NEW ORGAN IN THE HISTORIC SERRA CHAPEL

HISTORY BEHIND THE CENTRAL COURTYARD

MISSION TREASURES EXHIBIT NEW ARTIFACTS ADDED

INTERVIEW WITH MISSION STORE MANAGER
I love year-end reviews -- for most of us, it is a time to reflect, reboot, or shut the door loudly on a challenging year.

The Mission has had over 237 “new years.” and many chances to be reborn in purpose, meaning and spirit. With a grateful heart I “look back - to look forward” and celebrate the following 2013 efforts with your support:

1. We completed the 100% privately-funded Gate House Preservation Project on time and on budget. Today the project is done and welcomes our guests as if it has always been here.
2. We opened our very own Mission Store. The net effect is that we can cover the lost rent we used to receive, support Mission repairs and operating costs not covered by admissions, and squirrel away dollars for future preservation work. It is early but we are learning how the new company operates, what the guests really want, and how to ensure that we are a place of Franciscan hospitality.
3. We educated tens of thousands of students, teachers and chaperones. We did this during construction, poor weather and changing priorities.
4. We inspired the sick, weary, and the hurting. We saw them on benches, in the gardens, Serra Chapel and throughout the grounds all year long. Guests searching for meaning and time to reflect – guests not looking to be educated, entertained or informed, but just seeking peace.
5. We served as the face of San Juan Capistrano and Orange County. The Mission served as an ambassador to guests from all over the world saying, “Come and explore, come and discover history right here, try our town out, restaurants, shops, parks and venues.”
6. We entertained with our Signature Events. Our team brought together people of various faith traditions, economics, demographics under a smiling moon or a shining sun to experience fun, entertainment and the landmark with a sense of community.
7. We fundraised “for purpose.” Once again our efforts were focused on generating gifts that donors wholeheartedly believe in, and with the knowledge that 100% of any gift goes toward the intended purpose.
8. We mourned the passing of many fine people. As a non-profit entity we have many who give their time, gifts, and support in so many ways. Over time they become our friends.
9. It was a year of conviction. Leadership on the Mission Preservation Foundation Board, and throughout the entity, was impassioned to make a measurable and lasting impact. They said all the way, “Get it Done” and they generously made it so. Bishop Vann joined in our efforts with his arrival to Orange County.

What I learned this year about the Mission is that people of all backgrounds want to return to a place that reflects the idea of hope. People are seeking a place that inspires the good from within. From all measurable accounts and reviews I read and received, I’d say we delivered on this front. The Mission indeed continues to provide hope.

It was a great year, and while there is more to be done, we need to take a moment to celebrate the milestones along the way, take time to remember what came before this moment, and take a deep breath with the coming of the bright promise of this new year.

Happy New Year with gratitude,

Mechelle Lawrence Adams
Executive Director

Dedication - We Remember
Blanche Brooks – Women’s Guild
Ricardo Chaidex, Sr.
Bertha Holquin
Luis Silva
Beverly Smith – Artifacts Council
Margaret Tattam – Docent

 Mechelle Lawrence Adams and Family
L to R: Joe Adams, Lisa Lawrence, Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Jack Artemas Adams and Dylan Lawrence.
Christmas Day, 2013
Station of the Cross XII, a large painting created more than 200 years ago, has been associated with Mission San Juan Capistrano since the early 1800s. In 1973, Monsignor Vincent Lloyd Russell, the Mission’s pastor at the time, noted aging and damage to the painting but lacked the funds necessary to conserve it. So he asked a parishioner, William Maldonado, to paint a reproduction. Maldonado’s painting was then placed atop the older painting -- protecting and preserving it.

In May 2013, Mission Preservation staff and professional painting conservators carefully removed the 1973 painting from the Serra Chapel wall to reveal the original painting beneath it for the first time in 40 years.

Fine Art Conservation Laboratories (FACL, Inc.) from Santa Barbara was selected to take on the delicate task of removing the original painting from the wall and conserving it. The painting was sent out to begin conservation treatment in December 2013. The 1973 painting was lightly cleaned and returned to the wall of the Serra Chapel. It is interesting to note that when the 200-year old painting was removed, staff found a newspaper dated April 20, 1923, suggesting and supporting the belief that the painting was re-hung during the restoration of Serra Chapel that occurred under the pastorate (1910-1933) of Monsignor O’Sullivan in the 1920s.

The Mission Preservation Foundation has begun raising funds for the costly conservation treatment. It is the Mission’s goal to have the painting conserved and returned to Serra Chapel before Easter 2014. To get involved, please contact Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence Adams at (949) 234-1311 or Development Director Barb Beier at (949) 234-1323.

