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1932

## Alaska, Kashunak, Sacred Heart Mission School, 1932

William M. Hughes

*Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions*

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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MISSION SCHOOLS-20  
ALASKA  
KASHUNAK, SACRED HEART MISSION SCHOOL  
1932

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

January 15, 1932.

Rev. John P. Fox, S. J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska.

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$5.00 covering the gift of the Herrmann Family of Pennsylvania, which they have designated for you.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

*Wm Hughes*

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

Received the check named above

(Signed) *J P Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me letter for donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

September 21, 1931

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$100.00 covering  
the gift of Mrs. A. M. Burkard of California, which she has  
designated for your chapel boat.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ.

*Wm Hughes*  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes.  
Director

WH:MC

Received the check named above

*Jan 21, '32*

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox S.J.*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

*N.B. Please send Mrs. Burkard a picture of my boat if it came  
out well. I sent you the film some time ago for development. J.P.F.*



Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

October 3, 1931

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$100 covering the  
the gift of Mrs. Andrew Mazurek of Illinois and which she  
designated for Alaskan missions.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

WH:IS

Received the check named above

*Jan. 21, '32.*

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
via Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$10 covering  
the gift of Miss Margaret McCarthy of Massachusetts, which was  
designated for you in answer to your appeal in The Indian Sentinel, page 183.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

WH:MF

Received the check named above

*Jan 21, '32*

*Thanks!*

(Signed) *John P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

October 21, 1931

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$10, covering  
the gift of Sister Helen Marie of New York, which she has  
designated for you.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

JR

Received the check named above

*Jan. 21, '32*

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, Alaska.

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$ 5.00 which covers  
the gift of Miss Florence Tobin, New Orleans, La. which was  
designated for the purpose of purchasing gasoline for your automo-  
bile in response to your appeal in The Indian Sentinel

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

Received the check named above

*Jan 21, 1932*

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox S.J.*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Rec'd APR 11 1932 Amt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
Paid \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. John P. Fox, S.J., to \_\_\_\_\_  
Kashunak \_\_\_\_\_  
Holy Cross, Alaska \_\_\_\_\_  
Dear Father Fox: \_\_\_\_\_  
Copy to \_\_\_\_\_  
Check sent \_\_\_\_\_

October 27, 1931

I enclose Bureau check for \$2 covering  
the gift of Sister M. Concepta of New Jersey, which was  
designated for you in answer to your appeal in The Indian Sentinel, page 183

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

*Wm Hughes*  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes.  
Director

WH:MF

Received the check named above

*Jan. 21 '32*

*Thanks!*

(Signed) *John P. Fox Jr*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)



Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

40-1

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$2 covering  
the gift of Miss Elizabeth Hardecker, New York, which she has  
designated for gasoline.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

*Wm Hughes*

WH:MP

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

Received the check named above

*Jan 21, '32.*

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox, S.J.*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)



Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

August 27, 1931

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska.

Rec'd MAR 22 1932 Amt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. FILED Est. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fol'd. \_\_\_\_\_ Masses \_\_\_\_\_  
Letter to \_\_\_\_\_  
Order filled \_\_\_\_\_ Work Slip O.K. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ship't \_\_\_\_\_ List \_\_\_\_\_  
Copy to L.S. \_\_\_\_\_ D.G. or Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$200 covering  
the gift of Miss Agnes Corrigan of Missouri, and which she has  
designated for you.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

*Wm Hughes*

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

Received the check named above

*Jan 21, '32.*

*Thanks!*

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

*John P. Fox, S.J.*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

40-1  
January 22, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$5 covering  
the gift of Miss Teresa Wutz, New York, which she has  
designated for gasoline.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ.

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

WH:MP

Received the check named above

*Thanks!*

(Signed) *J. P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

COPY FOR BUREAU

Orig. to donor

MAR 28 1932

40-1

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak) Holy Cross,  
Alaska  
January 27, 1932

Miss Catherine Broermann  
Ohio

My dear Miss Broermann:

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

It would almost seem as though God was afraid that by receiving a little letter of thanks from the poor missionary that you helped by your generous check of \$100, you might lose some of the merit of your generosity. But you did not give us the gift for the sake of a little praise, and a short "thank you" but to please God and help His poor. And so I will try again to reach you with these few lines.

When your check arrived I was absent and circumstances made it almost physically impossible for Father Lucchesi, whom I had instructed to tend to my correspondence, to write you. At my return I heard of your gift and immediately wrote you a long letter of thanks. But somehow it also got lost somewhere here in the snow, and these few lines are intended as a tardy "Thank you." May our dear Lord reward you as you so well deserve!

This year has been more than usually rich in little troubles and worries. But as God punishes those whom He loves that should rather be for us a source of encouragement. Two floods, one on November 25 and the other on December 7-8 almost wiped Kashunak off the map. Many villages were entirely covered with water and ice from the Bering Sea and at least in one case that I know all the inhabitants were found frozen in the ice. As I have not yet been able to visit my entire district after the floods, and we have no way down here of broadcasting news, I do not know yet the extent of the harm done in my district. Of my five stations I have been able to visit three. Of these one suffered little or nothing. The other two suffered very much. No lives were lost, thanks to the almost visible protection of our kind Lord, but much harm was done to mission property. One of my stations, Sacred Heart Mission, Kashunak, from which I am writing these lines, will most likely have to be closed this coming summer. Frequent floods, especially those accompanied by icebergs in winter, are so much worrying my poor people, and making it so hard to knock a living out of this part of my mission, that the people have petitioned me to remove the mission to some more safe place. They will not move away unless I move the mission with them. All agree on that, as they feel safe wherever our dear Lord has His home. But it would really be too cruel to keep them here.

I must close for today, with best wishes and my priestly blessing to you and promising you a continuance of our prayers and holy Masses for you and your intentions.

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred Heart,

(Signed) John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY JR

Sacred Heart Mission, Alaska  
January 27, 1932

This year has been more than usually rich in little troubles and worries. But as God punishes those whom He loves that should rather be for us a source of encouragement. Two floods, one on November 25 and the other on December 7-8 almost wiped Kashunak off the map. Many villages were entirely covered with water and ice from the Bering Sea and in least in one case that I know all the inhabitants were found frozen in the ice. As I have not yet been able to visit my entire district after the floods, and we have no way down here of broadcasting news, I do not know yet the extent of the harm done in my district. Of my five stations I have been able to visit three. Of these one suffered little or nothing. The other two suffered very much. No lives were lost, thanks to the almost visible protection of our kind Lord, but much harm was done to mission property. One of my stations, Sacred Heart Mission, Kashunak, from which I am writing these lines, will most likely have to be closed this coming summer. Frequent floods, especially those accompanied by icebergs in winter, are so much worrying to my poor people, and making it so hard to knock a living out of this part of my mission, that the people have petitioned me to move the mission to some more safe place. They will not move away unless I move the mission with them. All agree on that, as they feel safe wherever our dear Lord has His home. But it would really be too cruel to keep them here.

