



Saint Francis of Assisi

Sister Parish

Committee

June 2026 Mission Orientation

22 February 2026



Agenda



- Opening Prayer
- Mission Core Values
- Navajo Nation Overview
- Chinle, AZ Overview
- Our Lady of Fatima Overview
- Mission Overview
- Physical Requirements
- Other Support
- Questions / Discussions
- Closing Prayer





Mission Core Values



- **Franciscan & Servant Leadership**
 - Form Team Members to recognize their talents as Christians called to mission. / Improve the living conditions of the Navajo people through construction projects.
- **Friendship with Christ**
 - Help people hear and understand God's plan of love for their lives
- **Commitment To The Theological Virtues**
 - Recognize our need for God / To share our faith through personal relationships and through charitable service on the Reservation
- **Justice & Solidarity**
 - To learn the culture, history, spirituality, and needs of the Navajo people / Form relationships between the Navajo people and the team / Recognize the Navajo relationship with God's creation

Navajo Nation



- Largest sovereign Native-American Nation¹
- Situated in the “Four Corners” bordering Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah
- Total Population on Reservation: 173,637¹
- Total Indian Population: 169,321¹
- Total US Navajo Population: 331,813¹
- Estimated 17,035,180.68 Acres¹

1. <https://navajoprofile.wind.enavaajo.org/>



THE SPIDER by Joseph C. Filer

Chinle, AZ



- Located in the Central Agency
 - Gallup, NM – 1Hr 30Min
 - Albuquerque, NM – 3Hr 35Min
 - Grand Canyon Visitor Center – 3Hr 42Min
- Per capita income: \$24,381¹
 - AZ: \$42,503²
- Poverty rate: 28.4% (Under 18 - 34%)¹
 - All Reservation Under 18 – 45%³
 - AZ poverty rate: 11.7% (Under 18 – 15%)²
- Unemployment rate: 14.6%⁴
 - AZ Average: 4.3%⁵
 - National Average: 4.6%⁶
- High Alt. Desert, Cold, Semi-Arid
- 5,627 Ft Above Sea Level
 - Triangle – 98 Ft Above Sea Level
- Temps:
 - Hot Season: May – Sept (Hi 89°F / Low 61°F)⁷
 - Cold Season: Nov – Feb (Hi 52°F / Low 22°F)⁷



1. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0412770-chinle-az/>
2. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/04000US04-arizona/>
3. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/25200US2430R-navajo-nation-reservation/>
4. <https://townfolio.co/az/chinle/labor-force>
5. <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.az.htm>
6. <https://www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/civilian-unemployment-rate.htm>
7. <https://weatherspark.com/y/3006/Average-Weather-in-Chinle-Arizona-United-States-Year-Round>

