

Dear Friend of the Missions,

As you may well know, our **Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe has a focus on ministry to the Native Americans and Hispanics of the Southwestern USA.** The friars of St John the Baptist Province came to this area over one hundred years ago and our OLG friars have continued to serve these people since the establishment of our Province in 1985. Can you believe it? This year **2010 is our 25th Anniversary!** And our original focus continues to be caring for the *New Mexico Native American Pueblos of Santo Domingo, Cochiti, San Felipe, Jemez, Zia, Laguna, Acoma, Isleta, and Zuni.* We also minister on the Navajo Reservation which is located in both Arizona and New Mexico.



With a total membership of 65, one would wonder why and how we would even consider a new ministry venture? Perhaps it should be viewed as our attempt at tithing. Instead of giving a percentage of monies to the Church, we are giving one of our valued friars to another ministry outside of our normal recognized areas of ministry.

Our Dale Jamison approached the provincial administration about the possibility of offering his services to the Diocese of Phoenix (AZ) as their Director of Native American Ministries. Within that diocese there are three Reservations: The Gila River Indian Community; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; and the Papago. The Reservations have seven missions but no resident priest. In the past, the diocese would either send a deacon or a retired priest to these places for Sunday Mass but it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to continue.

Our Province supported Father Dale in his desire to work for the Diocese of Phoenix as their Native American Ministries Director and so he began his journey three years ago. I had occasion to spend a weekend with him in November of 2009 and I have to say that I was truly impressed with both his dedication and with the true love and devotion that the people have for their Catholic faith.



On this particular weekend I traveled a total of 160 miles with him as we visited three of the seven missions. The churches were full of enthusiastic faith filled people. They were happy to be able to celebrate and pray together with their priest. Dale's weekend schedule starts as early as 6:00 AM and quite often ends no earlier than 8:00 or 9:00 PM. When he is not at one of the

Reservations in one of the missions he is at his office at the chancery in downtown Phoenix.



These native people are very proud to have their own church in their village. They are thankful also that we are able to provide Fr Dale to this highly demanding ministry. As you can imagine, the funds to keep these mission churches operational is very scarce. **Your financial support helps us to provide funding for such places** many of which would not survive without our monthly subsidy. Don't fret about not having more to give. Believe me, **any amount which you can spare is deeply appreciated by the people we serve as well as by our friar missionaries.**

Please be assured that our friars will remember you and your loved ones in their daily prayers and Masses. May you be showered with many graces and blessings during this new year of 2010.

Peace and All Good!

Br Bruce, ofm

**Br. Bruce Michalek, OFM
Director**



PS Please remember that I still have some Navajo Language CDs available. They contain a collection of Catholic songs and prayers spoken in Navajo. Our Father Cormac is the narrator. Your [on line donation](#) of \$20.00 will cover the production and mailing costs as well as provide a donation.