

SAINT ANNE MISSION

Klagetoh, Arizona

C H R I S T M A S 2 0 2 3

Faith, Hope & Charity

Dear Friends,

The historical documents we have indicate that the Franciscan friars from St. Michaels Mission began their work in the vicinity of Klagetoh in “the mid 1920s”.

Prior to the construction of the Mission Church the friars celebrated Mass and the other sacraments in the homes of the local people who invited them. In that era, those homes would have been traditional Navajo hogans.

The date when construction started on the Mission is unknown, but we do know that the first Sunday Mass in the Mission Church was celebrated on June 6, 1926.

Much has changed since that first Eucharistic celebration, but the Mission continues to be a place of faith, hope and charity for the residents of Klagetoh as well as for the many volunteers who have visited and the generous benefactors who continue to make the Mission possible.

May each of you enjoy a blessed Christmas and a holy and healthy 2024.

Bro. Charles Schilling,
Administrator

In the Masthead: Students from St. Anthony High School work at vaccinating a flock of sheep.

Advent in the Hogan

This December we are celebrating the Sunday Masses of Advent in the 55-yr-old Mission Hogan. A smaller space than the Mission Church, the hogan, with its wood stove, is easier to heat than the church. The Church was built nearly 100 years ago and, while thermal insulation was added at a later date above the ceiling, there is no realistic way to easily insulate the church’s stone walls. We do plan to celebrate Mass on Christmas Day in the Church.

In other news, plans are underway to install a new metal roof on the hogan this Spring; it will be the final major building at the Mission to receive a metal roof. Because of the hogan’s complex geometry, the task is somewhat daunting.

Franciscan Realignment

Six of the provinces of the Order of Friars Minor in the United States completed their merger into a single entity in mid-October. The newly formed province takes the name of the predecessor province headquartered in Albuquerque. While there are no Franciscans in residence at St. Anne, the Mission remains organizationally part of the family of Franciscan missions on the Reservation. We receive ongoing financial support

from the Franciscans for the operation of the Mission and the Franciscans continue to provide friars to celebrate the Mass at St. Anne.



Father Pio celebrates Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent in the Mission Hogan.

Southwest Indian Foundation

Each year the Mission receives 25  Christmas Food Baskets for distribution in December. The baskets include a turkey, canned goods, flour, potatoes, a pumpkin pie, and a candy-filled stocking, all provided through the generosity of the Southwest Indian Foundation, based in Gallup.

Mission Groups Scheduled

These groups are scheduled to visit the Mission in 2024

Coindre Leadership Program
New Orleans, LA
February 11-17, 2024

St Mary Student Parish
Ann Arbor, MI
Feb 24 - Mar 2, 2024

St Louis University
St Louis, MO
March 9-16, 2024

St Stanislaus College
Bay St Louis, MS
March 29-April 5, 2024

Bp Guertin High School
Nashua, NH
April 20-27, 2024

**St Louis University
Faculty & Staff**
St Louis, MO
May 22-27, 2024

St Joseph's Academy
Baton Rouge, LA
May 29 - June 5, 2024

**Catholic High School &
Joseph's Academy**
Baton Rouge, LA
June 8-15, 2024

St Joseph High School
Metuchen, NJ
June 17-24, 2024

**Pope John Paul the Great
High School**
Potomac Shores, VA
(Ganado Bible School)
July 6-13, 2024

McQuaid Jesuit High School
Rochester, NY
July 24-August 2, 2024

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

In October, following up on an initiative by Brother David, the Mission hosted a meeting with representatives from St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and several organizations working to provide food security to families on the Reservation.



St. Mary's
Food Bank®

Bro. David has volunteered to work at several facilities affiliated with St Mary's to immerse himself in the food pantry world and learn more about food distribution programs. The Mission is working towards a collaborative venture with the Klagetoh Chapter House to stage monthly food distribution events in Klagetoh. The plan is for the Mission to provide organizational and clerical support as well as volunteers while the Chapter House provides the use of their paved facilities as a distribution site.

Visitors

While the Fall is definitely a less hectic time at St. Anne than the summer, the Mission was not without visitors. In September the American Indian Benefit Alliance paid us their annual visit, laden with clothing, quilts, books and other goodies for distribution to the community. Lester and Linda Crow started AIBA years ago to assist some of the poorest indigenous communities in the country and have been fast friends of St. Anne for over 10 years.

At the very end of September we welcomed a group of seniors from St. Anthony High School in Long Beach, California for a long weekend of service that included vaccinating a flock of sheep. (*see masthead*)

October's volunteers had a longer journey - traveling all the way from Rhode Island to spend their Fall Break with us. During Thanksgiving we once again welcomed students from St. Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis Mississippi.

Right: Sr. Monica with Mr. Bill Heath and friends from Payson during a Wednesday furniture delivery.

St. Joan of Arc Christmas Angels

On December 3 the Mission was the site of a St. Joan of Arc (Phoenix) Christmas Angel distribution event. Each Fall, 20 or so families (not the same families each year) are given Christmas wish lists to complete. These are forwarded to St. Joan of Arc where parishioners are invited to "adopt" a Navajo family.

After Thanksgiving, all of the gifts are collected, packages, and loaded onto trucks for delivery to St. Anne as well as two other sites on the Reservation.

Thanks to All of Our Supporters

Saint Anne Mission would be a very different place today if it weren't for the many benefactors from across the U.S.A. who make financial contributions and gifts in kind to the Mission.

Articles of clothing and small appliances come to us by mail, by truck, and by car from locations from across the country. It's not possible to list everyone in a single newsletter, but so far this Fall we have received substantial gifts of clothing, small appliances, blankets and quilts through Price Chapel in Georgia; Mr. Bill Heath and the Payson, Arizona area St. Vincent dePaul store; Mr. Gene Westemeier and his friends in Sun City, Arizona; and Ms. Sue Fenwick and friends in Orange County, California.

A special thank you to Mrs. Jackie McPheeters of Placentia for the gift of over 80 basketballs and volleyballs for distribution to local youth and to the Gulf Breeze, Florida area Knights of Columbus for the winter coats.

We are also grateful to the Girl Scouts of Yorba Linda, California who, for many years, have put together Christmas gift bags for the children of the Klagetoh area.

