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.

Source: Marquette University, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, Series 14-1 General Publications, Sinasapa Wocekiye Taeyanpaha, Oversize 03-02, Microfilm reel 19.
MINIACAIKASTANPI.

Port Totten, N.D.
Jan. 12, 1908, Nancy Topaktajien, waniyeta 50.
Jan. 20, Jesse, Jacob, Nov. 15, 1907 hasan tonpi Stephen Ha-
hansaqa cu Margaret Iemusn cincapi.
Jan. 22, Angela Pehlutaawate-
win, waniyeta 50.
Jan. 22, Sarah, January 14, has-
han tonpi Patrick Adams cu Ju-
lla Merrick cincapi.
Jan. 26, William, Jan. 7, has-
han tonpi, Wanagikuina cu The-
resa Tiyowo ne-bahciwin cincapi.
Jan. 27, Aloysius, Jan. 14, has-
han tonpi, James Hehta cu Ce-
elia Winona cincapi.

WAANANICHUZA.

Port Totten, Jan. 10, Charles Bhakoziya cu Mary Red Day.
Jan. 20, Louise Demarce cu Nancy Taseyhuwan.

WINATA.

Jan. 16, Edward cu 8, Antoine Luong cu Josephine Winicua cincapi.
Jan. 10, Mary, cu 10, Lawrence Wasicattu cu Veronica Tun-
kawatin cincapi.
Jan. 25, Sarah, apunwakan 3, Patrick Adams cu Julia Mer-
rick cincapi.
Jan. 20, Frank, cu wani, Hen-
ry Abraham cu Mary Rose Tha-
msawatwin cincapi.
Feb. 6, Agnes, wanijita 9, Francis Tunka-wakan cu Ta-
canequa cincapi.

Manderson, S. D.
St. Agnes Church,
Jan. 20, 1908

Waniyeta le Christ-
mas omila yahapi na hena eeg Mass wo sipani ecompi na oyate olo aufi.
White Clay cu Dec.
20, omnicya tiipi wan kwac-
wiwaci. Dec. 22, Holy Angel Church woociwtki esam; he un-
petu ki el Rev. Father West-
ropp hi. 111 wotapi, na hanhepi,
Christmastree yahapi, na Father Westropp bolel okihpi yihiapi
na mi $1.69 omakiyapi. Wawak-
konwakiwici na hinnapa gel Fa-
ther Westropp Mass woo napi
ecen, na wiciota Yutapi wakan-
ki. $86.69 el yotapi. Dec.
22, Paha canwega yahapi hit
wai, na woyoonihan tanka eem-
coompi, manakância tonpa be-
hanl Father Westropp u, hecel-
bankal naipi na lovonapi na eel
hiliuna na lila yoyiunapi. An-
petu be Christmas wotapi 173
menakaapi; $142.75 yotapi, mi-
$0.00 on omakiyapi. Hanhepi
ki el Christmastree yahapi;
cuanhan Julia Holy Bird waniye-
15, Mary Makonca cu wanijeta 18, Alice Redeluke, wanijeta 18, henekeca miniaakiwakapi.
Henhanna el Mass wosani Fat-
her Westropp eecen na wiciota
Yutapi wakani yotapi.
Dec. 24, St. Agnes church han-
hepi ki el Wanikiya lila onyu-
naapi, na hinnapa el Chris-

tmastree wosani; hel wawonkon-

wakiwacyi; $40.04 yotapi, mi-
$0.00 on omakiyapi. 
St. Peter's church Dec. 27 el
Father Westropp Mass wosani
ecen na hel Christmastree na wot-
api yahapi, wawonkonwakiwewi-
ye. Henhanna Mass wosani ecompi
na wiciota Yutapi wakan-
ki yotapi.
Wolf Creek Dec. 29, Christmas

tree na wotapi, 96 yotapi, na wa-
howonkonwakiwacyi. Father West-
ropp el hit; $77.25 yotapi, mi-
tipwakan on $4.30 on omakiyapi.

White River Dec. 30, Father
Westropp kici wai, na 85 han-
ke, Christmas tree na wotapi yah-
api, na wawonkonwakiwacyi,
$291.10 yotapi, Mass wosani
ecompi.
Jan. 1, St. Paul's church el Fa-
ther Westropp kici wai, na Mass
wosani ecom, Louis Mousseau,
Alice Iron Cloud kici wakaniki-
yewa.
He unpetu ki el St. Agnes church
ekta Father Westropp kici wai,
zi, na Omaha Teec wiccaran yah-
api. Frank Kicking Bear, wani-
lyeta 20, a Agnes Big Road,
wanijeta 19, na George Big Road,
wanijeta 10, na Mike Big Road,
wanijeta 4, na Moses Spotted Owl, wanijeta 3, hena-
kena miniaakiwakapi.

Oglala oyanka, sinasa apa onpi
kin le waniyeta ki tokel okihl
Wakantanka yoyiunapi. Mita-
kuapi, cutaaya wacanapi; hoece-
ki woociwtki yahapi kote; eexi tu-
tkel Wanakanka on kini tuko
waste bagoni kote. Oglala oyanka,
Cankkipi el tipwakan wani-
jagi kote lo, wanna omakiyapi
tipi wan iyotan waste jakapi.

I. 8

NEAR MY GOD TO THEE.

I.
Mita Wakantanka
Micaulda on;
Nikyedan woon;
Micaulda on.
Nita Causabecia
Kin on iwaxun.
Midadwan kic he
Micaulda on.

II.
Nicoante Wa'an kic
Maken woon;
Meye on etanban
Niwe kiin papson,
Nimaysaye kic on.