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1930

## Oregon, Siletz Reservation, St. Mary's Mission, 1930

William M. Hughes

*Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions*

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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MISSIONS -40  
OREGON  
SILETZ RESERVATION, ST. MARY'S MISSION  
1930

COPY FOR:

*Bureau*  
*rights*  
*2/18/30 m 3*

40-46  
Siletz, Oregon,  
January 13, 1930.

St. Wendelin High School Students,  
Fostoria, Ohio.

Dear young friends:

Some one wrote on a slate found in one of the boxes, a wish that the recipients would be as happy as the donors. Your wish is bountifully granted, for the happiness of all was overflowing.

You evidently expect that an account of the distribution of your presents will be given in a model narration style, replete with periodic sentences and a few tropes thrown in. Unfortunately you will be disappointed, for I just talk, and simply at that. Now for the narration.

On receiving notice of the arrival of freight from Fostoria, Ohio, I motored to Toledo, nine miles distant, got the parcels and hastened back to the sacristy in Siletz to sort the articles and make the assignments. After thorough inspection, my decision was to send to one family your entire consignment, with the exception of a suit of clothes which I knew to be too large for any of the men in that home. Parenthetically, I wish to say I kept the suit for myself to replace a shabby one which I have been wearing daily for over two years. I hope my conduct will not offend you.

With the cheerfulness of a Santa Claus I rushed the parcels back into the car and made my way six miles up the river to William's home. Did I say home? Probably it was, if home can be a shack or barn. Imagine a box-house, fourteen by twenty, with a small kitchen adjoining, under a shed roof, sheltering fourteen people, seven children and seven adults. The sleeping quarters are in the attic, the condition of which I can not describe for I have not ventured into their "sanctum sanctorum." But I know that the cold wind has full sweep through those quarters for the wall boards in some places are fully an inch apart. The floor downstairs is so badly worn that great cracks are in evidence. As we are having severe weather at present that house is very cold and you will not be surprised to learn that I found all the children, and three of the older people sick. My first concern on entering, however, was to open the boxes and distribute the toys. Further distribution of the contents was left to the mothers of whom there are three. As I was leaving to get the doctor I was pleased to hear the spontaneous thank you's from all, especially the little dark eyed kiddies. Realizing that their expression of gratitude were directed to you, the real benefactors, and knowing the impossibility of getting you in on the scene, I hoped that their angels would carry the message of thanks to you and bring you the joys of a charity well dispensed.

There are more graces than you realize coming to you for your kind deed, for, unwittingly you were instrumental in having me baptize four children in that home, of preparing a young Indian for death, who since has died, and of getting a promise from the entire family, who at one time wavered toward the Four Square Gospel sect, to return to the Faith and the Sacraments. Moreover, it gave me the opportunity to straighten a legal difficulty so as to enable the men to cut and sell the timber on the place and thereby pay off a long standing mortgage and build a new home of which I am to be the architect. And believe me the house will be warm at least.

In my own name I wish to thank you for giving me the means of approach to this family whereby, I surmise, my ministry among the Indians will be more fruitful. For the success of this mission I ask the help of your pious prayers, while on my part, I assure you a large share in my prayers and Masses for the benefactors of the Mission

Gratefully and respectfully yours,

(Signed) Rev. Charles Raymond.

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

40-46

Jan 18, 1930.  
Rec'd FEB 6 1930 Amt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. *216 98* Ent. \_\_\_\_\_  
Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Masses \_\_\_\_\_  
Letter to \_\_\_\_\_ C. C. \_\_\_\_\_  
Order filled \_\_\_\_\_ Work Exp O.K. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapt \_\_\_\_\_ List \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ D.A. or Ref. \_\_\_\_\_  
Check sent \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Charles Raymond,  
Siletz,  
Oregon.

Dear Father Raymond:

I enclose Preservation Society check for \$70, covering your salary for attending Siletz Mission, during the quarter ended December 31, 1929.

Yours fraternally,

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

JR

Dear Monsignor:

*I thank you for the check.*

*Sincerely yours*

*Charles Raymond*

COPY FOR:

*Bureau  
copy to Board  
3/15/30 MZ*

Siletz, Oregon,  
February 1, 1930.

40-46

Miss Eugenia Towle,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Miss Towle:

Your box came, and was disposed of as soon as the roads, covered with sixteen inches of snow, were made passable.

When I learned of the contents of the box I marvelled at your ability to make up such a useful collection. There is no reason now why my Indians can't be clean both physically and spiritually for you have provided them with the means. I thank you very much but I am sorry that the express charges were so high. Your suggestion that in order to eliminate the cartage expenses, a cash donation be made, meets with my approval, but on the other hand, I offer the suggestion that you make a list of the items that you wish bought, for I acknowledge the utter inability in myself to make a judicious selection.

You ask the extent of my territory. In square miles it is about five hundred although I do not have more than fifty miles to make in any one direction. As Siletz is in the foot hills of the Coast Range mountains the roads are winding, and a six-mile distance as the crow flies, may become thirty-five miles by the traveled road. This is true in one instance that I know.

