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HISTORIC SERRA CHAPEL PAINTING UNCOVERED

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (May 30, 2013) -- In a never before attempted public preservation effort, Mission San Juan Capistrano Museum staff and conservators carried out an investigative process uncovering artwork that has been hidden in the Serra Chapel for the last 40 years.

The original painting, which is one in a series of historic paintings that came from Mexico to Mission San Juan Capistrano in the early 1800s, was uncovered Thursday and said to be in relatively good condition, according to Mission Museum Registrar Jennifer Ring.

The painting, "The Crucifixion," had been covered since 1973 by a replica painting because the original was in poor condition from years of exposure to harsh environment, movement and neglect, and the cost to restore the painting was too steep.

Thanks to a generous donation from a Mission supporter, the Mission was able to contract the services of Susan Brown Painting Conservators and display Art Installation Services to perform the conservation effort in front of about 50 volunteers, parishioners and visitors.

"I had no idea what to expect, this was a completely organic process and the results were breathtaking," said Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director of Mission San Juan Capistrano. "We are now inspired to do more!"

The painting will remain on display in the Serra Chapel for the public to view. The next step is to raise preservation dollars to repair, clean and conserve the painting for proper hanging and repairs.

For more information about making a donation to conserve this painting, contact Mechelle Lawrence Adams directly at (949) 234-1300.

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.