

SUMMER 2020

MISSION

ST. BONAVENTURE



Messenger

INDIAN MISSION & SCHOOL



## The Director's Desk

### STRONGER TOGETHER

Dear Friends of St. Bonaventure,

More than seven months have passed since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 (or *Dikos Ntsaaígíí-19* in Diné Bizaad, the Navajo language) was reported by the Navajo Department of Health.

Over 80,000 negative tests, 10,000 positive cases, and 500 confirmed deaths later, the battle to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus on the Navajo Nation rages on.



The current health crisis has raised much-needed attention to the extreme poverty, cramped living conditions, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality healthcare services, electricity, and clean running water that threatened the Navajo people long before the COVID-19 pandemic ever did.

This is also not the first time the Navajo people have faced significant challenges throughout history.

Following centuries of war with Spain, Mexico, and the United States, all while surviving the smallpox pandemic, which wiped out an estimated 20 million Native American men, women, and children, have

forged the Navajo people into arguably some of the strongest and most resilient on earth.

Today, the Navajo people continue to work valiantly to overcome decades of neglect and underinvestment in almost every aspect of their daily lives. You now share in that work through your generous partnership with St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School.

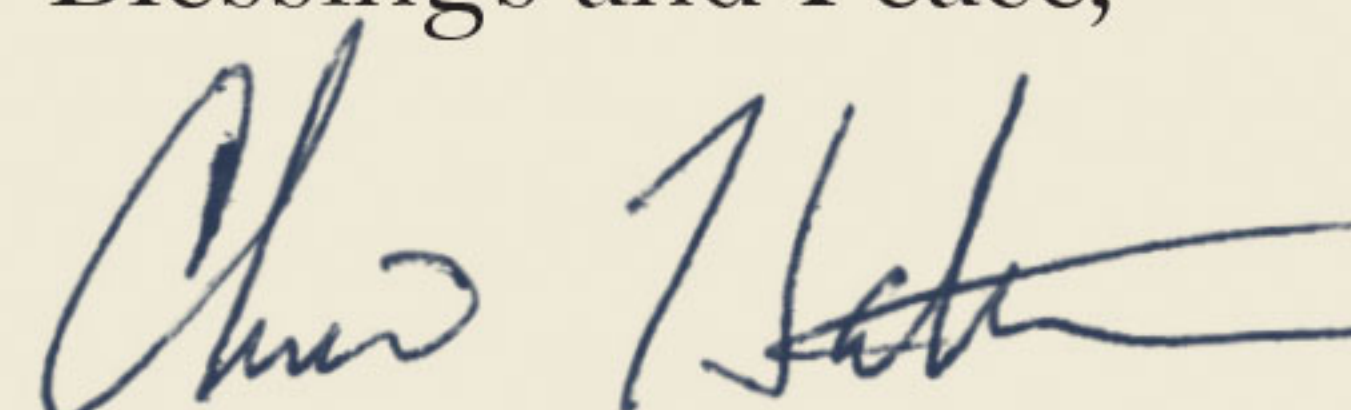
In this issue of the Mission Messenger, I am proud to share with you just some of the ways you have helped St. Bonaventure adapt and combat the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Through your support, we continue to work directly with the Navajo Nation government to deliver food and water to the most vulnerable and provide N95 masks to frontline health workers, law enforcement, and food handlers.

Know that your generosity in support of St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School - especially during this time of heightened need - honors the Navajo people's generations-long struggle for recognition, self-sufficiency, and basic human dignity.

Because we're stronger together.

Blessings and Peace,

  
Chris Halter



## Meet and Greet

### TED PENN

For over a decade, Ted Penn has been a part of the family at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission. Over those years, he has generously served the Mission and the Navajo people in any way he can. In fact, Ted has devoted his life to serving those in need across the globe. Today, Ted is a teacher, bus driver, meal deliverer, counselor, coach, and so much more!

As Covid-19 wreaked havoc among the Navajo people our Executive Director Chris Halter found himself stretched to the limit. Everyone concluded Chris needed a right-hand man and it was clear the perfect person to fill that role was Ted.

One of Chris' most important priorities has always been ensuring our donors know how vital and appreciated they are at the Mission and School. Over the years, Chris has written countless personal notes to our benefactors, thanking them for their kind and generous support.

