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A Pastoral Letter by Nick W. Black Elk in *Sinasapa Wocekiye Taeyanpaha*
Nicholas Black Elk Collection, Series 1, Letters by Black Elk

A pastoral letter by Nick W. [William] Black Elk written at St. Agnes Church, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Manderson, South Dakota, January 26, 1908· published in *Sinasapa Wocekiye Taeyanpaha*, St. Michael's Mission, Fort Totten Indian Reservation, Fort Totten, North Dakota, Vol. 12, no. 7 (February 15, 1908): Verso of supplement without pagination. Translated from Lakota to English by Deacon Ben Black Bear, St. Francis Mission, Rosebud Indian Reservation, St. Francis, South Dakota, 2017. At this time, Black Elk often signed his name with his middle initial of "W" for William.

Announcer.

This winter they had Christmas here and there, and they had Mass at each place and many people participated in these. On Dec. 20 he made them make a meeting house in White Clay. I said prayers at Angel church on December 22nd. That day Fr. Westropp came. 111 ate and in the evening they had Christmas tree (celebration). They helped Fr. Westropp as much as they can and they helped me with \$1.88. I gave a talk and in the morning Fr. Westropp said Mass and many people came to holy communion. They donated \$66.60. On Dec. 23 I went to the hill in the trees and they did a great honoring of me. Fr. Westropp came at 4:00pm. They sang outside and in the morning they honored him. That day they had Christmas dinner. There were 173. They donated \$148.75 and they helped me with \$2.00. That night they had Christmas tree (celebration). The following were baptized: Julia Holy Bird, 15 years old, Mary Skunkchild, 18 years old, Alice Redhedge, 18 years old. Next day Fr. Westropp said mass and many people received holy communion.

On the evening of December 24, we gave great honor to our Savior. Next morning they had a Christmas dinner. 130 participated. And they had a Christmas tree (celebration). I gave teachings there. They donated \$40.04. They helped me with 50 cents.

On December 27 Mr. Westropp said mass at St. Peter's church, and they had a Christmas tree (celebration) and a feed. I gave a teaching there. That morning they had a Mass and many received holy communion.

At Wolf Creek on December 29, they had Christmas tree (celebration) and feed. 96 participated. I gave a teaching there. Fr. Westropp came there. Donations were \$57.25. They donated \$4.36 to me to build churches.

At White River on Dec. 30, Father Westropp and I came there. 85 people had a Christmas tree (celebration) and ate dinner and I gave some teachings. Donations were \$29.10. They had Mass.

I went with Fr. Westropp to St. Paul's church on Jan. 1 and had Mass. Louis Mousseau and Alice Iron Cloud were married in the church. That day Fr. Westropp and I came back to St. Agnes church and they had New Year's celebration. The following were baptized: Frank Kicking Bear, age 20, Agnes Big Road, age 18, George Big Road age 4, Moses Spotted Owl, age 3.

On the Pine Ridge Reservation where the Catholics were they worshipped God in a great way this year. My relatives, hold strong to the faith. That way you will have help. Because wherever God is, many things will grow. On the Pine Ridge Reservation at Wounded Knee they will build a church. They have built a very good meeting hall. The church will be named after St. Emma. Have mercy on us and help us with funds. I will keep you informed in the future. Willie Blacktail Deer's child, Moses was baptized. William Thunder Horse, age 4 broke his back. And two years later he again got sick. He started coughing and he said I will pray to mother and he did pray. His name is Moses. May you have hope.

Nick W. Black Elk.

SSWT 12:7 (1908 Feb): Supplement Verso

MINIAWICAKASTANPI.

Fort Totten, N. D.

Jan. 12, 1908, Nancy Topaki-najinwin, waniyetu 50.

Jan. 20, Jesse, Jacob, Nov. 15, 1907 hehan tonpi Stephen Hehanskaska qa Margaret Itemasan cincapi.

Jan. 22, Angela Pejihutawašewin, waniyetu 50.

Jan. 23, Sarah, January 14, hehan tonpi, Patrick Adams qa Julia Merrick cupwintkupi.

Jan. 26, William, Jan. 7, hehan tonpi, Wanagicigana qa Theresa Tiyowakanhdiwin cincapi.

Jan. 27, Aloysius, Jan. 14, hehan tonpi, James Hehota qa Cecilia Winona cincapi.

WAKANKICIYUZAPI.

Fort Totten, Jan. 10, Charles Ehakehiyaye qa Mary Red Day.

Jan. 25, Louis Demarce qa Nancy Tateyuhumani.

WICATA.

Jan. 16, Edward, wi 8, Antoine Langer qa Josephine Winuciga cincapi.

Jan. 19, Mary, wi 10, Lawrence Wasicuatka qa Veronica Tunkatowin cunwintkupi.

Jan 25, Sarah, anpetu wakan 3, Patrick Adams qa Julia Merrick cunwintkupi.

Jan. 20, Frank, wi wanji, Henry Abraham qa Mary Rose Tamazawašewin cunwintkupi.

