

*January 2018*

Dear Friend of the Missions,

Have you recovered from Christmas and New Year 2018? *The holiday season is such a wonderful time of the year which allows us to reconnect with family and friends. Gifts are nice but the memories of special times with family and friends will last a life time.*

Our Province once again received a gift on December 8, 2017. It was the **ordination to the priesthood of Friar Edgardo Diaz Vazquez, ofm.** He was ordained by Archbishop John Wester, of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe NM. The celebration took place at our Holy Family Parish in Albuquerque. Edgardo's Mom and Dad



were able to be present for the ceremony as they traveled here from Monterey, Mexico. Edgardo's first assignment as a priest will be at St Francis Parish in Gallup NM. The parish is predominately Hispanic and Navajo. Edgardo has been assigned there as a Deacon and so he is familiar with the people and they are equally familiar with him. *I know that they are eager and willing to teach him many things about their Faith and how they practice and strengthen it.* Please remember Edgardo in your prayers so that he will be a good Franciscan and priest.



This past year was a reasonably good year for us mainly because of your generosity. **Our total income was \$234,364.90 and our expenses for the appeals were at \$10,679.57.** This past year we again did a total of eight appeal letters. **We mailed out 25,798 letters and we received 1,762 returns.** *I should mention that our total income also includes \$83,000.00 which was received from various*



*Catholic parishes throughout the USA as a result of Mission Appeal talks by our Friars. I suppose that in the grand scheme of life it does not seem like a very good return. Of course, it could always be better but I am sorely aware of the myriad amount of request letters that you receive on a weekly basis from other non profit organizations. You have to make choices and I am grateful that you have decided to help our Southwest Franciscan Missions. Every month our Treasurer's Office distributes a total of \$22, 000.00 to a total of eight of our missions: Lukachukai; Piñon; Chinle; Ganado; Greasewood; Klagetoh; Jemez; and St. Michael's. The funds are used to pay for utilities, fuel, catechetical supplies, and the general maintenance of the missions. So, as you can see, we're not quite making ends meet from our donations. We must live in hope.*

I depart for my beloved **Vietnam** for yet another three-month mission on **16 January** and I *return to the USA* on **16 April**. It will be my ninth year of ministry there and I am forever grateful to both my Province as well as the Vietnamese Franciscan Province for allowing me the privilege to do this. **I will once again be teaching our Franciscan novices conversational English.** The novitiate is located in the highlands of Vietnam in the city of Dalat. It is about 150 miles northwest of Saigon. This year I will have a total of **twenty-two novices**. And, as if this isn't



exciting enough, **I will also be traveling to Laos for a brief one week visit to the Franciscan mission there.**



**Your continued prayer support and financial assistance always put a smile of gratitude and thanksgiving on my face.** *I know that you are walking with us on the journey of Faith* and without your support we would not be able to continue our ministries. And so, I want to say thank you and God Bless. **I pray that you will continue to walk with us during this coming year. Your spiritual and financial**

**support is critical to our ministries with the Native Americans and Hispanics of the Southwest.** No matter what the challenges might be, know that your Franciscan brothers are walking with you spiritually. The time that I spend in Vietnam is truly spiritual food for my soul. I ask you to please remember me in your prayers.

Peace and All Good!

**Br. Bruce, ofm**

**P.S.** If you are comfortable with the Internet and would like to follow my Asian missionary adventures, you can read my weekly letter which describes my activities. I post them on our Development Office Web Page: <http://www.olgofm.com/>

**!** Please consider making a [credit card donation](#) to help support our Southwest Franciscan Missions. **Your electronic donation is secure.**