To stay up to date on current preservation projects, please visit our website at missionsjc.com.
Coming Soon! New Organ in The Serra Chapel

To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Blessed Junipero Serra, the Mission will install a new organ in the historic Serra Chapel.

The Serra Chapel in many respects is the “jewel” within the Jewel of the California Missions. Constructed shortly after the founding of the Mission by Father Serra himself in 1776, it remains the only chapel of all the missions still substantially standing where Father Serra celebrated the Eucharist, baptized and conferred the Sacrament on Confirmation in his capacity as Padre Presidente of the California Missions.

The new organ that will grace the Serra Chapel will be a digitally sampled instrument crafted by the Walker Technical Company in Zionsville, Pennsylvania. It will stylistically mirror instruments from the 17th & 18th centuries. Master wood craftsman Mr. William Zeiler is crafting the console and casework. The casework incorporates themes from the retablo that graces the sanctuary. Through the use of inlaid woods as well as accents in hand applied gold leaf, the instrument will be a stunning complement to the recently restored Serra Chapel.

Because of temperature variations in the Serra Chapel as well as significant technological advancements in digital sound sampling, a Walker instrument was selected to replace the previous modest instrument. It will be able to play the great organ literature of all periods and will be a support not only for the Sacred Liturgy but also concerts in the historic Chapel. The new organ installation will be completed in February 2014.

Monsignor Arthur Holquin said: “We are grateful to the members of the Foundation, specifically EJ Tracy, George O’Connell, Tony Moiso and Bill Cvengros, for their gifts in making this enhancement to the Chapel possible along with Mr. and Mrs. Saint-Aubin, who have come together to underwrite this significant project.”

This entire project, which also includes lighting improvements, seismic retrofitting of the choir loft and improvements to the flooring, is 100% privately funded as the Mission receives no Church or State funding. The generosity of these Mission supporters will allow beautiful music that celebrates the historic and religious significance of the Chapel to be played and enjoyed for generations to come.

*Article provided by Monsignor Arthur A. Holquin, Rector/ Pastor*
History of the Central Courtyard

The heart of Mission San Juan Capistrano is the Central Courtyard, with its open-grass lawns, rose-lined pathways, and beautiful fountain in the center. Yet, the romance and beauty of the courtyard was not always present. In fact, the garden atmosphere did not exist until 1935. The courtyard and its purpose have evolved over the Mission’s 237 years of history.

It is difficult to imagine the courtyard as anything but beautiful, yet in 1796 the courtyard was simply open dirt working area and the heart of mission life until 1834, when Mission San Juan Capistrano was secularized.

During the Forster family’s stay from 1845-1865 and after the Mission’s return to the Catholic Church by President Lincoln in 1865, many of the buildings surrounding the courtyard grew fragile because of a lack of repairs and maintenance.

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, Mission San Juan Capistrano began to rise from ruin. The Landmarks Club and resident priest Father St. John O’Sullivan led the effort in preservation. The fountain was completed in 1930, and landscape design was underway.

Ever since the completion of the landscape gardens in 1935, the courtyard has remained beautiful and tranquil. In many ways, the Central Courtyard has become the heart of Mission activity once again as guests explore the grounds. Although landscaping has changed since the original design of the 1930s, the visual contrast of new plant life against the backdrop of historic architecture remains inspirational to artists and guests alike.

Article provided by Megan Dukett, Education & Interpretive Program Manager

California Missions Foundation Board Retreat

Mission San Juan Capistrano has been selected as the location to host the next retreat for the California Missions Foundation Board. The California Missions Foundation is a non-sectarian charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of California’s 21 missions. Staff are looking forward to Mission San Juan Capistrano being the backdrop in March and are enthusiastic about hosting and presenting the “Jewel of the Missions.”
Mission San Juan Capistrano’s permanent exhibit “Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed” has expanded with newly acquired artifacts.

The exhibit now displays a pair of recently purchased watercolor paintings by noted California plein air artist Elmer Wachtel (1864-1929), who created the pieces in the early 1900s.

The unique pair of watercolor paintings by Elmer Wachtel depicts portions of the Mission’s South Wing, Sala and Ruins of the Great Stone Church. The paintings were purchased from Colin Young, Fine Art of Early California. They are the first paintings in the Mission’s collection by this influential California artist, and are important additions to the Mission’s historic art collection, which the staff hopes to continue to develop with donations and purchases of significant, Mission-related works of art.

Also added to the exhibit’s priceless collection are several personal items which belonged to the Great Restorer (1910-33) of Mission San Juan Capistrano, Father St. John O’Sullivan, including his rosary and a water pitcher.

