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CONTACT: Joe Haakenson
JUVE Creative, Inc.
(714) 841 9600
joe@juvecreative.com

NEW TOURS UNVEILED AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (April 3, 2013) -- Mission San Juan Capistrano recently unveiled two new tours -- the Swallows Walk & Talk tour, and the Serra Chapel Tour.

Every day at 1 p.m., the Swallows Walk & Talk tour gives visitors an opportunity to learn about the Legend of the Swallows of Capistrano, hear facts about the swallows and see the Mission's innovative Swallows Vocalization Project, created to lure Swallows to the mission.

The Serra Chapel tour is conducted every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. and was created in honor of Father Junipero Serra, who was born 300 years ago this year. The Serra Chapel is the most historically significant church in California, and a place where Father Serra himself celebrated Mass in 1783.

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.