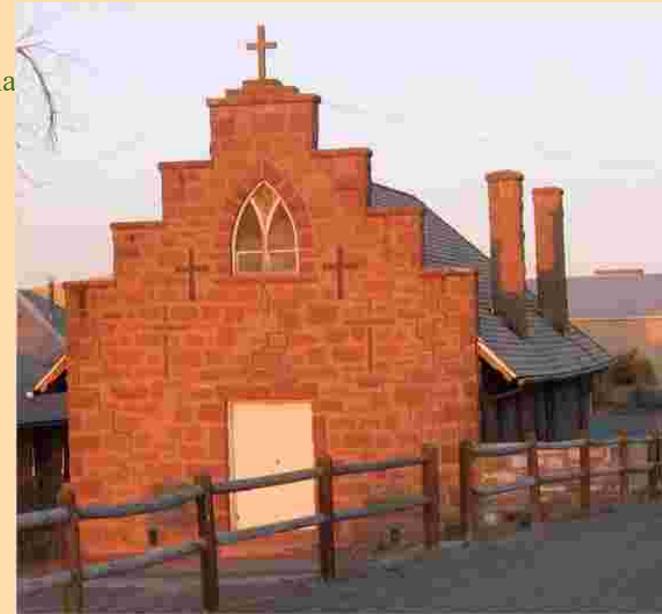
Chinle, AZ



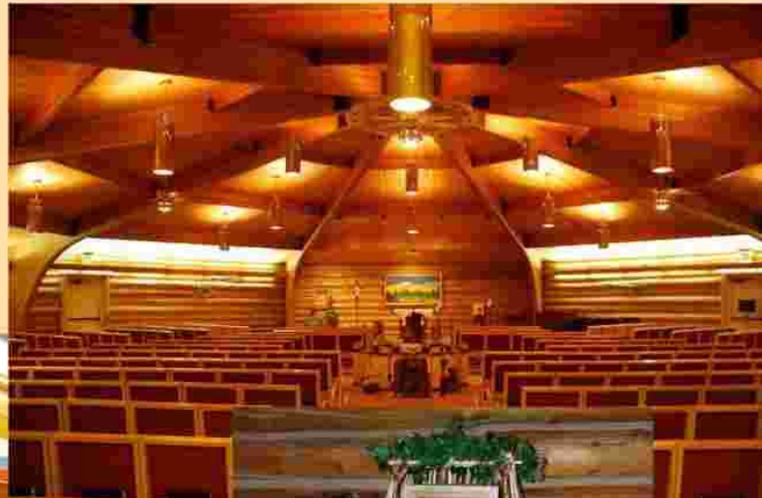
Our Lady of Fatima



- Second oldest Catholic Faith Mission on the Navajo Reservation; established in 1902
- 1 Residing Friar
 - Recently assigned as Pastor to St. Michael's Mission (Fort Defiance Agency – 1Hr)
 - A Diocese of Gallup vicar was recently assigned to Our Lady of Fatima
- 1912 Historic Annunciation Mission Church
- 1989 Hogan Style Church
 - Door Faces towards the eastern sunrise
 - Traditional Eight-Sided Hogan Form
 - South Side of Hogan (Work Area, Work of Salvation, Way of The Cross)
 - North Side of Hogan (Family Area, Life of The Saints)
 - Stone Pile (Prayers, Tabernacle)



Our Lady of Fatima



Our Lady of Fatima

- Parish Hall: A community gathering place for agency meetings, celebrations, and other community events

- Hall reservations and Bingo are a large source of income for the parish community



Our Lady of Fatima



- Thrift Shop: Started in 1977; unusable due to Aug 2015 flood damage
 - Requires Demolition



- Food Bank Program: Started in 1995 on a very small scale; Dec. 2008 relocated to the Kindness Center.
 - Serves 4,000 clients during the school year / 7,500 clients during the summer



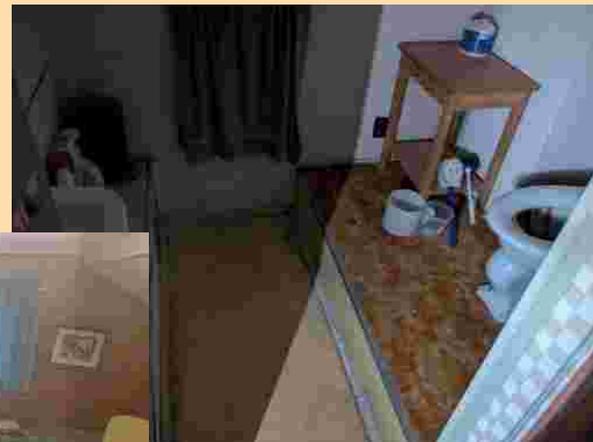
Our Lady of Fatima

- Old sister's convent & volunteers' residence (currently no in use; last renovations in 1960s/1970s)



Our Lady of Fatima

- Friary: Built in 1912 (last renovations in the 1960s)



The Mission



- Visit the home bound & Elderly
- Installation of Bingo Board Barrier*
- Demolition of Old Thrift Store Building
- Prepare Convent & Friary for Reno
 - Remove drop ceiling / Carpeting / Cabinets, Furniture etc.
- Relationship Building / Faith Sharing

* If procured



Physical Requirements



- In general good health
 - Able to use hand / power tools
 - Lift / carry materials
 - Stretch / walk
 - Climb ladders
 - Experience dry dusty conditions
- Work will be conducted in full sun
- Chronic conditions of all kinds should be considered
 - those with respiratory conditions are advised to join our coordination/logistics support team
- Missioners should be able to walk at least 2 miles per day across moderate terrain
- Tetanus immunizations should be up to date upon travel

