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**3,000 PEOPLE WATCHED AS "PUNO DE ORO" TOOK FIRST PLACE
AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. – June 16, 2009 –Mission San Juan Capistrano held its fifth annual Battle of The Mariachi Festival on Saturday, June 13. This popular event, attended by approximately 3,000 people, was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, and featured talented Southern California mariachi bands, which competed for cash prizes before a panel of judges that included mariachi director Alberto "Beto" Jimenez Maeda.

The group "Puno de Oro" won first place and opened that evening's Music Under the Stars concert for the Grammy winning group The Mariachi Divas!

Battle of The Mariachi Festival Winners:

1st Place (\$1,500, a trophy, and the opening slot for the Mariachi Divas)

Group: Puño de Oro
Director: Gabriel Zavala
City: Anaheim, CA
Phone: (714) 778-4356

2nd Place (\$1,000 and a trophy)

Group: High Desert Mariachi Juvenil
Director: Valentin Godina

City: Hesperia, CA
Phone: (760) 963-3448

3rd Place (\$500 and a trophy)

Group: Sinfonia Mexicana Mariachi Youth Academy
Director: Oscar Tostado
City: Riverside, CA
Phone: (909) 645-7129

Tom Tracy Award Winner (\$300 and a trophy)

Musician: Quincy Godina (trumpet player)
Group: High Desert Mariachi Juvenil
Phone: (760) 963-3448

The festival also included authentic Mexican food, cultural merchandise, children activities and workshops provided by instructors from Mariachi Academy of Carson.

The event was emceed by Mechelle Adams-Lawrence, Executive Director of the Mission and Gil Sperry, a modern-day Renaissance man and author who delights in entertaining and informing audiences through both the spoken and the written word. He has lectured internationally on subjects ranging from the pragmatic methods for dealing with our energy crisis to the esoterica of how to properly shoot free throws. Sperry lives with his wife, Priscilla, in Baja, where he enjoys the Mexican lifestyle. food, and music.

Disney VoluntEARS were on hand and helped with everything from greeting guests to passing out programs to putting table cloths on more than 100 tables.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Located in Orange County, Calif., Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange. Founded November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra, the Mission was the seventh mission in the chain of the twenty-one California missions, which were established by Spain. Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," it provides an inspirational learning experience about the past each year to over 53,000 fourth grade students as part of their California history studies. A place of inspiration, education, and preservation,

the Mission is Orange County's only mission and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders. For more information please visit www.missionsjc.com.

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Photos Attached