The kingdom of Christ is spreading slowly but surely in my district. I am the only priest in a territory about 300 miles long and 50 miles wide, and everywhere the good Eskimo are waiting for someone to teach them about our Lord. I hope that soon their desire may be satisfied. At my five stations the people gather regularly for morning and evening prayers, and for daily Mass and instruction in the particular mission at which I happen to be. For I keep traveling a great deal of the time so as to leave no part of my immense mission too long without the ministration of a priest. As my only means of travel so far is the dogteam in winter and my little gas-boat in summer, much of my time is necessarily spent in getting around from place to place. But I hope that Our dear Lord will soon put some remedy to this state of affairs.

Owing to the daily evening instruction all the people living right at my mission stations are very well instructed, and all, or almost all that are able have received first holy Communion, and of these very many come daily to the holy table to be fed with the body of Our Lord.

COPY FOR Bureau

orig. to donor 4/24/32 JKS

Sacred Heart Mission  
Kashunak, Holy Cross, Alaska  
January 28, 1932

40-1

Mrs. R. C. Sieben  
Illinois

My dear Mrs. Sieben:

May the blessing of Almighty God every remain with you.

This is a very late acknowledgement of your kind check of \$25 of August 27, 1930. But I was away from my mission at the time when the fine gift came, and the Father whom I had asked to attend to my correspondence could not possibly do so on account of the very difficult circumstances into which he was put by the crash of the "Marquette Missionary" at Kotzebue, in which as you know, three were killed, among them the Superior of the Alaskan missions.

The new plane, "Alaska Missionary," has not shown up yet in any part of my mission. I have been expecting it for a long time, but in vain. Could Our dear Lord possibly have permitted that one also to crash? Flying is for our mission the solution of many difficulties. But so far we have not been able to make a mission plane a success. Aviation here is still so dangerous that a single plane does not seem to suffice, what would be needed, and what the various companies operate here in Alaska as a small fleet of planes, so that if one plane crashed or is forced down by bad weather there are others available to rescue the victim. This is, of course, and undertaking clearly impossible for a poor mission like ours. I do not know how the problem will be solved. Meantime I continue to mosh with my eleven cylinder dog-moblie. Five miles or less is slow travel indeed, especially in cold weather. But one generally gets there, if not one day than at least the next or the next.

We are making progress slowly but surely. I am the only priest in a district 300 miles long and about 50 miles wide, in which there are about 60 villages, or at least were before this last flood. The people are everywhere calling for a priest, and generally speaking, are thoroughly good. As I have not so far been gifted with the power of bilocation, and move slowly with my dogs, I have been trying to supply the lack of priests with a society of native Sisters called "Sisters of Our Lady of the Snow." The first postulants entered the novitiate last September, and are doing very well. They will, I am sure, be a great blessing to my immense district, and I beg you to remember this important intention in your fervent prayers, Masses and holy Communion. It is a difficult proposition as these people are still so young in the Faith, most of them knowing nothing of God and the Church till about four years ago. Nor have I any temporal aid on which I can fall back to feed and clothe the new community. But God will provide. Meantime we are living as much as possible on the poor resources of this territory. All beginnings are hard, at least if the thing started amounts to anything. How could the devil allow a good work to get by unchallenged.

With best wishes to you, and with my priestly blessing, I remain

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred Heart  
(Signed)

John P. Fox, S. J.

COPIED BY TB

for Bureau  
sent 25.

40-1

Sacred Heart Mission,  
(Kashunak), Holy Cross P. O.,  
Alaska, January 28, 1932

Mr. E. S. Skillin, Jr.  
New Jersey

My dear Mr. Skillin:

Alaska is a country rich in natural resources. Would to God that these were somewhere in my neighborhood. So far I have been shipping in from the states almost everything needed to run my mission. Even fish for myself and dogs I have had to buy from other parts of Alaska. And the main expence has been the shipping charges, not the cost price of the article. Even along the Yukon River where it is relatively easy to ship in from the outside traders automatically add fifty percent to the cost price of the article they sell. This charge is intended to cover the shipping expences. In my own case I would have to multiply that charge at least by five.

Copied by HS.

(Signed)

(Rev.) John P. Fox, S.J.



for Bureau  
Miss Agnes Corrigan  
Missouri

My dear Miss Corrigan:

So far I have only a few postulants for my community. The idea is all together new to these Christians of only a few years' standing; and besides I would not at present be able to take care of very many candidates even if they would apply. That costs lots of money here in Alaska. But I am hoping that when these Sisters begin to work and the fruit of their labor becomes apparent, it will not be so hard to get the necessary money to feed and clothe them. They will live pretty well scattered in pairs of two or three, instructing the people, attending to the sick, teaching the children, and taking care of the ordinary work around my missions. Thus I will be free to give myself entirely to the spiritual work proper to the priest, instead of spending so much of my time in work that is anything but spiritual.

We have had several very bad floods this winter, and just at present the whooping cough is making the round. Though some of the children have died in various parts of my large district, I do not know so are exactly how many. At my two principal stations where I reside more regularly no one has died yet, and we are praying that our dear Lord may spare us from the scourge.

Copied by HS.

(Signed)

(Rev.) John P. Fox. S.J.

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak), Holy Cross P. O.  
Alaska, January 30, 1932

40-1

COPY FOR *Bureau*  
*orig to donor 3/31/32 mp*

Mrs. P. Gaillard  
Oakland, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Gaillard:

We will not forget you in our prayers as this is about all we can do to show you our gratitude. And also in our Holy Masses and Communions we will ask our dear Lord to grant you all your intentions. My people are very poor in the goods of this life, but for that reason all the more dear to the heart of our Lord, Who loves the poor and simply souls wherever they may be. And I am sure that their prayers go straight to the heart of God.

I have a small parish here only about 300 miles long and 50 miles wide. In it are five principal mission stations to which I am supposed to attend. This is, of course, impossible. But I am trying to do my best. I am the only priest in this part of the country and have not seen a fellow priest since last August. Don't ask me how I will make my Easter Duty. No one is obliged to do the impossible, and I guess the church has to dispense me as I do not expect to see a priest for at least the next six months.

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred Heart

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY MP

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak), Holy Cross P.O.  
Alaska, Jan. 31, 1932

40-1

COPY FOR

*Bureau*  
*to S.*

Sacred Heart Mission  
Kashunak, Holy Cross, Alaska  
January 31, 1932

40-1

Mrs. Andrew Mazurek  
Ill.

My dear Mrs. Mazurek:

May the blessing of Almighty God remain ever with you.

Your generous check of \$100 arrived here safely ten days ago. My first mail this winter brought by a friend included your letter, and as this same person will be going back toward the post office in a few days I take this chance to thank you for your charity to this poor mission. And we will try to back our little "thank you" with our prayers, holy Masses and Communions for you and all your intentions.

And if you are anxious to know how I will spend your money I will gladly tell you that it will be for the support of some native Sisters that I am just starting. They are known as Sisters of Our Lady of the Snow, and it is my intention that they should devote their lives in instructing the Eskimo of this district in our holy religion, teach the children in the schools that I intend to start, take care of the sick, and do the ordinary work around my various stations so that I can give all my time to attending to the ministry strictly proper to a priest. For so far I have had to spend much time in things purely material, unless you want to call them spiritual on account of the fact that they are done for the love of God and the good of the souls entrusted to me. So far I have only a few candidates that are with me here at my mission making their postulantship, and that will begin their novitiate very soon. But as I am able to take care of more I am sure God will gradually send me more. So far I have as many as I can provide for.

