

Franciscan Missions in New Mexico and Arizona

Missionaries to the

Navajo Indians
Pueblos Indians
Hispanics



Cochiti Pueblo, NM

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province



Navajo Indians

St. Michael's Mission and our mission in Chinle in Arizona are two centers of operation for our Franciscan Missionaries to the Navajos. The Friars have been serving on the reservation since 1898.

Difficulties of Distance

The distances on the Navajo reservation are vast, about 500 miles by 300 miles. The Navajo people live widely scattered through this vast desert land. So, for example, one missionary sometimes travels 215 miles to say just three Masses at several small chapels.



Santa Claus comes a little differently on the Navajo reservation.



The 6 or 8 sided log Hogan is the traditional Navajo Home & place of their ceremonies..

Pueblo Missions

We have three Clusters of Pueblo Missions. There are 5 missions at **Peña Blanca**, three pueblo and two Hispanic ministered by one full time Priest. **Laguna Mission** has 10 mission sites to which it ministers. **Jemez** has 6 mission sites to which one priest ministers.



Peña Blanca

One difficulty with the Pueblo missions is that each one is a different nation with their unique language and customs. So the Missionary has to adapt to many different situations. **At the same time** one of the wonderful things of all the native Americans is the richness, variety, and beauty of their many fiestas, ceremonies, rituals, and crafts.



Hispanic Missions

We have 3 large parishes which are mainly Hispanic in Roswell, Albuquerque, and Gallup, New Mexico, as well as several smaller Hispanic Missions.

We do ministry to Hispanic immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries. Many of our priests are bilingual and many of our new vocations are originally from Mexico or other Hispanic countries. As with the Native Americans, the richness of customs, traditions, faith and family values of the Hispanic culture is a great gift which they bring to us.



Mariachis bands are an important part of Hispanic culture.

Needs of our Missions

Lack of Missionaries

Whereas years ago we had 40 or 50 missionaries on the **Navajo** reservation we now have 5 or 6. So we have had to leave many places and now just a few missionaries serve about 15 different missions. Many of our missionaries are still serving in their 80's.

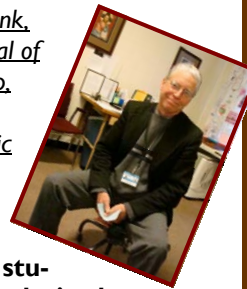
Lay Missionaries

We have been blessed with many lay missionary volunteers to make up for lack of Friars through our "**Partners Program**". They are lay adult men and women, single and married who donate a year or more of their lives to work in our missions.

Larry Audette, a contractor from NY helps a Chinle, AZ



Don Frank, Principal of Gallup, NM Catholic School



Groups of High School and College students have spent weeks in the summer at our missions.

A group of students help repair a roof at the Klagato Navajo Mission



Religious Sisters

Many religious sisters are administrators of Mission and work in Religious Education and many Social programs.

L. Sr. Josephine in food pantry, R. Sr. Christa with Fr. Blane at Many Farms



Where your money goes

Most of our **missions are small and very poor.** Often the collection in one of our chapels is less than \$40 after a Sunday Mass.

Because of the distances, especially with the price of gas today, **travel costs are high.** Often 4 wheel drive vehicles are needed because of the snow or mud.

We have been blessed with 10 young men seeking to be Franciscans. This is a wonderful blessing, but it is also a burden. **The yearly cost to house and educate just one young man in training is about \$30,000.**



Some of our seminarians with their directors

Every month Our Lady of Guadalupe Province spends **\$29, 500. in subsidies** in support of our Missions.

We sincerely thank you for your support of our Hispanic and Native American Missions. May God Bless you.

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