

SPRING 2018

MISSION

ST. BONAVENTURE



Messenger

INDIAN MISSION & SCHOOL



The Director's Desk LIVING AS PRISONERS OF HOPE

Dear Friends of St. Bonaventure,

Zechariah 9:12 tells us we should be prisoners of hope. If I were not a prisoner of hope, I would not continue my daily efforts to run this amazing organization called St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School.

As Executive Director of the Mission and School, I face numerous challenges every day. Keeping the outreach programs and school staffed, managing the ebb and flow of finances affecting the budget, and a host of other administrative duties consume my time and energy on a daily basis.



But I look beyond the walls of my office, and I see water being delivered to the thirsty, children being fed and receiving a solid education, homes being repaired, and young lives being kept away from the sinister clutches of suicide. I see hope.

With this issue of *The Mission Messenger*, I invite you once again to see the hope you help bring about in

the lives of the children at St. Bonaventure Indian School and hundreds of families we serve throughout the Eastern Navajo Reservation.

I am especially excited to share with you the first look at plans for the construction of a new multipurpose building right here in Thoreau. This represents one of the largest building projects in our more than 40-year history and, God willing, the beginning of a new era of hope and optimism for this poverty-stricken community for generations to come.

Thank you for being a prisoner of hope with me.

Together, as prisoners of hope, we are working to liberate those shackled by the chains of poverty and helping them to live freely as Christ intended. May God continue to bless you for partnering with St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School and walking with me to bring hope and freedom to the lives of our Navajo brothers and sisters.

