

WINTER 2019

MISSION

ST. BONAVENTURE



Messenger

INDIAN MISSION & SCHOOL



The Director's Desk

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – ONE STEP AT A TIME

Dear Friends of St. Bonaventure,

When preparing to climb a mountain, one must be in the mindset of taking one step at a time. Otherwise, the journey up will be fraught with nothing but frustration.

In many respects, tackling the complex issues surrounding poverty on the Eastern Navajo Reservation is no different than climbing a mountain. And if we hope to bring about any lasting change for the impoverished Navajo community we serve, we must approach every obstacle and challenge one step at a time.

Thank you for sharing in the arduous but truly rewarding journey toward dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency for our Navajo brothers and sisters with us at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School.

In 1974, we began climbing up this mountain with help from friends like you. Your generosity and prayers made these past forty-five years of service possible. Today, your friendship and faith-inspired support continue to inspire our every step closer to the proverbial mountain top.

As you explore this issue of the Mission Messenger, I hope you will be reminded of the great good you help us accomplish here every day. I am pleased to report we are counting down the days to the Grand Opening of our new gym building this summer. I'm also delighted to introduce you to a few new climbers to the Mission, the Franciscan Immaculatae Sisters. These are just a few of the steps taking place since you last heard from me.

So, whether it is through critical outreach programs, like our water delivery service, or in the classrooms of St. Bonaventure Indian School, be assured that every next step you help us take touches the lives of impoverished Navajo people with hope and, most importantly, the love of God.

Together, we are making a difference, one step at a time.



In closing, I want to invite you to join us here in Thoreau on August 15th as we joyfully celebrate forty-five years of service to our Navajo brothers and sisters and the Grand Opening of the new gymnasium you are helping us build. You would honor us with your presence.

Blessings and Peace,

Chris Halter

Halfway There!

GYMNASIUM PROJECT NEARS MIDWAY POINT

As the 2018-2019 school year got underway, St. Bonaventure Indian School students, teachers and administrators gathered with friends, former President of the Navajo Nation, Russell Begaye, Vice President Johnathon Nez (the current Navajo Nation President), and many local community members to celebrate the groundbreaking of our new gymnasium. As you can see by looking at these pictures, much work has taken place since marking the momentous occasion a little more than six months ago.

A five-acre plot of land near the school was cleared and excavated. Meanwhile, a steady stream of building materials and construction crews arrived on site. By the end of October, the 18,000 square foot concrete foundation had been poured and cured. In December, work on the exterior of the building began as crews hoisted large steel beams in place. As you can see in these pictures, the four exterior walls of the gymnasium and roof are all in place now and the interior work is now underway.

Construction is set to be completed this summer and, if all goes according to plan, we will celebrate the

Grand Opening of our new gymnasium on August 15, a year to the day since breaking ground. Please mark your calendars and consider taking a trip out to Thoreau this summer to share in this remarkable achievement.

Thank you for helping the Mission give our poverty-stricken Navajo neighbors, especially the children and young people, something to be excited about. Your support of the new gymnasium construction project will help them take a BIG step in overcoming the mountain of poverty they face every day here on the Eastern Navajo Reservation.

Funding for the new gymnasium is made possible in part by donations from Friends of the Poor, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living in low-income communities. St. Bonaventure also wishes to acknowledge KT Charitable Organization, Inc. and Marriott Daughters Foundation and R&M Steel Company based out of Caldwell, ID for generously donating the pre-engineered steel building. Thank you, friends of St. Bonaventure Indian Mission & School!





• N E W G Y M N A S I U M •

Grand Opening

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School cordially invites *You* to attend the New Gymnasium Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

And to join us in celebrating *45* Years of Faith-Inspired Service to the people of the Eastern Navajo Reservation!

AUGUST 15, 2019 @ 12:00 PM

ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL
25 NAVARRE BOULEVARD W, THOREAU, NM 87323

Questions ? Call us at 505-862-7675 or
email: chalter18@stbonaventuremission.org



Science & Technology for the future

STEM CAMP- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH

St. Bonaventure Faculty and Staff are always exploring new ways to enrich the academic lives of our students, including when they're on summer vacation!

For the second year, Tex Yazzie, science and social studies teacher at St. Bonaventure, led a summer camp for students from around the area in a week-long set of learning activities involving advanced manufacturing technologies like 3D printing. The summer camp is run in collaboration with Navajo Technical University.

By introducing students to advanced manufacturing processes like 3D printing, Tex hopes it will spark an interest in the younger generation to pursue careers in industries such as metrology, robotics, and engineering.



"Our youth are very smart, and I'm very proud of all of them," Yazzie stated. "They don't realize what their potential is until someone shows them the light and they take it and grow. I grew up in this area with very little. To see this opportunity is available to them now is amazing. The sky's the limit."

Thank you, Tex, for sharing your knowledge and passion for science and technology with our students and helping them realize their full potential.



