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North Dakota, Fort Berthold Reservation, Sacred Heart Mission School, 1925

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Bureau of Catholic Indian Mission

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MISSION SCHOOLS-20
NORTH DAKOTA
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION
SACRED HEART MISSION SCHOOL
1925

40-10

April 20, 1925.

Rev. Benedict Peter, O.S.B., *m. Peter*
Elkhounds, North Dakota.

Dear Father Benedict:

The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions will be pleased to supply the Benedictine Indian missionaries with Mass intentions. Whenever you are in need of intentions, please send us a request for fifty at a time. Do not wait until you are entirely out of Masses, but send in the request in time so that you may receive more stipends from us by the time you have said all the Masses you have on hand. In this way you will keep fully supplied.

Yours fraternally,

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

J

40-15-

St. Mary's Church
Elkwoods, N. D.

April the 26th 1925

Rt. Rev. Wm. Hughes
Washington D. C.

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Rt. Rev. and dear Father:

Kind offer to supply me with stipend. I am at present
 just a beginner to thank you for your
 quite well supplied but will be glad to avail
 myself of your kind offer when I am in need.
 the Indian Missions on account of ill health and
 His Lordship the Rt. Rev. Vincent Welch, Bishop of Wis-
 consin requested me to take care the Indian Missions
 to which I consented. I regret very much that Rev.
 Father Benedict had to give up the work among

St. Mary's Church

Elkwoods, N. D.

the Indians, as he would have been an ideal
Indian Missionary in many respects.

Taking everything in to consideration
we are getting along quite well. Our school
attendance is rather small, but I hope that
by next fall, things will improve.

Thanking you very much for the great
interest you will take in our poor Missions

I am yours respectfully

Rev. Peter Schaubach, O.
C. B.

MAIL AUG 8 1925 AM
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 COPIES

ELBOWOODS, N.D.
 JULY THE 28TH-1925.

ST. REV. MGR. WM. HUGHES.
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR FATHER HUGHES:-

THE READERS OF THE INDIAN SENTINEL WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR SOMETHING OF THE INDIANS OF THE FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION. EVER SINCE EASTER, WHEN I WAS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE ELBOWOODS MISSION SCHOOL AND MISSIONS I FELT THAT I SHOULD PUT OUR LOCAL PROBLEMS BEFORE YOU AND THE FRIENDS OF THE CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS.

AT PRESENT OUR GREATEST CONCERN IS THE SCHOOLING OF OUR CATHOLIC INDIAN CHILDREN. WE REALIZE THE DIFFICULTY IN COMPETING WITH THE NON-RESERVATION INDIAN SCHOOLS WHO HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO THEIR DISPOSAL TO MEET THE MODERN REQUIREMENTS. OUR BOARDING SCHOOL (SACRED HEART BOARDING SCHOOL) WAS BUILT BY MOTHER DREXEL ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO. WITH A LITTLE REMODELING THE BUILDING COULD BE PUT IN TO A SERVICEABLE CONDITION TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 40 CHILDREN WITHOUT CROWDING THEM TOO MUCH, BUT THE HEATING PLANT MUST BE THOROUGHLY OVERHAULED AND PERHAPS ENTIRELY REPLACED. THE LATTER COURSE WOULD BE THE MOST ADVISABLE, IF THE FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 75 CATHOLIC CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE WHO IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WENT TO NON-RESERVATION SCHOOLS. THE LOCAL PASTORS AT THESE PLACES MAKE A GREAT EFFORT TO INSTRUCT THEM AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE SEND TO THEIR SPECIFIC CHURCHES EVERY SUNDAY, BUT IF AN EFFICIENT CATHOLIC BOARDING SCHOOL WERE TO THEIR DISPOSAL AT HOME THEY WOULD SOONER PARENTS WOULD SOONER SEND THEM TO THE LOCAL BOARDING SCHOOL. HOWEVER IT TAKES SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO RUN AN EFFICIENT SCHOOL.