The kingdom of Christ is spreading slowly but surely in my district. I am the only priest in a territory about 300 miles long and 50 miles wide, and everywhere the good Eskimo are waiting for some one to teach them about Our Lord. And I hope that soon their desire may be satisfied. At my five stations the people gather regularly for morning and evening prayers, and for daily Mass and instruction in the particular mission at which I happen to be. For I keep traveling a great deal of the time so as to leave no part of my immense mission too long without the ministrations of a priest. As my only means of travel so far is the dog-team in winter and my little gas-boat in summer, much of my time is necessarily spent in getting around from place to place. But I hope that Our dear Lord will soon put some remedy to this state of affairs.

Owing to the daily evening instruction all the people living right at my mission stations are very well instructed, and all, or almost all that are able have received first holy Communion, and of these very many come daily to the holy table to be fed with the body of Our Lord. Of Confession they really and truly are fond. Some of them, I am afraid, abuse it on account of the frequency with which they come. They want to go to Confession every day, and it has happened that some went even twice a day. "Confession is a Sacrament, and every time one receives it worthily he receives special grace," I tell them. "But the priest has many other things to do besides hearing Confessions, and you do not have to go every time you wish to go to holy Communion, provided you did not do anything bad that was wrong." But as I can not exactly tell my people as they say a tired pastor once did at midnight: "Now, all the mortals stay here and the venials go home," hearing Confession continues to be one of my main tasks every evening. All my people seem to remember from the many times I spoke on the subject is the fact that by going to Confession we receive grace, and I guess it is to get this that they keep coming.

Besides this they have the additional reason that one of my people gave me one day after I had told them not to come to Confession so often: "We do not think, Father that it is a nice thing to receive Jesus into our hearts though we only have done a small thing that was wrong." And I must admit that this is really a very good reason, and one can hardly refuse a good soul who comes to Confession with such a motive even if it is every day.

And with this I must call off for today. With best wishes and again thanking you for your generosity to us, I remain with my priestly blessing and in union of prayers,

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred Heart

(Signed) John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY TB

February 2, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose copy of a letter of January 28 from Miss Florence Heidt and my answer thereto of today.

If the second donor consents to the agreement, it will not be necessary (or advisable) to inform the first donor. A donation of \$1,000 or even \$1500 is seldom sufficient to build a chapel. Other donations in material and labor must be added. If that is fair, then this is, provided, of course, the second donor consents.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

MB



Copy for Bureau

" " L.S.

Orig sent donor 4/12/32/HB

Sister M. Regina  
New Jersey

My dear Sister Regina:

My district is a little diocese about 300 miles long and 50 miles wide situated on the Bering Sea coast beginning with Scammon Bay, South of Norton Sound and running down to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. I am the only priest in this entire mission, which so far has five large stations to be attended to. My only means of communication in winter is the 11 cylinder dog-mobile that I own, and in summer my small gas boat. There is no such thing here as public service of any kind, not even mail. And that is one reason why you had to wait so long for this little acknowledgment of your generosity to us.

Copied by HS.

(Signed) (Rev.) John P. Fox, S.J.

Sacred Heart Mission, (Kashunak)  
Holy Cross P. O., Alaska  
February 12, 1932

40-1



COPY FOR J.L.S.

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross P.O., Alaska  
February 13, 1932

Mrs. A. M. Burkard  
California

My dear Mrs. Burkard,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

May our dear Lord reward you for the generous gift of \$100 that you so kindly sent me through the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. It reached me a little over two weeks ago, and this is the first chance I have to say my little "Thank you." For I have no mail service here and must depend on friends to bring and take my mail to the Post Office, which, by the way, is three days by dog-team from here, that is one way only, and supposing that the weather is good. Nor is this even my regular post office as given in the letter head, but it is a place called Andreafsky, to which my mail is forwarded from Holy Cross once a month, and where it lies till some one comes to call for it.

The boat on which I am spending your gift fills a long felt necessity for carrying on my summer work. It is about 36 ft. long and about 10 ft. wide and has a 10 H.P. heavy duty engine. Though the engine is new, the boat is ~~about~~ about 15 years old. But as it was thoroughly overhauled just as soon as I ~~just~~ bought it, I think it will still do me for a number of years. The whole outfit as it stands cost me about \$1800. The expense made quite a hole into my pocket-book. But I hope to fill it by degrees as good friends like yourself send me along their offering. About ten more gifts like yours will make good the damage.

Were it not for the very special protection of our dear Lord and His angels I would have lost my boat even before I had paid for it. Last November 26, and December 7 we had two floods here that did much damage. And among other things the first one took my boat and carried it some 300 yards from the slough on whose banks I had put it away for the winter. I expect to run it back to the slough over the hard crust of the snow in about two months from now, so as to be able to launch it again in spring. A trader some twenty five miles from here had three ~~of~~ boats and lost them all, though I heard he located one of them about ten miles from his home. So you see how God watched over mine.

You will probably see some of the details of these floods in the Indian Sentinel, so I will not repeat them here. I heart just recently that one of my villages was completely wiped out, all the Eskimos abandoned for good, and among them, I am afraid, Kashunak. That will mean that I will have to tear down my best mission and rebuild it in a better place. Where it is now it is in real danger, and during the flood I had seven inches of water from the Bering Sea in my chapel, and big ice bergs all around the building.

With best wishes to you and with my priestly blessing, I remain

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart,

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY MP

COPY FOR J.S.

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, P.O. Alaska  
February 13, 1932

Sister Helen Marie  
New York

My dear Sister Helen Marie,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!  
Many hearty thanks for your generous favor of \$10 that you sent me through  
Msgr. Hughes. I know what it means to you in these hard times. And I am sure  
that you too must appreciate what such a sum means to the poor hobo of Kashunak.  
May our dear Lord reward your charity as it deserves, and as only He can do it.

As I am the only priest in a mission 300 miles long and 50 miles wide I have  
started a community of native helpers called "Sisters of our Lady of the Snow."  
These I hope will relieve me of the necessity of spending much of my precious  
time in work that is anything but spiritual, and will also be a powerful help  
in instructing the scattered Eskimos of my mission. They are girls taken from  
among the Eskimos of my mission, at least many of them, and so are thoroughly  
familiar with the language and peculiar customs of these people. Please pray that  
our dear Lord may bless ~~my~~ this little scheme of mine; for it has its difficulties  
not to mention the financial one.

I wonder if I could make a suggestion to you. You sent me far the most  
practical gift that could be sent, which is cash, as the rate for shipping things  
here is simply outrageous. But in case you should be thinking of remembering this  
mission with a shipment at anytime, please make it beads. I need "oodles" of  
these, and in any case would have to buy them anyhow in the States as there are  
none to be had up here. The ~~my~~ people not only use them to pray with, but also  
to hang around their necks. And it is for this last reason that they lose a great  
many of them, as most beads are not made strongly enough for this purpose. My  
people tell me that they are actually afraid to go out hunting without having their  
beads about their neck. I'll give you a few practical examples of how they use  
their beads.

One of my boys Ulroan, has a Sister Aiyaksak, a small girl, who broke her leg  
last summer. In the absence of any doctor or medicine, both of which do not exist  
here, except in so far as the missionary can furnish them, and it just so happened  
that I was not around, Ulroan told his sister to lay her beads over her leg and  
pray to the Mother of God. She did so, and was rewarded by a cure.

