

MISSION CHRONICLES

Information for Locals

Presented by Mission San Juan Capistrano

Projects Underway to Ensure the Preservation of Mission History

MONSIGNOR HOLQUIN TAKES ON NEW ROLE

Reverend Monsignor Arthur A. Holquin has announced he will be stepping down as pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano, where he has overseen the parish church, school and historic Mission grounds since 2003.

Monsignor Holquin, who will be replaced by Monsignor J. Michael McKiernan effective July 1, has been suffering for the past three years from a neurological disorder -- hereditary spastic paraplegia -- which affects lower limbs and progressively limits mobility.

Msgr. Holquin, who turns 66 in May, will not be leaving the Mission and has made it clear he is not "retiring." He will remain as "rector emeritus," and will continue to work at the parish and with the Mission Preservation Foundation. He also been appointed as Episcopal Vicar to the Office of the Bishop for Divine Worship by the head of the Orange County diocese, Bishop Kevin Vann.

Msgr. Holquin, a San Juan Capistrano resident, continues to undergo physical therapy for his condition, including therapy at the J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan. Riding horses helps build his core strength and balance.

Next month, The Shea Center will honor him with their Michael Lewis Friends of the Disabled award.

Msgr. Holquin was born in Los Angeles and grew up Granada Hills, attending Catholic schools. After deciding to pursue a vocation to the priesthood, he studied at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, the Los Angeles Archdiocesan seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1974. He later pursued post graduate studies at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

His first assignment as a priest was at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange, of which he would later become Rector. In 2003, Bishop of Orange Tod Brown assigned him to become pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano.

"There's no greater privilege as a pastor than to be a pastor of a California mission, especially one as beautiful and well known as Mission San Juan Capistrano," Msgr. Holquin said. "I'm inspired by the selfless sacrifice of those who established and maintained the missions, particularly in those first 100 years."

"All of us that have worked with him, and come to love him are happy for his next chapter in life, and look forward to seeing him enjoy his time serving the Mission in new and different ways. He has been an inspiration to me on so many levels and I know he has changed many lives for the better through his leadership, measureable impacts, and personal example," said Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director.