OUR LAST YEARS ATTENDANCE CONSISTED OF 16 BOARDERS AND 8 DAY SCHOLARS. THE BOARDERS WERE PERMITTED TO GO HOME ON FRIDAY EVENING AND WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN ON MONDAY MORNING. ONLY A FEW RETURNED PROMPTLY OTHERS WOULD GENERALLY MISS ABOUT A DAY OR TWO. THE DAY SCHOLARS WERE STILL MORE IRREGULAR. YOU WILL READILY SEE, DEAR FATHER, THE IMPOSSIBILITY TO HAVE A GOOD SCHOOL THIS WAY. FURTHERMORE THE POOR SISTERS WHO WERE OVER BURDENED WITH WORK FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THE CHILDREN CLEAN. THEY SEND THEM HOME CLEAN ON FRIDAY AND THEN ON MONDAY THEY HAD TO GO OVER THE SAME PROCESS OF CLEANING. THEREFORE I HAVE DECIDED TO RUN A BOARDING SCHOOL ONLY, ACCEPT NO DAY SCHOLARS, EVEN IF THEIR PARENTS SHOULD LIVE A FEW STEPS FROM THE SCHOOL. I WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO GO HOME, EXCEPT FOR A FEW DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS AND EASTER. IN THIS WAY I HOPE TO ESTABLISH A RECORD AND MAKE THE SCHOOL MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR THE FUTURE. BUT AS I HAVE MENTIONED ABOVE IT TAKES FUNDS AND IF I CAN GET THE READERS OF THE INDIAN SENTINEL IN FAVOR OF OUR MISSION TO UNDERSTAND OUR DIFFICULTIES I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL OPEN THEIR GENEROUS HEART AND HELP US SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE CATHOLIC INDIAN CHILDREN. THE CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OF AGE, WHO LEAVE THEIR HOMES TO ATTEND THE NON-RESERVATION SCHOOLS GENERALLY SUFFER SEVERELY OF HOME SICKNESS THE FIRST FEW MONTHS. TO MY MIND IT IS NOTHING SHORT OF CRUELTY TO SEND CHILDREN OF THAT AGE SO FAR AWAY FROM HOME. IF I RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THE FIRST FEW YEARS I AM CONFIDENT TO BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A BOARDING SCHOOL THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN IN THE RESERVATION. THEY WILL GROW IN A CATHOLIC ATMOSPHERE AND THEIR

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FAITH WILL BE PRESERVED.

BEFORE I FINISH THIS LETTER I MUST WRITE A FEW LINES ABOUT OUR LOCAL INDIAN CONGRESS, WHICH WE HAD AT ARMSTRONG JULY THE 19-20-21. IN SPITE OF AN OTHER INDIAN CONVENTION, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT FORT BUFFORT MONTANA AT THE SAME TIME WHEN OUR CONVENTION TOOK PLACE, WE HAD A GOOD ATTENDANCE. THE THREE DIFFERENT TRIBES; HIDATSAS (GROS-VENTRES) ARIKARAS AND MANDANS WERE WELL REPRESENTED. THE ARIKARAS PLAYED THE HOSTS AS THE CONGRESS TOOK PLACE IN THEIR CAMP. REV. FATHER JULIUS LOCKNIGAR, O.S.B. OF GARRISON N.D. OUR NEXT NEIGHBOUR GAVES US VALUABLE ASSISTANCE. HIS SERMON ON THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH WILL LONG REMAIN IN THE MEMORY OF THE INDIANS. HE WAS WELL INTERPRETED BY MR. ARTHUR MANDAN IN TO THE HIDATSA, WHICH IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD BY THE MANDANS AND BY MR. FLOID BEAR IN TO THE ARIKARA. BOTH ARE EXCELLENT INTERPRETERS AND VERY ABLE CATHECHISTS. THE OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS WERE MR. WILLIAM DEAN, PRESIDENT CLAIRE EVERETTE, TREASURER AND SAM NEWMANN, SECRETARY. ALTHOUGH THIS BEING THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE THEY DONE VERY WELL AND THE SUCCESS OF THE CONGRESS WAS TO A GREAT EXTENT DUE TO THEIR UNTIRING EFFORTS.