The same boy tells me the following incident that occurred about two years  
ago at a village called Maralartulig'miut, (the village of Mud,) some four hours  
by dog team from Kashunak. A young boy, Ayagarak, whom his mother had persuaded  
to become a medicine-man, was practising in his igloo. He had his rain parkie  
thrown over his head, and his arms half run into the sleeves, as is the custom with  
medicine-men when they want to talk to the evil spirit to get help or find out  
something. At the same time he was singing to the evil spirit, calling on him to  
speak. Ulroan happened to come in and saw what was going on, and it was not long  
before he heard the young medicine-man conversing with some unseen individuals,  
two of them, whose voice he distinctly heard coming ~~f~~ up from the bottom of the  
igloo. The temptation was too much for him, and to satisfy his curiosity he began  
to suggest questions that he requested the medicine-man to put to the voices that  
were speaking with him. "How will the end of the world come?" and the prompt  
answer came from one of the spirits: "By fire." "What about Governor (a notorious  
medicine-man of my district)?" "If he keeps going as he is he will surely be with  
us here." "And how about Puelrea (another medicine-man at my mission here, but  
converted)?" "I do not know," came the reply. At this Ulroan got an idea. He  
pulled his beads from his neck and hung them over the covered head of the young

medicine-man, and continued his questions. But as the beads approached the medicine-man the two voices became fainter, and one entirely ceased. As he pulled the beads away the voices both came back, telling Ayagarak to take away those ~~shining~~ shining things from his head. The boy did not know what the voice meant, for as his head was covered by the rain-parkey he could see nothing, and did not know of the beads that Ulroan was holding over his head. Since this incident occurred Ayagarak was converted, baptized and received the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. And better still, when I visited his village some two weeks ago he had taught the people most of the prayers we usually say every evening at the missions.

In union of prayers, and with a blessing I remain

Sincerely in Our Lord

Father John P. Fox, S.J.

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COPY FOR *Bureau*  
*orig to donors 4/16/32*

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross P.O., Alaska  
February 13, 1932

40-1

Mrs. A. M. Burkard  
California

My dear Mrs. Burkard,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

May our dear Lord reward you for the generous gift of \$100 that you so kindly sent me through the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. It reached me a little over two weeks ago, and this is the first chance I have to say my little "Thank you." For I have no mail service here and must depend on friends to bring and take my mail to the Post Office, which, by the way, is three days by dog-team from here, that is one way only, and supposing that the weather is good. Nor is this even my regular post office as given in the letter head, but it is a place called Andreafsky, to which my mail is forwarded from Holy Cross once a month, and where it lies till some one comes to call for it.

The boat on which I am spending your gift fills a long felt necessity for carrying on my summer work. It is about 36 ft. long and about 10 ft. wide, and has a 10 H.P. heavy duty engine. Though the engine is new, the boat is ~~only~~ about 15 years old. But as it was thoroughly overhauled just as soon as I ~~just~~ bought it, I think it will still do me for a number of years. The whole outfit as it stands cost me about \$1800. The expense made quite a hole into my pocket-book. But I hope to fill it by degrees as good friends like yourself send me along their offering. About ten more gifts like yours will make good the damage.

Were it not for the very special protection of our dear Lord and His angels I would have lost my boat even before I had paid for it. Last November 26, and December 7 we had two floods here that did much damage. And among other things the first one took my boat and carried it some 300 yards from the slough on whose banks I had put it away for the winter. I expect to run it back to the slough over the hard crust of the snow in about two months from now, so as to be able to launch it again in spring. A trader some twenty five miles from here had three ~~of~~ boats and lost them all, though I heard he located one of them about ten miles from his home. So you see how God watched over mine.

You will probably see some of the details of these floods in the Indian Sentinel, so I will not repeat them here. I heart just recently that one of my villages was completely wiped out, all the Eskimos abandoned for good, and among them, I am afraid, Kashunak. That will mean that I will have to tear down my best mission and rebuild it in a better place. Where it is now it is in real danger, and during the flood I had seven inches of water from the Bering Sea in my chapel, and big ice bergs all around the building.

With best wishes to you and with my priestly blessing, I remain

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart,

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY MP

Feb. 15, 1932

40-1

Sacred Heart Mission  
Holy Cross, Alaska.

Miss F. Tobin  
New Orleans, La.

My dear Miss Tobin:

Your gift I see was intended for gasoline to run my auto. Would to God I could sue on her. It would solve lots of iddifficulties for me. But an auto is out of the question here, both in summer and in winter. It would be impossible to plow through the deep snow in winter with an auto, and no less impossible to wade through the marshy district in summer. I can not go fifty yards in any direction from my mission building at most of my five stations without have on boots as one sinks down ankle deep in to the swampy moss at every step.

But that is not saying that I can not use your money for gasoline. I need very much of it every year to run my gas boat, and supply fuel for my lamps. This is one of my heavy items, partly because I need about 700 gallons annually, partely too on account of the extraordinarily high price, for gasoline and coal oil too sells here for \$1.00 a gallon. So that with your money will be able to by just one can full. Its a shame to spend hard earned money so wrecklessly, but I see no way out of the difficulty just yet. Lets hop that conditions will improve as time goes on.

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart

John P. Fox, S.J.

copied by

Archives and Institutional Repository - Bureau of Catholic Indian Affairs



Copy for Bureau

Miss Rachael A. Good  
Pennsylvania

My dear Miss Good:

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

You are certainly true to your name; Godd for you! Your very generous check sent me through The Indian Sentinel, who received it through Very Rev. Msgr. P. C. Danner, V.G., Director of the Catholic Missionary Aid Society, reached me only yesterday. Alaska is far away, and especially, has such miserable mail service, where in fact it has any at all, that my mail is always a very long time in coming. That explains why you had to wait so long for this little acknowledgement of your charity.

I hope that our dear Lord will reward you as only He can for remembering this out-of-the-way mission, and that so generously and practically. From my gas bill is a really formidable item every year. I have gasoline lamps that have to burn the greater part of the long winter days, and gasoline boats to carry me and my freight to the five large stations under my care. Since these stations are scattered over an area of about 15,000 sq. miles, for my mission is 50 miles wide and about 300 miles long, you may easily imagine how much gasoline I burn up every summer. I have to be on the go most of the time with my large gas-boat, the "Ida", which is about 36 feet long, or with a 16 foot row boat propelled by an out-board motor.

This past winter I almost lost all my gasoline that I had piled up here for the coming summer. A large flood came on November 26, and another on December 7-8. The first carried away almost my entire supply of gasoline; but fortunately I was able to recover a good deal of it. The second flood also did some harm, though not so much, as it happened during the day time and so gave us a chance to secure what might be in reach of the water, which, by the way, covered my chapel floor 7 inches deep. You will probably see an account of the floods in The Sentinel so will not repeat here.

(Signed) (Rev.) John P. Fox, S.J.

