

December 2018

Dear Friend of the Missions,

Did you fill up on turkey, *on Thanksgiving Day*? It is, without a doubt, my favorite secular holiday of the year. I have wonderful memories of childhood and adult Thanksgiving celebrations when our entire family would gather for good food, family updates and, of course, great football games!



On a *spiritual level*, **Thanksgiving** it is a time for thanking our God for all of the blessings we have received throughout the past year. Perhaps you didn't win big on that lottery ticket or you might have been laid off but still our God looks after us. *Most of us have so many blessings to be thankful for if only we would take the time to recognize them: Freedom of speech; freedom of movement; abundant food supplies; proper shelter; good educations; etc.* Could the year have been better? Probably. But were your basic needs cared for? *I pray that they were. Our God is good and loving.*



Christmas will be here before we know it, but if you listen to the media it actually began way back in October. We are bombarded with advertising to buy this or buy that. **Is there ever a point when we can say, "that's enough?"** Will that new iPhone really be the gift to repair a broken relationship? I don't have an answer for you.



Only honest communication can resolve misunderstandings between family and friends. **Gifts are nice but they can't buy love.** Please consider giving a *alternative gift* in the form of a donation to our Southwest Franciscan Missions in the name of a loved relative or friend. We can send a special note to them or send it to you so that you can forward it yourself. **The note will indicate that, in place of a gift to them, you are making a donation in their name.**



Can you find it in your heart to help us make this Christmas a little more hopeful for the many needy families we encounter at our Native American missions in Arizona and New Mexico? May I suggest a donation to our *Southwest Franciscan Missions* in place of the usual ties, books, iPads, iPhones, etc.?



Your **Alternative Christmas gift** donation can provide much needed clothing and school supplies for the children attending school on the Navajo Reservation. It can also provide the funding to heat our mission churches on the Reservation where **some of the weekly collections can't even pay for the utilities.** Your donation can help to provide a **scholarship for a Native American or Hispanic student to attend Catholic school.** If you wish, we will

send your loved one a special note which tells them of your alternative gift in their name.



You can make a donation in honor of a loved one either through Pay Pal, MasterCard, Visa, or American



Express by connecting to our web page at www.olgofm.org you can mail us your donation. *You and your loved ones will be remembered in our daily prayers, good works, and Masses during this Advent Season of waiting for the birth of Jesus.* Your spiritual and financial assistance is deeply appreciated.

Peace and All Good
Br. Bruce, ofm
Director