PRACTICALLY ALL THE CATHOLIC INDIANS WITH A FEW EXEPTIONS PERHAPS WENT TO HOLY COMMUNION. ALL THREE TRIBES LIKE ONE GREAT FAMILY LINED UP AROUND THE TABLE OF THE LORD. THE INDIANS LOVE JESUS IN THE BL. SACRAMENT, WHICH IS ONE GREAT CONSOLATION IN THE LIFE OF THEIR MISSIONARIES.

WE HAD A FEW VISITORS FROM THE STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION (SIOUX INDIANS), WHO ARE ALWAYS OUR WELCOME GUESTS.

THE INDIANS RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES SATISFIED AND STRENGTHENED IN THEIR FAITH. I ONLY REGRET THAT I CANNOT HAVE SERVICES FOR THEM EVERY SUNDAY. I HOPE HOWEVER THAT SINCE CATHECHISTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR EACH MISSION THE INDIANS WILL CONGREGATE EVERY SUNDAY AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. THE CATHECHIST ARE A GREAT HELP AND IF I COULD OFFER THEM A LITTLE COMPENSATION THEY COULD SPEND MORE TIME IN THIS NOBLE WORK. I KNOW ONE OF MY CATHECHIST FLOID BEAR PAYS FROM ONE TO TWO DOLLARS EVERY SUNDAY IN CROSSING THE MISSOURIE RIVER TO INSTRUCT THE INDIANS OF ST. ANDREW'S MISSION. ALL OUR CATHECHIST HAVE SO FAR OFFERED THEIR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE, BROUGHT PERSONAL SACRIFICES, EXPECTING THEIR REWARD IN THE WORLD TO COME, BUT AS I HAVE MENTIONED ABOVE THEY COULD DO A GOOD DEAL MORE IF SOME FINANCIAL AID WERE TO THEIR DISPOSAL AND PERHAPS (IF I DO NOT SPEAK LIKE A HERETIC) MINOR ORDERS SHOULD BE GIVEN THEM OR SOME OFFICIAL STANDING, BESIDES THE NAME OF CATHECHIST THE SCARCITY OF PRIESTS IS GREAT. THE FIELD IS LARGE, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW.

AT PRESENT I AM ALL ALONE IN THE FIELD IN THIS RESERVATION. I NEED AN OTHER PRIEST TO HELP. I NEED ALSO FINANCIAL HELP. WHO WILL GIVE ME \$10000.00 TO PUT OUR BOARDING SCHOOL IN CONDITION TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE CATHOLIC INDIAN CHILDREN OF THE RESERVATION?

I WILL CLOSE MY LETTER IN THE HOPE THAT OUR DEAR LORD WILL INSPIRE THE HEART OF SOME ONE WHOM HE FAVORED WITH TEMPERAL RICHES, TO SPEND A LITTLE OF IT IN HIS SERVICE, IN THE PROBAGATION OF FAITH AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND TEMPEROL WELFARE OF OUR CATHOLIC INDIAN CHILDREN.

ACCEPT MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR MANYFOLD EFFORTS IN THE PAST TO HELP US AND I ALSO WISH TO THANK YOU BEFORE HAND FOR WHATVER YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO FOR US IN THE FUTURE.

WITH BEST WISHES TO YOU AND ALL THE FRIENDS OF THE INDIANS
I AM YOURS

RESPECTFULLY

Rev. Peter Silreuben, O.S.B.

St. Mary's Church

Elkbluffs, N. D. AUG. THE 4TH 1925.

40-15

RT. REV. MSCN. HUGHES.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sp/25. 50 Mm...

RT. REV. AND DEAR FATHER:-

I HAVE ABOUT 15 STIPENDS ON HAND AT PRESENT AND SINCE VERY FEW ARE COMING IN OF LATE I THINK, THAT I WILL BE TAKE CARE OF SOME, IF YOU WOULD KINDLY SEND SOME. I MIGHT HAVE STATED IN MY LAST LETTER THAT I WOULD LEAVE IT TO YOUR JUDGEMENT, THAT EITHER THE WHOLE OR ONLY A PART OF MY LETTER MIGHT BE PUBLISHED IN THE INDIAN SENTINEL.

