

SAINT ANNE MISSION



Klagetoh, Arizona

W I N T E R 2 0 2 3

Revitalization

Dear Friends,

In the mid 1920s Franciscan Friars from St. Michaels Mission began to work in the Klagetoh area. By 1927, a church had been built and the friars took up residence. Throughout the intervening years, St. Anne Mission has faced many challenges and changes.

Last year, the Mission was able to host a limited number of volunteer groups and the weekly rummage sale also resumed.

In 2023, our goals include restarting the summer vacation Bible schools in both Klagetoh and Ganado and the resumption of sacramental worship in the Mission church.

The prayers and financial support of many benefactors have enabled St. Anne to continue through three years of hardship. We hope and pray that your support will continue as we work to revitalize the Mission and prepare for the centenary of Catholic presence in Klagetoh.

Bro. Charles Schilling, SC
Administrator

Franciscan Restructuring

The Franciscans Friars recently announced that they will be turning the parish ministry at St. Michaels over to the Diocese of Gallup in the summer. The remaining Franciscans in residence at St. Michaels will move to the friaries in Fort Defiance, Chinle, and Tohatchi.

The move was precipitated by the diminishing number of Franciscans able to minister on the Reservation. St. Michaels was chosen because it was felt that the parish, the oldest one on the Navajo Nation, is able to financially support a diocesan priest.

St. Anne and All Saints Mission will remain under the auspices of the Order of Friars Minor. There are currently three religious in residence

at St. Anne and one Franciscan brother at All Saints. Franciscan priests will continue to provide sacramental ministry.

This development comes as six of the seven Franciscan provinces in the United States will complete their merger process this Fall. The Franciscans of the Cincinnati-based St. John the Baptist Province pioneered Catholic evangelization on the Navajo Reservation in the waning years of the 19th Century at the invitation of St. Katherine Drexel. In the years following the establishment of St. Michaels Mission in 1898 came the opening of many of the 'outlying' Mission churches, including, in 1927, St. Anne in Klagetoh.



St. Michaels Mission near Window Rock, Arizona was established by the Franciscan Friars in 1898 as the first Catholic mission to the Navajo people.

Mission Groups Scheduled

These groups are scheduled to visit the Mission in 2023

Loyola Marymount University

*Los Angeles CA
February 26 - March 2*

St Louis University

*St Louis MO
March 11-18*

St Thomas More Catholic Center at Yale University

*Dartmouth CT
March 18-25*

Saint Stanislaus College

*Bay St Louis MS
April 7-14*

Bishop Guertin High School

*Nashua NH
April 22-29*

Saint Joseph's Academy

*Baton Rouge LA
June 1-8*

Catholic High School & Saint Joseph's Academy

*Baton Rouge LA
June 10-17*

Saint Joseph's High School

*Metuchen NJ
June 19-26*

Coindre Leadership Program

June 30 - July 7

Saint John Paul the Great High School

*Potomac Shores VA
July 8-15*

McQuaid Jesuit High School

*Rochester NY
July 19-28*

Saint Joan of Arc Parish

This past December marked the 7th time St. Joan of Arc Parish in Phoenix has included the Mission in their annual Adopt A Family Christmas gift program. Each year, the staff of St. Anne Mission identifies families in the area that are in particular need of assistance. If possible, we try not to 'repeat' a family year after year, so that the program can reach as many different families as possible. Each family is invited to complete a form listing each member of the family and a 'Christmas wish'. These forms are returned to St. Joan of Arc Parish in early October and members of the parish are invited to 'adopt' a family that they will provide Christmas gifts for. In early December, a stalwart group from St. Joan of Arc drives to the Reservation from Phoenix in trucks laden with the expertly packed and labeled gift boxes. In addition to St. Anne Mission, the program also provides gifts to families in the St. Michaels area through St. Michael Indian School and at St. Mary's Parish in Tohatchi, New Mexico.



St Anthony High School volunteers assemble a shed for the Mission tractor.



Mt St Charles students stack split firewood for delivery to a local family.

Southwest Indian Foundation

Another organization that plays a large part in spreading Christmas joy to many reservation families is the Southwest Indian Foundation, based in Gallup, New Mexico. Among its many other ministries, the Foundation provides Christmas food baskets to needy families in many areas of the Navajo Nation.

Remembering Brother Robert

Brother Robert Lavoie entered into eternal life early on the morning of August 13, 2022. Robert spent most of the final seven years of his life in ministry at St. Anne Mission. His cremated remains were interred in the Brothers' community cemetery in Pascoag, Rhode Island, not far from his birthplace in Fall River, Massachusetts. A copy of his biography has been placed on the Mission website.

Brother David

Brother David Landry officially moved to Saint Anne Mission in early August. He has taken on responsibility for the Mission's emergency food pantry and assists with guiding volunteer groups.



Sister Monica supervises the unloading of a trailer full of furniture for the Mission Rummage Sale.



A St Stanislaus volunteer emerges from the Mission's sweat lodge.