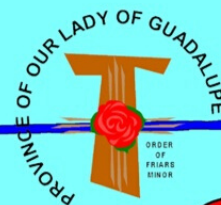


THE PADRES'



Trail



THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PROVINCE

April 2020 • Volume 34 • Number 4

EMPTY CHURCHES AND THE EMPTY TOMB

Holy Week during a Pandemic

Holy Week and Easter Sunday are the most sacred and important days for Christians. Despite the significance of these days, this year Catholic churches remained empty because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Signs of cancelled Holy Week services, as seen at St. Michael's Mission in Chinle, Arizona, hung on church doors across the United States, and many parts of the world. Although the Body of Christ was restricted from gathering physically this year, it could not be restricted from joining spiritually, after-all meditating on the Pascal Mystery is at the very heart of the Body of Christ.

As the faithful practice social distancing and adhere to government guidelines to stay in their homes, they were joined spiritually in unimaginable ways through creativity, flexibility, and perseverance. The friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province celebrated Holy Week as a domestic liturgy, within their friaries,





and among their Franciscan brothers. After being advised to stay within their friaries by Provincial Minister Jack Clark Robinson, they celebrated an intimate and unique Holy Week. For example, Casa Guadalupe friary in Albuquerque, New Mexico celebrated Holy Thursday with a Eucharistic procession and Holy Hour among their beautiful garden. On Good Friday, San Juan Diego Friary celebrated the Lord's Passion and the Exultation of the Holy Cross in their chapel. Fr. Jorge Hernandez can be seen raising the cross to his fellow brothers who were sprinkled among the chapel to maintain social distance.



Among other Triduum celebrations, Fr. Gerry Steinmetz lead the Stations of the Cross on social media as he walked the beautiful desert hills of Laguna Pueblo. The Franciscans of St. Peter Friary in Roswell and St. Francis Friary in Gallup celebrated their Holy Week by live-streaming services, and sharing online reflections, which brought the liturgy into parishioners' homes. St. Michael Friary's moving celebration of Jesus' Resurrection was deeply rooted in Franciscan history. When the Franciscans first arrived in 1898 and could not speak the language of the Navajo people, they built a large cross outside of their mission. The cross stood as a symbol of their faith and service. On Easter morning, the cross adorned in white cloth, continued to serve as a symbol of both our Christian faith and a glimmer of hope during this uncertain time.



"WE HAVE TO ACCEPT AND DO WHAT WE CAN"

Jooba Hogan Food Facility during times of Crisis



Through a collaborative partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank, Jooba Hogan Food Facility normally serves 1,500-2,000 families each month. The pantry, a ministry of Our Lady of Fatima, sorts and distributes food in Chinle, Arizona. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jooba Hogan Food Facility has seen an increase in need, a heartbreaking trend for food banks across the United States. Florecito "PJ" Pabatao, OFM, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, has been working diligently to meet the community's increasing needs while following best practices to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus.



Jooba Hogan Food Facility has recently implemented a drive-thru distribution process that allows patrons to remain in their vehicles. During distribution, Father PJ serves as a traffic aid as he directs patrons through the long queues snaking in the parking lot. In addition to maintaining a safe social distance, the pantry ran into another logistical challenge. Jooba Hogan Food Facility relies on Our Lady of Fatima parishioners that volunteer to sort and distribute the food, however with a shelter-in-place on the Navajo Nation, many of the usual volunteers have not been able to come in. Father PJ requested help from the Chinle Chapter House, who graciously agreed to volunteer. He said, "I am so thankful for the Chinle Chapter House who made it possible to distribute food." So with 15 dedicated volunteers from Chinle Chapter House, St. Mary's Food Bank, and Jooba Hogan Food Facility, more than 360 families were able to receive food before the Navajo Nation weekend quarantine curfew. When asked about the new challenges, Father PJ exclaimed, "We have to accept these times and do what we can to offer help and continue the ministry."



