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Official Newsletter of the  
Franciscans of the  
Province of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Albuquerque, NM

Back to School Days  
The "Dog Days of Summer"

# THE PADRES'



# Trail



## Reflections on the APA/Richard McManus

Some of Friars' reflections on APA:

⇒ Fraternal caring and uniting. Let's try it throughout the US and Canada. Let's not slow down the pace. WE need to try it soon before we get too old.

⇒ It will take time

It is inevitable. Be open to change, face the eventualities. Hope and prayer. Let go and let God do the rest

⇒ Imagine what Pope Francis says and does; closeness, simplicity, humility, compassion and mercy.

⇒ I am just a simply professed friar learning the language and traditions of this country. Yet I am open to the light of the Holy Spirit that the solution to our fears and challenges is in the gospel.

⇒ Scatter the Word; little houses

⇒ Confronting neo-tribalism. Offering intentional communities of seven – one friar from each province

⇒ Focus on our Franciscan brotherhood and the various heritages we have in our provinces is key to the process of coming together. What are the heritages of each province – what are they proud of? - needs to be celebrated in the process of reorganizing the seven provinces!

⇒ We are a 'brotherhood' and members of ONE family with different gifts. How can we use these gifts?

⇒ I think we need to remember that this idea of re-configuration will not be a cure-all for our challenges. We are still downsizing, we are still getting older.

⇒

*(These are just a few of the reflections of the friars as sent by Richard. I will try to put all of them on our web site.)*



Dear Jack and all the friars,

I want to offer a brief reflection on the June OLG APA experience and the responses to the conversation exercises. First of all, it was a privilege for Page and I to be invited as part of the FIT project to make a presentation on the national planning process up to

this point. I hope it was clear and informative. FIT does want the friars to understand what our task is and how the friars can keep informed and get involved. Speaking of involvement, I was most impressed by your engagement with each other and quality of the conversations and the feedback. I would like to add just briefly a few impressions that I got from our time together. I hope that all of you will be to benefit as well from the collection of responses that you gave.

I was not surprised by the virtues/ qualities that you as the friars of OLG named clearly about your province: generosity, hospitality and service were the most commonly agreed traits of who you see yourselves as a province to be. (I would support that perception.) However, from your other remarks there are a few other virtues and traits that I would like to add to your list, if I may. I hope that these are somewhat of a reflection coming from the list of comments you submitted.



To your list I would add: a fraternal resiliency and adaptability, that is not just of your own making. I read time and again about your trust in God's work in your midst. God is faithful and all things are possible. And with that trust in God, good things await.

I heard well-spelled out a sense of confidence in yourselves as well. You are the ones who know firsthand the meanings of growing a provincial identity from the ground up, in a short time. You recognize the blessing handed-on and have nurtured its growth and now also know to look with anticipation at what God can do next. Being the 'youngest' province, you may well be in a key position to lead the way where your 'older' brothers may have greater trepidation.

Time and again your responses echoed the reality of the 'we' – not the 'I', which must be at the heart of our brotherhood. It must be central to the success of this futuring project. But, these are not simply nice sentiments of what should be. It is evident in your hospitality and service and most especially in your generosity. It is evident, if I may observe, in your care and concern for one another.

I heard another aspect reflected in your comments which I would call anticipation. There is a rising interest and excitement for what is possible as we move forward. There is a focus on the possible and the desirable and even a willingness to be open to the unknown. There is room for many dreams, and probably a few nightmares along the way as well. And, at the same time there is not one expected solution to it all.

Obviously, many questions remain to be explored and many possibilities to be examined. And, there is still much greater depth to the reflections that you shared with each other than I can list here. The process will benefit greatly by your fraternal contributions.

On behalf of FIT, Richard, Page and Bill

## Summer in San Antonio

Photo and text by Ron Walters

Summer is quiet in San Antonio. More often than not, the guys are away for various classes or in ministry somewhere. This summer, only **Ron** and **Miguel Alcantar** is home. Miguel has been attending UNAM to improve his pronunciation of English. He is in a class all by himself with the head of the department as his instructor.