Again I wish to thank you for your generous donation, for without help from the outside the mission could hardly get along, and furthermore I wish to assure you a share in the Masses and prayers offered regularly for the benefactors of St. Mary's Mission.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Raymond.

Copied by:FM



COPY FOR: *Bureau*  
*copy to donor*  
*2/18/30 MKJ*

40-46

Siletz, Oregon;  
February 1, 1930.

Mrs. John Koetting,  
St. Genevieve, Mo.

Dear Mrs. Koetting:

Your generous consignment arrived at a time when it was most needed, for the winter is severe and the Indians here are not prepared for intense weather conditions. The warm clothing you sent therefore was most appropriate, while their distribution was a simple matter for me, for they went to one group of relations numbering about twenty-five, then children and grand-children of old Mrs. Blacketer. This pious old Indian is very poor, and with the exception of one daughter, all her are poor, and she, the good soul, tries to provide for them all. To be able to supply her with such good clothing gave me real pleasure, so, when it was possible to drive to the upper farm district twelve miles from Siletz, the goods were delivered. As she lives a considerable distance from the road and there was no way of driving the car through the deep snow, we borrowed an old sled, tied the things on and pushed our way through the snow to her home or shack.

You can imagine her happiness while going over the assortment and assigning to different ones what best suited them. She saw all her children and grand-children comfortable and well dressed, rejoiced at the thought, thanked God and surely blessed the donors. Mrs. Blacketer prays her rosary frequently, and I am sure it will be recited often for you. At any rate you are listed with the benefactors of St. Mary's Mission, Siletz, and you shall be remembered in the prayers and Masses offered regularly for them.

Dear Mrs. Koetting, please thank the Queen's Daughters for their charity. Undoubtedly they realize that charity is the most powerful means of spreading the Kingdom of Christ on earth, for did not the Master say: "Men shall know you are my disciple if you love one another."

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

(Signed) Rev. Charles Raymond.

Copied by: PM

February 18, 1930.

Rev. Charles Raymond,  
Siletz,  
Ore.

Dear Father Raymond:

I have received a gift of \$55 from the St. Louis' Mission Society, Missouri, all of which I have assigned to payments due you quarterly.

I wish you would address a letter of thanks, without envelope, to Rev. Mark K. Carroll, Secretary of the St. Louis' Mission Society, and send it to me for transmittal.

My purpose is to express gratitude for past favors and to encourage future favors. But I must ask absolutely that you do not communicate directly at any time with this donor.

Tell the donor something interesting about your work.

You will no doubt recall that last year Father Carroll sent me \$50 which was also applied to the payments which I send you quarterly. I think, therefore, that in your letter of thanks it would be well to mention the fact that you appreciate Father Carroll's continued charity.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

COPY FOR: Bureau

Special Agent  
Miss  
Wig. E. Donoh

MAR 18 1930

MW

40-46  
Siletz, Oregon,  
February 19, 1930.

Miss Agnes Murphy,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Miss Murphy:

I want to give you an account of my stewardship in disposing of your box of good clothing.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ponsee are Indians who have passed their four score years of existence. They live in a box house at the end of the up-river road. The house, a tumbled down shack which had been deserted for years, was loaned them by their kind Indian neighbors. Their daughter, Mrs. West, well up in the sixties, lives with them. Recently the Government authorities bought some timber from them and allows them \$15.00 a month. Before that happened John often called on me for financial assistance. He always borrowed but was never able to pay back. He thinks that \$15.00 is not quite sufficient to purchase food for the three of them and asked if I would not try to have that allowance increased to \$20.00. I told them I thought the increase would do them more good while they are living than after their death. And he agreed with me heartily. Mrs. Ponsee is almost blind and has been confined to her bed for years although she sits up for a while every day. Once when I called she told me that the calico nightgown she wore was the only dress she had and that when she sat up she felt cold. I promised to bring her some clothes and some after your box came. I picked out a dress, a shirt, a coat, two hats, and an apron-like dress and a bath robe of my own. Those dark lined Indians were tickled pink. Old John pounced on one of the hats and tried it on. He was quite pleased and thought that if he put a "man's ribbon" on it no one would be wise to the fact that he was wearing a woman's hat. But I shall give John a hat and a suit of clothes.

The rest of your box is assigned to Eddie Charlie's family. They are very poor and then an a considerable number of children to clothe. When I go there tomorrow I shall find out their further needs and try to supply them.

I hope you experience the same spiritual satisfaction in collecting clothing for the poor Indians as I do in distributing them. Of course, I am only your agent but I expect a little share in the reward that God has in store for you. You may rest assured that I shall remember you and your intentions in the Masses and prayers offered for the benefactors of this mission.

Thanking you for the assistance you give me in ministering to the Siletz Indians, I am

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Rev. Charles Raymond.

COPIED BY MW.



Copy for Bureau

Rev. Mark K. Carroll,  
St. Louis Mission Soc., Mo.

