Executive Director’s Message

"The Power of Place"

The following are my remarks made at the September 16, 2016 Romance of the Mission gala, “In the 365 days that have passed since our last gala --- held during the year of the Canonization of Saint Serra, a great deal has been accomplished.

Over the past 12 months we joyfully, and with great anticipation, celebrated the canonization of Father Serra with a jumbotron right here in the ruins followed by many special events. We debuted our Saint Serra exhibit, marked the completion of the Sala Preservation Project, repaired the Bell Wall, opened our new Spanish Colonial Art Exhibit featuring work dating back to the founding of this place, and we even rehabilitated our "near" historic restrooms! All this while educating over 50,000 students and welcoming nearly 300,000 total visitors to the site.

Everything we did in the past year was only made possible because we have an engaged community--- A community that recognizes 'the power of place’ and that old places have meaning and purpose. A community, that despite its different chapters in history, perspectives, economies, and backgrounds, continues to unite for the purpose of saving the Mission. Saving it to be enjoyed, cherished and served from in generations to come.

Growing up in Orange County as the daughter of a single parent --- and later as part of a larger family --- I visited the Mission frequently. In my memory the Mission was huge, dusty, and in some cases mysterious to me. It was fragile and best observed quietly. I admit in those young years I often left not really appreciating its significance but knowing I had been somewhere important.

Working in, and for San Juan Capistrano, while raising children over the last two decades taught me to see the significance of the Mission from first the outside and later from the inside.

What I know after 13 years since arriving to work with the Mission Preservation Foundation Board of directors is that together there has been an incredible journey. It has been one focused keenly on ensuring that the Mission strengthens its historical and religious significance by being accessible and vibrant.

So as we ready for our exciting 2016 Romance of the Mission artist Clark Beckham let me take a moment to call out a few special people who have been by my side and “side by side” collaboratively supporting and leading the journey to ensure the Mission can be what it is today – people that are here today: George O’Connell,


And of course, generous support from our community members such as: Jim and Sheila Peterson, Bill and Chris Griffith and The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. And all of our friends listed in our evening program (you don’t have to read that right now!)

As a new year of priorities, changes, challenges, and opportunities will unfold before us, I believe that this gala is the foundation from which we “spring board” to action and care. Tonight’s event gives us the financial --- and in some cases spiritual and emotional where withal to keep up that fight --- to do all that we can to make sure that this landmark is never marginalized or forgotten as a place of inspiration, education and preservation and never ever forgotten as the birthplace of Orange County and the foundation for what is San Juan Capistrano.

So as we gather for Romance of the Mission tonight we must continue to band together to ensure that Mission will always fit well into an ever changing tapestry around it. We must continue to work to ensure that this place of peace is real and relevant in an age of virtual realism.

So, tonight, in the spirit of community and tradition we come together to be mesmerized, swept away, inspired and reminded that beauty is right here in the center of historic downtown, and that collectively you all have made the Mission what it is today. So in this, the beginning moment of our 13th concert gala, please know that each member of the Foundation sincerely appreciates and acknowledges your contributions and knows firsthand that the power of a historic place is only made possible by the people who stand by it. Thank you for that.

Mechelle Lawrence Adams
Executive Director, Mission San Juan Capistrano
In early September, the Great Stone Church Restroom Rehabilitation Project was successfully carried out with the goal of improving the visitor experience by providing a newly updated restroom and lavatory amenities and preservation of the adobe building located in the front courtyard of the Mission.

Interior project highlights included the upgrading of the interior Men and Women’s rooms with new tile, maximum privacy toilet partitions, new lighting fixtures, and automated touch free plumbing fixtures.

Exterior project highlights included extensive adobe repairs, installation of protective adobe mud plaster, and new landscape seat wall with pathway lighting, termite treatments, new way finder signage, and installation of drought tolerant plantings around the building.

Cost of the project was $109,866 and was funded by private donations, Mission Preservation Society Membership, and net proceeds from operations and the Mission Store.