St. Bonaventure Indian School first opened its doors in 1980. We believed then that providing Navajo children in this area with a high-quality education would be the key to assisting them out of the crushing poverty present in their lives. We still believe that today. Thank you for sharing that belief with us and for your continued support of our Faculty, Staff, and students.

"Our youth don't realize what their potential is until someone shows them the light... and then the sky's the limit."



Welcome New Climbers

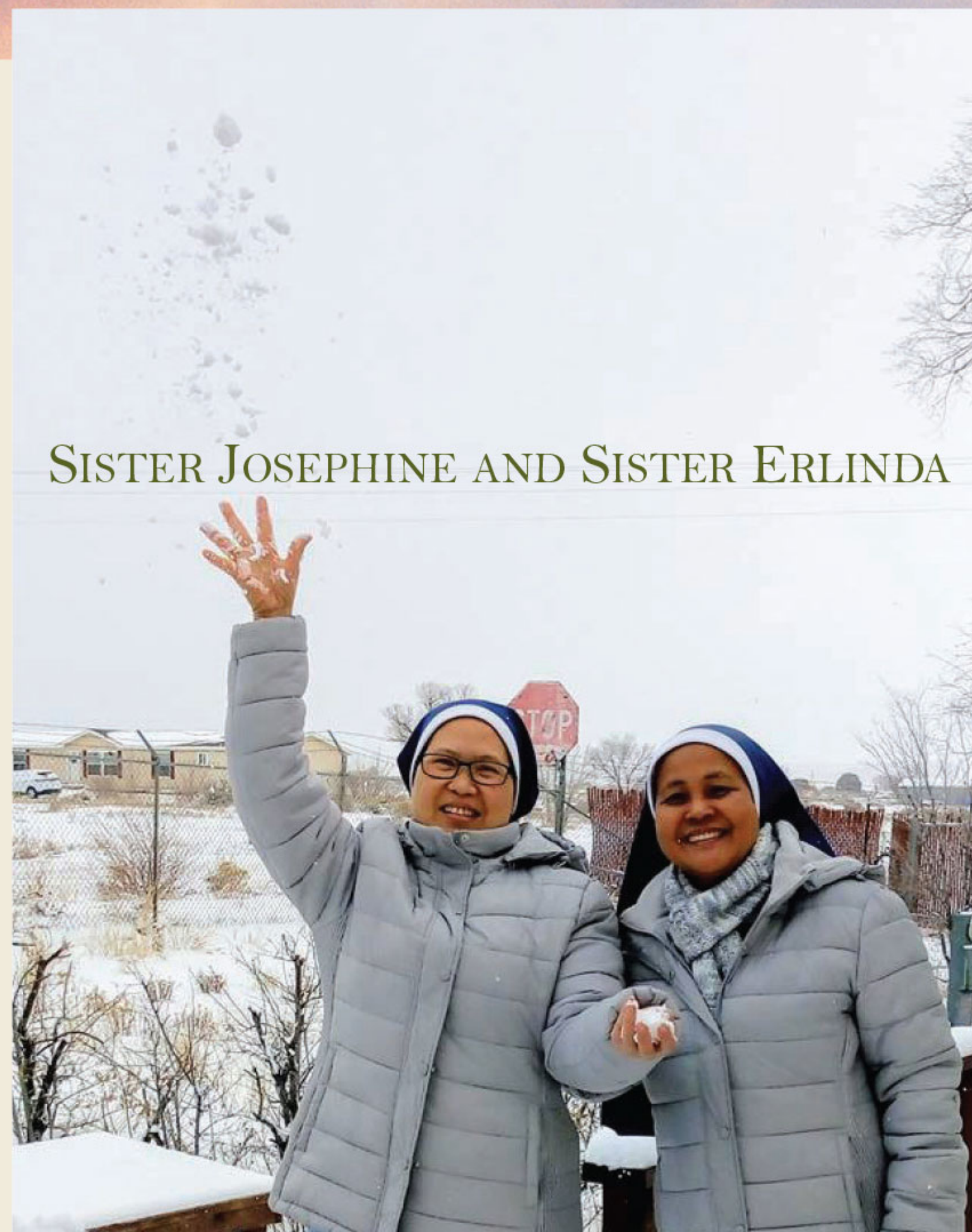
FRANCISCAN IMMACULATINE SISTERS

It is with a great sense of excitement that we welcome Sister Josephine Mangampo, SFI, and Sister Erlinda Baria, SFI, as the new religion teachers at St. Bonaventure Indian School.

Sisters Josephine and Erlinda are members of the Congregation of the Franciscan Immaculatine Sisters, an international order of religious women dedicated to the formation and education of children and young people, pastoral ministry in parishes, and missionary work. The Immaculatine Sisters are present in Italy, Brazil, Philippines, India, Australia, Indonesia, and now Thoreau, New Mexico.

Sister Erlinda was born in the Province of Camarines Sur, Philippines. After entering the convent in 1982, she traveled to Rome to study Catechetical Ministry at the Pontifical University of Saint Anthony. Following her Perpetual Profession in 1991, Sister Erlinda spent time in India and then Brazil serving as a school and parish catechist. Welcome, Sister Erlinda!