I AM AT PRESENT REMODELING THE OLD INDIAN SCHOOL ~~SCHOOL~~ BUILDING IN ORDER TO MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE ATTRACTIVE. IF YOU COULD HELP ME A LITTLE FINANCIALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IT WOULD RE A GREAT RELIEF. THANKING YOU BEFORE HAND FOR YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE I AM YOURS RESPECTFULLY

Rev. Peter Schaubach
8/12

8
At *St. Mary's Church* Order Filled
To U.S. Stip. rec'd
By U.S. Stip. col.
By U.S. Masses
Request listed 8/12

40-15

August 12, 1925.

Rev. Peter Fehrenbach, O.S.B.,
St. Mary's Church,
Elbowoods, North Dakota.

Dear Father Fehrenbach:

Your letter of August 4 to Father Hughes
has been received, and in a few days we will send you some
Mass intentions.

Your request for some financial help
in the remodeling of your school building will be brought
to Father Hughes' attention on his return to Washington
about the 1st of September.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles S. Lusk,
Secretary.

CSL:JR

40-13-

September 1, 1925.

Rev. Peter Echrenbach, O.S.B.,
Sacred Heart Mission,
Elbowoods, N.D.

Dear Father Echrenbach:

I am in receipt of your welcome letter of July 28. I was deeply interested in your account of the condition of the Elbowoods Mission School. Watch the October issue of the magazine for your appeal. I sincerely hope that it will be fruitful.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

JS:LG

40-15

St. Mary's Church

Elthowoods, N. D.

Rec'd SEP 12 1925 Amt. _____
 Ans. _____ Order filled _____
 Foll'd _____ Sten. comp'd _____
 Not L.S. _____ Sten. cut _____
 Copy to _____ Masses _____

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes
Washington, D. C.

Dear Father Hughes:

Received your most welcome letter of Sept. the 1st. all I have on hand in the line of pictures is a postal card, which I will enclose, but I am taking some pictures myself. Send the films unprinted to safe time because, I have to send them ^{over} my way.

Arthur Mandant tells me, that you asked him for some names. He gave me a list, which I will also enclose.

I have 37 Indian children in the Boarding school at present and 4 are still expected to come.

With your help & kind I will succeed
With best wishes
I am yours respectfully
Rev. Peter Schreiner

40-15

September 29, 1925.

Rev. Peter Fehrenbach, O. S. B.,
St. Mary's Churon,
Elbowoods, North Dakota.

Dear Father Peter:

I have your letter of August 4 before me. I am sure that your request for aid in remodeling the old Indian school building is most reasonable. The only thing that I can do is to publish your appeal in the Indian Sentinel. This usually gets the desired results.#

You should furnish us frequently with interesting items and pictures on glossy photographic paper.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

WH/MCS

in small requests . But this new boarding feature will be quite expensive. Do the parents pay any thing? They should. They should at least furnish clothing or the equivalent in money.

40-15

November 5, 1925.

Rev. Peter Fehrentach, O.S.B.
Elbowoods, N.D.

Dear Father Fehrentach:

I am enclosing check for \$25.00, made payable to your order, and signed by Henry Pfau of Jasper, Indiana. This donation is out of the funds left by his brother Joseph Pfau, deceased, for charitable purposes.

Please send me a letter of thanks addressed to Mr. Henry Pfau, which I will promptly forward to him. Also please remember the deceased brother in your Masses and prayers.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

CMJ

Rec'd NOV 19 1873 Amt _____
Ans. 11/2/25 Order filled _____
Foll'd _____ Sten. comp'd _____
Not LS _____ Sten. out _____
Copy to LS _____ Masses _____

Elbowoods, N.D. nov. the 15th 1925.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hughes:-
Washington, D.C.