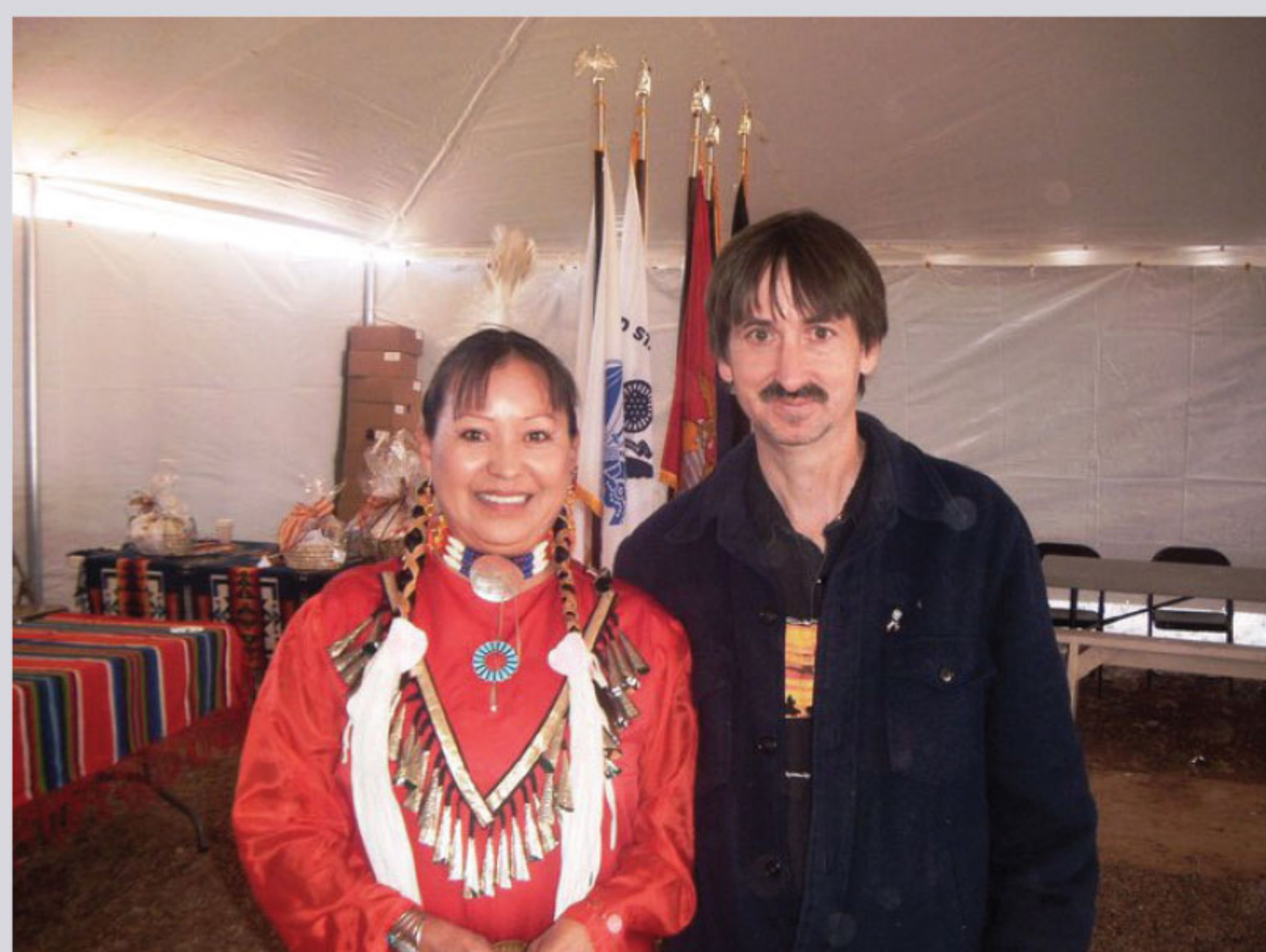
Because of the complications brought on by the pandemic, Chris realized that undertaking was going to be nearly impossible to keep up with.

So, our friend Ted has stepped in to help Chris with these very important notes of gratitude, as well as reaching out to let our donors know the real impact of their support.

Keeping in touch with our donors is a fundamental part of Saint Bonaventure Indian Mission, and it is something that Chris is determined to keep up.