Feb. 6, Agnes, waniyetu 9, Francis Tunkanwakana qa Tancegega cunwintkupi.

Manderson, S. D.

St. Agnes Church,

Jan., 26, 1908.

Eyanpaha.

Waniyetu le Christmas enala yuhapi na hena ecel Mass wošnapl econpi na oyate olota opapi. White Clay el Dec. 20, omniciye tipi wan karwicawakiye. Dec. 22, Holy Angel Church wocekiye ecamon; he anpetu kin el Rev. Father Westropp hi. 111 wotapi, na hanhepi Christmas tree yuhapi, na Father Westropp tokel okihipi okiyapi, na miš \$1.88 omakiyapi. Wawahokonwakiye na hihanna qel Father Westropp Mass wošnapl econpi. \$66.60 el yusotapi. Dec. 23, Paha canwegna yanka hel wal, na woyuonihan tanka ecamiconpi, mazaškanškan topa he-

hanl Father Westropp u, hecel tankal najinpi na lowanpi na ecel hihunni na lila yuonihanpi. Anpetu he Christmas wotapi 173 henakecapi; \$148.75 yusotapi, miš \$2.00 on omakiyapi. Hanhepi kin el Christmas tree yuhapi; ecunhan Julia Holy Bird waniye-15, Mary Makacincala waniyetu 18, Alice Redhedge, waniyetu 18. henakeca miniwicakaštanpi. Hihanna el Mass wošnapl Father Westropp econ na wicota Yutapiwakan icupi.

Dec. 24, St. Agnes church hanhepi kin el Wanikiya lila onyuonihanpi, na hihanna el Christmas wotapi 130 opapi, na Christmas tree yuhapi; hel wahokonwicawakiye; \$40.04 yusotapi, miš 30cts on omakiyapi.

St. Peter's church Dec. 27 el Father Westropp Mass wošna econ na hel Christmas tree na wotapi yuhapi, wahokonwicawakiye. Hihanna Mass wošnapl econpi na wicota Yutapi wakan icupi.

Wolf Creek Dec. 29, Christmas tree na wotapi, 96 opapi, na wahokonwicawakiye. Father Westropp el hi: \$57.25 yusotapi, miš tipiwakan on \$4.30 on omakiyapi.

White River Dec. 30, Father Westrop kici wal, na 85 henakeca, Christmas tree na wotapi yuhapi, na wahokonwicawakiye, \$29.10 yusotapi, Mass wošnapl econpi.

Jan. 1, St Paul's church el Father Westropp kici wal, na Mass wošnapl econ, Louis Mousseau, Alice Iron Cloud kici wakankiciyuza.

He anpetu kin St. Agnes church elka Father Westropp kici wagli, na Omaka Teca wicoran yuhapi. Frank Kicking Bear, waniyetu 20, na Agnes Big Road, waniyetu 18, na George Big Road, waniyetu 10, na Mike Big Road, waniyetu 4, na Moses Spotted Owl, waniyetu 3, henakeca miniwicakaštanpi.

Oglala oyanke, sinasapa onpi kin le waniyetu kin tokel okihl Wakantanka yuonihanpi. Mitakuyepi, sutaya awacinpo; hecece kin wookiye luhapi kte; ecin tuktel Wakantanka on kin taku wašte icagin kte. Oglala oyanke, Cankpeopi el tipiwakan wanji kagapi kte lo, wanna omniciye tipi wan iyotan wašte kagapi. Tipi wakan kin St. Emma eciyapi; onšionlapo, na mazašala eša ounkiyapo. Tokaša le toketu kte ake blaotanin kte.

Willie Blacktail Deer cinco, Moses miniwicakaštanpi. William Thunder Horse, waniyetu topa kin hehan cankahu kapšon, na waniyetu nonpa, lecala ake kuje na horpe yunkan ina wacewakiyayin kte lo, eyin na celiye, Moses eciyapi, wowacinye yuba.

NICK W. BLACK ELK.

O HEART OF MARY.

(Peter's Sodality Hymn Book.

Page 106.)

I.

Mari cante ska qa wašte, Wouhtani codan; Adam tohtani kin hee, Inicašote šni.

Chorus.

O, Mari cante ska qa wašte, Wowaste kin onijudan, Iyecen unkiš Unkicantepi en Unyuhapo.

II.

Wahca wašte kin, Iyecen, Eva cunwintku kin Wicopeya niya waštepi, Cante eceedan.

Chorus.

III.

Wowaste daka Ojudan, On niye etanhan; Wanikiya kin icage Opemakton kta on.

Chorus.

I. C.

NEAR MY GOD TO THEE.

I.

Mita Wakantanka Micahda on, Nikiyedana waon! Micahda on. Nita Cansusbeca Kin on inawajin. Mitadowan kin he Micahda on.

II.

Nicante Wakan kin Mahen waon, Miye on etanhan Niwe kin papson, Nimayaye kta on: