



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT: MISSION SJC TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PRESERVATION WEEK

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (April 27, 2015) -- As part of National Preservation Week April 26-May 2, Mission San Juan Capistrano will clean and preserve the 100-year-old Father Serra statue that stands near the Bell Wall on the mission grounds.

The mission also will distribute a free collector's coin to those who make a donation of \$2 or more during National Preservation Week, the money helping preserve the historic landmark for generations to come. Collector's coins are available while supplies last.

Father Junipero Serra (1713-1784) was founder of the first nine of the 21 California missions, including Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776. A man of uncompromised optimism and zeal, Father Serra played a significant role in establishing the mission system and laying the foundation for what would become the state of California.

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); \$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.