixon, Gray Scott of Arlee, who will probably furnish pipe ponds for the Indian delegation and arrange final details of the trip, accompanied the party to Dixon. On their return, another conference took place in Missoula, with Frank L. Taelman of St. Ignace.

The spectacular feature of the congress will be the parade of costumed Indians, lodge and civic bands and drill teams and marching clubs, to be reviewed near Masonic temple, where "Princess America" will be crowned.

Charles H. Burke, national commissioner of Indian affairs, will have charge of the ceremony. The judges to award the title are: Pierce Butler, supreme court justice; Charles Russell, cowboy artist, Great Falls, Mont., and Alonzo Victor Lewis, sculptor and artist, Seattle.

A feature of the dedication of the monument on Spokane Plains, where Colonel George Wright and troops defeated the allied Coeur d'Alene, Yakima and Nez Perce tribes in one of the decisive battles of the Indian wars in 1856, will be a message of peace and welcome in the Indian sign language by Major General Hugh L. Scott, U. S. army, retired, with reply by an Indian chieftain. Smoking of the pipe of peace by army officers and chieftains will follow.

The dedicatory ceremony will be witnessed by Indians, officials of the northwestern states, members of the Columbia river historical expedition and local delegations. Governor Hartley of Washington will accept the monument on behalf of the state.

Other features are: The City of Teepees in Spokane's civic center; the well baby clinic by the Spokane Medical society, with Dr. John O'Shea of Spokane in charge; luncheon for Indian delegates and their wives; tea in honor of the incoming princess at the Davenport hotel.

Speakers at the congress will be Duncan McDonald, Flathead tribe; Paul Wapeto, Okanogan tribe; Mrs. Elizabeth Penny Wilson, Nez Perce tribe; Neally Olney, Yakima tribe; August Alexander, Umatilla tribe; V. H. Johnson, Cle Elum; George Bent, physical director, Chemawa Indian school; James H. McGregor, superintendent of Chemawa Indian school.

Dr. M. C. Guthrie, chief medical supervisor, U. S. Indian service, will speak on "The Health Problem Among Indians," followed by Dr. James Hayes, Nez Perce tribe, whose subject is "The Evil Influence of the Indian Medicine Man; by One Who Knows."

Commissioner Burke will discuss "State and Federal Responsibility in Solving Indian Problems." H. B. Pears, general superintendent of Indian affairs, will speak on "The Progress of the Indian in Education, Industry and Citizenship." The topic assigned to Scott Leavitt, chairman of the house committee on Indian affairs, is "The Legal Status of the Indian."

Dr. Sherman Copledge of the Arapahoe tribe will speak on "The Indian and Civilization." Carl S. Evans, secretary of the congress, will tell "Wherein We as a People Have Failed to Inspire the Indian With the Ambition and Desire to Take His Proper Place as an Indian Citizen." The subject assigned to O. H. Lipps, district superintendent, U. S. Indian service, is: "The Economic Future of the Indian."

Religious services and missionary meetings are scheduled for July 25, with Indian educational conferences under the supervision of Mrs. Josephine Corliss Preston, Washington state superintendent of public education, July 26 and 27.

C. W. Moore, president of the congress, says that the second gathering will excel in spectacular and educational features the pow-wow of 1925, when the drawing card was the Haskell-Gonzaga football game and the Halloween celebration.

40-33
July 15, 1926.

Rev. William O'Maley,
Box 853,
Polson, Montana.

Dear Father O'Maley:

In June of 1925, we ordered for you from John P. Daleiden Co., of Chicago, Illinois, a Statue of Our Mother of Grace. This was the gift of Mr. Michael Glavin. On June 15, 1925, we received a bill from Daleiden, showing that the statue had been shipped to you.

To date, I have received no word as to whether or not this was received at Polson. If so, I wish that you would inform me, stating the cost of freight charges, if any.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

JR

Rec'd AUG 3 1926 Amt. _____ Cr.
 Ans. _____ Ent. _____ Ca.
 Fol'd _____ Masses _____
 Order filled _____ Refund listed _____ P.O.
 Ship't _____ Sten. OK _____ E.O. _____
 Copy to I. S. _____ D. G. or Ref. _____ Sp.
 Copy to _____ Check sent _____ St.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

POLSON, MONTANA

July 29, 1926.

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

Right Reverend and Dear Monsignor,

Again I owe you an apology! The statue of Our Mother of Grace was received by us on July 8, 1925. From a memorandum under date of August 5, 1925, I would presume that I acknowledged the receipt of this statue and enclosed the freight bill, as you had requested, for \$9.33. About that time I was getting ready to move from the house then used as a rectory. Possibly I overlooked the letter; and if so I trust you will pardon the fault.

May I ask you to explain to your good friend, - and our generous benefactor, Mr. Michael Gavin, why I have failed to acknowledge his beautiful gift, and will you please assure him that we are indeed grateful for his generous kindness. May God bless him most abundantly for his kindness to us, and his beautiful tribute to our Blessed Lady.

With all good wishes for the success of your work, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Very gratefully,

Father O'Malley

POLSON, MONTANA

Date 4/13 13 1926 Amt. _____
 Ans. 916 Ent. _____
 Fund. _____ Mass. _____
 Copies filled. _____ Refund list _____
 Ship. _____ Stan. OK _____
 Copy to Mrs. _____ D. C. or H. _____
 Copy to _____ Check ser. _____

On July 22, I called on Monsignor Day, Administrator of the Diocese, showed him a report of this parish for the past six months, drew his attention that I was able to draw only \$63.50 for all of my personal needs including table, and asked him formally for another parish. He said he had none to offer me.

I then presented my formal request for leave or absence from the diocese so that I could earn a living. He argued that he had no power to grant such a permission. So I then told him that I would appeal to the Apostolic Delegate. For some reason or other this seemed to change matters; he called me back for two more conversations on the subject. Since, he has written me that he thinks he can give me the parish which Bishop Carroll intended to give me. To which I replied that I would hold up my appeal to the Apostolic Delegate until August 4, - the twentieth anniversary of my ordination.

In the event that I am authorized to leave the diocese for a year, could you give me anything to do? If not, do you know of any diocese on the Pacific coast that is in need of priests? I am not acquainted on the Coast at all.

Very sincerely,

Father O'Maley

40-33

August 16, 1926.

Rev. William H. O'Maley,
Polson, Montana.

Dear Father O'Maley:

Your letter of no date reached me August 3 in California. You had set August 4 as the date for Monsignor Day to act. I could not answer you by letter, and a telegram would not be very satisfactory. First of all allow me to congratulate you on the twentieth anniversary of your ordination. My twenty first anniversary was yesterday. I can sympathize with you in the hard bumps you have had, because I also have had my fair share. But hard bumps make the even road seem easier.

If I may advise, permit me to say that it would be best for you not to leave the diocese until you find how the new Bishop will treat you. Surely no diocese needs priests more than yours. You would lose the seniority already gained. My hardest knock was gotten under similar circumstances. The new Bishop did the right thing. But I must say I was very strongly attached personally to the Bishop who died.

Unfortunately, because of the organization of the home mission societies in the worth-while dioceses, I can not find work even for the priests who have been with the Bureau for a number of years. Regretfully I was compelled to ask a valuable priest to return to his diocese.

I am always glad to hear from you.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. McGr. Wm. Hughes,
Director.

WMHGS