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**NEW "GOLD FEVER!" EXHIBIT AND "JOURNEY TO THE WEST PROGRAM"
OPENS AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

Mission San Juan Capistrano is proud to present "Gold Fever! The Untold Stories of California's Gold Rush," a fascinating exhibition that presents a treasury of Gold Rush era events, images and documents. The traveling exhibit will open for more than five months from October 15, 2009 - March 30, 2010 at Orange County's only mission.

Providing an inspired learning experience is a top priority for Mission San Juan Capistrano and its Mission Preservation Foundation, and "Gold Fever!" does just that.

The exhibition spotlights the remarkable stories of individual Californians, women, Native Americans, adventurers and gold seekers who emigrated from all parts of the world during the tumultuous and colorful Gold Rush era, and examines the impact James Marshall's discovery continues to have on all of California's people, cultures, environment, politics and economy.

Twenty-four photo-mural panels present 1,000 square feet of fascinating text and representations of primary documents, photographs, daguerreotypes, and Gold Rush era paintings. The exhibit examines California before the fateful discovery of gold in the American River, the frenzied rush to the gold fields over land and by sea, the experience of vigilante justice, life in the rowdy gold camps, Gold Rush era commerce and farming, and the shaping of California's future.

"The Mission is committed to teaching about California history in an engaging way," said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at Mission San Juan Capistrano. "Our new affiliation with the California Exhibit Resource Alliance (CERA) provides an even better museum experience in a manner that meets our goals for providing a quality learning environment."

“We also recognize that fourth-grade students usually learn about Statehood after their mission studies and as a result, the new exhibit on the Gold Rush will be one that teachers, children, and parents can experience to extend their appreciation about the history of this great state.”

“As part of our new Gold Fever! exhibit, we will also offer “Journeys to the West” a class program that will also provide hands-on learning that reinforces the subject material from Gold Fever! All of this points to the fact that providing an inspired learning experience is a top priority for the Mission’s Preservation Foundation.”

Jacque Nunez, the 2009 Educator of the Year, will take students on a journey back to a time when people were traveling west to California for the GOLD! The 49’ers all worked really hard panning for gold but it was the people that sold the pans that made money.

In this educational program the students will try to rope a steer, make an arrowhead, weave some wool and pan for gold!

Journey to the West at Mission San Juan Capistrano will be offered Fridays for groups of 50 to 100 at only \$4 per person, beginning at 11 a.m.

About California Exhibition Resource Alliance:

The “Gold Fever! The Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush” traveling exhibition tour was organized by the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA) in concert with the California Council for the Humanities. CERA is a network of professionally operated museums and cultural organizations that collaborate to create and tour smaller, affordable, high quality exhibits that enhance civic engagement and human understanding. Funding for the exhibition was provided by the California Council for the Humanities and a generous grant from Wells Fargo. For more information visit <http://www.museumca.org/goldrush/getin-curr.html>.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Located in Orange County, Calif., Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange. Founded November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra, the Mission was the seventh mission in the chain of the twenty-one California missions, which were established by Spain. Known as the “Jewel of the Missions,” it provides an inspirational learning experience about the past each year to over 53,000 fourth grade students as part of their California history studies. A place of inspiration, education, and preservation, the Mission is Orange County’s only

mission and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders. For more information please visit www.missionsjc.com.

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Photos Attached