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THE BEGINNINGS OF PRESERVATION AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. – Jan. 12, 2012 – Before artist John Borglum created Mount Rushmore, he painted a depiction of Mission San Juan Capistrano titled "Sheep Grazing" in 1897. Two years earlier, his wife and teacher, Elizabeth Borglum, painted a piece titled "Mission San Juan Capistrano."

The shifting emphasis from dark and light in both paintings represent an important period in the life cycle of the Mission -- the end of isolation and the beginning of preservation. Thirty years after his Mission painting, John Borglum began sculpting Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota, finishing it 14 years later in 1941.

These two paintings by the Borglums and other artworks created by a variety of respected artists are on display as part of Mission San Juan Capistrano's permanent exhibit, Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed.

Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed is now a permanent exhibit at Mission San Juan Capistrano. The exhibit features rare paintings, precious religious and historic artifacts, and documents related to the Mission's

history. They are treasures because of their connections with the people and place of Mission San Juan Capistrano and unique representations of the past.

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.