Two of our men are in Clinical Pastoral Education courses on the East Coast: **Andrés Hernandez** and **Edgardo Diaz**. Andrés is at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is living at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish, 475 Main St, West Springfield, MA 01089. Edgardo Diaz is taking his course in the Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina area at Rex Hospital there. He is staying with friars from the Holy Name Province at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613.

Two of our men are part of the Assisi Study Pilgrimage which has been designed specifically for those preparing for solemn profession: **Jorge Hernandez** and **José Luis Peralta**. There has been no word from either of them, but no news is good news.

Ron and Miguel are not alone, however. During the General Chapter in Assisi in May and June, our provincial, Jack, was met by the provincial of the Santa Fe province in Columbia. He asked Jack if two of his friars would be able to stay with us here in San Antonio, while they attended UNAM to learn English. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, two friars came to San Antonio: **Br. Medardo José Alvarado** and **Br. Hector Rafael de la Cruz Dominguez**. José is the provincial secretary of the Santa Fe Province in Columbia and is very fluent in English. He came along to assist Hector in the journey. The second friar who was supposed to stay with us was not able to get a visa for the trip. José has since returned to Bogotá, but Hector has been busy with English studies.

Miguel has been busy as a mentor to Hector. He and Ron have shown our visitors some of the sights on San Antonio. Hector takes the bus each day to UNAM. Since Miguel's schedule is different, he

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# Reverse Mission: “From the four sacred mountains to the cities... Serving God’s people together

**S**t. Mary’s, Tohatchi, Youth Group Mission Trip



SINGING IN NAVAJO

When you anticipate a journey for months, the day can’t arrive too soon. For the Youth Group at St. Mary Mission, Tohatchi, Wednesday, June 24, proved the culmination of much hard work.

The teens – and many of their parents – held a raffle, and volunteered their time at St. Mary’s parish bingo over the course of four months to raise the funds for their mission trip to Saints Peter and Paul Church in Reading, Ohio, near Cincinnati. Where many college and high school groups – including Saints Peter and Paul - had visited St. Mary’s on their mission trips over the years, this was a chance to “return the favor” in a way, and for the Native American youngsters to get a taste of Midwest life.

Beth Pettigrew, Pastoral Associate at Saints Peter and Paul parish, noted, “Youth and adults from our parish have visited St. Mary’s eleven times over the past 16 years to help at their mission doing things like Summer Bible School, outreach, building, cleaning, hauling, and painting. You name it and we’ve done it. This time the people of St. Mary’s taught their youth that it was time for them to give back, that they too have gifts and talents to share, and that they do not always need to be the receivers of mission work.”

Beth understood, though, that fundraising could be an issue for the St. Mary’s group. “Having the youth and their families come to Saints Peter and Paul has been a dream of ours for years. With the economic situation on the reservation, we honestly never thought it could happen. But, as you know, with God all things are possible. They got determined, and they did it!”

June 24 began with a special Mass for the Youth

Group at St. Mary’s Church. The pews were peppered with turquoise t-shirts, custom made for the trip, bearing the motto, “From the four sacred mountains to the cities... Serving God’s people together.” Sr. Pat Bietsch, OSF, coordinator of the Youth Group, explained the purpose of the trip: “It’s not our mission, it’s God’s. It’s not about us.”

At the conclusion of the liturgy, the seventeen travelers gathered at the edge of the sanctuary to be blessed by Emery Begay, Medicine Man, before hopping in two vans for the drive to the Albuquerque Support.

In Cincinnati, accommodations were provided by host families from Saints Peter and Paul for part of the time, and at the parish school for part of the time. Cornell Iyua, who traveled with his wife, Clara Kinsel, and three daughters, remarked, “The hospitality was great. Our host family kept wanting to give, give, give.”

On Thursday, the group had the opportunity to rake and mulch the church grounds, some seeing a lawn of green grass for the first time in their lives. “My girls, they miss the green,” said Clara Kinsel.

Ejay Lorenzo, who accompanied his wife, Sadie Yazzie, and two children on the trip, laughed as he recalled the task. “Everybody enjoyed mulching. It was dirty work, but we enjoyed it.”

