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**MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO DOCENT SOCIETY
TRAINING CLASS TO START IN JANUARY**

San Juan Capistrano, CA – September 28, 2009 – The Mission San Juan Capistrano Docent Society will conduct winter training classes for new Docents beginning January 9th. Training will be held for four Saturdays in January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010 from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

The Docent Society is comprised of individuals with a strong sense of history, the importance of remembering it, and the ability to share it with others. Join them!

Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at Mission San Juan Capistrano said: "Docents have the opportunity to change a student's perspective from one that thinks history is boring to one that views history as interesting. As I still remember my 4th grade field trip to this mission, it inspired me to care about history. Unfortunately here at the Mission, we don't have enough docents and hope that we can attract more interesting people who want to make a difference through docent work."

In order to become one of the Mission San Juan Capistrano Docents, individuals must participate in all four of the scheduled Saturday training classes, one-on-one training with a Docent mentor, as well as complete observations of other Docent tours. The entire process can be completed within eight weeks of the first training class.

The Mission San Juan Capistrano Docent Society has been in existence for 28 years and has a membership of more than 100. The purpose of the society is to educate and inform the visitors about Mission San Juan Capistrano. Training fees are \$25 per person, payable the second training session. The fee covers training materials and the first year's membership dues. The minimal annual service requirement is 12 tours.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18th century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com.

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