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MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO TO HOST BATTLE OF MARIACHIS SATURDAY

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (May 5, 2015) -- Mission San Juan Capistrano will host the 11th annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival this Saturday, May 9 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the scenic Central Courtyard. The event, the most popular mariachi festival on the west coast, is presented thanks to the generous support of the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation.

There will be live musical entertainment and great food as Mariachi performers compete for cash prizes before a panel of judges. And there also will be the ringing of the historic bells, folkloric performances by Ballet Folklorico of San Juan Capistrano, bilingual marionette shows and an exhibition performance by Capistrano Community Mariachi Program.

Mission San Juan Capistrano executive director Mechelle Lawrence Adams and special guest emcee Desiree Udria-Garcia will give the official welcome and introduction at the Central Courtyard Stage beginning at 11 a.m., followed by the performance of the National Anthem by Klarissa Pacheco, a student at Orange County School of the Arts.

Mariachi performances, which include competition in both the "youth" and "open" categories, will begin at 11:15 a.m.

Besides crowning the mariachi winners, there will be another award presented: The Erma Jean Tracy "Shining Star" award, which has been introduced in honor of Erma Jean's continued friendship and support of Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Erma Jean, a judge at the 2007 Battle of the Mariachis and currently serving as a Mission Preservation Foundation Board Member, remains actively involved in supporting the Mission.

This event is sold out.

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.