Other tasks the group assisted with were washing windows in the old school building, and rebuilding a rock wall.

The next day, thanks to Sr. Pat Bietsch’s sister, Peg Schuckman, the group went swimming, to beat a heat quite different from that in New Mexico.

Fr. Dale Jamison, OFM, pastor of St. Mary’s,



Elijah Watson reads at Mass



Cornell Iyua rides on a carousel

joined the group for much of their trip, including an excursion to Oldenburg, Indiana, on Saturday. This visit to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis featured a tour of the buildings and Doll's Apple Orchard. The Fireman's Festival Parade passed along

the street for them to watch while in town, too.

During the Youth Group's interaction with elderly Sisters in the Oldenburg Franciscan retirement center, Fr. Jamison found himself impressed. "It was amazing. Here are these women, with canes and walkers, and the group spread out to the tables in twos, sitting and talking with them."

This part of the trip, in fact, proved most memorable for many in the Youth Group. Sr. Millie Speed, OSF, had spent a number of years at St. Mary Mission, Tohatchi, and donated her Jeep for the raffle held by the Youth Group as a fundraiser. While their visit surprised Sr. Millie, the Youth Group members were touched by their warm reception at the convent.

Rain threatened to ruin some of the events for the group, but alternatives presented themselves. The Newport Aquarium in Kentucky, substituted for a boat tour along the Ohio River Tuesday afternoon. A baseball game between the Cincinnati Reds and the Minnesota Twins ran late that evening, thanks to rain delays.

Janelle Buffalo, who went on the trip with her mother, Laverne Buffalo, found their visit to the Basilica in Kentucky memorable. "It was really beautiful," she stated. She also enjoyed the chance to attend Mass or a communion service each morning,



Shoveling Mulch

each morning,

and having time for prayer.

Cornyra Iyua added, "What really inspired me was the Taft Museum. There's a whole gallery of us, Native Americans of all tribes." Meeting a lot of new friends also touched her heart.



Making Music in the Park L Elijah

Laverne saw the trip as an opportunity for growth. "It wasn't just for us. It was for our parish, our community."

"There was never a down day," Sr. Pat Bietsch asserted.

"My son surprised me," observed Ejay Lorenzo. "He came out of his shell." Many of the other parents noticed the same about their youngsters. Ejay concluded, "It brought joy to my heart."

Thursday, July 2, the group prepared fry bread and blue corn mush for parishioners, and gave a presentation of Native language, song, dancing and stories. They presented a large ceramic pot - made by Agnes Woods, grandmother of Elijah Watson, Youth Group President - to Saints Peter and Paul's new pastor, Fr. Matt Robben, who in turn presented each of the Youth Group members a token of thanks for their visit.

Robert Bemmes, mayor of Reading, Ohio, issued a proclamation welcoming the Youth Group, which was read during the presentation. He thanked the "Ambassadors of the Navajo Nation" who "worked very hard and sacrificed much" to make the trip, "in order to give of themselves, share their talents, stories, cultures and Traditions."

When they arrived back in Tohatchi on Independence Day afternoon, the youth and their parents were tired, but inspired. "It increased our faith," said Sadie Yazzie. "And we shared our faith with others."

Laverne Buffalo summed up the journey well: "We know what's out there for them now."

Text and photos by Julie Ferraro,  
Pastoral Administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul

## Mission Trips – An Editorial

I was impressed with the reverse mission trip from St. Mary's in Tohatchi. I know Tohatchi and Klagetoh have a number of short term mission groups every year, about as many as they can handle. I've always wanted to send some short term groups to other missions but usually get the response: "I'd rather have the native people themselves do the work" or "It is too much work to coordinate them, I don't have time."

I have found with groups I had in Mexico and my experience of Klagetoh (which doesn't even have a resident priest) that such groups can do a lot of good without taking work away from the native people, but enabling them to use their talents.

