

Volume 26  
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Official Newsletter  
of the Franciscans  
of the Province of  
Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
Albuquerque, NM



## Christmas Around the Province

The Friars Reflect the Cultures of the their People in their Celebrations.



### HOLY FAMILY ALBUQUERQUE

Gerry S and crew went all out! Juan, the maintenance person, built the huge stable and Lisa, who designs decorations for casinos, helped with the designing the decorations. (Continued next page)

Right is the production crew: Lisa (2nd from left) and her family. l to r: Her brother, Juan Montoya, Lola Gonzales, Andres Hernandez, Lisa's mother and father, Gerry Steinmetz. The decorating was done by this group except the crib which was built by Juan Montoya, the maintenance man.

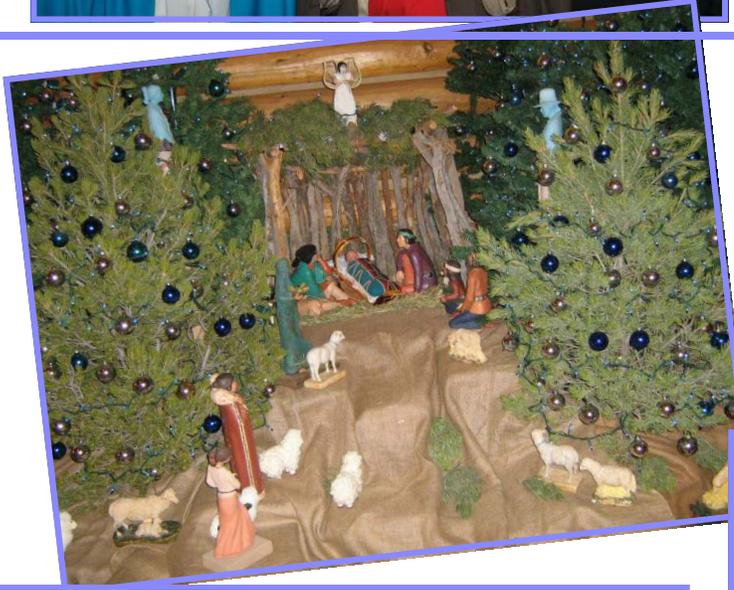


1 The masthead is taken from an old Padres Trail. It has gone through many transitions over the years. I like this one. I invite anyone with artistic talent to submit a similar design for the Padres Trail. Editor



(top left) The baby, Lupe, was a real live baby *girl!*  
(top right) Fr. Gerry preached at the Christmas Mass. (left) the youth group took the parts of the people in the Christmas Story.

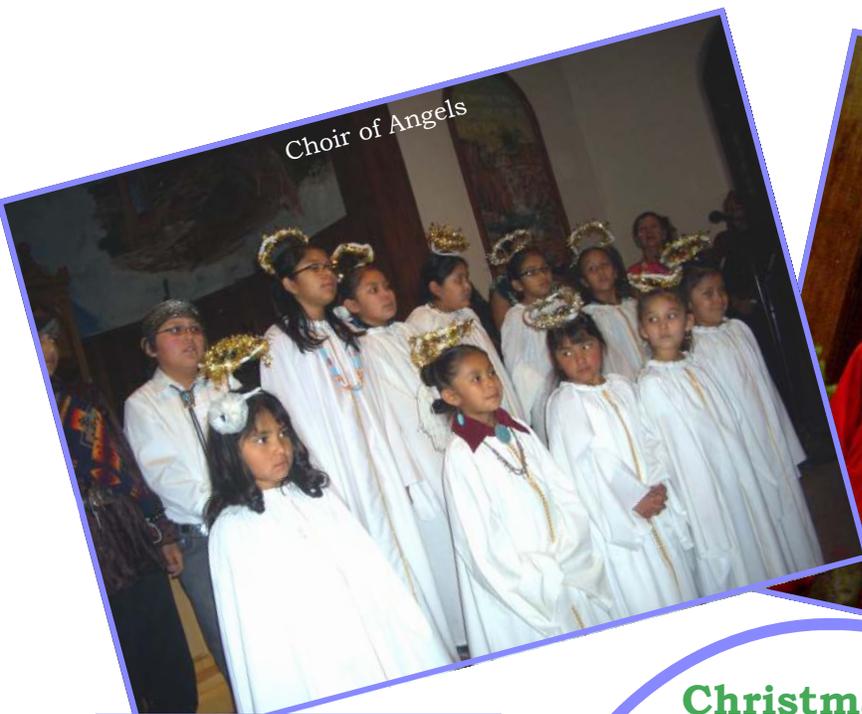
Andres Hernandez coordinated much of the events. They also had elaborate dramas for the traditional Spanish Posadas. You can see many more photos in the "Gallery" at [www.olgofm.org](http://www.olgofm.org)