Another change to the Mission Treasures exhibit includes moving the Mission’s original birth, death and marriage registers to the safe keeping of the Diocese Archives. It is a result of an effort to preserve and protect the delicate historic paper documents in accordance with generally accepted conservation guidelines.

“Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed” exhibit is currently on display in the West Wing and open from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The memorial statue of Father Serra will turn 100 years old in 2014. Father St. John O’Sullivan, the Mission’s “Great Restorer,” and resident priest from 1910-1933, commissioned and paid for the statue himself. O’Sullivan asked local artist John Van Renselaer to sculpt the white concrete monument to serve as a memorial to Mission San Juan Capistrano’s founding father.

The monument was dedicated at the Mission entrance on November 24, 1914, the 201st anniversary of Father Serra’s birth. The Serra Statue stood at the entrance of the Mission until the mid-1930s where it was moved to its current location adjacent to the Bell Wall and the Great Stone Church.

In 2005, the statue was conserved and a new cross installed to replace the original that had gone missing. During construction, greater details of Father Serra’s clothing and rosary were discovered. The statue stands today as a reminder of the “Coming of two cultures” that came about with the founding of the Mission.
Pam Conway joined the Mission as Store Manager in December. She relocated from Bentonville, Arkansas, where she worked as Store Manager opening the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Store over two years ago. After meeting with the Mission leadership team in November, she became interested in joining the Mission as a result of seeing firsthand the promising future of the Store and the exciting aura surrounding the possibility of saving an important and historic landmark. Says Ms. Conway, “I grew up in Orange County and my father would drive us to historic sites on Sundays,” Conway said. I am from a family of eight children. I am certain the good man was giving my mother a break during those special day-long trips.”

Conway further notes that “Mission San Juan Capistrano was my favorite site growing up. Besides the beauty of the grounds, I love its peace and history. It is amazing to see the school children having fun listening and learning about the Mission on one side of the campus and walking over to the other side and feeling the reverential effect of the beautiful Serra Chapel.”

When asked to comment on the hiring of Conway, Mission Director, Mechelle Lawrence Adams said, “In July 2013, the Mission Store opened as part of the Gate House Preservation Project, and it was an immediate success. We hired Ms. Conway to help the Mission Preservation Foundation ensure its long term means of keeping the Mission maintained, accessible and preserved for future generations. We are excited about the addition of Pam to our team and feel her experience at Crystal Bridges, the Natural History Museum of LA, and the Huntington Library makes her an outstanding fit for contributing positively not only to the Store’s operations, but also to the positive work environment and culture of ‘guest first’ at our organization.”

“The Mission Store has a special obligation,” Conway said. “It exists to support the Mission and its special events, as well as educate visitors on a variety of subjects -- the Catholic religion, spirituality, California history, Native American history, California flora and fauna. There is so much to learn and enjoy. With all of that in mind we endeavor to have merchandise that will appeal to the wide variety of visitors that come through our doors.”

Conway added that success of the Mission Store is more than selling merchandise. “In building on the vision of the planners that made the Store possible, I would like customers to come away with the feeling that they are always welcome and that they will consistently find unique and educational products that reflect their own experience or meaning at the Mission,” she said.
Help preserve Mission San Juan Capistrano

California Landmark #200

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2014 Club Opportunities:

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☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ Other $____________

Help preserve this historic landmark for future generations! Become a part of the 2014 Club by giving a one-time gift of $20.14 or make twelve payments of $20.14, or give an amount of $214.00 or $2,014.00. You also have the option of giving $50, $100 or $500. Preserve this historic California landmark for future generations by sending in your gift today. A gift in any amount will make a difference.

Make your annual gift. Donate online at missionsjc.com or by returning in the enclosed envelope.

Your tax-deductible donation to Mission San Juan Capistrano provides funds for the preservation of this historic landmark. A non-profit organization under IRS 501(c)(3). Tax ID#33-0833283 and #95-1904079.
Music Under the Stars 2014 Summer Concert Series

Mission San Juan Capistrano has announced the upcoming 2014 lineup for its popular Music Under the Stars summer concert series.

The Mission will host five Saturday evening concerts in the beautiful Central Courtyard of historic Mission San Juan Capistrano, featuring live music, picnic dining, and dancing. Guests can expect to rock out to old favorites as well as popular tribute bands that will take the stage.

Season table packages go on sale beginning February 5 at 9:00 a.m. online at missionsjc.com. Table and general admission tickets go on sale February 19 at 9:00 a.m. to Mission Preservation Society Members. Members receive discounted rates and advance purchase benefits. Members may purchase online or by calling (949) 234-1317.

