

## Far Flung Jubilee Celebrations!

In June, the Felician Sisters in Rio Rancho marked the 60<sup>th</sup> priestly jubilee of Fr. Salvador Aragon at a Sunday Mass and reception attended by many friends and admirers. In his usual unassuming way, Salvador only reluctantly agreed to the celebration, but all of those around him were intent on honoring him and did so with great affection!

In August, Fr. Gerry Steinmetz celebrated his fifty years as a Franciscan with celebrations in Indiana and at Holy Family in Albuquerque.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Gerry joined Ron Walters, Duane Torisky and Jack Clark Robinson to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Fr. Nils Francis Thompson's Franciscan profession in Houston, Texas. Fr. Nils presided and preached at a Mass in the retirement center for priests where he lives. The friars were joined by Deacon Gary Hilbig, the Director for Retired Priests for the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston, as well as four other priest friends of Nils. During his homily, picking up on the readings for the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Fr. Nils said that the God leads all of us and that the holiness that God asks of us is simply to follow Him. Fr. Nils continued that he has struggled with following God for sixty years, we all do, he said, but God is so merciful that we can only say "Thank You." Nils also thanked God for the Province and for the wonderful people whom he has had the chance to meet, including some of the retired priests he lives with now. After the Mass, Deacon Gary and Fr. Nils gave everyone a tour of the new facility into which the retired priests had only moved the day before the jubilee celebration. Then Nils, Deacon Gary, the friars and a couple of the priests from the retirement center adjourned to Nils' favorite local restaurant for a fine steak lunch which was enjoyed by all!



L to r: Ron Walters, Jack Clark Robinson, Nils Francis Thompson, Gerry Steinmetz, Duane Torisky at the celebration of Nils' 60<sup>th</sup> and Gerry's 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Franciscan profession in Houston, TX.