**Christmas at Chinle**  
Blane's Christmas decorations reflect the Navajo culture.  
You can see more photos in the Gallery at [www.olgofm.org](http://www.olgofm.org)



PHOTOS BY BLANE GREIN



Choir of Angels



Joseph, Inn Keeper, Three Kings

## Christmas at Ft. Defiance, AZ.

By Gilbert Schneider

At the Mass Christmas Eve the children acted out the Christmas Gospel. Members of the youth group read the narrative. As every year, Baby Jesus was a live baby, more often girls than boys. The anxious mother sat in the front pew and handed the baby and cradle board to 'Mary'. It gets better every year. Before we had to remind the people it was Mass, now they are very reverent. One year we had a reunion of all the former Baby 'Jesuses!'



Mary and Joseph

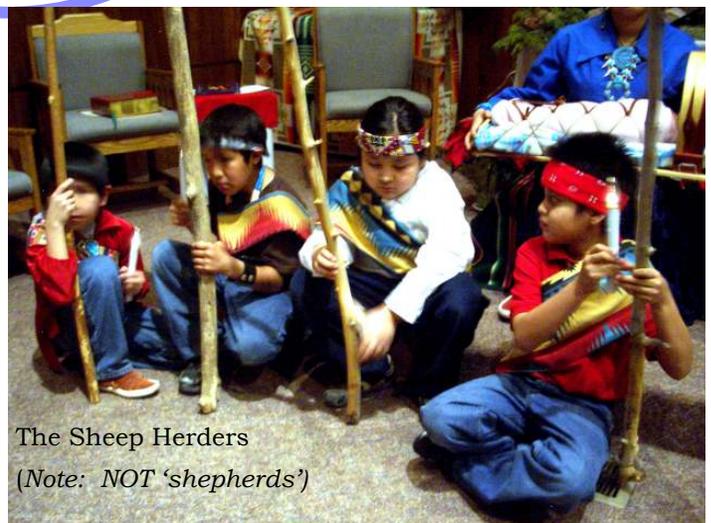


Not always so serious!

PHOTOS BY SR. MARY HOTTENROTH, SBS



The English Choir



The Sheep Herders  
(Note: NOT 'shepherds')

# Posadas and Christmas at St. Francis Gallup

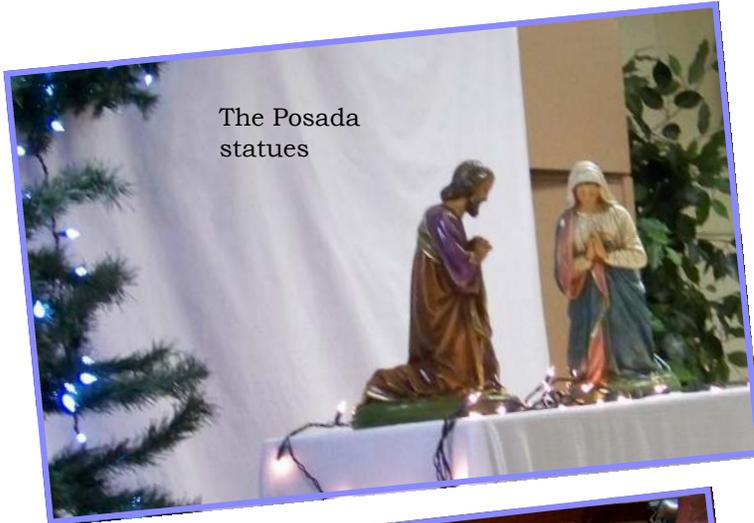
Text and photos by Larry Bernard



After a Dec. 13 Penance service the priest gathered at the friary for tamales and appropriate libations. 1 to r Fr. Mathew Keller, Fr. Larry O'Keefe (rector of the cathedral), and Bishop Wall. Looks like Larry was caught off guard.