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Keshunak) Holy Cross P. O., Alaska  
February 24, 1932



Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

40-1

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$5 covering  
the gift of Mrs. Mary E. Ringrose, California, which she has  
designated for gasoline, in answer to your appeal in The Indian Sentinel.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

WH:MP

Received the check named above

*Thanks!*

(Signed)

*John P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Rec'd MAY 3 1932  
Ann. *file copy* ~~SEPTEMBER 17, 1931~~  
Fol'd  
Letter to  
Order filed  
Ship't  
Copy to L.S.  
Copy to  
Atmt  
Ent.  
Mailed  
Work Slip O.K.  
List  
D.G. or Ref.  
Check sent

COPY FOR *Bureau*

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, P.O., Alaska  
March 6, 1932

ENCLOSURE

Mrs. M. E. Ringross  
California

My dear Mrs. Ringross:

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

Many thanks for your kind check of \$50.00 for gasoline for my boat. The gift is most practical, and all the more pleasing to God as I know/ ~~that I am~~ that generally speaking one does not like to see her money go up in smoke.

The gasoline problem for me is a serious one. One reason is because I need so much, the other because it costs me such an outrageously high price, just imagine-- \$1.00 a gallon. Though I am hoping to improve on this price now that I have a seaworthy boat and expect to get in my freight by a more direct route. Still it will always be high, somewhere above 60 cents a gallon at best.

So far I do not know how our mission plane is faring or where it is. I thought it would be down here long ago. For it is just my particular mission that is most in need of this way of communication. In many other parts of Alaska the coming of a plane has come to be a daily occurrence. But only once did one come down this way. It is too expensive for most of them, but more especially it is too dangerous. For as no one flies around here in case of accident there would be no one to come to the rescue, even supposing that the lost plane could be found. For it would be something like looking for a needle in a hay-stack. As this entire territory is flat as the palm of your hand there are no landmarks to follow and so a plane coming this way has to travel strictly by compass. It is about the same as "blind flying". Even when travelling here by dog-team we have this same difficulty, and for this reason I have slept out on the snow as often as seven times in one winter, on account of getting lost and not being able to find my destination.

With best ~~my~~ wishes to you, and with my priestly blessing, I remain

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

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Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$5 covering  
the gift of Miss Julia Z. Mahoney, New York, which she has  
designated for gas for your car, in response to your appeal in The Indian  
Sentinel.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

*Wm Hughes*

WH:MP

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes.  
Director.

Received the check named above

*Mar 6, 1932*

*Thank You!*

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

*J.P. Fox, Jr.*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)

Rec'd May 3 1932  
Ass. *[Signature]* Nov 9, 1931  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Letter to \_\_\_\_\_  
Order filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Ship't \_\_\_\_\_  
Copy to I.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
Copy to \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Slip O.K. \_\_\_\_\_  
List \_\_\_\_\_  
D.G. or Ref. \_\_\_\_\_  
Check sent \_\_\_\_\_

COPY FOR *Bureau*

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashumak)  
Holy Cross, P.O., Alaska  
March 6, 1932

ENCLOSURE  
40-1

Miss Julia Z. Mahoney  
New York

My dear Miss Mahoney,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

Many thanks for the check of \$5 to buy gasoline for my car. Sorry I can't use a car here. But I have to make many miles every summer in a gasoline boat that eats up a great deal more than half a dozen cars would in the same distance, as it has an engine big enough to handle conveniently a boat about forty feet long, that can carry about 5 tons of freight and at the same time push a twenty ton barge.

Besides this boat I have now a small out-board motor to make quick calls when necessary, and to visit the various fishing camps of my scattered flock and give them the benefit of Holy Mass and Communion more or less regularly. And that is saying ~~nothing of the~~ nothing of the gasoline lamps that are burning the greater part of the short winter days here in Alaska.

It is almost strange that the King and Lord of all the universe should not wish to provide His Church, and especially also His missionaries, with all that they need to carry on the work of spreading the Faith without having to worry about begging continually for bare necessities, thus at times spending, as I must admit happens to me, precious time in letter-writing that should be spent in evangelizing the people that are waiting for some one to break to them the bread of salvation. If I had what I need to carry on the work of my mission, I do not think I would write a dozen letters a year. As it is I write about two dozen times that number, burning mid-night oil frequently to beg a few dollars so as to be able, for example to foot my gasoline bill for the summer. Many thanks that you in your generosity made fruitful one such begging-letter. Fortunately begging in a good cause is not a big crime, else I would have landed on the gallows long since.

With best wishes to you, and promising you my prayers and those of my people who profit by your charity I remain with a blessing,

Yours sincerely in the Sacred Heart

COPIED BY MP

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

COPY FOR

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, P.O. Alaska  
March 6, 1932

46-1

Miss Catherine Cunningham

My dear Miss Cunningham!

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

Constancy is a hard virtue; but if I may judge from the regularity with which your ~~slms~~ drops in here, making due allowance for my miserable way of getting mail, you seem to be a post master in this respect. May our dear Lord reward your charity.

My intentions at holy Mass are taken up for a little bit now. But I will mince in very soon a few Masses, and the rest I will say as soon as I am free. I know you will understand the situation. When my mail does finally arrive here, as other things, so too my Mass intentions generally come in a tunch.

I am enclosing you a copy of some few of the native superstitions that are still more or less practised in the more distant parts of my immense mission field. The copy is a bit indistinct, but I think you will be able to read it; its the best I have right now.

I just got the good news yesterday that the Superior of the Alaska missions expects to be here in a few days by plane. Whether it is with the mission plane, or with a hired plane, I do not know. A trader some distance from here picked up a telegram from our Superior to one of the other missionaries, and immediately wrote me a letter to tell me the good news.

The radio, by the way, may solve my mail problem to some extent if I can manage to raise a few dollars to buy an outfit. There are a few government stations up here along the river Yukon who daily broadcast the main news items for the benefit of those who have a radio. For me it would probably cost about \$100 to get a radio, and about \$30 annually for batteries as I have no electricity. That would be pretty much for a poor man, eh? I think I will wait for a few years till better times.

With best wishes ~~and~~ to you, and a promise of our prayers for you and your Sister Ida, that our dear Lord may restore her eyesight if it be for her good and His greater glory, I remain in union of prayers,

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart,

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

P.S. We are in the midst of an epidemic of whooping cough. Two children of the only pretestant preacher in my district have died of it here at my mission in the last two weeks. The preacher is an Eskimo and has been telling my people at times that our Lord is punishing us for being in the wrong church. Well, as none of my children here have died so far, (though I must not boast too much, or too early,) I guess he'll keep quiet for a while, or at least find a new explanation of why God some times punishes His children. We know the fact, and gladly admit it. But the reason is certainly not because we are in the WRONG church.

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*orig to donors*

Sacred Heart Mission  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, Alaska.  
March 7, 1932

46-1

Miss Gertrude Magin  
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Miss Magin,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you all!

Many thanks for your kind letter of October 22, with the check and the list of Sodalists who wished to give us that gift for Christmas. Alms, be they spiritual or material, are always on time here, even though they never arrive just when the sender figures they should. For that reason I always make it a point to pray not only for those whose alms I have received but also for those whose alms in on the way.

You are perhaps aware that I got very near to Rochester last summer when I was sent to Niagara Falls for the Convention. Very sorry to say I could not visit your high school, first of all because there were no students there at that time, and then too because the time was very unsuitable for the Sisters. May be some other day I may find a more suitable opportunity. For though I expect to spend the next 96 years working in the Alaska missions it is not unlikely that during this spell I may be sent out to the States again for one reason or another.

