



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MARY PICKFORD'S SECRET WEDDING**

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. – July 13, 2011 – Silent film actress Mary Pickford first visited Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1910 to film the D.W. Griffith movie, "Two Brothers." Set against the scenic Mission, the movie helped launch Pickford's career while garnering attention for the old Mission.

Pickford returned to the Mission five years later to serve as a witness for a friend's wedding, and while there she celebrated an impromptu renewal of her own marriage vows to then-husband Owen Moore. Father O'Sullivan performed both ceremonies in the Serra Chapel on April 24, 1915, with the post-ceremony scene forever captured in a painting by artist Charles Percy Austin.

The oil on canvas painting, which underwent conservation in the 1980s, is on display in the Mission's ongoing exhibit, "Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed." The marriage renewal is also recorded in one of the Mission's historic registrars, also on display in the exhibit.

***Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed***, the Mission's new exhibit is on display throughout the summer until September 5. The exhibit features rare paintings, precious religious and historic artifacts,

*and documents related to the Mission's history. They are treasures because of their connections with the people and place of Mission San Juan Capistrano and unique representations of the past.*

***About Mission San Juan Capistrano:***

*Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.*

*The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.*

*The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com).*