



Banners of Reverend Pierre-Jean de Smet, S.J.

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records Series 9-1 Photography

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Blessed Sacrament Banner, 1840

Series 9-1, Black & White Print: ca. 1911; Used *The Indian Sentinel*, 1911:11.
Series 9-3, Color Prints: 1999, 16 views with close ups by Patricia O'Rourke

Description: Depicts a communion cup encircled by, from left to right: passionflower, rose, and poppy. Cloth with cross stitching, beadwork, and cloth fringe, 19 x 28 inches.

Provenance: The wife of Major McLaughlin (Hunkpapa) presented Reverend William H. Ketcham, Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, with the banner of the Blessed Sacrament for safekeeping and exhibition in the office of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. The banner had been given as a gift to the Hunkpapa Indians by Reverend Pierre-Jean de Smet, S.J. in 1840 during his first visit among them. On that occasion they carried him into camp on a buffalo robe and de Smet gave the banner to one of the headmen, which was passed from father to son, and eventually came into the keeping of Mrs. McLaughlin. Apparently the banner was displayed at the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions for many years and then stored. In 1999, the banner was rediscovered, restored, and returned to exhibition in the BCIM office. References: *The Indian Sentinel*, 1911, and the *Life, Letters, and Travels of Father Pierre-Jean de Smet, 1801-1873*, Hiram M. Chittenden and Alfred T. Richardson, eds., New York, Harper, 1904, 1:253.

Marion Banner, 1868

In 1868, De Smet also presented a Marian Banner to Sitting Bull's camp on the Powder River, Montana. It is depicted in "Camp of the Hostiles," one of two related watercolor paintings by Mathew Hastings, St. Louis, Missouri, ca. 1870. Both are held by the Midwest Jesuit Archives. In the painting, the banner is carried by Red Cloud's band, which escorted de Smet to Sitting Bull's camp. It is believed that this banner then was

given to Chief Gall (1840-1894), who then treasured it. References: *Wind River Rendezvous*, July-Aug., 1973:8, and Chittenden, 3:910 and 917.