Enclosed you will find a copy of some interesting incidents that happened in my mission. They interested me enough to get me to sit down and write them out, and while doing so I thought I might as well add a copy for my adopted friends at Rochester. I hope the copy is not so indistinct that you will difficulty to read it.

Assuring you of a continued remembrance in my poor prayers and those of my people, and sending along my priestly blessing, I remain

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

P.S. I will save that list of 62 sodalists. May be I will be able to remember every one by name in some other way besides prayer. Just now I can do no more.

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COPY FOR *Bureau*  
*Orig. to donor*  
MAY 3 11932 *JS*

Sacred Heart Mission 40-1  
(Kashunak)  
Holy Cross, P.O., Alaska  
March 7, 1932

My dear Miss Terry,

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

Thank you ever so much for the \$13.00 of gasoline money. A most practical gift indeed, though it will all go up on smoke! God our dear Lord will know how to reward your charity, and on our part we will do what we can to show our gratitude by our prayers for you and your intentions.

Unfortunately I lost a good deal of my gasoline last November in a big flood that came near wiping my mission off the Alaska map. Those cans and drums that were not smashed by the ice were recovered after the water subsided; but what leaked out of the smashed cans naturally is gone. The water from the Bering Sea rose to the height of seven inches in my chapel, and it was due only to a very special favor of Divine Providence that the Mission building Kashunak was not damaged by the ice-bergs that were being carried in from the sea by a strong gale and the waves which it naturally kicked up.

My people too suffered much from the floods, (for we had two of them, one on November 26th and the other on December 7-8). The fish which they had stored up for the coming winter was covered up by the ice so that they could not find it any more, and many of the fresh water lakes were turned into salt-water lakes by the flood, and the fish that were in them killed as they could not stand the salt-water. Having thus their fish supply destroyed and prospects of getting a fresh supply made very difficult, if not impossible, my Eskimos have had to resign themselves at least in many cases, to a real starvation diet. I have been helping them out as far as my slender means permit. But with these hard times in the U. S. and the terribly high prices up here at all times, I was not able to do much.

With best wishes to you, and assuring you of our prayers, Holy Masses and Communion, I remain with a blessing,

Yours most thankfully in the Sacred Heart

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.

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COPY FOR: Bureau  
" " T.I.S/  
Orig. sent donor 5/11/32 MB.

40-1

Sacred Heart Mission  
Kashunak, Holy Cross, Alaska

March 12, 1932

Miss Mary E. Thompson  
16 Ackers Ave.  
Brookline, Mass.

My dear Miss Thompson:

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you.

This is to thank you for the offering you sent me in August. The holy Mass you requested in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was said for the intention you mentioned, and I hope your prayer was granted.

I don't know what I ever did to the devil. But if he has anything to do with the making of the weather he must certainly have it in for me. When I am detained here at my headquarters with necessary work the weather is generally pretty good, but as soon as I begin loading my sled for some missionary expedition it begins to blow. The last three days we had ideal weather, I guess because I had to stay here to wait for the arrival of our Rev. Father Superior, who is making the visitation of his missions by plane just now. But I got tired waiting for him, and as I figured that he is not coming and packed my sled to make a two weeks trip to the southern part of my mission, it begins to blow a regular gale. So instead of starting on the trip I had planned I decided to sit down to answer your little letter. It is indeed a bad wind that does not blow good for some one.

I am sending you a little letter for your amusement, or rather, two of them. They were written by two boys from my mission school at Kashunak while I was away at my Hooper Bay station. These boys have about three and a half winters of schooling. We open school in November and close at the end of March. The children have school five days a week from 9 a.m. to 11:30. In the afternoon we never have class as everybody has to work. Annie Sipary is an Eskimo catechist who is teaching the children at Kashunak, and on account of two very dangerous floods that we had in the early part of the winter I had decided to take away the school at Kashunak. That is the reason of the complaint in the last line of Jerome's letter. I finally decided to leave Annie where she was till Easter when the mission will have to be closed and transferred to a safer place.

With best wishes and my blessing, I am

Yours sincerely

(Signed)

Father Fox.

COPIED BY MC

March 17, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

The donors of your chapel at Muraiaramiut, Scammon Bay, the Misses Gertrude and Loretto Lauderback, inquire anxiously about their chapel, asking if it has been built. I explained that it could not be built until this Spring.

While the bond which they gave has a face value of \$1,000, it is quoted in the present depressed market at 80, that is, \$800. There has been two coupons of \$20 each cashed. The Bureau will make up the other \$160.

Upon demand, therefore, I will send you check for \$1,000. You will probably want the money in hand before beginning to build.

Since the money is placed to your credit here, as in a bank, you might well write of having it and ready to begin as soon as weather permits. Let me have a letter for the Misses Lauderback.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

WH:MB

Copy for Bureau

*signed to Daniel 7/6/32 me.*

St. Mary's Mission,  
Akulurak, Alaska,  
April 5, 1932.

Reverend Father Fox, S. J.

My dear Father:

I am very happy to write a letter to you. When I think of the letter I wrote about two years ago I am always ashamed because it was not corrected and I couldn't do any better than now. This is not corrected. I am very glad we are making a Spiritual Bouquet to you. Last Sunday we began it.

I am sorry because next week I will go home. My father asked Father Sifton on Easter. I would like to stay in school because I have not yet become Child of Mary but I am an aspirant. I am very sorry because my people are not Catholics but my sister knows how to make the sign of the Cross. God was very good to me for letting me go to school. I am always praying to the Poor Souls in Purgatory that they may become Catholics.

Your loving Child,

(Signed) Dorothy Miamelinok

Copied by MW.



COPY *Bureau*

St. Mary's Mission  
Akulurak, Alaska  
April, 5. 1932

Rev. Father Fox, S.J.

Dear Father:

This afternoon I go to visit to Sister Cathrine, and Axel go with me and she said, "Who his it and I said, "It is Axel, and Sister Cathrine, was glad she said, "I don't not what to do, she show him Chapel and to school house.

She told me to shew fish house ~~///~~ after school. yes Sister, and she call me old man.

This morning I told Frank to became Brother, he said, "I will became air man, and I told him you will fall down.

He told me to became Father and I said, "I will became post office. I will put 2 cents stamp on the letter.

This afternoon, Louis told me Father Fox you will come out from retreat and I said, "To him no, day after to morrow he will come out.

At Holy Mass I pray for you.

Your loving child

COPIED BY MP

Oswald

40-1  
April 12, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Keshunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

Enclosed please find Bureau check for \$100 covering a donation of \$80 for relief work in your mission and \$20 for 20 stipends Ad intentionem dentis.

You are one of five priests who are receiving equal donations received through Very Rev. Mgr. William Griffin, LL.D., Director of the Newark Propagation of the Faith Society. According to his practice, Monsignor Griffin sent the donation through the Marquette League to this Bureau. It will not be necessary to mention the latter detail in your letter of thanks. Please send me a letter of thanks addressed (on the inside) to Monsignor Griffin, asking him to express your gratitude to the donor who wishes her name withheld.

