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FLOWERS ARE IN FULL BLOOM AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

San Juan Capistrano, CA – May 5, 2009 –Mission San Juan Capistrano sits atop 10 acres of lush gardens and cool fountains, cloistered by old adobe walls, offering visitors reprieve from the sights and sounds of a busy world.

Each spring brings succulent garden highlights that include the golden California Poppy; white, popcorn-sized flowers produced by the South African Jade; and Blue Hibiscus from the Tropics.

“My favorite part was the garden. I couldn't resist looking at all the flowers,” stated a 4th grade student who recently visited the Mission.

As you enter the Mission's center courtyard, there is a beautiful fountain from the 1920s with blooming calla lilies, colorful koi fish, and trickling sounds of water. Well-tended roses, perennials, herbs, succulents, flowering shrubs and Hollyhocks sit alongside the Missions multiple gardens, which also showcase the indigenous plants of California: cactus, chaparral, and scrub oak.

Visitors are welcome to take in the serenity and peace of the lush gardens, vine covered walls and archways, and the koi-filled fountains during the normal hours of operation at the Mission.

For an added bonus on Wednesdays, visitors can take a guided garden tour with the Mission's Gardening Angels. Tours last a half-hour and begin at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. and are included in the price of admission.

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.

About the Mission's Gardening Angels:

The Gardening Angels are the Mission's volunteer garden club. The 35-member club can be found on the grounds each Wednesday morning pruning, mulching, fertilizing, planting and doing whatever else necessary to make the Mission gardens look their best for visitors. For more information contact Kathleen Witkowski at (949) 234-1306 or kwitkowski@missionsjc.com

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