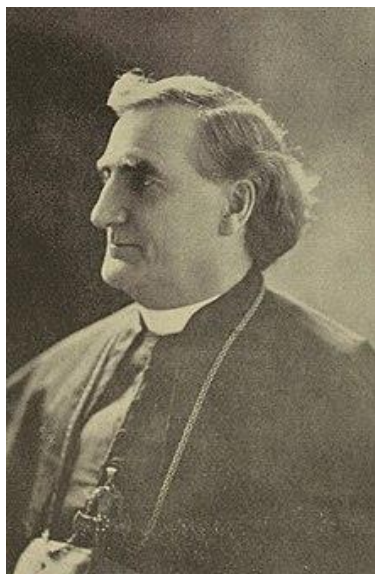


Most Rev. App. Alexander Christie

5th State Chaplain of Oregon 1917-20



Alexander Christie was born in Highgate Center, Vermont, on May 28, 1848 to Adam and Mary O'Hara Chritie. His father, a successful farmer, moved in 1852 to a frontier area in Wisconsin, and after the Civil War moved near Austin, Minnesota. Alexander entered the Benedictine College of St. John's in Minnesota in 1870 to study to become a priest and completed his courses in 1874. On September 11, 1874, he entered the Grand Seminary of Montreal, completing his studies in 1877. He was ordained a priest on December 2, 1877.

Father Christie was assigned as pastor in 1878 to Sacred Heart Parish in Waseca, Minnesota, and served there until 1890. He was noted for being cheerful in the face of the hardships of a frontier missionary life. He set up the new parish of Ascension in Minneapolis in 1890. After getting Ascension off to a good start, he was moved to St. Stephen in Minneapolis, which he was pastor from 1894 to 1898. He was chosen by Rome and consecrated bishop on June 29, 1898 for the Diocese of Vancouver Island, B.C. He found himself in charge of about 9,000 people in all. He was promoted to the Archiepiscopal See of Oregon City upon the unexpected death of Archbishop Gross.

From the beginning, Archbishop Christie showed a greatest interest in education at all levels. He emphasized the importance of the parish school. He did not neglect higher forms, and one phase of this interest was the founding of the University of Portland, or the Columbia University, as he wished it to be called on September 2, 1901.

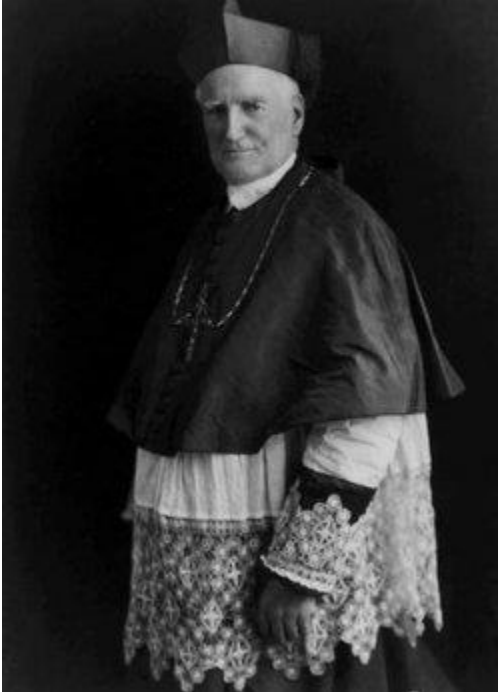
Because of the great size of the Archdiocese, and the traveling conditions of that time, the Archbishop determined that it would be well to set up another diocese. He obtained permission from Rome to establish the Diocese of Baker. Father Charles O'Reilly was appointed as first Bishop in 1903.

During World War I, the Archbishop gave his people steady guidance. From the beginning of his office, he had emphasized the virtue of patriotism. An innovation of those times was the chapel car, which was a railroad car fitted out as a chapel. It could seat some seventy persons with standing

room for thirty. The chapel car named St. Anthony came by 1909, and another, the St. Peter Chapel Car, was made available in 1923. This was an early day evangelization effort. The chapel cars were obtained in Chicago, where they were developed.

Archbishop Christie was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplin 1917–20.

Archbishop Alexander Christie died April 6, 1925 in Portland, OR and is buried at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR



"Fathers, stand by the Knights of Columbus, they are the hope of the Church in the Northwest." Archbishop Alexander Christie, address his priests, Portland, OR