If you receive a note from Ted, please know that it's also a note expressing the heartfelt gratitude of Chris Halter and the Navajo people we serve.

If you would like to get to know Ted better, don't hesitate to call him at (000-000-0000) or drop him a line. He would love to hear from you!



# ST. BONAVENTURE



## Road Warriors

### DELIVERING FOOD DURING COVID-19

by Ted Penn

Since Covid-19 and the “lockdown” our school buses have a new mission...they are delivering food, not children!

Every morning the buses take off from the Mission to deliver enough food for two meals a day to over 170 of our school children.

Our dedicated bus drivers, Ms. Billie, Ms. Dawes and many kind volunteers also help pack up and distribute more than 100 boxes of food each week to help struggling families and Navajo elders.

There are so many families in need right now. Our buses, our food pantry and our volunteers can hardly keep up with the demand.

But St. Bonaventure delivers!

Many of the homes we deliver school lunches and food boxes to are so far off the beaten trail. That means some of our families have to meet the bus half-way or drive to a familiar local spot for pick up. One such spot is our town’s post office.

On one occasion, our food bus waited for a particular family to arrive, but after some time realized they had to continue to make their deliveries. After a few miles back on the road, they were surprised to see

the family’s car chasing after the bus, determined to get food for their children.

There is a small group of trailer homes just outside town we often deliver to. One day there were five boys anxiously waiting for the bus as it pulled up to bring their lunch for the day. The boys were very thankful for the food and went back home. But just before the bus was about to leave a pair of little girls came running out from a nearby trailer.

The girls must have seen the food the boys got and came to ask if they could have some as well. After getting their names for next time, both girls were given a boxed lunch and some milk, and the two of them happily ran home.

At every stop, every hogan, trailer or roadside drop off, we see thankful parents and happy children. They may be long days, starting at dawn and ending a dusk. But the miles traveled and long hours on the road are worth the joyful smile of a little girl, a sincere thank you, and the heartfelt gratitude we see on worried faces.





# Special Thanks

## HELPING NAVAJO FIRST RESPONDERS

On May 7, with the kind support of our special friends and partners, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission provided the Navajo Nation with 10,000 N95 masks. These masks were delivered directly to Indian Health Service hospitals, Navajo law enforcement, and other first responders – all of whom continue to be in great need of personal protective equipment.

The masks were picked up by the Navajo Nation Chief of Police at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission's administrative building in Thoreau for delivery to the Navajo Nation Covid-19 Task Force.

The Task Force, led by Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, ensured they were distributed to Indian Health Service hospitals, Navajo law enforcement and other first responders.

More than a thousand masks were initially given to the Navajo Nation Police Department. St. Bonaventure received approximately 20,000 additional masks in the following weeks.

On behalf of the Navajo community we serve, St. Bonaventure would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the groups and individuals that have made these donations possible:

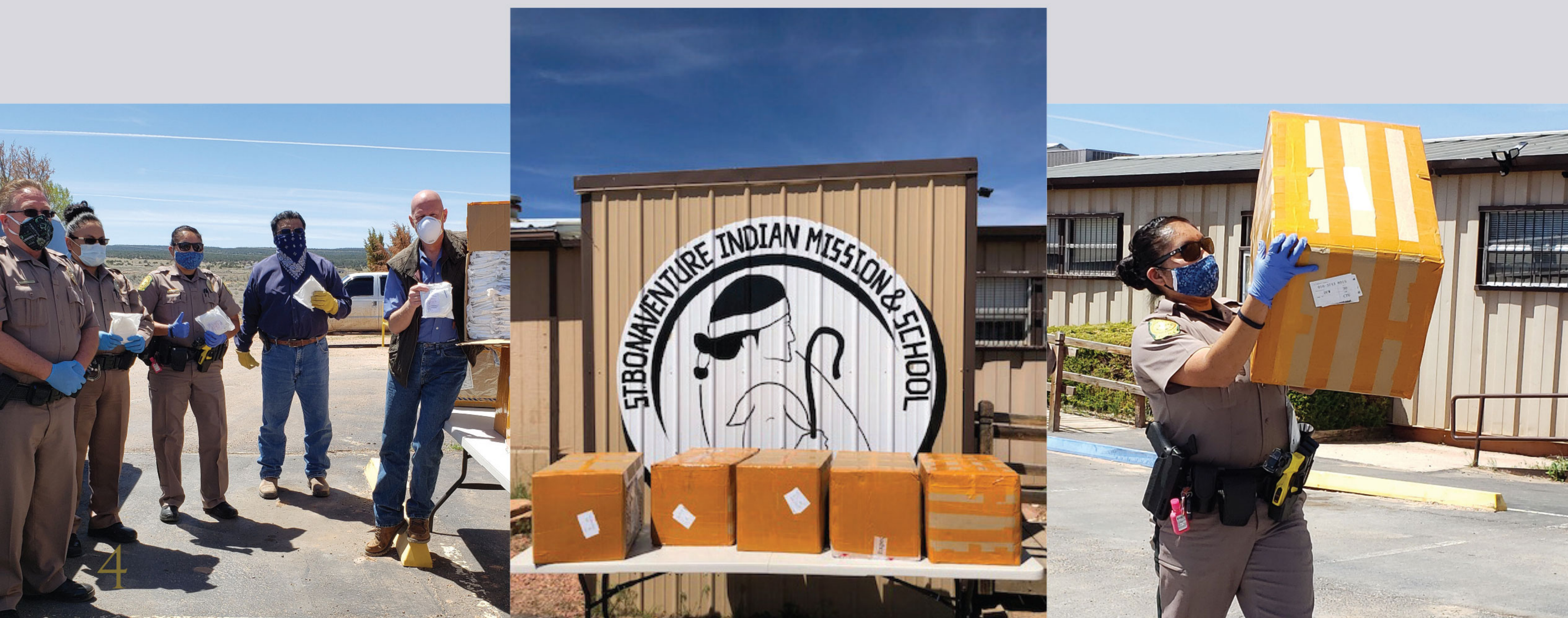
**LightSource BP, took the lead with the initial donation of \$15,000.**

**The Sioux Lakota Standing Rock Tribe helped obtain an additional \$40,000 for this purchase of this desperately needed protective gear.**

**St. Bonaventure has also put up \$20,000 towards this purchase.**

It is important to note that 4Corners Native Energy, LLC, Retired General Wesley Clark, and entrepreneur Dwayne Hall facilitated the purchase and delivery of these masks.

We would also like to thank our donors for helping us secure the protective equipment needed to fight Covid-19. The support of our friends and community plays a vital role in helping us keep our first responders safe and healthy.





## *Sewing Sisters*

### FRANCISCAN IMMACULATINE SISTERS

As news of a deadly virus sweeping across the country spread far and wide, citizens, businesses, public and private institutions began taking necessary precautions to keep people safe, including shutting down schools. As educators, this was particularly distressing news to the Franciscan Immaculate Sisters serving at St Bonaventure Indian School.

The Franciscan Immaculate Sisters came to St Bonaventure Indian School with one main purpose in mind – to help some of the most impoverished children of the Eastern Navajo reservation grow in knowledge and love of God. And in the nearly two years since they first arrived, that is precisely what they have done.

But nobody, including the Immaculate Sisters, could have ever imagined how much life would change in the wake of the global coronavirus outbreak.

One way the Immaculate Sisters continued to serve the children and families of the Eastern Navajo

Reservation during these difficult times was to assemble a team of volunteers to sew masks. Led by Sister Josephine Mangampo, SFI, the mask sewing team set an ambitious goal of making 100,000 masks. So far, they have made 10,000 masks and distributed them at no charge to members of the local community, including St. Bonaventure Indian School students and staff.

The Mission wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the mask sewing project through their donations of sewing equipment, materials, and time. Know that the masks you helped make and distribute are playing a vital role in keeping people safe and stopping the spread of the virus on the Eastern Navajo Reservation.



The Congregation of the Franciscan Immaculate Sisters are an international order of religious women dedicated to the formation and education of children and young people, pastoral ministry in parishes, and missionary work. They currently minister in parishes and schools worldwide, including Brazil, Italy, Philippines, India, Australia, Indonesia, and the United States.



# Doing the Right Thing

## IDEAS FOR GIVING DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

We live in difficult times, and that demands courage and hope. Sometimes, we have to make difficult if not impossible decisions but we make them, because...well, it's the right thing to do.