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the first day of Las Posadas, some of the same people assisted the St. Francis School children to put on a Christmas presentation in the sanctuary with scenes of a modern family, a large group of angels and a beautiful Nativity scene.

Different groups from the parish hosted Las Posadas every other night with music, prayers, and good food, culminating December 24 with the 7:00 PM Children's Christmas Mass. With the guidance of a leader of one of the music groups many children dressed up as sheep to accompany those dressed as Mary, Joseph, shepherds and wise men. One of the sheep made her presence notable for dropping many cotton balls from her "skin" onto the church floor. They acted out the Gospel and then sat at Father's feet to dialog about the Christmas event. At the end the people were delighted enough to applaud.



The Posada statues



After the Posada on the 16th there were refreshments. The sisters enjoyed them too.



The crib scene in church complete with Shepherds fire



# Tohatchi Christmas Concert Honors Fr. John Mittelstadt



Photo of Fr. John  
at previous concert

Fr. Pio writes: St. Mary Mission in Tohatchi, NM has been in the news lately. Both the *Navajo Times* and the *Gallup Independent* had full page articles on the fifth annual Christmas concert. Fr. John started the Concerts in 2007, gathering together all different cultures and music.

The *Navajo Times* says: "...the halls of St. Mary Mission echoed with Navajo, English, German, Latin, Tagalog (Pilipino) and Spanish Christmas songs." Filipinos offered a Philippine Canao dance. Navajo children dressed as angels, shepherds and Mary and Joseph depicted the Nativity scene. Signing for the deaf was also provided.

*"Father John believed in people and encouraged [them] to fulfill their dreams" A Parishioner*

The NCR, Dec. issue, also had an article on how the mission embraces the Navajo culture.

PHOTOS BY PIO O'CONNOR

The  
Children  
singers



The Friar Singers: Joseph Gonsalves, Fr. "PJ", Chris Kerstiens, Pio O'Conner, Maynard Shurley, and Cormac Antram.

Photo below: The Philippine Canao dance.



The Filipino Singers



Mary and Joseph



Fr. Cormac played the violin



Fr. Gino paid a visit. 1 to r: Pio, Sr. Marlene Kochert, OSF, Gino, Sr. Carole Ann Hoppe, OSF, Sr. Pat Bietsch, OSF

# Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta.

Three parishes celebrate the feast with drama presentations

## St. Francis in Gallup

Father Larry writes: *El Teatro* theater group of St. Francis of Assisi Parish was started about four years ago. With my encouragement, they organized again for a December 9<sup>th</sup> presentation, transforming the church's sanctuary into various scenes dealing with the account of St. Juan Diego's successful struggle to follow the wishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The parishioners involved did all the work. Refreshments followed in the school basement.

Below: Juan tries to visit the bishop

Below: Juan tries to visit the bishop



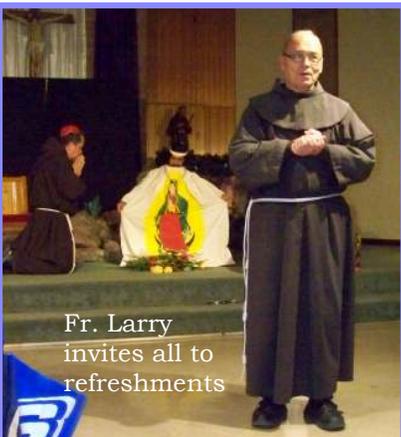
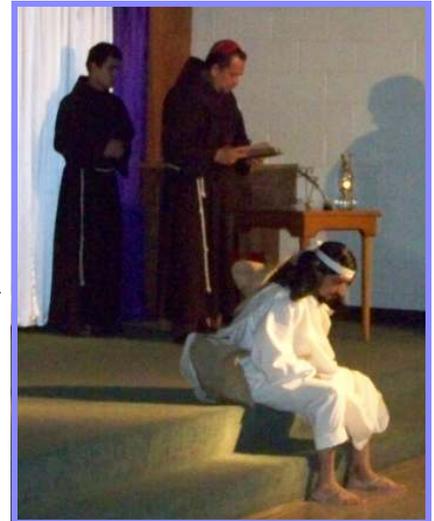
**Juan meets Our Lady.**

Mary played by Mari Arreguin Juan Diego played by Gonzalo Bocanegra



**Juan Diego Visits his uncle**

Juan Bernardino played by Antonio Barragan, women played by Geraldine Montoya, Sylvia Ramirez, with Juan D.