WHEREVER IS NEEDED

Franciscan Response to COVID-19

When describing Franciscan values, Miguel Alcantar, OFM, said, "Franciscans are to be always moving and not attached to things. To be Franciscan is to be wherever is needed." Although it is natural to grow attached to routines, comfort zone, and traditions, the genius of Franciscan values shares the beauty of flexibility and movement. When Bishop Baldacchino of the Las Cruces Diocese announced on March 16th that all public gatherings were suspended, Eduardo "Lalo" Espinosa, OFM, decided to follow the footsteps of St. Francis and go "wherever is needed."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, "wherever is needed" is best defined as individual homes. While the faithful are advised to stay in their homes, Fr. Lalo, Pastor of St. John the Baptist, helped to turn his parishioners' homes into churches by embracing live-streaming through social media, the web, and radio broadcasts. In addition to streaming daily Masses, Holy Week services, and rosaries, the parish worked to create a safe way to distribute palms on Palm Sunday and the Holy Eucharist on Easter Sunday.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Parishioners prayerfully follow along during live-stream Masses by typing prayers and praises in the comment sections. One parishioner commented, "God bless you and thank you for your service Father Lalo and your staff." The fruits of live-streaming Masses have been hopeful for Fr. Lalo. He initially did not want to live-stream Masses but changed his mind after speaking with his parishioners. He shared, "At first I didn't consider it important because right now Facebook and YouTube are full of celebrations from all over. After talking with some parishioners they expressed how important is for them to see their own parish and pastor." After hearing their words, Fr. Lalo knew he needed to *go wherever is needed*. "I am not a fan of Facebook or any social media, but after seeing the impact in my parishioners, I realized it is not about me but is about feeding my people with some hope amid the pandemic. Now the people are more at peace, trying to live this situation in their family, and trying to discover the treasure they have in their own family." Please continue to pray for Fr. Lalo, and all parish pastor's as they navigate how to best meet their flocks' needs during this pandemic.



COVID WORKS OF MERCY?

Love Shown Through Masks and Social Distancing

Catholics are familiar with the Corporal Works of Mercy. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares examples with his disciples of how to serve and love one another. He challenges Christians to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick, shelter the homeless, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. The Corporal Works of Mercy are visible and tangible acts of charity toward our brothers and sisters. During the Coronavirus outbreak, acts of charity have come to look radically different, although still deeply rooted in love.

COVID-19 has brought the once-bustling and fast-paced world to a drastic halt. In New Mexico and Arizona, where the Southwest Franciscans primarily minister, residents are encouraged to stay home, and all businesses deemed non-essential by state and local governments, including churches, are closed. In a time of quarantine and social distancing, how can we respond to Jesus' challenge to love one another? Unlike the Corporal Works of Mercy that are visible and tangible, the best way to show love during the pandemic is invisible. The Friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe have been following these COVID-19 Works of Mercy to help stop the spread of the virus.

Stay home as much as possible

Limit contact to only people living in your household

Stay 6 feet apart from others

Wear a face mask

Wash your hands frequently

Only buy items that you need

Because there are friars who are considered high risk due to age or underlying health conditions, the friars, although one brotherhood, are not visiting one another during the pandemic as an act of mercy. Provincial Minister, Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, stated, "We are one family, but we are not one household, and at this time we must remember that for the safety and health of the whole family." The Province is very thankful for Marta Ortiz, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Health Care Coordinator, who has been a blessing and resource during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Marta's efforts, the friars are kept updated with best practices, guidelines, and procedures to keep themselves and others safe. During this time, we pray for all to follow the COVID Works of Mercy.