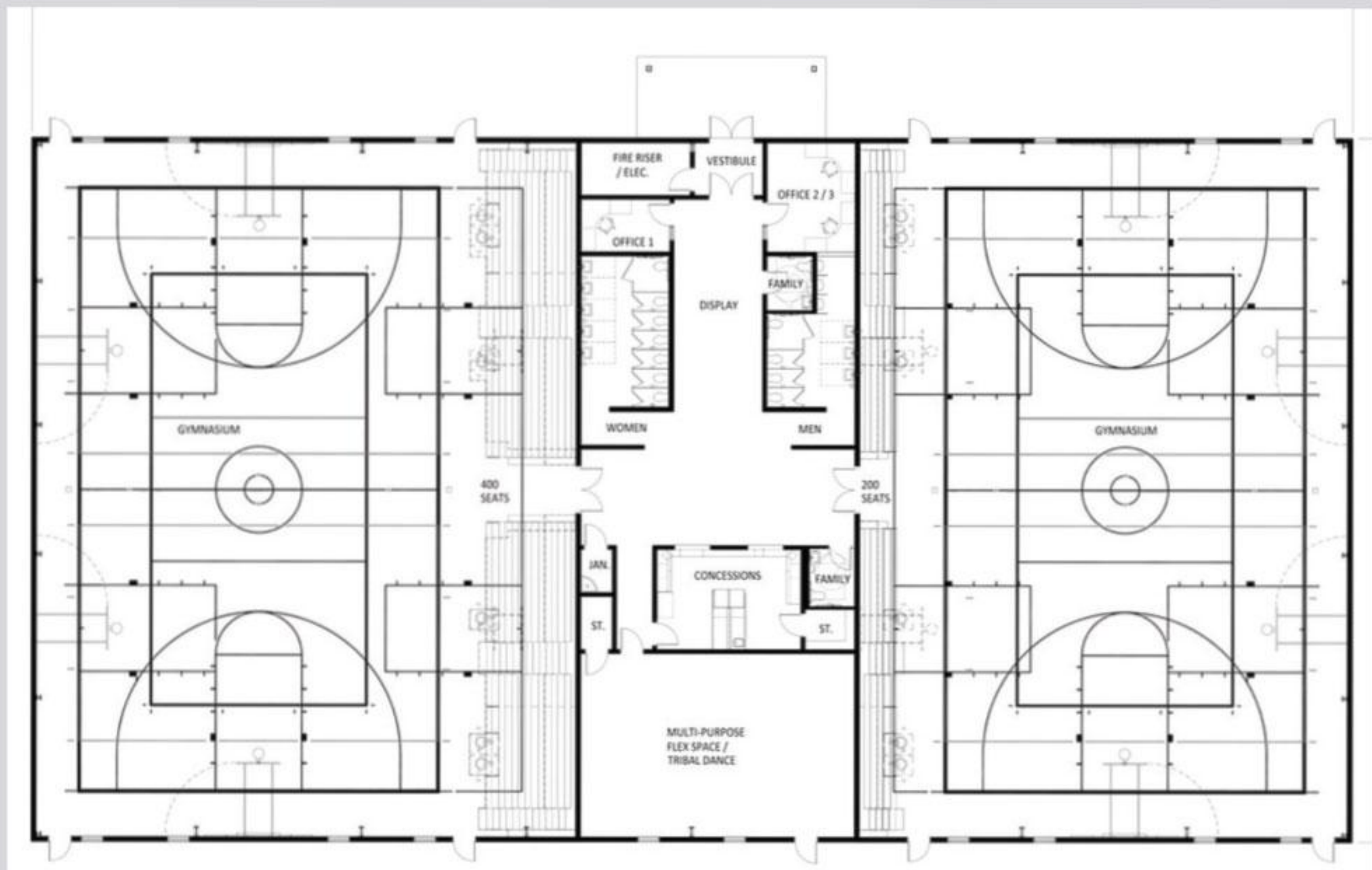
Peace,

Chris Halter



Building on Hope:

MISSION PREPARES TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING



The census-designated place of Thoreau, where St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School is located, suffers from a real culture of poverty. In this seemingly forgotten community in the middle of the United States, alcoholism, high unemployment, crime, and suicide are commonplace. For children and young people, opportunities to express themselves in positive ways are also few and far between. And while we, at St. Bonaventure, continue to work tirelessly to combat these negative elements, we are always asking ourselves “what more can we do to inspire hope in the lives of our Navajo brothers and sisters?” We must think outside of the box!

Like so many kids their age, Navajo children and young people are passionate about the game of basketball. Many dream of one day playing professionally in either the NBA or WNBA! Having life goals and aspirations are so very important for these vulnerable children and provides them with the motivation they need to excel in their school work. This new building project represents a significant and tangible path for them to strive toward their dreams.

Today, we are delighted to share with you – our faithful and generous benefactors – the exciting news that we will soon break ground on one of the most extensive building campaigns in our more than 40-year history. The new building promises to give this disenfranchised Navajo community a major boost in morale and reason to believe in the possibility of a better future.

We look forward to sharing further updates with you as we move ahead with this inspired new building project. Thank you, once again, for believing and building on hope with us, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School.

As you can see in these architectural designs, plans for the new Navajo Code Talkers Recreation Center have already been finalized. Please see additional project details below:

- Approximately 18,000-square-foot footprint
- Features two regulation size basketball courts and additional space for tribal and dance teams
- Fan seating with 600 seating capacity
- Men’s and women’s locker rooms with showers, restrooms, and changing area
- Concession stand equipped with a small kitchenette

Thank You and Farewell!

Sister Marietta

It is with a heavy heart that we bid a fond farewell to Sister Marietta Brown, SNDdeN, after thirteen years of faithful service to St. Bonaventure Indian School students, families, and staff.

Sister Marietta arrived on the Eastern Navajo Reservation in 2006 by way of Ipswich, MA. Prior to joining the Mission and School, Sister Marietta spent many years teaching in her native state of MA, the Midwest, and eight years doing teacher training in South Africa.

Sister Marietta is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, a congregation of religious women dedicated to educational ministry and making God's goodness known especially among those living in poverty.

Thank you, Sister Marietta, for your dedication and sharing so generously your experience, wisdom, and love with our Mission and School, most recently as our Pre-school Director.

The little ones will certainly miss your caring presence in the classroom and your gentle smile as you waved them goodbye each afternoon. You will be missed, but never forgotten!



A Friend To the End *Robert Antonucci*

BENEFACTOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP NAVAJO FAMILIES

Robert Antonucci began supporting St. Bonaventure Indian Mission more than 15 years ago, mailing gifts in from his home in California whenever possible. But when he was diagnosed with a terminal disease, five years ago, Robert decided to contact Mission Director, Chris Halter, to see if he could live and volunteer at the Mission. Chris agreed to Robert's request. And, in the past five years, Robert became a valued member of the St. Bonaventure Outreach team and a friend to all those he encountered.

Robert was incredibly talented, full of energy, creative, and had a great sense of humor. He worked as an unpaid volunteer until the last day, serving St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School, our partner Dig Deep, and the Navajo people he loved so dearly.

Robert, we miss you dearly but find comfort in knowing you rest forever in the arms of our Lord. Rest in peace, Robert, and thank you for enriching our lives with your love and the hope in your heart.



