

FALL 2019



MISSION

Messenger

ST. BONAVENTURE

INDIAN MISSION & SCHOOL



The Director's Desk BASKETBALL OR NOTHING

Dear Friends of St. Bonaventure,

I encourage you to watch the recently released Netflix documentary *Basketball or Nothing*. The 6-part documentary follows the Chinle High School basketball team, located in the heart of the Navajo Nation, as they chase their dream of winning their first-ever State Championship.

Yet, as the series' title suggests, the show is about so much more than just the game of basketball.

Basketball or Nothing gives an intimate and unadulterated look at the struggles, fears, and fragile dreams of young people on the Navajo Nation today. Abject poverty, broken homes, rampant drug and alcohol abuse; these are just some of the challenges Navajo children face every day, including the ones growing up right here in Thoreau, NM, where St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School is located.

By the time you receive this issue of the Mission Messenger, the shiny new floors of our two basketball



courts in our new Gymnasium will be a mere few weeks old. Children from one of the poorest communities in the country will already be running around inside, playing with friends, and



shooting their first hoops. You and I understand our new gym is about so much more than just giving children a place to have fun and play basketball.

Together, we are giving Navajo children far more than a choice between "Basketball or Nothing."

By providing these little ones with the basics of food, water, shelter, and a quality, tuition-free education at St. Bonaventure Indian School, we are giving them the support, love, and skills they need to succeed in life.

As St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School proudly celebrates 45 years of dedicated and faith-inspired service to the people of the Eastern Navajo Reservation, I want to thank you once again for the special role you play in continuing this vital work. Your generous partnership makes everything we do possible.

Blessing and Peace,

Chris Halter

Mission Accomplished

GYM GRAND OPENING IS DAY TO REMEMBER

The work is now complete. Following years of planning, discussing, securing approvals, and hard work, the new St. Bonaventure Indian Mission Sports Complex and Learning Center is finally open for business (and play!).



To mark the joyful completion of this year-long construction project, our Mission and School staff welcomed several distinguished guests to a gathering inside the newly erected building. Among the speakers, were Navajo Nation President, Johnathan Nez, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie, retired U.S. Army General Wesley K. Clark, founding member of Friends of the Poor, Jean Colarusso, and several others who played a vital role in the planning, funding, and construction of the new St. Bonaventure Indian Mission Sports Complex and Learning Center. Local community members and the entire St. Bonaventure Indian School student body were also present to witness the doors

of the new gym being opened to the public for the first time.

Long-time friend and benefactor, Jean Colarusso, recounted the moment almost four years ago when former St. Bonaventure Indian School Faculty members, Sisters Natalie Bussiere and Marrietta Brown, first approached her about the idea of building a new gymnasium for the children living in this area. Jean's initial reaction was one of uncertainty, questioning whether she could be a driving force behind such a large project, especially at her advanced age. In unison, both sisters responded, "Oh Yes you can!" Soon after, a plan was set in motion.

Executive Director Chris Halter echoed Jean's sentiment saying, "What was once a dream is now a reality." Chris went on to dedicate the building to the Navajo Code Talkers in honor of their service and sacrifice during World War II, Blessed Teresa Manganiello, the patroness of the Franciscan Immaculatine Sisters now serving at St. Bonaventure Indian School, and in honor of Ken Edmunds. Ken was serving as the general contractor on the new Gymnasium project when he passed away suddenly in June, just a month and a half shy of the Grand Opening.



“What was once a dream is now reality”

Amid the copious and eloquent words of gratitude and excitement offered by our guests, our students and teachers took the opportunity to express their appreciation by beautifully singing “Go My Son” and “This is the Day”, some of which was performed in Diné Bizaad, the traditional Navajo language.



Ken Edmunds

The community of Thoreau and everyone at St. Bonaventure wishes to thank you, our dear benefactors, once again for believing in us. Your gifts, both large and small, contributed and played a vital role in the success of this once-in-a-lifetime project and the work we do every

day for the good of the people of the Eastern Navajo Reservation.

In a special way, we also wish to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their extraordinary efforts to bring the new St. Bonaventure Indian Mission Sports Complex and Learning Center to fruition.

