

MISSION CHRONICLES

Information for Locals

Presented by

Mission San Juan Capistrano

Projects Underway to Ensure the
Preservation of Mission History

FUTURE PLANS FOR HISTORIC SALA BUILDING

The historic 18th century Sala building has been home to the Mission gift shop for decades. However, as a result of the Gate House Preservation Project's completion, the building has been emptied for the first time in decades.

This original Mission era building is now available for a thorough inspection and evaluation to determine the scope of work involved for an eventual conservation treatment.

The Sala space has been vacated and will occasionally be used while funds are raised to carry out its conservation. Over its lifespan, the Sala has housed priests, the faithful using it as a Chapel, and has served as the private residence of the Forster family, owners of the Mission from 1845-1865. It was most recently a gift shop until 2013.

Today, the Mission Preservation Foundation aims to save the Sala and install an interpretive program befitting its adjoining historically significant building, the Serra Chapel. Interpretation will include Serra Chapel, Father Serra and much more. As a new museum space and as a living place of history, the care and treatment of both the interior and exterior areas of the Sala will require careful consideration.

To become involved in the Sala's conservation, contact Mechelle Lawrence Adams at (949) 234-1312.

DID YOU KNOW THE BELLS STILL TOLL AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO?

Mission San Juan Capistrano conducts daily ringing of the historic mission bells in honor of Father Junipero Serra, who was born 300 years ago this year.

Every morning at 9 a.m., the bells are rung seven times, reflecting that Mission San Juan Capistrano was the seventh of the 21 missions to be established in California.

Bells have played an important part in Mission San Juan Capistrano's history, since Father Junipero Serra first rang them to bless the area in 1776. In a time before microphones and amplifiers, the tolling of the bells allowed people from miles around to keep track of daily events, including times for work and prayer, and mark important celebrations, such as births, deaths and holidays.