Logistics



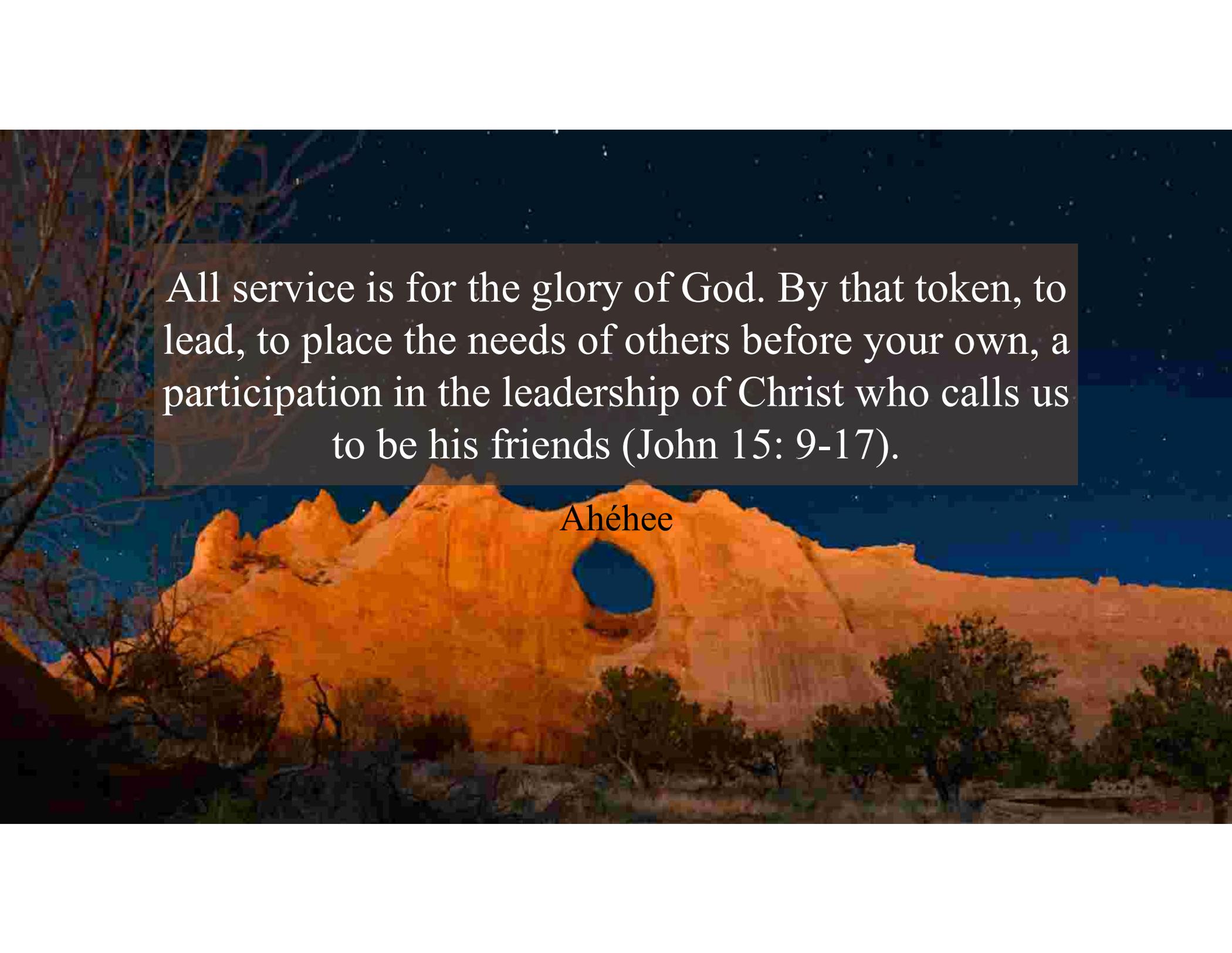
- 5 – 8 Missioners
 - Fr Chris will be driving; all others will fly
- 15 – 22 June 2026
 - Fly to Albuquerque, NM – ~5Hr
 - Drive to Chinle – 3Hr 35Min
 - Lodging: Best Western Canyon De Chelly – 3Min from Our Lady of Fatima
 - Meals:
 - National Chains – Burger King, Pizza Hut, Subway, Denny's
 - Local Restaurants – Junction Restaurant (American), Pizza Edge (Pizza), Garcia's Restaurant (American), Thunderbird Lodge (American)
 - Medical: Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility
 - IHS Hospital
- Estimated Costs: \$2021(8 msnr) - \$2075 (5 msnr)
 - Flights: \$563
 - Lodging: \$960
 - Meals: \$68/day (\$408) (Based on USGOV Meals & Incidentals Rate)
 - Rental Vehicle(s): \$359/ea (will be split by travelers)



Other Support



- **Logistics & Coordination**
 - If age / health and/or physical limitations preclude you from the mission we would love to have your support in making the mission possible through various coordination efforts
- **Parish Hall Heaters**
 - One repaired Feb 2026 – \$1,674
 - Replacement Proposal – \$13,074
- **Friary Boiler**
 - Estimate Needed
- **Bingo Board Barrier**
 - ~\$2,200 / Missioners Install



All service is for the glory of God. By that token, to lead, to place the needs of others before your own, a participation in the leadership of Christ who calls us to be his friends (John 15: 9-17).

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