MISSION CHRONICLES
Information for Locals
Presented by Mission San Juan Capistrano

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO SAVE HISTORY

In 2013-2014, Mission San Juan Capistrano served as a religious and historic landmark, a place for learning and a site for generations to come together. Celebrating its long history with music, bell ringing, community programming, and a robust education program, Mission San Juan Capistrano continued to expand its impact and be the iconic place of peace it has come to be revered for. Collectively the employees, volunteers, and Mission Preservation Foundation leadership worked on many fronts to advance and protect the economic, spiritual and iconic center of the community of San Juan Capistrano and the birthplace of Orange County.

The best part of Mission San Juan Capistrano’s year-end is celebrating all that we, as a community, have done to uphold and make history accessible for future generations in real and meaningful ways.

Notable among our many milestones met this past year are:
- Station XII Painting discovery and renewal
- Installing the new organ in Serra Chapel
- Hosting California Missions Foundation Board Retreat
- New art and artifacts on display in the Mission Treasures Exhibit
- Grants awarded for conservation and education
- Father Serra Statue 100 years old
- Welcoming Mission Preservation Foundation Board Members Paul Mikos and Vicky Carabini
- Celebrating the tenth anniversary of Battle of the Mariachis
- Holding the first Facebook summer post card contest
- Hosting the Forster Family Reunion
- Restoration of a damaged crucifix from the Serra Chapel
- Donating to American Cancer Society in honor of St. Peregrine and our friends facing battles of health
- Startup of the Sala Preservation Project
- Responding to significant financial and customer service during the I-5 construction project
- Serra Chapel Access Improvement Ramp Project, Phase 1
- Hosting the OC Docent League Annual Meeting
- Adding three new stops on the Voices of the Mission Audio Tour
- Honoring friends, El Viaje de Portolà, at the annual Romance of the Mission benefit gala
- Hands Around the Mission held to celebrate OC’s 125th birthday

Symbolizing our collective accomplishments was the near year-end celebration “Hands Around the Mission” where 700 people came together on the anniversary of Orange County’s 125th Birthday to hold hands and give the landmark a “community hug.” It is only because of the human spirit and the desire to connect with generations gone by that this Mission has endured. “Hands Around the Mission” demonstrated just what so many have done to ensure that the legacy of this place goes uninterrupted. Because of volunteers, donations, members, participation in events, gifts of supplies or service, Mission San Juan Capistrano stands tall as a landmark for California’s past, and a strong ambassador for the entire chain of the California missions. It is the city’s largest downtown employer, the spiritual anchor of a historic community, a window to the past and only gets to be that because people come together to ensure its care and stewardship. Thank you and Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Mission Preservation Foundation,
George O’Connell, President
 Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director
Reverend Monsignor J. Michael McKierman, Pastor/Rector