Jean Colarusso and Colarusso Family
KT Charitable Foundation
Friends of the Poor
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Ken Edmunds and Edmunds Family
R&M Steel
Navajo Nation President, Johnathan Nez
Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie
Navajo Chapters – Thoreau, Baca/Prewitt,
Smith Lake, Mariano Lake, Casamero Lake,
Littlewater, Crownpoint, Pinedale, Iyanbito
Thoreau Water Department
Bishop James S. Wall and the Diocese of Gallup
St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School
Board of Trustees



To enjoy highlights of the Grand Opening, the children signing, and receive other periodic updates from the Mission, we invite you to visit the St. Bonaventure Facebook page at - [Facebook.com/StBonaventureIndianSchool](https://www.facebook.com/StBonaventureIndianSchool).



Living in Harmony with Nature

MISSION JOINS PUSH

FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

As the signs of climate change become more and more difficult to ignore, there is a valuable lesson we can learn from our Navajo brothers and sisters.

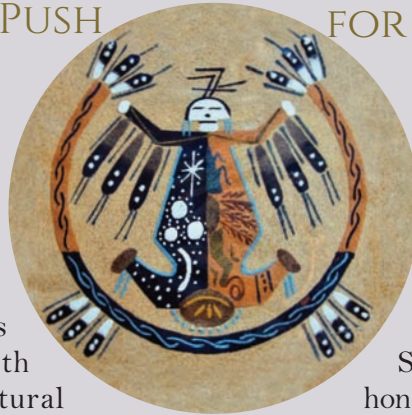
The Navajo people have always shared a deep spiritual bond with nature. They view the natural environment as a provider and parent, and we humans as its children. And as children of the natural world, we must respect and learn from it or face the possibility that nature will cease to provide for our needs.

The Navajo people continue to embrace their traditional ecological beliefs.

In April, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation known as the Navajo Hayoolkaal, or Navajo Sunrise. The official announcement focuses on the development of clean, renewable energy projects for the long-term benefit of the Navajo people.

The Hayoolkaal proclamation also came on the heels of New Mexico's recently enacted "Energy Transition Act." The Act will double renewable energy use in the state by 2025, require 50% renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent carbon-free electricity generation by 2045.

In July, St. Bonaventure hosted a meeting of distinguished guests, including President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie, and retired U.S. Army General Wesley K. Clark. The purpose of the



meeting was to discuss renewable energy development on the Eastern Navajo Reservation.

General Clark has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Silver star, bronze star, purple heart, honorary knighthoods from the British and Dutch governments, and numerous other awards from other international governments. Today, he continues to serve as an entrepreneur, educator, writer, commentator, and he is also on several corporate boards throughout the country.



During his visit, General Clark stated, "The country, including the Navajo Nation, needs to move towards a better long-term investment in renewable energy. The Nation has the capabilities to meet the country's energy challenges and combat the threat of global warming."

St. Bonaventure is proud to partner with General Clark and the Navajo Nation Administration in their efforts to transition to cleaner, greener, and more renewable energy sources. In this way, we hope to honor traditional Navajo beliefs. We believe that if we take care of Mother Earth, she will take care of us.



CLEAN EARTH = CLEAN WATER *St. Bonaventure will soon begin working with the McKinley County offices to identify and clean up illegal dump sites along our water delivery routes. We look forward to sharing more details about this environmental clean up project with you in the next issue of the Mission Messenger.*

A Growing Community of Faith

NEW SISTER JOINS ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN SCHOOL



There is a joyful community of Sisters growing at St. Bonaventure Indian School!

In the previous Mission Messenger issue, we shared with you the exciting news of two members of the Congregation of the Franciscan Immaculatae Sisters joining our St. Bonaventure Indian School Faculty, Sisters Josephine and Erlinda. And now we are pleased to introduce you to our newest arrival, Sister Ann Marie O. Tupas, SFI.

Like Sisters Josephine and Erlinda, Ann Marie joined the Congregation in her native Philippines. That is also where she earned her degree in Education from

the Philippine Normal University in Manila. Sister Ann Marie made her Perpetual Profession in 1994 and, prior to arriving here in Thoreau, spent several decades serving as an educator, both as a Kindergarten and Elementary teacher, as well as Principal.