Fr. Larry invites all to refreshments



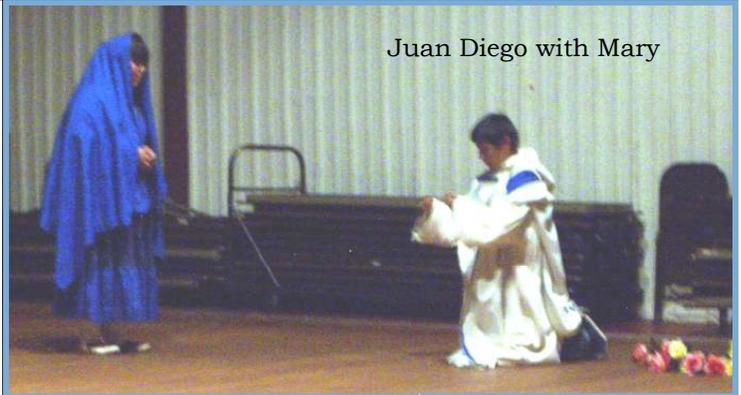
**El Teatro Players at the finale.**

## Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fort Defiance, AZ

Gilbert writes: Each year the youth group at Fort enacts the Guadalupe story, and each year it is done more professionally. In fact, this year, two of the youth adults who had been in the production in previous years directed the program.

Many adults from three parishes: Fort, St. Michaels, and Navajo attended and were quite inspired. Afterwards all offered a rose and incense at a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe and we had a desert potluck.

PHOTOS BY SR. MARY HOTTENROTH, SBS

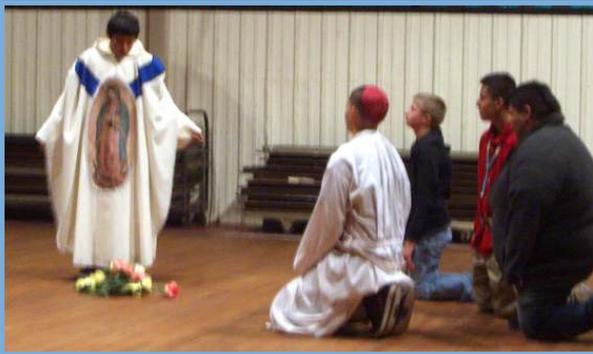


Juan Diego with Mary

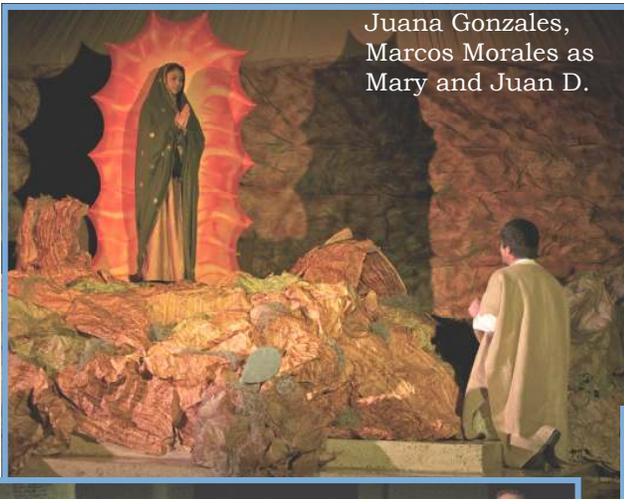
Below and left: Juan D. with bishop and retinue.