A Mission to Preserve

Mission San Juan Capistrano was featured in the September/October issue of "American Spirit" which highlighted how The Mission Preservation Foundation was able to address critical repairs to the Sala and provide structural reinforcement for earthquakes thanks to $10,000 in DAR grant funding provided by The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

The NSDAR Special Projects Grants program invites nonprofit organizations to apply for matching-funds grants to support local projects related to historic preservation, education and patriotism.
Pope Francis made his first visit to the United States in September of 2015. During his historic visit, Pope Francis canonized Junípero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

To honor and celebrate the historic occasion, the Mission live-streamed Saint Serra’s canonization Mass on September 23, 2015. Hundreds of people gathered in the hallowed Ruins of the Great Stone Church to witness the historic occasion. During the week of Serra’s canonization, the Mission also hosted special bell ringing ceremonies, celebrated the canonization at the Romance of the Mission gala, presented a lecture on the life of Serra by Monsignor Arthur Holquin—Pastor Emeritus, gave away collectible Saint Serra coins to Mission visitors, and opened the “Legacy of Saint Serra” exhibit.

Visit the updated "Legacy of Saint Serra" exhibit to explore Saint Serra’s early life as a scholar, his journey to the Americas, his missionary training in establishing nine of the 21 California missions, his legacy and his significant role at Mission San Juan Capistrano and photos from the September 23, 2015 canonization event. The "Legacy of Saint Serra" exhibit is open 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. daily and located in the historic Sala, circa 1800.

Join us daily at 9:00 a.m. for our in tribute bell ringing honoring the legacy of Saint Junípero Serra
A Great Summer of Music Under the Stars - 2016

Saturday, August 20 marked the finale concert in the Music Under the Stars 2016 Summer Concert Series at the historic Mission. More than $53,000 (gross proceeds from the series) was raised through the concert's Opportunity Drawing and Silent Auction programs to support preservation projects at the historic Mission.

Additionally, $7,750 was raised for the Adopt-A-Class Scholarship Program. These funds will provide the opportunity for more than 700 field trip students to visit the Mission this year!

Mission San Juan Capistrano staff and leadership are grateful for the overwhelming support for the concert series. Funds raised from Music Under the Stars make a significant and measureable difference to the preservation of the Mission. We are grateful to our sponsors, all our ticket purchasers, opportunity drawing and silent auction donors, volunteers and staff for their part to make Music Under the Stars a success!

In this series, for the first time ever, Mission San Juan Capistrano was able to offer ongoing bidding throughout the entire summer concert series on two select silent auction packages. The first package was "Casa de Perro," a custom-built Hacienda dog house, a value of $5,000 generously donated by Mission Commercial Properties and Architects Orange. The second package is a ride in a WWII Vintage AT-6 airplane in the upcoming 2017 flyover during the St. Joseph's and Return of the Swallows Celebration, an unforgettable experience, generously donated by the The Condor Squadron in Van Nuys, California. Thank you to Mission Commercial Properties and The Condor Squadron!

Music Under the Stars Summer Concert 2017 Series tickets will go on sale in January, 2017. Please visit our website at missionsjc.com/music for the most up to date concert information. The Music Under the Stars 2017 lineup will be announced in early November 2016!

What's New? Mission "Art Walk" - Offered Every Friday

Mission San Juan Capistrano now offers its new “Art Walk” tour every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a free docent-guided tour, highlighting the art collection of rare paintings related to the Mission’s history within the Serra Chapel, the Spanish Colonial Room and the Mission Treasures Exhibit.

Experience Spanish Colonial and Plein Air paintings and learn about Mission San Juan Capistrano’s goal and efforts in the conservation of its collection. Mission San Juan Capistrano has conserved 32 paintings since 2004, and the tour provides visitors with great appreciation of the collection.