The entire St. Bonaventure Indian Mission community wishes to thank the Congregation of the Franciscan Immaculatae Sisters, once again, for sharing these wonderful Sisters with us and especially our students. Your service to our little ones is a blessing that will make a profound and lasting impact in their lives and future success.



Welcome to the Mission, Sister Ann Marie. We are delighted to have you on board!

EVERYDAY *Essentials*

Few people are aware that needy families cannot purchase disposable diapers with food stamps or WIC. As you know, diapers and baby wipes are very expensive...so donations to keep our precious little ones dry, clean and healthy is an ongoing and very important need at the Mission.

The school children are always running low on supplies. Pencils, pens, notebooks, glue, crayons, hand sanitizer. And, as always, we need the simple things; toilet paper, tissue, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, soap and shampoo as well as cleaning supplies like laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels.

The Native Hope Food Pantry always appreciates dry goods or canned foods to fill the shelves.

Your kind donations of any of these items 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



Every Gift Counts

GIFT ANNUITIES-A LIFETIME OF SECURITY



The Navajo have lived for centuries in what is now the southwestern United States. It is their land, their home, and yes, their country.

The Navajo are a proud people. Their culture spans hundreds of years. But in 1846, life changed. Forever.

The Navajo people met forces the likes of which they had never seen. Those forces launched a siege that almost broke their culture. It included “the fearing time” and “The Long Walk.”

Navajo pride has come at quite a cost. They have endured much, but have survived!

It is with grateful hearts that St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School thanks you for all you have done for us. You walk with us today as a brother, a sister, a friend. You sacrifice on our behalf. You do so for our elderly, our children, and our future. You have not turned your back on us. We will never forget.

Today, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School is devoted to caring for the people of the Navajo Nation. For over 30 years, through your generosity, we complete a 'Circle of Love' that bears witness to God's enduring care for all of His children. St. Bonaventure stands as a symbol of hope and represents a future that offers great promise to our people.

With that in mind, we have a simple request: would you consider joining your future with ours? We must admit that ours is already tied to you.

You see, you are family to us. As we look to the years ahead, we know that we will only be able to provide our tuition-free school, employment services, food and clothing, and our crucial water program with

your enduring support.

And so, with great humility, we ask you to consider including St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in your Will or estate plans.

There are many ways you can accomplish this task. First of all, don't worry if you already have your will prepared; contact your attorney and ask him/her to add a simple codicil to remember us. It is not expensive at all to do so, and can be accomplished quite easily.



By including St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in your estate plans, you have a number of options:

- You may also choose to leave a specific bequest to our Mission by designating property or a dollar amount;
- You can leave a percentage of your estate;
- You can state that you want St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School to be a “residual” beneficiary after other loved ones have been cared for.

You may also choose to make us a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy, an IRA, a CD or savings account, or even a donor-advised fund.



Whichever way you choose, please know how grateful our people will be. Every gift counts, no matter the size. The sharing of your life in this beautiful way will enable the hopes and dreams of our Navajo people to become a living reality.

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

If you have decided to include St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in your estate plans, please let us know. You can do so by calling us toll-free at 1-877-989-4100. We would be honored to enroll you in our Legacy Society.

To help you with your planning, please call us at the above number if you would like a free copy of our planning guide, the Personal Affairs Record Book. It is our gift to you in gratitude for all that you have done for us.

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 \$ _____ 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

PLEASE JOIN THE GOOD SHEPHERD CIRCLE



Aren't all of us called to be good shepherds?

If you become a member of the Good Shepherd Circle, YOU will be a loving shepherd tending to the needs of the most isolated and impoverished Navajo on the reservation...the elders, children and families who have been lost and forgotten by most.

Please, will you consider offering a monthly gift to help St. Bonaventure Indian Mission reach out to those most 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.
- Offer Navajo children tuition-free Catholic education at St. Bonaventure Indian School and a chance at a brighter future.
- Feed hungry students with two meals a day and deliver emergency food boxes to elders and families in crisis.

As a Good Shepherd, you will also receive less mail appealing for your generous support. And by helping decrease mailing costs, more of your gifts 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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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



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