On March 5, all sales become open to the public. For more information on how to purchase, please visit our website at missionsjc.com or call (949) 234-1317.

This year’s concert series lineup includes:

**June 28:** The Derek Bordeaux Group: Motown, Soul and R&B

**July 19:** The Long Run – Experience the Eagles
_Opening Act: Fortunate Son: A Tribute to John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival_

**August 2:** Cash’d Out: The Next Best Thing to Johnny Cash including June Carter Cash duets
_Opening Act: Mark Wood and The West: Music of Country Classics_

**August 16:** Kenny Cetera’s Chicago Experience
_Opening Act: A Band With No Name: The AMERICA tribute show approved by AMERICA!_

**August 30:** The Fab Four: Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles with “Ed Sullivan”
_Opening Act: DJ Peter Papadopoulos and Dancers_

Tenth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Table Sales

Table reservations for the 2014 Tenth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival on sale beginning January 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Mission Members have the chance to purchase tickets one week early beginning January 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Thanks to the generous support of the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, this highly anticipated festival features a full day of live musical performances and great food as Mariachi performers compete for cash prizes before a panel of judges.

**MISSION MEMBER BENEFITS!** Members receive discounted ticket rates and a one-week presale before tickets go on sale to the public. Join or renew now! Purchase tickets on our website at missionsjc.com, by calling (949) 234-1317 or in person at the Gate House.

SAVE THE DATE: TENTH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE MARIACHI • MAY 10, 2014
Grant Awarded
California Missions Foundation

Conservators from Balboa Art Conservation Center visited the Mission in December to work with museum staff on a survey and condition assessment of paintings in the Mission’s museum collection.

This significant step in the proper stewardship of the Mission’s museum collection was generously supported by a $5,000 grant from the California Missions Foundation (CMF).

California Missions Foundation is an organization that works to support and preserve California’s historic missions. For more information on CMF, please visit www.caldiforniamissionsfoundation.org.

Conservators from Balboa Art Conservation Center will determine which of the Mission’s paintings are in the greatest need of conservation and will provide treatment estimates for those paintings.

It is a hope and goal of Mission San Juan Capistrano staff to acquire the necessary funding to underwrite the conservation needed to preserve these artworks for future generations of Mission San Juan Capistrano visitors.

To learn more about current conservation and preservation projects, please visit the Mission website at missionsjc.com.

New Employees
Welcome to the Mission

Christian Sanchez, Guest Services

Part time openings in Guest Services, Security and Tour Guide program available.

Contact Nancy Davis at ndavis@missionsjc.com or (949) 234-1308

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Ralphs is giving up to $2,500,000 to non-profit organizations this year, and with your help, Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano can earn a share of it for preservation.

Every time you shop for groceries and swipe your card, the Mission will automatically start earning.

For questions, contact Mary Jayne Pugh in the Development Department at (949) 234-1325 or mpugh@missionsjc.com or by visiting our website at missionsjc.com/donations/ralphs.php
Thank You to Our Generous Supporters and 2014 Club Members!

(Gifts given from October 17 through December 20, 2013)

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In Honor of Eric, Mark and Janice Anderson  Anonymous
Hossein Bakhtiar  Anonymous
In Memory of Bev Smith  Anonymous
Ryan K. Bakhtiar  Nasrin K Bahrami
In Memory of Bev Smith  Laura and Jim Baratta
Nancy and James Baldwin  Marye Barr
In Memory of Bev Smith  Michelle and Michael Barth
Barb and Don Beier  Barb and Don Beier
In Memory of Bev Smith  Lorel Bertolone
Karen and Byron Blanco  Mitzi Birdsell
In Memory of Taylor Patrick Blanco  Julie and Thomas Boyd
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WE REGRET ANY MISSPELLING OR ERRORS.
Names are published as records indicate.
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Enroll today at missionsjc.com

Calendar

St. Joseph’s Day & Return of the Swallows
Wednesday • March 19, 2014
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Special Cliff Swallows Presentation
Wednesday • March 19, 2014
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Swallows Day Parade
Saturday • March 22, 2014
11:00 a.m.

Guided Tours
Monday - Friday • 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Saturdays • 11:15 a.m., 1:00 and 2:15 p.m.
Sundays • 11:15 a.m., 1:00 and 2:15 p.m.

Panning for Gold & Adobe Brick Making
Weekends • 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Koi Fish Feeding
Daily • 12:45 p.m.

Curiosity Carts (Hands-On Learning)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Native American Basket Weaving
Wednesdays • 1st & 3rd of each month
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.