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MISSION UPDATES NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. (Aug. 30, 2012) – Mission San Juan Capistrano has newly updated its Native American Museum and Interpretive Room as a part of its ongoing efforts to improve the storytelling and interpretative value of the Mission's museum rooms.

The taxidermy attached to the walls, an outdated mural, and a large glass case crowding the room's gathering space have all been removed. These features are now replaced by more authentic and relevant artifacts, an interactive station, and props for learning and music, while creating more space for visiting groups to comfortably engage with the exhibit.

The Mission is dedicated to educating visitors on the historical and religious relevance of this historic landmark, including the significant role of Native Americans in the Mission's history. The updated museum room provides a more complete representation of the involvement of Native Americans in the construction of the Mission. It also focuses on the more recent roles that those with Native American heritage have played at the Mission.

The Mission is very proud of Jennifer Ring (Museum Registrar), Megan Dukett (Interpretative Programs Manager), and Marcia Equils (Graphic Designer), who redesigned this room beautifully, maximizing the space and improving upon the quality of its exhibits while working with limited space, resources, and time.

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 18th 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); \$6 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.