

A Miracle in the Desert





THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS

were the pioneer missionaries of Arizona. They were the first to return to Arizona of today to take up anew the work begun by the Padres of old. The record of the Franciscan Fathers of today is as glorious as that of their heroic predecessors. The following is one of their achievements:

On the Pima Indian Reservation about 17 miles southwest of Phoenix the Fathers are conducting a boarding school for Indian boys and girls. At present there are between 200 and 300 boarders at the institution. Indian children of the various tribes of Arizona are represented at the school.

Needless to say, the Indians are unable to contribute a penny to defray expenses. The institution receives no government aid. Everyone knows what a struggle it is to support a large family at the present time. Here is a family of a few hundred. Last year the expenses at St. John's were over \$25,000. After the Padres had counted the alms at the end of each month and had paid their bills, they found nothing for themselves except the deficit. They receive no salary, and hence, the Order is obliged to support them.

No man, unless he has tried it can realize what it means to raise the enormous sum required at St. John's each year, by freewill offerings. It has been done, however; thanks to the mite of the generous rich and poor in all parts of the United

States and will continue to be done in the future.

Pay a visit to St. John's, anyone who happens to pass through Phoenix, and see with your own eyes charity pure and undefiled. St. John's Mission was founded in 1805 and it has functioned ever since. At times, when funds permitted, there were as many as 500 or more boarders at the school. A record, indeed.

The Fathers could not afford to buy materials and to hire labor for the huge structures required. Hence, the Padres and the Brothers and the Indians made adobe or mud-bricks sun-dried and did the construction work themselves. The group of buildings erected in the desert in the very heart of an Indian reservation is a sight worth seeing. Pay the Mission a visit and you will be amazed. The "Vanishing American" is there receiving an all around one hundred per cent training.

Kindly remember these volunteer workers in the desert. Keep this leaflet and send for more. Pass them on to prospective benefactors. This appeal may be the means of inspiring a resolution on the part of generous persons to lay aside a quarter or fifty cents or more a month or to send an annual donation to enable the good Padres to continue the work that deserves to be called, a veritable miracle of charity in the desert.

Address all communications to—
FRANCISCAN FATHERS,
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