Going Places:

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL BRINGS NEW BUSES, SMILES TO ST. BONAVENTURE STUDENTS.

On May 18, St. Bonaventure Indian School students and teachers proudly welcomed Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie and President Russell Begaye to mark the purchase of three new St. Bonaventure Indian School buses.

The new 28-passenger and two 72-passenger buses replaced older buses, several of which were purchased nearly 10 years ago and breaking down frequently. Principal Tracie Lee believes the new buses will greatly benefit the growth, safety, and success of the school and students.

Funding for the new buses was made possible by legislation sponsored by Delegate Yazzie and approved by President Begaye in the amount of approximately \$209,000.

“It was an honor to work with the school to get the buses,” said Delegate Yazzie, adding, “The

purchases of the new school buses will help motivate and inspire our children to do well in school. I am very honored that I have helped the students.”

The Mission wishes to offer our profound gratitude to the Navajo Nation Council, Delegate Edmund Yazzi, President Begaye, and St. Bonaventure Indian School Administrators for your vital efforts in purchasing new buses and setting our students on the path to a bright future.



COUNCIL DELEGATE EDMUND YAZZIE, PRESIDENT RUSSELL BEGAYE, PRINCIPAL TRACIE LEE AND ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL STUDENTS POSE TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE PURCHASE OF THREE NEW SCHOOL BUSES.



8th Grade Graduation

NAVAJO STUDENTS TAKE THE FUTURE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

the Class of 2018

Another successful year at St. Bonaventure Indian School is in the books! Through your generosity, nearly 180 Navajo students received a tuition-free Catholic education and the vital opportunity to grow personally, spiritually, and academically in a loving school setting.

We are especially proud of the fourteen members of the eighth-grade class who graduated on May 17, 2018. The commencement ceremony took place in the school gymnasium and was packed full of parents, family members, and friends. It was a truly joyful atmosphere as our community gathered to recognize and honor the achievements of our students. Share in our pride and please continue to join us in praying for our graduates as they embark on the next chapter of their young lives and academic careers.

On behalf of all students and their families, the Faculty and Staff, and the entire St. Bonaventure community we thank you, dear benefactors, for the vital role you play in helping to educate and inspire this next generation of Navajo leaders.



SIMPLE NEEDS...

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission strives to meet the needs of our community, and, as always, hygiene products are in high demand. Personal toiletries: Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, facial tissue, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap and shampoo. As well as cleaning supplies: Laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels. Simple household items like pots and pans, dishes and glasses, bath towels and blankets.

Donations of any of these high demand items are most welcome and always accepted with grateful, humble hearts!

If you would like to help you can send a donation box via UPS or FEDEX to:

St Bonaventure Indian Mission & School
25 Navarre Boulevard West
PO Box 610 • Thoreau, NM 87323



*Thank you for
thinking of our families!*

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You shop. Amazon gives.

IT'S EASY TO GIVE ALL YEAR LONG!
JUST GO TO SMILE.AMAZON.COM ENTER OUR NAME AS
YOUR CHARITY AND SHOP LIKE ALWAYS.
BUT REMEMBER ONLY ON SMILE.AMAZON.COM

The Good News About the New Tax Laws

The headlines were bold and seemingly everywhere, proclaiming that the new tax laws, passed at the end of 2017, would have a dramatic negative effect on charitable giving. The major reason? The increase in the standard deduction would limit the number of people who could itemize on their tax return.

Although that is true, there are still plenty of great opportunities to tax advantage of our tax laws when it comes to supporting St. Bonaventure Indian Mission.

GIFTS FROM YOUR IRA

For those 70 ½ or older, you can direct your required minimum distribution (up to \$100,000) from your traditional IRA to help St. Bonaventure, and this transfer will not count as taxable income. Although you would not be entitled to a charitable tax deduction, directing your distribution to us not only limits your taxable income, it could potentially place you in a lower income tax bracket. Just make sure the transfer from your IRA is made directly from your fund to us.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK

Recently, many have seen tremendous appreciation in their stock portfolios, and as a result they are dealing with a significant capital gain tax consideration.

However, when you make a gift of appreciated stock (or mutual fund) to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission, you can make an impactful gift for a fraction of its present value. For example, a stock you purchased for \$3,000 some years ago is now worth \$10,000. If you were to sell those shares, you would be subject to tax on the capital gain – for most people, the tax would be \$1,050. If you were to donate those



shares to us, you could make a gift of \$10,000 at an out-of-pocket cost of only \$3,000 (and pay no capital gain tax at all). You need to transfer those shares directly from your brokerage account to ours. By calling our office at 505-862-7847 we can give you the full details.