Rt. Rev. and ^{dear} Father:*

Many thanks for the ^{kind} remittance of \$25.00. Enclosed please find letter to Mr. Henry Pfau.

Dear Father Hughes, you promised me to have my appeal for help in reestablishing our Indian school, printed in the October Number of the Indian Sentinel, but to my greatest disappointment I failed to find anything, except the small item stating, that we need \$10,000 school. It is true enough that it needs will take all of that if we want to accommodate all the catholic children, but I am sure that my appeal could be construed in the sense that I ask for something unreasonable. I stated that our heating and water system must be rebuilt. I had not sufficient covers for the children's beds during the cold spells in October. Dear Father, when I took the Mission over last Easter there was nothing to start with, besides the fire insurance had to be paid and in order to do so I borrowed the money in the bank. In the hope that some of my appeal at least would be brought before the readers of the Indian Sentinel I started the school the first of Sept. I never expected \$10,000 but that my appeal would bring some help. You can imagine how I felt, when I read the October Number. I realize that a great many are in greater need than we are here, but I am sure that my appeal could have been printed without harm to others. Excuse my frankness, dear Father, I assure you, that I have all the confidence in your sense of fair dealing, but I think that an explanation concerning this matter would not be unreasonable of me to ask. I hope, that I am all wrong and I kindly ask you again to excuse my frankness. I don't think that I am of the complaining kind. I have always tried to help myself as much as possible and perhaps I can do it again.

Thanking you once more for your efforts to help us
I am yours
in Christ

Rev. Peter Schraubach
P/S

[ENCLOSURE]

40-15

COPY for the Bureau

St. Mary's Church
Elkton, N. D.
November 15, 1925.

Mr. Harry Shaw,
Jasper, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Permit me to thank you for the \$25.00 forwarded to me by Rt. Rev. Agr. Hughes. I understand that said amount is out of the fund left by your brother Joseph for charitable purposes. We will be very glad to remember your deceased brother in our prayers, especially in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

The money donated will be used in the Indian School building, which has to be remodelled to make it safe for children to live in.

Praying that our dear Lord will bless you for your kindness to help us,
I am yours
in Christ

Rev. Peter Fehrenbach, C.S.B.

40-15

November 20, 1935

Rev. Peter Zahnenbach, O. S. B.,
St. Mary's Church,
Elbowoods, N. D.

Dear Father Peter:

I have your letter of November 15, and I am sorry that you were disappointed about your article.

I thought a great deal about the story that you sent me, but I could not decide upon an angle from which to make a really strong appeal. The outstanding idea of the whole story was this: The Sisters were given a great deal of trouble when the children came back from their homes, unwashed. Now, I am sure that was not the main idea in your mind. Yet that was the main idea of the article. The amount, too, was stated, \$10,000. I wanted to publish that story, Father, but I must say I could not see my way clear to doing it. If you will write another story, with a smile and a tear in it, and send it in at once I will prepare it for the Winter issue of THE BERLIN POSTMAN. Mention all your smaller needs, and the amount you would have to have to meet them. You would get enough to cover such items, probably, and that would help toward the \$10,000 you need. Besides, it would be a way of getting your mission before the readers. An article in each succeeding issue would continue to get help for you.

So try again, and I will do my best for you.

Yours fraternally,

Wt. Rev. Mary Williams Barber

27 Oct

40-15

December 30, 1925.

Rev. Peter Fehrenbach, O.S.B.,
St. Mary's Church,
Elbowoods, North Dakota.

Dear Father Fehrenbach:

Under date of December 23, I wrote you asking if a Mr. Floyd Bear of Ree, North Dakota, was in your parish. Mr. Bear sent me a donation of \$6 for the Indian missions. In view of the fact that your church is needy, I am sending you herewith our check for \$6 to cover the donation of Mr. Bear.

For our information, I wish you would let me know if Mr. Bear is in your parish.

Wishing you many blessings during the New Year, I remain

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

SM:JR Whether you give the money to Floyd Bear or use it for some other purpose will rest with you.