Roses and incense offered



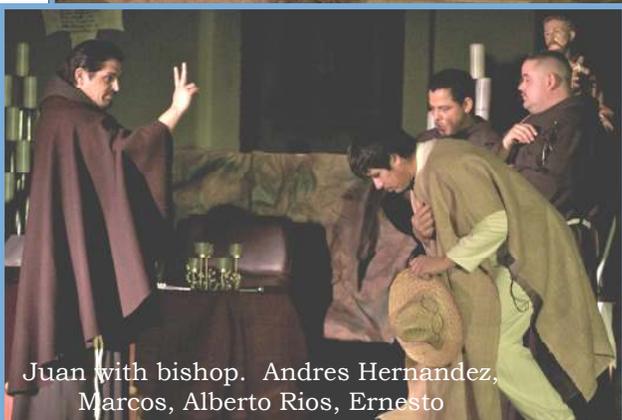
## Holy Family, Albuquerque



Juana Gonzales, Marcos Morales as Mary and Juan D.



Juan Diego with his sick uncle.



Juan with bishop. Andres Hernandez, Marcos, Alberto Rios, Ernesto



PHOTOS BY FRIAR GLEN HUMPHREY

# The Holidays at St. Ann, Klagetoh, AZ with Bro. John Hotstream and Sr. Monica.

PHOTOS BY BRO. JOHN



Visiting group performs for the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe



On Dec. 27th the Children were delighted with a visit from Santa Claus and gifts of toys and food.



Much of the food is donated by the SWIF (Southwest Indian Foundation.)



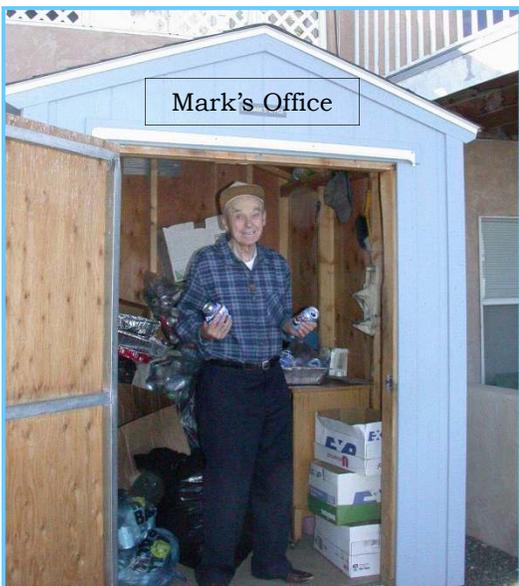
# Brother Mark Schormack, OFM

## Feb. 6, 1915-Jan. 16, 2012

Text and photos by Joe Nelson  
On Saturday, January 21, 2012 we celebrated Bro. Mark's life in a funeral Mass at the chapel of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Gallup, NM. The chapel was filled. Fr. Gilbert Schneider, one of his novitiate classmates gave a beautiful homily on Mark's life. After the funeral his body was buried in the Friar's cemetery at St. Michaels Indian Mission followed by a simple luncheon.

I also was Mark's classmate and in 1904 I talked at length with Mark and his niece and grand niece about his life for an article in the Senior Newsletter, "Senior Moments". His father died when he was seven months old. His mother died when he was five. Mark and his sister had a very difficult experience with his adopted family, but he found "family" with the friars. It was with the friars that he finally found someone who appreciated, accepted and loved him.

Gilbert, in his sermon shared how "Mark spent more than 20 years on the Navajo reservation. ... the Navajo reservation/St. Michaels was the concrete 'family' where Mark found a



home. ... and Mark ... was ... a model of an evangelizing friar" for the Navajo people and for Gilbert through his life and work at St. Michaels.

In the article I wrote



about Mark I found pictures from the archives showing Mark as: a welder, a mechanic, a Jeep driver, a boiler man, a bus driver, a bulldozer driver, a helper of the poor and a cook. Gilbert said: "Everything that Mark did, ministry-wise was geared to service of people. One of the ministries also close to his heart was Roller Skating. He was an expert skater, and

trainer. Most kids who learned to skate learned from Mark, thought few could do all the maneuvers he could do. ... Central to it all was community prayer and liturgy."

