



**St Francis of Assisi Parish, Triangle, VA
SISTER PARISH COMMITTEE**

CHINLE MISSION 2026-1 15-22 JUNE 2026

PARTICIPANTS:

SEVEN ADULT LAY VOLUNTEERS, AGES 40-72 YRS OLD, 15-22 JUNE
ONE FRIAR, AGE 72 YRS OLD, 14-25 JUNE

DURATION

15-22 June 2026 – which included: 2 travel days, 4 mission work-days; one cultural awareness day; along with Sunday activities

TOTAL DONATED LABOR HOURS OVER SIX DAYS: 284 hours (estimated)

PROJECT/WORK ACTIVITIES

- Preparation of convent for renovations: removing carpeting from floor, removal of baseboards, removal of debris, transfer of furniture to 2nd floor Food Bank building,
- Meeting & coordination with architect regarding initial renovation design for old convent
- Assist Joliet mission team with general maintenance – clean water filters, clean hot water tanks,
- Support Food Bank – no other local volunteers were present that week; team members unloaded trucks, prepared bags/boxes for families/elderly, handed out boxes to clients, assist carrying boxes out to cars, cleaning at the end of each day
- Tools/Equipment & Remodeling tool shed – reorganizing and cleaning tool shed, removal of debris, installation of shelving in cellar to store tools/equipment
- Cleaning parish kitchen – extensive cleaning of the entire kitchen area, stove, grill, missionaries purchased (at their own expense) utensils and kitchen equipment
- Bingo – team members were present for the parish's Sunday night Bingo and assisted in greeting people and general support activities
- Pasta meal – team members prepared and served a pasta meal for over 100 people at the Bingo night; funds for this were provided by the mission fund, team members, and one Chinle parishioner (bison meat)
- Cemetery – due to cultural beliefs and customs many Navajo do not enter cemeteries, so after Sunday mass team members assisted the Joliet team in replacing USA flags over the graves of veterans in the Lukachukai public cemetery; many of the deceased veterans were Navajo Code Talkers from WW II

-Meeting & coordinating with Joliet, Illinois mission team

CULTURAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Hubble Trading Post National Historic Site, Ganado, AZ

Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock, AZ

Window Rock Park and Code Talker Monument, Window Rock, AZ

Wheatfields Lake and Wheatfields Chapel, Wheatfields, AZ

Lukachukai Church & Buffalo Pass, Chuska Mountains, AZ

4x4 vehicle Canyon floor tour, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Chinle, AZ

Chinle Franciscan Mission Historic District, Chinle, AZ

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Daily Morning Prayer in a room in the hotel

Daily Evening Prayer in the parish church or outside along Canyon rim

Two personal reflection sessions as part of Evening Prayer

Sunday Mass in Chinle & Lukachukai