Yours fraternally,

WH:MB

Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

April 14, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashumuk  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$5 covering  
the gift of an anonymous donor, which has been  
designated for you, in response to one of our appeals.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

WH:HS

This donation was received through the Office of the  
Rector of the Faith of Brooklyn, Rev. John M. Hilpert, Director.

(Signed) *J. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

*This is only an extract of letters of thanks*  
COPY FOR *Bureau*

*Area 1, 4/16/32*  
Miss M. McCarthy  
Mass.

His Satanic Majesty is putting up a hard fight for his possessions in this part of the country. But thanks be to God, he is gradually losing his hold on this good people. They tell lots of little incidents about encounters with him in visible form, and I can not but help believing at least some of them. And I guess that is the reason why they are so strong on the use of medals, pictures, holy water, beads, etc. They must have found out by experience that what I told them about satan's hatred for these sacramentals is true.

There is an Eskimo preacher at Hooper Bay, one of my stations, of the Swedish Episcopal denomination. He is the only preacher in my district just at present, though there is one public school teacher at Nunivak, in the southern part of my mission, who, I think, also preaches when he gets the chance. Fortunately these Protestant preachers in Alaska do not travel. I guess it's too much like fun, and for this reason they do not hamper our work as much as they might were they to travel as the Catholic missionary does. Besides, as a religion, Protestantism has absolutely no appeal to these people. Some of them indeed generally follow the preacher wherever he puts up a mission, but it is to get the food and clothing that he hands out from time to time, not his religion.

(Signed)

John P. Fox, S.J.

COPIED BY MC

40-1  
April 16, 1932

Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashumak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

1 covering  
Mr. Francis J. Walsh of New York, which has been  
you, in response to one of our appeals.

WH:HS

This donation was received through the Office of the  
Propagation of the Faith of New York, Rev. Thomas J. McDonnell,  
Director.

Enclosed is one check for \$6 covering both gifts.



Msgr. W. Hughes,  
2021 H. St. N.W.,  
Washington D.C.

SACRED HEART MISSION  
(KASHUNAK)  
HOLY CROSS P. O., ALASKA

April 22, 1932.

Rec'd JUN 28 1932  
Ans. 7/13/32  
Fol'd Masses  
Letter to Work Ship O.K.  
Order filled Letters of Feb. 2  
Ship God bless you!  
Copy tel. 1.8 D.G. or Ref.

My dear Msgr. Hughes,  
P.C.

Many thanks for your kind letters of Feb. 2, and the donations the same mail brought me from you.

I thought over the proposition with regard to a new chapel to be built at Scammon Bay (Maraiaramiut). You are right in saying that \$500 will rarely build a chapel in Alaska. Your suggestion to add the money to the \$1000 bond of the first friend who is naming the chapel is good. But I doubt whether Miss Heidt would care to do this. Hence when I made a long trip just recently to Akulurak, I mentioned the matter to Fr. Sifton who is planning a new chapel for Uksukalik, for which he bought the material at a bargain, and which for this reason he says he could put up for \$500. It would be a modest little chapel, it is true, being merely a large log cabin. But it will be the house of God, and Miss Heidt could name it. And with this she might be content. In my letter to her I will not mention this idea of mine. But in case she does not consent to pool her donation with the other for my new chapel, you would have another offer on hand for her.

Moreover, if she will be satisfied to hold over the donation for another year, I will also be in a position to accept it and give her the naming of a chapel on Nelson Island. I have a building there about 20 X 40ft that I am turning into a chapel. It is a good substantial building on the outside but will need a good deal of work on the inside to make it a nice chapel such as I would like there. The only reason why I can not do this work this coming summer is that it is too late in the season to get in the necessary building material. For \$500 I could do this job nicely.

Also with regard to the chapel at Maraiaramiut (Scammon Bay) there is a difficulty. It is a place to which it is next to impossible to get any large boat to enter on account of the danger of getting stranded. For this reason I have to bring in the material with my own little outfit. And as this will be slow and dangerous business I can not promise that I will be able to

SACRED HEART MISSION  
(KASHUNAK)  
HOLY CROSS P. O., ALASKA

finish the chapel this coming summer. But I will start anyhow, and will put a catechist there next winter as I have already bought a small cabin there for \$200 which will serve as a home for the catechist and a temporary chapel till I can finish the new one. So please tell our kind benefactor to have patience with me.

As to the cost of this new chapel, it will be over \$500 alright; but I think that \$1000 will suffice, as it will be only about 20 X 30 feet on account of the fact that I do not have to figure on quarters for the catechist who will live in the mentioned cabin. There is already a protestant church in the place and it is imperative for me to get started there, especially as the village is growing and there is danger of the protestants putting up a school.

I am sending you two more film packs for development, and hope they will turn out alright. Sorry to say they were snapped in a hurry and not described. One pack was taken mostly at Tununak where I have the good fortune of having a very devoted couple as teachers in the government school. They are Mr and Mrs. Sprunger, and they figure in the pictures taken of their school children there. The fact that the school grew in two years from one to 28 children is a fair commentary on their success.

And, by the way, I told Mrs. Sprunger to write to you for shipments of clothes and other things of the kind that she needs there. Though she is a public school teacher (and these in Alaska have a rather poor reputation) she is doing fine work also for my mission. She can not, of course, teach religion in school, but she helps my work in many other ways, and I would consider as given to the mission whatever is given to her in the line of things needed to dress and clean up the people.

The other pack is taken on the occasion of Fr. Menager's visit here by plane. Mr Woodley brought Father around to all the various stations, and on leaving here to go to Akulurak I went along to make my annual retreat. It was my first flight and took us just one hour to cover the 100 miles by air line. I returned to my mission by dog team, and it took me four days to make the trip. When the plane was getting ready to leave Akulurak it

SACRED HEART MISSION  
(KASHUNAK)  
HOLY CROSS P. O., ALASKA

was nearly burned up in the process of heating up the engine with gasoline stoves. Some damage was done but not much.

My correspondence is in a bad shape again. I am on the trail so much that I can not possibly keep up. Just yesterday I finished a letter that was sticking in my typewriter for the last month because I was away from home most of the time. My poor friends must have a hard time to possess their soul in patience. But I really do not see what I could do to remedy the situation. I had to leave my typewriter about a dozen times while writing this little letter to you, and one of the interruptions was a sick call for which I had to make forty miles by dogteam.

With best wishes to you, and in union of prayers I remain,

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred Heart,

John P. Dox. *JP*

*Notice*  
*P.S.* Notice my change of address please:

- For 1<sup>st</sup> class mail: Hooper Bay, Via Andreafsky P.O., Alaska.
- Parcel Post: Hooper Bay, Via Akulurak P.O., Alaska.
- Freight: refer to Schwabacher Hides Co., Seattle.

Freight must not be shipped to me after the middle of May, unless arrangements are made with me before hand. It will save us money, time, and loss of goods in some cases.

(over)

HOLY CROSS P.O., ALASKA  
(KASHUNAK)  
SACRED HEART MISSION

I take back what I said about not sending me clothes. Now that I have my native sisters here, seven in number, I need clothes for them. Anything in line of black clothes is especially welcome; also shoes and the like, as these sisters will not have to wade through the mud in summer as my people do.