The right thing is not always just about the moral choices – there are many practical matters that influence our decisions as well.

At St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School, we are faced with important decisions every day. Often, those decisions are complicated. So many Navajo families depend on us, unfortunately the Mission's resources are not unlimited. And so, difficult decisions are part and parcel of everyday life here. Thankfully, because of you, we can answer some of the needs, solve some of the problems and continue to care for our brothers and sisters to the best of our abilities.

During this time of uncertainty in our country and around the world, many of St. Bonaventure's friends are faced with the question on how best to continue to support the Navajo people.

We know times are hard, but your heart is not. Here are a few ways you might find it possible to give hope to the poor and elderly who rely on us just to get by.

### SUGGESTION 1:

Consider creating a charitable gift annuity. A gift annuity allows you to continue helping the people we serve, while also helping to provide for your own future. By making an irrevocable gift of \$5,000 or more, you can receive payments from us for life, at a very attractive rate. For those who are looking to generate extra income to provide the years ahead. To receive a personalized illustration, complete the coupon on page 7, or call Marie at 877-989-4100.

### SUGGESTION 2:

Make good use of your stimulus check. A number of Americans received a stimulus check from the government to help jumpstart the economy. If you received a check and have yet to make a decision about what to do, perhaps you might consider using that check to provide a stimulus to our Mission. The impact of making such a generous gift would be enormous!



### SUGGESTION 3:

Although the stock market has been on a bit of a roller-coaster ride lately, many still possess securities that have appreciated. By making a direct gift of stock or a mutual fund to St. Bonaventure's brokerage account, you are allowed a charitable deduction for the full value of what you transferred (not just for the amount of your purchase), and you avoid the tax on the capital gain. Just make sure the stock or fund has been held longer than a year.

(continued on page 7)







## SUGGESTION 4:

Many are using this time of social isolation to go over their financial matters, including their estate plan. By including a gift to our Mission in your will or trust, or making us the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you would be providing a brighter future for Navajo children and their families.

Call our office at 877-989-4100 to request your free asset organizer, the *Personal Affairs Record Book*, a guide to help with estate planning process.

## SUGGESTION 5:

With the passage of the CARES Act earlier this year, even people who don't itemize on their tax return are eligible for a charitable deduction for gifts of cash, up to \$300. And, those who do itemize are allowed to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income for gifts of cash. Both of these opportunities are presently allowed for the year 2020 only.

## EVERYDAY *Essentials*

This school year promises to be a very different one, but the children still need school supplies, pens, paper, and this year more than ever-hand sanitizer!

We always need the essentials, toilet paper, tissue, toothpaste and tooth brushes, deodorant, hand soap and shampoo as well as cleaning supplies like laundry detergent, dish soap and paper towels.

The Mission's Thrift Shop and Food Pantry provide the children and their families with clothing and some household items but there is all ways a need for more. Your kind donations are welcome and very much appreciated!



**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

☐ 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 all know Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep.

But doesn't Jesus call all of us to be good shepherds?

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

*Matthew 25:40*

As a member of the Good Shepherd Circle, YOU will be a shepherd caring for the most impoverished, isolated people among us - our Navajo elders, children and families who have been lost and forgotten for so long.

You can make a difference in these hard times. Even with the smallest regular gift, you can support our mission to:

- Provide life-saving, clean water through our water delivery program. With the pandemic this need is even greater as families struggle to keep their hands and homes clean.

- Provide food delivery - two meals a day to our school children and deliver emergency food boxes to elders and families in crisis.
- Help purchase and distribute PPE, disinfectants, and other cleaning supplies to Navajo frontline health workers, law enforcement, and families in need.
- Offer shelter and home repairs to families living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions.
- Help us supply school children with the computers and supplies they need to learn from home, and continue to offer Navajo children tuition-free Catholic education at St. Bonaventure Indian School and a chance at a brighter future.

Please consider offering monthly gift as a member of the Good Shepherd Circle to insure St. Bonaventure Indian Mission can meet the demands of this emergency and continue to reach out to those most in need.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**REMEMBER** WHEN ORDERING YOUR ESSENTIALS ONLINE!  
GO TO **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** ENTER ST BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AS YOUR CHARITY AND SHOP AS ALWAYS.



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