The Art Walk tour is free with paid admission to the Mission or membership and no advance reservations are required. However, for groups of 15 people or more, please call Group Bookings at (949) 234-1306 to schedule a private group tour in advance.
Dazzling Romance of the Mission featuring American Idol Finalist Clark Beckham, Honors The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

The Mission Preservation Foundation held its exquisite Romance of the Mission benefit gala on September 16, featuring a remarkable concert by Season XIV American Idol finalist Clark Beckham.

More than 450 guests supported the annual fundraiser with gross proceeds at over $550,000 (net proceeds at $236,000), while honoring longtime community partners The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

Beckham’s explosive performance spanned several musical genres, including renditions of Georgia, Hallelujah duet with vocalist Chanelle Ray and a benefit gala tradition, "When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano."

“Performing in the sacred grounds of the Ruins of The Great Stone Church was the greatest honor of my life,” Beckham said following the concert.

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel was recognized for its unwavering support of the Mission’s preservation efforts over the course of the benefit gala’s 13 years. Mission Preservation Foundation board member and Ritz-Carlton General Manager Bruce Brainerd accepted the award presented by board chair George O’Connell.

Official Mission bell ringer Nathan Banda rang the historic Mission bells to mark the end of the concert and to further celebrate the evening.

The elegant Spanish theme in bright colors of orange and pink was inspired by an image courtesy of the Irvine Museum Collection, Frank H. Myers (1899-1956) Fiesta in Old Monterey. The original painting was displayed in the Resurgam viewable to guests as they made their way from the concert into the Mission’s Central Courtyard where the Old Fiesta theme continued with one-of-a-kind décor of colorful lanterns overhead, as well as tables set for a gourmet plated four-course candlelight dinner masterfully prepared and served by The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange Bishop Kevin Vann led the invocation prior to dinner. Later, guests raised their glasses in a toast to The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, and all past benefit gala honorees in attendance. An opportunity drawing featured a Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel getaway, Montana Sporting Club experience and an 18K white and rose gold diamond cross donated by Jean-Jacques Mamie Fine Jewelry.

Major underwriters included Microsemi, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, Inn at the Mission, the O’Connell Family Foundation and E.J. Tracy.

For more information about the Mission San Juan Capistrano or the benefit gala, contact Barb Beier at (949) 234-1323 or visit our website at www.missionsjc.com.

Mission San Juan Capistrano would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support:

The O’Connell Family Foundation Trust, Bill and Chris Griffith and Jim and Sheila Peterson.

SAVE THE DATE! Join us next year for Romance of the Mission on Friday, September 15, 2017
View all our Romance of the Mission 2016 photos at www.missionsjc.com

Photos courtesy of Val Westover Photography and Lisa Renee Photography
- A Special Feature -
MISSION STORE HOLIDAY GUIDE
Open daily 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Mission Members always receive a 10% discount on most merchandise! Become a Member today!

*This* the season to shop at the Mission Store, open daily from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Stop in and sign up for your holiday wish list and enjoy giving gifts from your local landmark. Specialty items include apparel, home décor, dinnerware, handcrafted items, food products and more.

Shop the Mission Store's unique collection of nativities from all around the world including nativities from Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico and Peru shown below.

Other items include hand made ornaments, advent calendars, apparel, stocking stuffers, San Juan Capistrano themed gifts and more. Also offering the beautiful, prize-winning, "The Bells are Ringing - A Call to Table," the official Mission San Juan Capistrano cookbook.

The Mission Store also features an assortment of unique, hand-crafted jewelry collections from both local and international artists as well as a variety of inspired religious items including Saint Serra and Pope Francis.

Become a Mission Preservation Society Member and receive a 10% discount at the Mission Store all year long. Purchase your membership online at www.missionsjc.com or today at the Gate House.

*Did You Know?* Net proceeds from the Mission Store help protect the religious and historic significance of Mission San Juan Capistrano, and further educational programs, exhibits and preservation efforts. Thank you for supporting historic landmark #200.

