

Summer 2009

Dear Friend of the Missions,

By now I would think that those “*lazy hazy days of summer*” have set in throughout these United States? I have such fond memories of my childhood summers in Detroit. Back then, in the 50s, the entire neighborhood took care of you. We didn’t get away with much because there always seemed to be a “*spy*” sitting on a porch and they knew who you were and where you lived! It was a time of year when we could really be kids and just enjoy ourselves with the simple pleasures of life....baseball, riding our bikes, hide and seek when the sun went down, etc.



Life was slower paced and less complicated but there seemed to be an order to everything. We learned manners and social graces not only from our parents but from the entire neighborhood. **We looked forward to our various Catholic celebrations such as the May Crowning, Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Christmas.** I wish that the young people of today (*your children , grandchildren, nieces and nephews*) could have the same experience. **A Catholic School education is still one way to teach solid**

values in the fast pace of today. The Friars of our Southwest Franciscan Missions are committed to helping make it available to as many Native American and Hispanic Families as possible.



I have sent this letter to almost 20 thousand of our current and past benefactors by *snail mail* in order to beg their help in funding our annual **Franciscan Scholarship Education Fund**. It provides up to 50% of the tuition to send a child to a Catholic Middle School or High School. Thankfully, some parents and grandparents are willing to make the added financial sacrifice to send their children to a Catholic school. **These are the formative years for children.** Their grade school, middle school, and high school years will hopefully be **positive anchors for the rest of their lives.** Sad to say but it may be the last time that a lot of them will receive any formal Catholic teaching until perhaps they get married.



Eager students on their way to Catholic school

Our Franciscan Scholarship Education Fund continues to help families meet their financial obligations for tuition. **We are able to distribute approximately \$25,000 each year to about 100 families.** Who knows how many would not be able to attend a Catholic school without our help and yours? Your generous support of our **Franciscan Scholarship Education Fund** will ensure that it will continue to provide assistance to needy students. **The average scholarship is around \$400.00 per student.** The money is sent directly to the Catholic school for tuition costs. **If you can only contribute once a year, this is the appeal to do so.** The scholarships are available to both middle school and high school levels. They are awarded to families who are members of one of our Franciscan mission parishes here in the Southwest. In these difficult financial times everyone is having to scale back. I



understand. If you would like to **sponsor an individual student for the upcoming school year and split your donations into quarterly payments** — that can be arranged. **Annual tuition costs are as follows: *St Michaels Indian School* (\$1750 GS/\$3000 HS); *Gallup Catholic School* (\$2250 K-2)/\$2750 (3-5)/\$3500 (6-12); *St Joseph School San Fidel* (\$900 K-8); *St Francis School -Gallup* (K-5 \$1500.00); and *St Therese - Grants* (1-8 \$1935.00)**

If you can't help with a financial donation, **how about sending some school supplies?** Can a student ever have enough **pencils, notebooks, binders, etc.?** I hope that you will consider [making a donation](#) to our **Franciscan Scholarship Fund**. Thanks for your interest in our Southwest Franciscan Missions. **Certainly, in these difficult times it is understandable if you can't help us financially but please remember us in your prayers.** We promise to remember you and your loved ones in our daily prayers and Masses.

Peace and All Good!

Br Bruce, OFM