

# SAINT ANNE MISSION

*Klagetoh, Arizona*

A P R I L 2 0 2 0

## What I (Unexpectedly) Gave Up for Lent

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I share with you the concerns and anxieties that we all face during this uncertain times. I know that many of the friends and benefactors of this Mission live in places that are experiencing great difficulty at this time. I'm also concerned that some of our close friends have health issues that place them among the most likely to suffer great harm should they contract this virus. Please know that you all remain in our prayers.

We have now experienced two Sundays without any public celebrations in the Church. The Diocese of Gallup, like many others throughout the world, has taken measures to help ensure the health and safety of the faithful as well as the population at large. This includes the suspension of public celebrations of the Mass, religious instruction, and most other ministries that gather people together. As Lent began, many of us had determined to follow the traditional Catholic practice of "giving something up". Who would have suspected that we would soon be called upon to give up so much of what we hold dear in our faith: gathering together, fellowship, public worship, and even the celebration of the Eucharist?

Last Friday we saw an image of the pope, a solitary figure praying alone in the rain on the steps of St. Peter's. Alone, but not alone, as millions throughout the world shared his pain and his prayer through the media of television and the Internet.



Life at the Mission has changed. We have had to suspend Sunday Mass, the Wednesday morning rummage sale, and the Thursday evening Children's Program. Preparation of candidates for Easter Baptism has been put on hold. Many of our Spring vol-

unteer groups have been forced to postpone their trips and the status of the Mission's Summer programs remains uncertain. While Sister Monica, Brother Robert and I remain healthy, anxiety and uncertainty about the course of the Coronavirus and the impact it has had and will have on our lives and ministry remain. It is through prayer

and hope in the providential love of God that we persevere.

Our current active ministries include the food pantry, providing firewood to the elderly and vulnerable, and telephone outreach to the members of our parish who live alone. And, above all, our prayers for this community, the Church and the whole world.

May the Lord bless you all during these strange and uncertain times.

Brother Charles Schilling, SC

*In the masthead: The San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff. Known as Dook'ò'òostííd, it is the westernmost of the Four Sacred Mountains that traditionally define and protect Dinétah - the land of the Navajo people - in times of trouble.*

# Our Needs



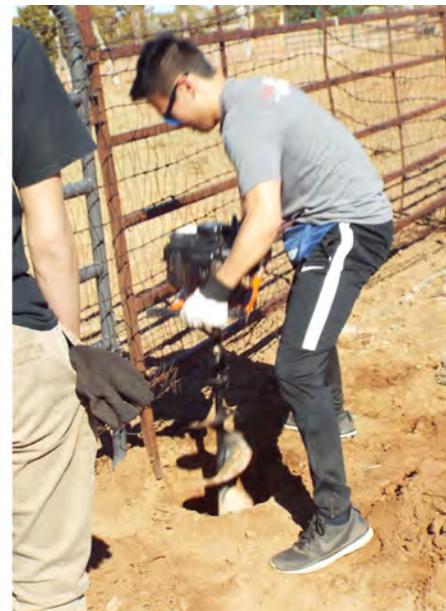
As was mentioned earlier, many of the services that the Mission provides to the community have been suspended as part of the efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The tribal government has issued a “stay at home” order, has closed non-essential businesses, and has imposed a daily curfew.

The Mission’s Rummage Sale is now closed. We do not know when it might reopen. I know that several people have been collecting items for the rummage, but I must ask that you please do not send any items for the rummage at this time.

The primary essential service that the Mission now provides to the local community is the food pantry. While there are sufficient funds on hand to re-stock the pantry, actually finding the items we need in sufficient quantities to justify a road trip at this time has been challenging. Many stores have, understandably, placed limits on the amounts that individuals can purchase. We will be directing a larger percentage of the donations we receive towards keeping the food pantry stocked.

# Saint Louis University

During the second week of March the Mission was pleased to host a group of 14 students and staff members from Saint Louis University. Traveling during their scheduled Spring Break, the volunteers faced some challenges posed by muddy roads, but were able to get out one day to repair the corral fence of a community member.



The remainder of their days were spent on projects at the Mission proper and learning about Navajo culture and traditions. Midway through their time with us, the students learned that their break was being extended a week due to COVID-19 and that the university would transition to distance learning for the remainder of the semester. Although anxious, they took the news in stride.

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