**Free gift wrapping available**
Visit the Mission Store today and sign up for your holiday wish list
Christmas at the Mission
- Free for Members -

Celebrate the holidays with Mission San Juan Capistrano! Held in conjunction with the City of San Juan Capistrano’s annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and community-wide holiday celebration, Mission San Juan Capistrano will host Christmas at the Mission on Saturday, December 3, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bring the family and enjoy this fun, festive and memorable evening together at the beautiful Mission!

Christmas at the Mission features:
• Snow play area for kids!
• Ringing of the historic bells
• Live Christmas music performances
• “Santa’s Workshop” with cookie decorating and holiday card making for service men and women
• Photo opportunities with Father Christmas
• Food vendors serving tamales, chili, sweet treats, spiced cider, hot cocoa and coffee
• Holiday shopping at the Mission Store and more!

Event is free for Mission Members. Public tickets go on sale beginning Tuesday, November 1. Admission is $6 for adults, $4 for children (ages 4-11) and free for Mission Members. Become a Mission Member to attend Christmas at the Mission for free and to enjoy the Mission all year long. Join today at www.missionsjc.com.

Spread goodwill and the spirit of Christmas and bring a can of food for the Serra’s Pantry Food Drive beginning November 21 - December 21. Drop off a food donation anytime during the holiday season to the Mission Gate House or upon entry for Christmas at the Mission.
Join Us! Save the Dates!
Winter Break Activities

Special winter break activities for children will be available Monday through Friday beginning December 19 and continuing through December 30, 2016.

DECEMBER 19 - 23, 2016
DECEMBER 26 - 30, 2016

Panning for Gold
Monday through Friday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
$5.00 per person, $3.00 for members

Adobe Brick Making
Monday through Friday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
$5.00 per person, $3.00 for members

Arrowhead Necklace Craft
Monday through Friday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
$5.00 per person, $3.00 for members

Bundle for All 3 Activities:
$10.00 per person, $5.00 for members

- Mission Membership -
Give the gift of history!

Purchase or renew a membership today and receive a free water bottle or ear buds.

Purchase of individual level membership will receive 1 set of earbuds. Purchase of family level membership and higher will receive a choice of 1 water bottle or 2 earbuds.

Help us preserve Mission San Juan Capistrano, historic landmark and museum and home to the world-renowned St. Joseph’s Day and the Return of the Swallows celebration. Give the gift of membership to Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Preservation Society.

Unlike most memberships, 100% of your support directly funds the ongoing preservation and conservation of Mission San Juan Capistrano. Yearly membership includes free admission and audio tour, 10% discount at the Mission Store, discounted rates and privileges for signature events and summer programs and activities. Visit our website at missionsjc.com to purchase a membership and begin supporting “The Jewel of the Missions.”

New Employees
Welcome to the Mission Work Family

Mikaela Becerra, Mission Store Sales Associate
Brandon Brisco, Guest Services Representative
Daniel Ceballas, Security/EVS
Mark Grose, Guest Services Representative
Frank Kamen, Guest Services Representative

For employment opportunities: Visit our website at www.missionsjc.com/about/jobs
JOIN the 2016 CLUB TODAY!

Visit our Mission Store! "a local landmark shopping experience"
Mission Members receive a 10% discount on most merchandise

Christmas at the Mission
Saturday • December 3, 2016
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- FREE TO MEMBERS -

CALENDAR
Feast of St. John of Capistrano - Bell Ringing
Sunday • October 23, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Founder's Day - Bell Ringing
Tuesday • November 1, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Christmas at the Mission
Saturday • December 3, 2016
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Winter Break Kids Crafts & Activities
December 19 - 23, 2016
December 26 - December 30, 2016
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Panning for Gold, Adobe Brick Making & Arrowhead Necklace
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.

Daily bell ringing at 9:00 a.m. in honor of Saint Serra

For Discounts, Tickets & Information
Event Hotline (949) 234-1315 or
www.missionsjc.com