



A U G U S T 2 0 1 8

A Drought of Water, But Not of Love

Dear Friends,

After several months of intense drought, the Southwestern Monsoon finally visited the Navajo Nation and Saint Anne Mission on July 7. The brief and sometimes intense rain storms quickly turned the desert from brown to green.

In spite of the drought in the first half of 2018, there was no shortage of things to do or people to do them. As the article to the right attests, we were blessed with volunteers in the Spring and Summer.

Thanks to them and to the many of you who support us with your prayers and gifts, the Mission thrives.

There is not enough room on these pages to adequately recount all of the good things that have happened since January. I hope you will visit the Mission's website at www.klagetoh.org to see more photos and stories of the year to date.

As always, thanks and aheéheé!

Bro. Charles Schilling, SC
Administrator

In the masthead: Mission volunteers reconstruct the walls of a nearly century-old hogan that they were asked to move.

The Year to Date

The first half of 2018 has seen a flurry of activity at the Mission. From February through May we hosted no fewer than seven groups of volunteers who undertook projects at the Mission and in the community. Several of the visiting groups were involved in renovation projects at Sister Monica's house. These included installing new flooring and carpet, and the construction of a new back porch and steps.

The Mission Church also got some attention. The Knights of Columbus from Gulf Breeze, Florida built a new entrance ramp and installed new outlets and resolved some issues with the electrical wiring.

In the Spring, our volunteers were involved in a range of projects in the community including cleaning and patching up sheep corrals, painting and repairing homes, finishing a cabin, helping people move, assisting at the Wide Ruins Boarding School, helping out with a community cleanup and hosting special events at the Mission.

During June and July, the Mission hosted groups of young people who worked with local children in the Klagetoh and Ganado Summer

Bible Schools. Other summer volunteers worked on projects at the Mission and in the community.

Students from St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana removed, cleaned, painted, and replaced all of the ceiling tiles in the church in early June. Later that month, boys from Canisius High School in Buffalo, New York installed a new metal roof on Sister Monica's house.

In July, among other jobs, volunteers were asked to help move an old hogan and vaccinate a flock of sheep.

Near the end of July, we received word that the Fiesta Bowl Charities has agreed to fund the Mission's request for outdoor lighting for the basketball court. The Fiesta Bowl was a major donor for the new goals and playing surface installed last Fall. We owe a dept of gratitude to Mr. John Yonushonis of Yucca Valley, California, who did the heavy lifting in securing both last year's and this year's grants.

A few representative photos of these projects are included in this newsletter, but many more are available on the Mission's website and an extended edition of the newsletter.

All Saints Mission – 50 Years

On Wednesday, July 11 Father Pio celebrated a special Mass at All Saints Church in Ganado to commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated there.

Brother Kevin

After 15 months of ministry at Saint Anne Mission, Brother Kevin Finnegan bade farewell on May 1. Brother Kevin was reassigned to work as one of a handful of “able-bodied” Brothers looking after the Brothers at our community’s retirement home in Pascoag, Rhode Island.

Brother Kevin left with fond memories of the Navajo people and his work as a mentor for the youth groups that visited during his tenure. He is missed.

Brother Robert

At the end of September, Brother Robert Lavoie will be one of the honorees at a celebration in Rhode Island commemorating his 65 years of religious profession. A native of Fall River, Massachusetts, Brother Robert professed his first vows as a Brother of the Sacred Heart in August, 1953. He has been in ministry at Saint Anne since 2015.

RIP Theresa Donatelli

On July 2, one of the Mission’s dear friends and long-time benefactors passed into eternal life. Mrs. Theresa Donatelli of Portland, Maine was 91. Although I never met Mrs. Donatelli in person, the cards and letters she sent with her monthly gift gave me some insight into the great love and care she had for her family as well as the work of this Mission. Her patient acceptance of the rigors of aging were an inspiration to me. I always looked forward to reading her letters and will miss her.

Clockwise from the upper left: Knights of Columbus install a new light over the church entrance; A faculty volunteer installs drywall in a cabin; McQuaid students inoculate sheep; Mr. John Yonushonis works with Native American Flute students; a volunteer uses the Mission’s earth auger to drill a fence post hole; students move a hogan one log at a time; shearing time; Brother Robert and a Knight of Columbus examine the church’s electrical system; Father Pio baptizes Angela Chee at the Easter Vigil Mass.

