

journey, arrived among the Flathead tribe, who were then camped somewhere near the Three Forks on the Missouri. His mission began the day of his arrival, and there never was a more docile people. After two months of constant missionary labor, Father DeSmet returned to St. Louis, but not before he had given to his newly begotten children of the mountains a solemn promise to return in the following spring with other Black-robos, to establish permanently the mission of which he had now laid the foundation. The little mustard seed was now planted, and was soon developed into a good-sized and healthy tree.

According to promise, in the spring of 1841 Father DeSmet made his reappearance, accompanied by two youthful missionaries, as intrepid as himself, N. Point and G. Mengenari, with some Lay-brothers. He entered the Bitter Root valley, and there, close to where Stevensville now stands, established under the

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the first Catholic Indian Mission in what is now known as the Territory of Montana. The news soon spread among the neighboring tribes that Black-robos had come into the land, and the Missionaries wrote as early as the month of October of the same year that one single day had brought to their instructions the representatives of as many as twenty-four different tribes. The demand was evidently greater than the supply, and the laborers in the field needed considerable help to gather in the abundant harvest that was lying ripe before them. This help came to them by installments, so to speak, in the successive years, in the persons of Fathers A. Hoecken, A. Rivalli, L. Vercruisse, Accolti, Joset, Zerbinoti, Nobili, DeVos, Menetrey, Gazzoli and