

# SAINT ANNE MISSION

*Klagetoh, Arizona*

J U N E 2 0 1 9

## Seasons

*heavy snows lead to a verdant spring*

## Church Update

A snowstorm and widespread power failure ushered in 2019 in Klagetoh. Following several years of below average snowfall, the Klagetoh area received approximately two feet in the first two months of the year.

The Navajo Nation declared a snow emergency in February. Under the declaration the tribe was able to spend reserve funds and dispatch additional tractors and road-clearing equipment to clear snow from remote dirt roads where people were trapped. The tribe also delivered emergency food and water to people who were “snowed in”.

Mission vehicles were involved in a couple of “slide offs” on slick and snow-covered roads. Fortunately none of the incidents resulted in injuries or significant damage to the vehicles.

As the storms passed, the melting snow transformed Reservation dirt roads into impassable avenues of mud.

Early January also saw nighttime lows below zero. Several residents turned to the Mission for emergency supplies of firewood. With difficult travel conditions, the Mission’s emergency food pantry was also relied on by people in need.

Locals told me that they had not seen that much snow since 2001. The Flagstaff airport recorded nearly 4 feet in 24 hours, setting a new record.

The first of the Missions 2019 volunteers arrived on the heels on the big February storm. Fortunately, the teens from Bishop Guertin High School in New Hampshire were experienced in the art of snow removal. Their efforts mitigated the conditions at the Mission.

The result of all that precipitation has been a greener than usual Springtime. Wildflowers are abundant and the whole area around Klagetoh is as verdant as we’ve ever seen.

This Spring the Mission undertook a project to update the area behind the altar in the Mission Church. The reddish brick wall fascia to which the church crucifix was attached was covered with drywall and painted a light blue. The crucifix itself was suspended from the ceiling several inches in front of the new surface. This project was undertaken to make the crucifix and tabernacle more visible as liturgical focal points in the church.



As a finishing touch, Brother Robert installed hardwood planking over the old painted plywood surface to which the tabernacle was attached.

Still to come is the installation of improved spotlights for the crucifix and the statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Anne that flank the altar.



## Community Projects

A main goal of our volunteer program is to put visitors in contact with members of the local community with an aim to experiencing some of the realities of their day-to-day life while providing some material support to those in special needs.

Occasionally that means building, and delivering, a new outhouse.



*Out with the old; in with the new. Mission volunteers built, painted and delivered this new outhouse.*

At other times, “chinking” the gaps between logs in a hogan is the order of the day.



*Mission volunteers help a member of the parish repair the gates at her sheep corral.*



*Volunteers learn by doing, including digging a foundation trench for an addition to this parishioner's house.*



*Sometimes the “job” is simply playing with the local kids.*

## Calling All Stories!

In just five years Saint Anne Mission will celebrate 100 years of Catholic evangelization and ministry in the Klagetoh area. We are planning to mark that year with celebration and a booklet aimed at sharing the history of the Mission's first hundred years. I am urging anyone who has stories of the Mission, especially from the 1950s and 60s, to send those in for inclusion in our shared memory of the place and what it has meant to the people of Klagetoh.

## Meetings with the Franciscans

Representatives from the Albuquerque Province of the Franciscans recently hosted two meetings at St. Michaels to inform parishioners of structural changes that the Franciscans in the United States are undertaking as well as the desire and need for lay members of the Navajo parishes to take a greater role in church affairs.



**St. Joseph's Academy • Baton Rouge, LA**  
• May 31 - June 7, 2019

**Catholic High School & St. Joseph's Academy • Baton Rouge, LA**  
*conducting the Klagetoh Summer Bible School*  
• June 8 -15, 2019

**Mt. St. Charles Academy • Woonsocket, RI**  
• June 15-20, 2019

**St. Joseph's High School • Metuchen, NJ**  
• June 29 - July 6, 2019  
*concurrently with*  
**Coindré Leadership Program**  
• June 29 - July 6, 2019

**Hope for the Children Foundation**  
*conducting the Ganado Summer Bible School*  
• July 6 - 13, 2019

**McQuaid Jesuit High School • Rochester, NY**  
• July 13 - 24, 2019