

Mission Trip

**TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
DIOCESE OF TUCSON**

PURPOSE OF THE MISSION TRIP

1. To come to know the people and history of the Tohono O'odham nation,
 - A. Their history
 - B. their traditions,
 - C. their strong Catholic heritage,
 - D. and their current situation.



PURPOSE OF THE MISSION TRIP

2. To increase our sense of solidarity with the people of the Tohono O'odham nation.



PURPOSE OF THE MISSION TRIP

3. To unite our gifts and lives with the gifts and lives of the people of the nation to address current needs.





TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Their History

TOHONO O'ODHAM - HISTORY

- ✘ The name of the tribe literally means “desert people.”
- ✘ The people of the nation have their origin in the Sonora Desert areas.
- ✘ Currently the nation is located in southwest Arizona and the Sonora Desert area of Mexico.

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION HISTORY

- ✘ The people of the nation thrived in the desert for centuries.
- ✘ Originally, the nation extended from
 - + Sonora Mexico to Phoenix, AZ
 - + the Gulf of California to the San Pedro River.





TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Their Traditions

TOHONO O'ODHAM - HERITAGE

- ✘ As a people, they have their own myth.
- ✘ Central to that myth is their sacred mountain, Baboquivari, and the god, I'itoi.



TOHONO O'ODHAM - TRADITION

The "Man In The Maze" is a visual representation of the Tohono O'odham Indians belief in life, death and the life after death.



TOHONO O'ODHAM - TRADITION

The man at the top of the maze depicts birth. By following the pattern, beginning at the top, the figure goes through the maze encountering many turns and changes, as in life. As the journey continues, one acquires knowledge, strength and understanding.

<http://www.earthart.org/happenings/kiva/labyrinths.html>



TOHONO O'ODHAM - TRADITION

- ✘ Nearing the end of the maze, one retreats to a small corner of the pattern before reaching the dark center of death and eternal life. Here one repents, cleanses and reflects back on all the wisdom gained. Finally, pure and in harmony with the world, death and eternal life are accepted.





TOHONO O'ODHAM

Strong Catholic Heritage

TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE



Fr. Eusebio Kino, S. J.

- ✘ Began missionary work to people of the Sonora Desert in 1687.
- ✘ Founded San Xavier Mission in 1692.

TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE

San Xavier del Bac
Mission

Founded 1692

Still serves Tohono
O'odham and Yaqui
peoples in Tucson area.



TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE



San Xavier Mission

- ✘ Current church
 - + Construction 1783-1797
 - + Workforce of O'odham peoples

TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE

SAN XAVIER DE BAC

- ✘ Widely considered to be the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States.
- ✘ The oldest intact European structure in Arizona.



TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE



SAN SOLANO MISSION

- ✘ 40 churches in towns and villages
- ✘ Covering area the size of Connecticut
- ✘ Currently served by the Franciscan community at Topawa – 2 priests and 4 brothers.

TOHONO O'ODHAM – CATHOLIC HERITAGE

- ✘ Since Fr. Kino's time:
 - + O'odham people have maintained their Catholic faith and tradition
 - + Catholics without clergy for most of those 325 year
 - + Still use Latin songs and prayers taught to their ancestors by the early Jesuits and Franciscans.





SAN SOLANO MISSION

The Current Situation

CURRENT SITUATION

- ✘ Poverty
- ✘ Underemployment
- ✘ Institutionalization
- ✘ Family system breakdown



CURRENT SITUATION



- ✘ Abnormally high rate of:
 - + Alcoholism
 - + Diabetes
 - + Suicide

- ✘ Border Issues
 - + Drug Smuggling
 - + Coyotes
 - + Border dividing nation

CURRENT SITUATION

- ✘ Lack of resources
 - + Human
 - + Financial
 - + Physical
- ✘ Gangs
- ✘ Apathy to hopelessness





OUR MISSION TRIP

Come to know the people and their traditions



OUR MISSION TRIP

Join in solidarity with the people



OUR MISSION TRIP

Join our gifts and lives with theirs

PREVIOUS MISSION TRIP ACTIVITIES

- ✘ Physical Labor
 - + Re-roof church
 - + Restore playground
 - + Restore retreat center courtyard
 - + Put in a garden
 - + Build a ramada for a shrine area



PREVIOUS MISSION TRIP ACTIVITIES

- ✘ Catechetical Work
 - + Youth Day
 - + Adult Retreat Day
 - + RCIA classes
 - + Children's catechesis
- ✘ Liturgical Training
 - + Training of musicians
 - + Teaching liturgical songs



PREVIOUS MISSION TRIP ACTIVITIES



✘ Pastoral Care

- + Assistance at the Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Facility
- + Visitation of families



OUR MISSION TRIPS

Joining the Franciscan Community

JOINING THE FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

✘ Franciscan Community at San Solano Mission – Topawa Monastery

- + Fr. Ponchi
- + Brother Martin
- + Brother David
- + Brother Hajime
- + Brother Chris



JOINING THE FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

- ✘ Serving from Covered Wells
 - + Fr. Ignatius DeGroot





OUR MISSION TRIPS

Not all work!

TIME TO JOIN IN LOCAL TRADITIONS



Helping cook the meal for
our farewell dinner with
the community

TIME FOR LEISURE



Evening campfire with time for reflection and relaxation

TIME TO UNWIND



Msgr. Lyle enjoys free time with a seminarian's guitar



TIME FOR BREAKING FRIED BREAD WITH FRIENDS

DINNER WITH THE BISHOP





US MISSION TRIP

San Solano Missions in Diocese of Tucson