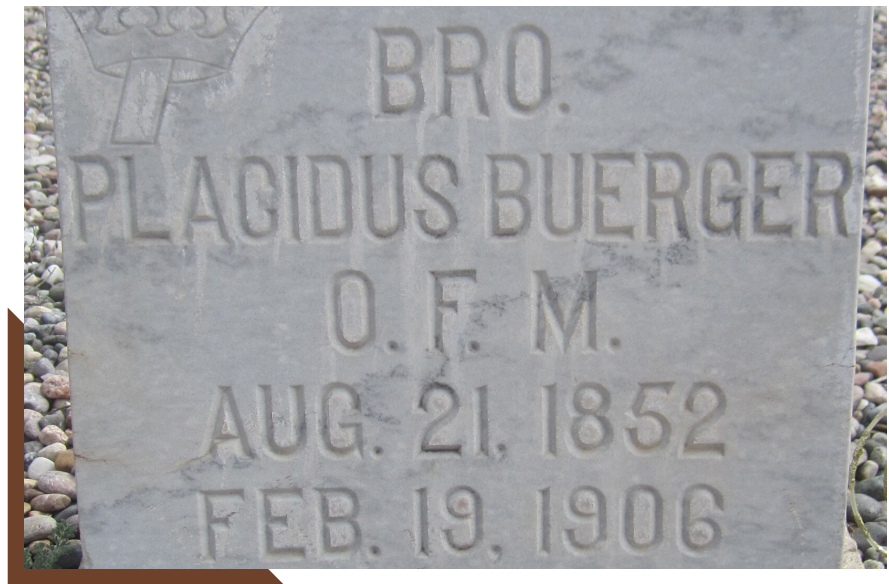
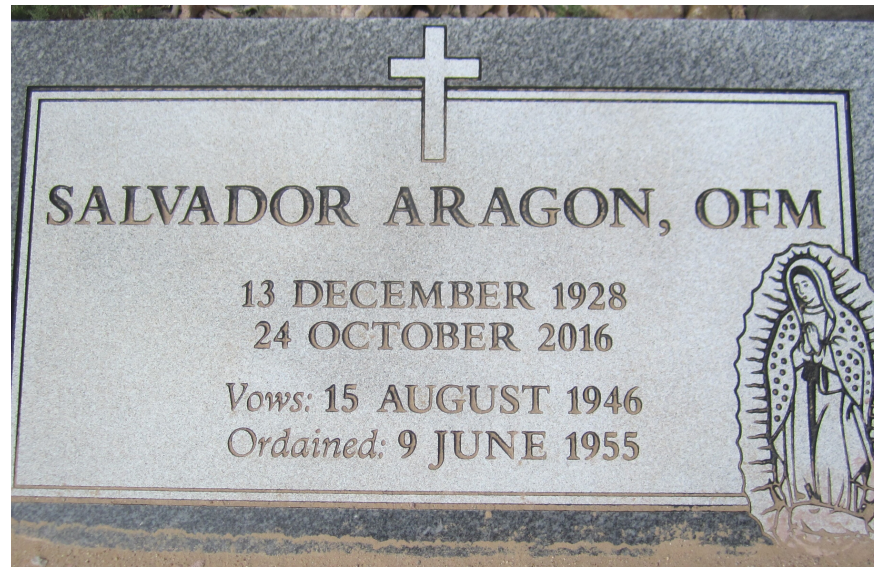


LOOKING INTO OUR TRADITIONS

A monthly reflection on our Franciscan Heritage by Jack Clark Robinson, OFM

We can Connect

These two pictures are of monuments only a few feet apart in the cemetery at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Peña Blanca, New Mexico. The monuments appear to commemorate men, who appear to have a little in common beyond living their lives as Franciscan friars here in the Southwest. One of those men was born in Germany and immigrated here. One was born in Peña Blanca, which is the reason that he asked to be returned to the soil of that little village when he died. One died over twenty years before the other was born. But for all of their dissimilarity, in this age of concern with social distancing and contact tracing as we attempt to deal with the spread of a deadly virus among us which has caused a pandemic killing thousands of people and wreaking havoc around the globe, we know one thing more about the two men whose graves are marked by these stones, the name of one man who physically touched both of them while they were alive.



Albert Thomas Daeger was born in Indiana. One of his grandfathers was a German immigrant to the United States, who after the early death of this wife and raising his children had led the way for two of his grandsons to later join the Franciscan friars in Cincinnati by becoming a friar himself. His two grandsons, Albert and Vigil also became Franciscan friars.

Vigil became a teacher and professor. Albert was eventually assigned to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Peña Blanca, with its Spanish and Pueblo Indian missions, at the time the only place where there were Franciscan friars in the Albuquerque area. In 1906, as Brother Placidus was hospitalized and dying in Albuquerque, Padre Alberto, as he was universally known then, came from Peña Blanca and anointed Placidus. The ritual called for Alberto to dip his thumb in oil and trace a cross on the Placidus' forehead.

LOOKING INTO OUR TRADITIONS CONTINUED

By the time Salvador Aragon was born in Peña Blanca, over twenty years after that anointing, Padre Alberto had become Archbishop Albert, the Archbishop of Santa Fe. In keeping with the customs of the day, within a year or two after Salvador was born, the Archbishop made a Confirmation tour around the Archdiocese and returned to Peña Blanca to confirm all of the children born and baptized there since the last celebration of Confirmation in the village. The ritual called for the Archbishop to dip his thumb in oil, in this case Sacred Chrism, and trace a cross on Salvador's forehead.

We are called upon in these days of COVID-19 and the pandemic that it is causing to be especially careful about physical contact with others, and even with things that they have touched or the air that they have breathed. But sometimes, across decades and centuries, we need to recall as well how important a touch or simple actions of care and concern, including not touching can be to bring solace, healing, and strength to others at special moments. We can connect one another in ways far beyond our imagining. Just remember to always wash your hands, too.