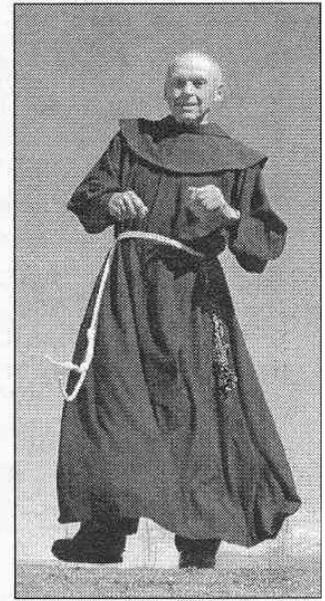
Mark truly lived the beatitudes, the gospel at his funeral. Gilbert said Mark saw himself as the "anawim", the little poor ones and truly he was. He once told me "I'm a nothing a nobody" but he was far from that.

I knew Mark mainly in his later years. He suffered from serious memory problems. I usually had to remind him who I was, but he loved to play pinochle and did so better than most. Even into his 90's he collected aluminum cans and raised hundreds of dollars for the missions, even getting his own "office" to store and work with the cans. Gilbert shared: "Another ministry was visiting a construction site next door [to the nursing home], picking up good nails. One of the frameres asked: 'Hey, what are you dong?' Mark said: 'I am collecting nails for Brother Francis to use in the Navajo missions.' The man reached in his nail apron and filled up Mark's sack with new nails.

Mark was always joyful and energetic as seen in the picture of him dancing on his



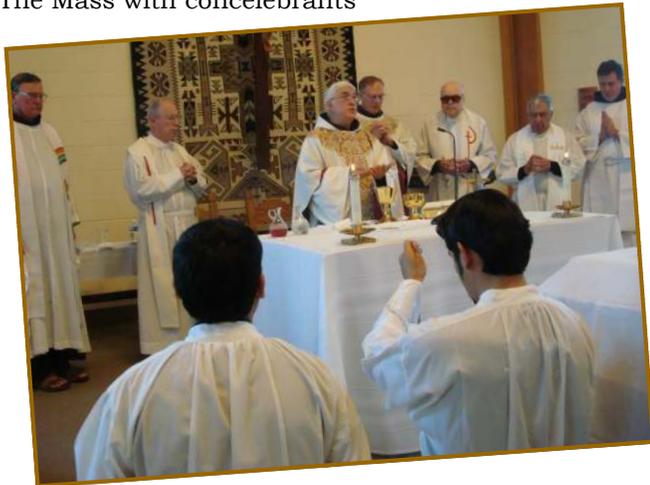
Fr. Gilbert Schneider



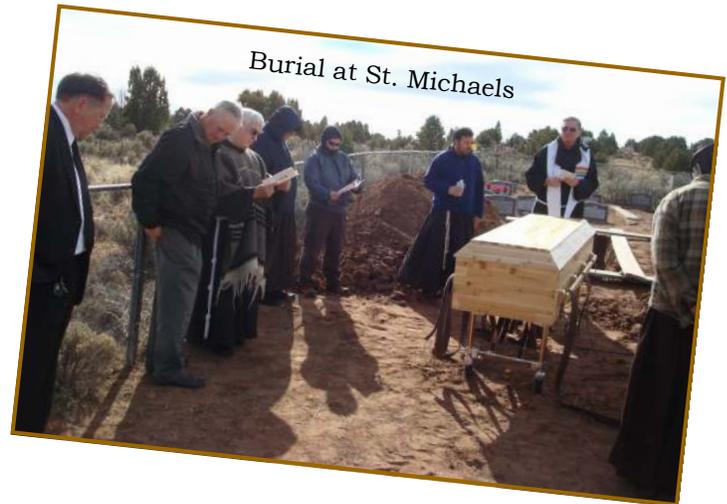
90th birthday. He had only one kidney and was in hospice several times, but except for the last time he always got better.

In Gilbert's words: "Thank you Mark for your great and very long-standing example of

The Mass with concelebrants



an 'evangelizing friar.' Please don't stop interceding for us now! Continue, to direct your prayers for us so that we may also be open to the Holy Spirit fostering our 'evangelizing communities;', now and in the future!