Prior to her Perpetual Profession in 1998, Sister Josephine received her bachelor's degree in Economics from Divine Word College in Legazpi, Philippines and a degree in Religious Science from the Pontifical University of Saint Anthony. Sister Josephine spent several years in Brazil working in pastoral ministry and the formation of Aspirants and Postulants.



SISTER JOSEPHINE AND SISTER ERLINDA

Most recently, she was assigned to the Sister's retreat house in Sorrento, Italy. Welcome, Sister Josephine!

The School administrators, faculty and staff are excited and grateful to have Sisters Josephine and Erlinda on board for the 2018-2019 school year, sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of religious education with our little ones. Welcome to the climb!

St. Bonaventure Indian School provides tuition-free K-8th grade education to nearly two-hundred Navajo children every year. Mission and School staff are dedicated to providing these little ones with the social, academic, and spiritual skills they need to succeed in school and life. Thank you for sharing in this vital ministry to the next generation of Navajo leaders.

EVERYDAY Essentials



With the school year nearly half over the children are running out of their school supplies. Pencils, pens, notebooks, glue, crayons, hand sanitizer...the children go through them so fast we can't keep up!

As always, toilet paper, tissue, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, soap and shampoo as well as cleaning supplies like laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, are in high demand at the Mission.

The Mission's Thrift Shop provides the children and their families with clothing and some household items but donations are always welcome and very much appreciated!

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING US PROVIDE ANY OF THESE SUPPLIES 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**

BOGO

GIFT ANNUITIES-A LIFETIME OF SECURITY

Most are familiar with the term BOGO, as in “buy one, get one.” We see these ads offered by shoe stores and grocery stores and everything in between. But did you know there’s a version of BOGO for charitable giving?

A charitable gift annuity is a creative way to support St. Bonaventure Indian Mission. Although you don’t “buy” a gift annuity, the concept is similar to BOGO: you make a gift to support our mission – and in return, you will receive payments for life.



To illustrate, here’s a quick example: Bob, age 80, makes a gift of \$5,000 to create a gift annuity. We promise to pay him \$365 (7.3%) each and every year. And the majority of his payments will be tax-free, too.

Gift annuities can also be created to benefit two people. For more information about our gift annuity program and to learn the rate that applies to your age(s), contact Marie in our planned giving office at 505-862-7847 or mtorwio@stbonaventuremission.org. She will be happy to send you a free, no-obligation illustration immediately.

HOW A GIFT ANNUITY WORKS:

- You make an irrevocable gift of at least \$5,000 to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission;
- In return, we make payments to you – and/or someone you love – for the rest of your life, a portion of which is tax-free;
- A charitable deduction is also available if you itemize on your tax return.

The payout rate, which is tied to your age at the time of the gift, will never change. And those payments are backed by all of our assets. St. Bonaventure Indian Mission will also benefit by your gift, as we serve the Navajo for generations to come.

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%



Creative ways to help our Mission

GEE ... I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT

By far, the most popular way people choose to send a gift is by writing a check; it's simple and convenient. But what many don't know is that there are ways of giving that could benefit them as well.

Our charitable gift annuity program is just one example of that. Creating a gift annuity not only helps the Navajo, it also generates a lifetime stream of income for the donor. Please see the article on the opposite page to learn more. (Our payout rates are extremely attractive!)

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

When making a gift of stocks or mutual funds to St. Bonaventure, not only are you allowed a charitable deduction for the full market value (assuming it has been owned longer than a year), you also avoid tax on the capital gain. Just be sure to transfer the stock directly to us (don't sell it on your own first) to take full advantage of these laws.

GIFTS FROM RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Making a gift through your IRA is a truly smart way to support our people. Even those who don't itemize their charitable gifts on their tax return can benefit from this option.



To apply for an IRA, you must be at least 70 ½ years of age and the gift must come directly to us from the IRA custodian. Although no tax deduction is allowed, your distribution does not count as taxable income. A gift of any amount, up to \$100,000, would make an enormous difference. Keep in mind that the distribution cannot be used to fund a gift annuity or charitable trust. (You could also name us as a beneficiary of your account and leaving other less tax-burdened assets to your heirs.)

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

It was recently reported that more than \$19 billion was donated to charities through donor advised funds. Participation in donor advised funds is sure to grow in the coming years. If you have such a fund, please consider making a grant to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School. Making us the final beneficiary of the fund could even be viewed as a type of bequest, ensuring your present support will continue on for years to come.

Our Development office is ready to help guide you through making any of these gifts; please don't hesitate to call Marie at 505-862-7847 to learn more.

☐ 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 \$ _____ ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annual ☐ Annual

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

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

JOIN THE CIRCLE OF LOVE!



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?

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 with 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!

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IT'S EASY TO GIVE ALL YEAR LONG!

JUST GO TO [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com) ENTER OUR NAME AS YOUR CHARITY AND SHOP LIKE ALWAYS.

BUT REMEMBER ONLY ON [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com)



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

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