

April-May 2018

Dear Friend of the Missions,

*Alleluia, for He has risen from the dead!* I hope that you had a wonderful Easter celebration with your loved ones? The Resurrection of Jesus and His real presence in the Eucharist are the primary focus points of our Catholic Christianity. This feast of the Resurrection (*Easter*) is so important that the Church actually continues the celebration all the way to the **Feast of Pentecost** (*the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples*) on **May 20<sup>th</sup>** .

**Easter is a celebration of New Life and Hope.** I am sharing some picture collages from some of our missions here in the Southwest. The Franciscans have been walking with the Catholic faithful for many years and it is heartening to witness their Faithful Commitment to our Catholic Faith. The message of the Risen Christ brings hope to those who might otherwise be lost in a feeling of depression and failure.



We have walked with the Native Americans and Hispanics of the Southwest as the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe since January of 1985 and before that year the Friars were members of the Cincinnati based Province of St John the Baptist. Many of our benefactors have been with us from the very beginning and **we are humbly grateful for the spiritual and financial support that we continue to receive from benefactors like you who live all over the United States**

**and Canada.** In these difficult economic times, it is understandable that money is a little “tight” and so perhaps the contributions are not as large or as regular. As our Brother Peter Forton used to say, “*not to worry!*” **You give what you can and we are grateful for your sacrifice. Please don’t ever think that you are disappointing us if you can’t contribute.** Your prayers are needed as well and no economic crisis can limit your generosity in that area.



The current St Michael's Church and Friary were completed in the early 1940s and it continues to be a beacon of hope for the Navajo people. The parish has a membership of about three hundred families which makes it the largest Christian church congregation on the Navajo Reservation. **St Michael's mission is now 120 years young** and it continues to be a Beacon of Hope for the Navajo people.

**I returned from my three-month mission to Vietnam and Laos on April 17.** As in past years it was a privilege to be among the dedicated Franciscans of Vietnam and Laos. Vocations to the Religious Life and the Priesthood are very strong in both countries. The Formation Programs and Seminaries are having difficulties because they have to turn aspirants away for lack of space. *The Church seems to prosper as a result of the oppression by the communist government.* **I have come back to our Southwest Franciscan Missions with a renewed sense of dedication and appreciation for our Native Americans and Hispanics.** Their strong faith is also a powerful witness to me. How blessed we are to be with these People of God.



*Current Church and Friary built in the early 1940s.*

**Enjoy the coming of spring and the new life all around you.** Be assured that the Friars of our Southwest Franciscan Missions continue to pray for you and your intentions on a daily basis.

Peace and All Good!

Br. Bruce, ofm

Director

! Your [Secure Electronic Donation](#) is greatly appreciated. Your gift helps us to continue our ministry among the Native American People of the Southwestern USA.



*The original "Navajo Last Supper" painting hangs in the Friary Refectory.*