### Birthdays

- January 27 Berard Doerger
- February 2 Larry Bernard
- February 6 Mark Schornack would have been 97.
- February 6 Bruce Michalek
- February 14 José Luis Peralta
- February 25 Ronald Walters
- March 9 Charlie Martinez
- March 20 Joseph Redinbo
- March 20 Richard Rohr
- March 24 Ricardo Garcia
- March 24 Chris Kerstiens



### Friars on Special Missions



As I finish this newsletter: **Fr. Gino** is in the Philippines seeking one or two of their friars to do ministry in our province.

**Hilaire** is on his way to the Philippines to teach languages to the seminarians there for a few months.

**Bruce** is on his way to Viet Nam to teach English to the seminarians there for a few months.

**OUR PRAYERS GO WITH YOU ON THESE SPECIAL MISSIONS.**

# Retreat on Clare given by Sr. Ramona Miller, OSF

Fifty nine Friars from all over the U.S. attended the retreat by Sr. Ramona who is with the Rochester, Minn. Franciscans. Here are a few pictures from the retreat.

Photos by Joe Nelson except as indicated.



Gino shares a moment with Sr. Ramona.



Photo by Gino Correa



A Humorous moment

Evening social hour 1 to r Andy Brophy (ABVM), Mario Nagy (ABVM), Bruce Michalek (OL;G), Dennis Koopman (SHP), Steve Malhiewicz (ABVM)



l to r Andres, Lalo (Eduardo), Gino, Pat, and Anthony.



OLG friars share at an evening social.

Clockwise: Andres G. Andres H., Samuel, David, Anthony, Pat, Lalo and Miguel

Sr. Ramoma anoints Luis Runde (SH) with oil after her talk on the healing powers of Clare.



Photo by Gino Correa

# Thanks and Farewell to Fr. Larry

Larry, you said in your letter to the OLG Province "...there is no way I can or will ever shake even the smallest particle of OLG dust from my feet or my heart." Well, Larry, you will always be in our hearts, also and a part of our province.

You made history as you became our provincial and part of our province. You made history by becoming provincial as a member of another province. You made history by becoming provincial, after a tie vote by reason of seniority of profession.

As the third provincial of our Province you have accomplished much. Before all else you have been a good brother, you have navigated us through some turbulent moments and you have helped us to celebrate many moments of new birth and resurrection. We send you forth from the deserts of



the Southwest to the greener fields of Ohio and Washington, DC, knowing that you will take our thanks and our love with you. May that fraternal care we have for you sustain and nourish you!

We wish you well in all your future endeavors and we will always have a room for you in our houses as well as in our hearts.

Your Brothers,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.

## A Farewell luncheon for Fr. Larry

On January 19 the province had a farewell luncheon for Fr. Larry with 55 of the friars and friends of Larry in attendance. Here are some of the pictures.



Clockwise from left: Gino, Larry B. Larry D. Joseph G.



This box, a gift from St. Michael friars, opened up into a poster with pictures and quotes.



**The many faces of Larry**  
 Pictures taken as he gave his farewell remarks.



Two other friars celebrated their birthdays that day and received a birthday dessert. Gordon Boykin and Abel Olivas



A few of the many guests.



Two new murals have been added to the niches at Casa Guadalupe Gardens.

Mother Mary Frances and Archbishop Albert Daeger, OFM



**Most Rev. Albert T. Daeger, O.F.M; D.D.** - born March 5, 1872 in St. Ann, IN; joined Franciscan order August 15, 1889; ordained July 25, 1896; consecrated Archbishop of Santa Fe May 7, 1919; died December 2, 1932 in Santa Fe, NM.

**Mother Mary Frances of Our Lady**

A year after Sister Francis made final Profession on July 26, 1947, Mother Immaculata chose her to be part of the band who would go to unknown Roswell, NM on November 7, 1948 to make a new Poor Clare foundation.

On May 19, 1964, the community chose her as its new abbess. The next year Mother Mary Francis was elected head of the recently formed federation of Colettine Poor Clare monasteries in the United States. Mother served as federal abbess for sixteen years and as federal councilor for thirteen years.

In 2004 she celebrated her fortieth anniversary as abbess of the Roswell community, and the sixtieth anniversary of her religious Profession.

She died on February 11, 2006.