Among the films I'm sending for development are 3 views of the Stoper Bay Chapel and the crib. I got this load all the way from Cologne, Germany + would like to have you send 3 prints of every negative (supposing they turn out well) to: Hochst. John J. Gummertsbach, S.J.,  
Ignatiuskolleg,

Velkenburg, Holland.

This Father will distribute them to the benefactors who sent the crib if you mention this in the note accompanying the prints.

Copy for Bureau

" " J. J. S.  
Orig sent down 7/11/32 MB

Holy Cross, Alaska  
April 24, 1932

Miss Florence Heidt  
Pa.

My dear Miss Heidt:

May the blessing of Almighty God be ever with you!

Msgr. Hughes in his letter to you told you that "It takes about two months for a letter to go from the States to Alaska and back". In the main the statement is correct. But more often it takes five months on account of the fact that I have no mail service and that the letter has to lie in the post office sometimes for a month or more before some one comes my way. And in the same way a letter may lie on my desk for the same length of time before some body comes along to take it to the post office for me once I have written it. I could write this letter just as well in about two months from now as I know that it can not possibly leave Alaska till after the break-up which will be some time in the early part of June.

Msgr. Hughes has answered your question well with regard to the \$500 you would like to spend in having a chapel put up. I hate to have to agree with him in this, at least just now. I am not in a position to build a chapel for that amount now, though I will be able to fix up one in about a year from now with the amount you suggest. The reason is this.

Here in my mission I can not put ~~up~~ up any entirely new chapel for less than about \$1500. But I have bought some material which, though not new, is very good yet; and with this I intend to put up several chapels. Besides, I have a large building that used to be a store or what we call here a trading stations, and this I want to turn into a church. The outside of the building is very good yet; ~~and-with-this-I-am~~ but to transform the inside into a church will take a pretty fair amount of new material. Still, I think your \$500 would do the trick for me, if you care to; you could name the



chapel anything you like, unless perhaps your choice of title would coincide with some other chapel already existing here, such as St. Joseph, Little Flower, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Sacred Heart.

Msgr. Hughes may have a better suggestion for you where you could build a chapel, so I refer ~~you~~ you to him in case you object to adding your gift to the bond mentioned in Msgr. Hughes' letter to you of which I have a carbon copy for reference.

You no doubt are interested in a few reasons why here in Alaska we should need so much more than in other places to put up chapels, and in general, to carry on our work. The chief reason is the lack of transportation facilities, and the undependableness and outrageous rates of those few that we have. Here in my own district I have no way of transporting anything unless I haul it myself either by dog-team or with the small gas boat that I just bought last summer. This boat has sufficient power for my purpose, but its carrying capacity is far too small for much freighting, and for this reason I am planning to make a 15 ton barge that I can tow when I need to handle large amounts of freight. By next year I hope to be able to have this barge and take care of my freighting. For this year I have to haul my provisions in small quantities, and that, of course means many more trips and the expenditure of much more time and gasoline than would be necessary if I had my barge ready.

My district is about 300 miles long and about 50 miles wide, being mostly flat coast country. The rivers and sloughs that cut my district in every direction are naturally very crooked so that it takes a long time to get anywhere. For this reason it takes me for instance about four hours to go by dogteam from Hooper Bay to Kashunak, two of my principal stations, whereas it takes me about twelve hours to make the same distance by gas-boat travelling at the rate of about ten miles per hour, while by dog-team I go about five or six miles per hour. The reason of the difference is this by dog-team I go in straight lines strictly following my compass, whereas with my boat I naturally have to follow all those crooked sloughs and rivers.

If there is any particular point of information that would interest you about us here I would be glad to tell you what I know. Before I forget it; thank you most kindly for the \$10 donation and the \$5 mass stipends. I already said the Masses.

Hard times have reached us even up here. We live on charity, and as alms generally come from the poorer class of people, and most of these are now in distress themselves, naturally they can not help us as they used to do. Besides, freight rates which are almost our main expense, are just as high as they ever were.

My people all live strictly by hunting and fishing, and here too the boot is pinching. As the fur market in the States is terribly low naturally my people get almost nothing for their hard earned fur. In fact it is almost impossible to sell what little they get with the result that they have nothing to buy. For cash is something never seen here; our money is fur or skins, or the provisions that can be bought with these. I have had to help feed and clothe my people all winter. And not a few had nothing but the little I could afford to give them.

Our usual difficulty of making a living was also much increased this year on account of two big floods that we had last Nov. 26, and ~~Dec.~~ Dec. 7-8. Some of my villages were completely inundated, and even the flood of my church at Kashunak was covered with seven inches of water from the Bearing Sea one mile off. All my gasoline at one station amounting to several hundred gallons was carried away by the first flood; and though much of it was recovered, a good part was lost, as the cans were smashed by the icebergs that came floating in from the sea and the oil spilled. All of my boats too were carried away. It will not be so hard to get my three row boats back to the water but my forty foot gas-boat will give us trouble. The flood carried it some three hundred yards from the bank of the slough where I had it put away for the winter, and left it stranded there. We are just now digging it out from the eight foot of snow that covered it. Then we have to raise it to the level of the snow, and some way or other slide or roll it back to the slough. To raise a boat of that size eight feet with jacks and move it 300 yards will be some job with the few means we have at our disposal here.

But I think I am tiring you with all this gossip about our little difficulties, and so I'll call a halt. Recommending myself to your fervent prayers, and promising you my own and those of the people, I remain

Yours most sincerely in the Sacred  
Heart,  
Fr. Fox.

copied by MB

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS  
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

May 9, 1932

*Rec'd. Oct. 10, 1932*  
Rev. John P. Fox, S.J.  
Kashunak  
Holy Cross, Alaska

Dear Father Fox:

I enclose Bureau check for \$2 covering  
the gift of an anonymous donor, which has been  
designated for you, in response to one of our appeals.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of  
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal  
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

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

Wh:HS

.....  
This donation was received through the Office of the  
Propagation of the Faith of Brooklyn, Rev. John M. Hilpert, Director.  
Received the check named above

(Signed) *J.P. Fox*

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for  
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

*Thanks!*

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes,  
2021 H St., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

SACRED HEART MISSION  
(KASHUNAK)  
HOLY CROSS P. O., ALASKA

40-1  
JUL 19 1932  
AUG 15 1932  
Attn. Mr. Fox  
To: Mr. Fox  
From: Mr. Fox  
Order filed Workshop O.H.

My dear Msgr. Hughes,

It is quite a while since I have not written to you. Things are awful this year. It was always hard here to fix up my correspondence, but never so hard as this year. On account of the increase in my district I am away from home more than ever, and very little travel came down my way during the entire winter, hence no chance to get my mail to my distant post office. The weather was more than ordinarily poor, and the trail very rough on account of the blocks of ice that the floods left everywhere last December.

From now on my address will be: Hooper Bay, Via Akulurak P.O., Alaska. Kashunak will have to be removed, sorry to say, to a safer place some thirty miles back from where it is now. There is no higher ground near around, and the floods last fall scared us all so badly that we are not willing to take another chance. The name of the mission will be preserved in the new place, as also the furnishing as much as this will be possible.

Under separate cover I am sending another film pack for development. With best wishes I remain, in union of prayer,

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart,

*John P. Fox, Jr.*