GIFTS THROUGH YOUR WILL

Might you consider a gift to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission through your Will or Trust as a way of continuing our partnership? The new tax laws did not affect the impact your bequest would have on our missionary work.

It's easy to do! In your plan, you could allocate:

- a specific dollar amount
- a percentage of your estate, or even
- a residual amount after other loved ones have been provided for.

If you already have a Will, it's simple to ask your attorney to add an inexpensive codicil (like a P.S. on a letter), that will state your gift to us.

You may also remember St. Bonaventure Indian Mission by naming us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or savings account. A gift of any size matters. It's the heart that counts!

By the way, our legal title is: St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School, Inc.

As a token of gratitude for all you have done for us, we are pleased to offer you our free planning booklet, "20 Timely Tips for Estate Planning." Just call our office at 505-862-7847 to request your copy today.

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A gift annuity is an easy way to do something extraordinary for the Navajo of St. Bonaventure Indian Mission while also doing something wonderful for yourself (and/or someone you love).

Gift annuities are as easy to understand as 1-2-3:

- You make an irrevocable gift of at least \$5,000 to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission;
- In return, we will make payments to you for the rest of your life, a portion of which is tax-free (the payout rate is based on your age);
- A charitable deduction is also available if you itemize on your tax return.

Our new higher payout rates will go into effect on July 1. Creating a gift annuity could be a perfect way to supplement your retirement income, with timely payments for as long you live.



Here are three other helpful ideas to consider:

- Use shares of long-term, appreciated stock or a mutual fund to create your gift annuity; you will avoid some of the tax on the capital gain.
- Create a gift annuity for someone you love – even a parent who needs income to supplement their social security payments.
- Defer payments for a year or more and get an even higher payout rate.

We would be happy to send you a free illustration that highlights your personal benefits. Just call Maria Torivia at 505-862-7847. There is absolutely no obligation to learn more!

SAMPLE GIFT ANNUITY PAYOUT RATES*

AGE	RATE
60	4.7%
65	5.1%
70	5.6%
75	6.2%
80	7.3%
85	8.3%
90	9.5%

☐ Please send me a confidential illustration of a Charitable Gift Annuity based on the following information:

Name _____ Birth date _____

Note: If you are not the person to receive payments, please indicate that person's name here:

Projected gift annuity amount \$ _____

Type of asset (check one): ☐ Appreciated Stock ☐ Cash

Name of additional person (if any) to receive payments for life: _____

Relationship _____ Birth date _____

I have questions, please call me: Telephone _____ Best date/time _____

Return completed form in the enclosed envelope to: St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School
PO Box 610 • Thoreau, NM 87323-0610



Are we not all called to be Good Shepherds?

We have all heard the story of the Good Shepherd, written into children's story or in the Bible parable as Jesus told it to his followers. We know Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep.

But are we not all called to be good shepherds?

In the parable, just one of a hundred was lost, and yet that one lost sheep was not forgotten or left alone in the wilderness.

As a member of the Good Shepherd Circle, YOU will be the kind shepherd tending to the needs of the most isolated and impoverished Navajo elders, children and families who have been lost and forgotten by most.

Please consider offering monthly support to help St. Bonaventure Indian Mission reach out to those in need.

Your regular Good Shepherd Circle gifts will be used to:

- Provide life-saving, clean water through our water delivery program.

- Purchase new solar pump systems to provide families with running water and electricity in their homes for the first time in their lives.
- Offer shelter and home repairs to families living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions.
- Feed hungry students two meals a day and deliver emergency food boxes to elders and families in crisis.
- Offer Navajo children tuition-free Catholic education at St. Bonaventure Indian School and a chance at a brighter future.

As a Good Shepherd, you will also receive less mail appealing for your generous support. And by helping decrease mailing costs, more of your every gift will go to serve the needs of Navajo families.

Please join our most faithful friends and supporters, today, by becoming a member of the Good Shepherd Circle. Thank you!

YES! I would like to join the Good Shepherd Circle.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ in support of St. Bonaventure Mission and School.

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

☐ I would like to charge my gift to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Card # _____ Security code _____

Join by Phone: 505.862.7847 or call Toll free: 877.989.4100

Mail to: GOOD SHEPHERD CIRCLE

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School • P.O. Box 610 • Thoreau, NM 87323-0610