



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Joe Haakenson  
JUVE Creative, Inc.  
(714) 841 9600  
joe@juvecreative.com

### **MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO TO UNVEIL PHASE II OF SWALLOWS PROJECT**

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (March 17, 2015) -- Mission San Juan Capistrano will unveil its plans for Phase II in the historic landmark's quest to bring back the cliff swallows on St. Joseph's Day, Thursday, March 19.

Cliff swallows expert Dr. Charles Brown, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Tulsa, implemented Phase I -- the Vocalization Project -- in 2012, in which recorded courtship calls were played through a speaker on the mission grounds to lure the cliff swallows that were flying overhead.

Phase I will continue next year, while Phase II, which involves using a mobile nest wall, gets underway beginning on Feb. 1, 2016. According to Dr. Brown, anecdotal evidence suggests the vocalization playbacks at least occasionally bring in passing cliff swallows that fly over the site but do not stay to nest. The next step is to increase the stimulus being presented to these passing birds by creating the mobile nest wall. Research has shown that cliff swallows prefer to re-use existing nests where possible, as this saves time and energy in building a nest from scratch.

Once the birds notice the plaster nests and begin using them, spillover or additional settling birds likely will lead to them to building nests on the walls of the Ruins of the Great Stone Church. And once nests are built, the artificial arch would no longer be needed.

In recognizing the national goals for the proper care and treatment of the historic landmark, Mission San Juan Capistrano will ensure that this temporary experiment recommended by Dr. Brown will be mobile, and not attach to any historic buildings, obstruct sensitive views or impact the historic grounds in any way.

The arch will be made of a wood frame and adobe and/or plaster. The actual nests will be made from molds and dental plaster, each nest weighing between one and two pounds.

It will be about 15 feet at its highest height of the arch and about 15 feet wide, allowing for approximately 40 nests, about 16 centimeters in diameter, stacked along the top of the perch. Attached is a sketch of the proposed arch. Dr. Brown will be available for interviews at the mission on St. Joseph's Day.

***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 18<sup>th</sup> 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); \$6 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](http://www.missionsjc.com).*