Siletz, Oregon  
March 19, 1930

Rev. and dear Father:

The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions informed me that your recent gift was assigned to St. Mary's Mission, Siletz, Oregon. Thank you Father, for your continued interest in this mission. You most likely understand that it would be impossible for a priest to get along on an Indian mission without help from the outside. I know that I could do nothing and most probably would often go hungry. As it is I get my two meals a day regularly but with misery surrounding me on all sides. My balance is never more than a few dollars. Just after I had begun this letter old Mrs. Umatata came to the door. She had walked three miles to the store and was on her way back home. In Chinook Jargon she told me her husband was sick at home, that she was sick also, that the Government gave them no money and they were miserable. The old woman is as deaf as a door post and as I do not speak Jargon, although I understand it, I could not get any answers to my questions about her needs. However I gave her a dollar and took her home in my car. Now I must see what can be done for them immediately. Every day that I am home some one or more come in for help or some kind of service.

I am bending every effort to make my ministry fruitful among the Indians but I realize that only a Catholic school will reform this community and bring peace and happiness to the Indians. The school is my objection and although the prospects are very dark I have faith that Divine Providence will soon make the school a realization.

Thanking you and the St. Louis Mission Society for your charity, I am

Respectfully yours,

( Signed )

Charles Raymond

Copied by TB.

April 14, 1930.

Rev. Charles Raymond,  
Siletz,  
Ore.

Dear Father Raymond:

I enclose Preservation Society check for \$70, covering your  
salary for attending Siletz Mission, during the quarter ended March 31, 1930.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

July 15, 1930.

40-46

Rev. Charles Raymond,  
Siletz,  
Ore.

Dear Father Raymond:

I enclose Preservation Society check for \$70,  
covering your salary for attending Siletz Mission, during  
the quarter ended June 30, 1930.

Very sincerely yours,

Eugene J. Welch,  
Secretary.

JR

COPY FOR *Bureau*

*Copy to Bureau 11/21/30*  
Mr. John Ziegler,  
Fairmont, Minn.

Siletz, Oregon.  
September 30, 1930.

40-46

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

I received your large box of warm clean clothing for the Indians of my mission. I want to thank you and express my appreciation of your zeal in the cause of charity. It is seldom that men show that devotion although it is a manly act to relieve distress of any nature.

The Indians are always made happy when "Le Plate" - the priest - makes his rounds to distribute clothing. As I received only two consignments this year many families are threadbare and they worry over their condition this coming winter. I hope others will hasten to send a supply of everything including shoes and rubber goods. That last remark is not for your benefit but for Father Hughes who will read this letter before sending it on to you.

The name of your city, Fairmont, awakened pleasant memories. The Carters lived there several years ago and they were my very good and helpful friends and parishioners. I brought Mr. Carter into the Church and was present at his burial service. I also sang the funeral Mass for Mrs. Carter. This last often spoke of Fairmont and longed to return. It seems she never set her heart on Oregon and duty alone kept her there.

Thank you again, Mr. Ziegler, and for your kind service I shall be happy to enlist you among the benefactors who share in many Masses and prayers said throughout the year.

Sincerely your in Christ,

(Signed) Charles Raymond.

COPIED BY MC



COPY FOR *Bureau*

Oceanlake, Oregon,  
September 30, 1930.

40-46

Miss Mildred M. Marlier,  
5711 Elgin Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Miss Marlier:

Your generous box of nice clothing was distributed to the Indians as soon as it arrived, for I knew their needs were urgent. It was a pleasure to see some of the kiddies come trotting into the church on the following Sunday with those bright new dresses. They were indeed very happy as well as their parents. If you know the abject poverty of some of these Indians it would make your heart sick, especially when knowing the little interest shown in them by their white neighbors. In face the Indians are generally despised and nothing serious is being done to uplift them. The white man will not take the trouble to understand the nature of the Indian and expects too much from him. He, the Indian, will never advance beyond the intellectuality of a child, and needs to be guided in everything that he does.

I have much sympathy for these simple people and wish I could do much more for them than I am doing. I pray and hope that some day the Church will get control of the situation and help these people not only spiritually but also economically and socially. There is so much to do and so little being done that it sickens me.

Your generous gift was much appreciated, Miss Marlier, and you may be assured of a place among the benefactors of this mission who receive the benefit of prayers and Masses offered for them during the year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Signed) Charles Raymond.

COPIED BY MC



40-46

October 8, 1930.

Rev. Charles Raymond,  
Siletz,  
Ore.

*CWT*

Dear Father Raymond:

I enclose Preservation Society check for \$70, covering your salary for attending Siletz Mission, during the quarter ended September 30, 1930.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,  
Director.

JR

10-190

Archives and Institutional Repository - Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Received from Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Payment due as salary for attending the Siletz Mission,

For quarter ended March 31, 1930

\$70

Siletz, Oregon..... 40-46

APR 28 1930 Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Cr.

APR 28 1930 Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Cr.

Field \_\_\_\_\_ Masses \_\_\_\_\_ Tr.

Letter to \_\_\_\_\_ O. U.

Order filled \_\_\_\_\_ Work Slip O.K. \_\_\_\_\_ P. U.

Ship't \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars \_\_\_\_\_ (S. S.)

Copy to I.S. \_\_\_\_\_ D.G. of Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

Copy to \_\_\_\_\_ Check and \_\_\_\_\_

-----SEVENTY-----

*Charles Raymond*