I was recently impressed with an article in the IC Newsletter (July 24) about a group from Canada which is doing impressive work in the Dominican Republic. To quote from the newsletter: "WOODBRIDGE, ONTARIO - It is a project that was begun by the friars at St. Peter's Church in Woodbridge more than a decade ago, but today Fr. Michael Corcione, OFM, continues to bring groups of volunteers from the parish for a mission experience to the Dominican Republic each summer, but it is a mission that takes place all year long." They quoted one lady as saying: "Our babies don't die anymore Father because of you!"

To the objection that the missionaries don't have time I give the example of two Franciscan Mission Service volunteers in Guatemala.

"Originally founded as an orphanage, Valley of the Angels is a boarding school run by the Franciscan friars' Province of the Immaculate Conception that



Students from John Bosco High School in Long Beach CA repair a roof for an elderly woman in Wide Ruins



Hector Dominguez

drive down for his morning and afternoon classes. Hector is at UNAM all day.

We have had quite a bit of rain in the area and as expected, there are many mosquitoes. The grass is green again! We had a lot of lawn mowing to do just after the rains, but since the rains

have stopped for now, we have tapered back on the mowing. Would that we could send the rest of the province some rain. The aquifer has been replenished and people are watering their lawns and gardens again, but we have not done any watering here; the lawn has not needed it.

Ron has been working in the Appellate Court two days a week. The court has all but eliminated its backup of cases. What is left are the difficult cases that take time to investigate. The Archdiocese made its pastoral changes effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, so Ron has not had many weekend assignments in the last few weeks. He has several mission appeals coming up, and several parishes have called for assistance during the weeks ahead.



**Congratulations, Terrence! I hope they throw (threw) you a great party.**

(This picture is from Terrence's 96th Birthday.)

### August Birthdays

1 George Ward  
Robert Sprott

**6 Terence Rhoades (99!)**

7 Eduardo Espionsa  
22 Gilbert Schneider



houses, feeds and educates more than 200 children in need of assistance. Maeve Gallagher is teaching grades three, four, and six at Valley, while Amanda Ceraldi teaches grades two and five.”

From an email Amanda sent: “When I returned from El Salvador it was full speed ahead for the busiest two weeks of my time thus far on mission. *One of my responsibilities at Valley is to plan, coordinate, and lead the short term mission groups that visit Valley.*” (Italics mine.)

Why can't more of our missions do this, especially St. Michaels which has plenty of room (which we don't know what to do with!). Why couldn't we employ more FMS volunteers (or Franciscan Partners) do this? As we decrease in numbers can't we be imaginative in using the laity? Klagetoh shows you don't have to be a priest to do great work.

Joe Nelson

## Mission Appeal Craft

A couple years ago I was trying to come up with an idea of how to connect with children on my mission appeals as well as help the people learn a bit about the native American culture. I had gotten a very faded (from being copied so much) project from a teacher at St. Michaels to make a Navajo Hogan, the traditional Navajo home.



A friend of mine from Roswell who was an artist, David Blair, came to my rescue. He took my copy and, on the computer, made a clear copy and colored the whole thing for me.

I worked the whole thing on to 2 sheets of paper and got Blane and Gilbert to write up ideas about the meaning of the various rituals and aspects of the Hogan such as why a dirt floor etc. These I was able to write up on a third sheet of paper.

I wasn't sure it would work. I knew it would be too expensive to give them out to everyone, but I had about 500 printed and would take about 25 along on a mission appeal.

My pitch to the people was that perhaps the parents or grandparents could take a copy and spend an evening with their children or grandchildren putting it together and read the written sheet and thus learn a bit about the Navajo culture.

To my surprise it worked wonderfully. I put some out after Mass and only those who wanted to use them would take them so that it only took a few copies at each Mass. Often if there was a school or religion class a teacher would take it and said they'd make copies for their class. I also put it on the web site and told them they could always download it from there.

I told the other appeal preachers that they could get copies from the mission office. I don't know if any of them used them or not, but I find that many of the kids and parents love them. This year I had 1000 made and they are working well. Displaying a finished project also helps.

We have had so many offers to give mission appeals this year we have had to refuse a lot of them. **Thanks to all those Friars who have pitched in to help.**

Appeals can be interesting, they are like a box of chocolates! You never know what you are going to get!

Joe Nelson

**The Padres Trail** is the newsletter for the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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