WORD OF THE DAY

Staying In Touch- A Couple of Sentences at a Time!

During this time of social isolation, Provincial Minister, Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, wanted to connect daily with friars, family, and friends. This desire inspired his "Word of the Day" emails that are sent each morning to friars and friends. He explained, "I thought, what if I try to say something in a few words that would give people something to think about. So I ask [God] for inspiration at morning prayer and Mass, then come back to my desk and try to put something down." Previous "Words of the Day" have included: quarantine, dreams, normal, joy, fear, faith, and prayer. These words and reflections resonate with hundreds of readers each day who often express gratitude. In response to grateful readers, Fr. Jack responded "It is humbling to think that God may have used me to bless you. "

FRANCISCAN WORD OF THE DAY

JOY

Happiness is a reaction.

Joy is a chosen stance.

Joy chooses to take an appreciative attitude toward experiences. That attitude comes from the realization of the basic goodness of the world around us, despite momentary mistakes or setbacks on a personal, or even global scale. Happiness says it is a good moment. Joy proclaims that life is good

To follow along each morning or read the previous "Words of the Day" and their reflection visit: www.swfranciscans.org/news/word-of-the-day

WITH GRATITUDE

Celebrating the Brothers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province

Spread the news far and wide, May 1st is National Religious Brothers Day. This special day is for celebrating the life and vocation of religious brothers and honoring the important role religious brothers play in the life of the Catholic Church. The group, The Brothers Think Tank, beautifully describes the vocation of religious brothers: *The vocation of a brother revolves around God's love in three unique but connected ways. A brother is called to personally receive God's love and then serve as an individual mediator for God's love into the world. A brother is called to*

share God's love with his community and to help the community be rooted in God's love. A brother is called to live in the mission of sharing God's love with everyone, especially the disadvantaged and suffering in our society.

Unfortunately, religious brothers and their many contributions have not always been celebrated in religious life history. As clericalism swept through the church, many religious brothers were treated as subordinates to their very brothers who were priests. To transform this misconception, Pope Francis declared 2015 the "Year for Consecrated Life" and released the Vatican document, *Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church*. This document celebrates and thanks religious life for their gifts, witness, and ministries. Like Pope Francis, our Province is so grateful for our brothers who have dedicated their lives to the Gospel!

+ RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY +

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR BROTHERS:

Paul O'Brien	Ricky Garcia
Duane Torisky	Gerald Gratner
George Ward	Efren Quintero
Bruce Michalek	Andres Hernandez
Jose Rodriguez	Gordon Boykin
Miguel Alcantar	John Friebe
Michael Burns	Bernard Keele
Maynard Shirley	Noe Alfaro
	Michael Haag

Religious Brothers Day Prayer

God of mercy and compassion, thank you for the extraordinary life, witness, and ministry of our Religious Brothers.

In your wisdom, you have called these ordinary men to generously serve, pray, and share your healing love with others.

As we prepare for our annual Religious Brothers Day on May 1st, deepen our appreciation for the vocation of Religious Brothers, and their commitment to vowed community life.

Strengthened by our baptismal call to holiness, inspire us to invite other men to consider religious life.

Grant all Religious Brothers the grace and perseverance they need to proclaim your Holy Word for the life of our Church and our world.
Amen.

HAPPY EASTER FROM THE ARCHIVES!



Brie Martin, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Archivist, provided these Easter photos from the Province's digital collection. The photo on the left and bottom right are Easter egg hunts from St. Michael's Mission. The top right photo is from 1936 and is of parishioners who attended the first Mass at St. Rose in Pine Springs, Arizona on Easter Monday.

Please Pray +Adelaide Mary Halling Walters, mother of our Ron Walters, OFM, died early Mercy Sunday morning, April 19,2020. Please remember Fr. Ron, his mother, and all of his family in your prayers. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.*

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Heavenly Father,

Years ago this month, you blessed the world with Efren, Michael, Noe, Duane, Jorge, Jose, and Sean. Thank you for the gift of their life. We ask you to bless them during their birthday month and to keep them in Your care, now and in the coming year. Amen.

Efren Quintero, OFM

April 10th

Michael Burns, OFM

April 12th

Noe Alfaro, OFM

April 14th

Duane Torisky, OFM

April 19th

Jorge Hernandez, OFM

April 23rd

Jose Rodriguez, OFM

April 15th

Sean Murnan, OFM

April 28th



**THE PADRES' TRAIL IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
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www.swfranciscans.org

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