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STATION OF THE CROSS XII PAINTING TO UNDERGO CONSERVATION

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (Nov. 18, 2013) -- Continuing its efforts to serve as a leader in conservation and preservation of history, Mission San Juan Capistrano is embarking on a significant and exciting project as it continues to celebrate the 300th birthday of Father Junipero Serra this year.

The Station of the Cross XII Conservation Project is now underway, a project that includes restoring a painting that is more than 200 years old but had been hidden in the Serra Chapel for the past 40 years.

The Mission has chosen Scott Haskins of Fine Art Conservation Laboratories to lead the conservation project. Haskins will speak about the project on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. in the Serra Chapel.

"When completed, (the) painting should be stable and preserved for generations to come," Haskins said.

Jan and Warren Siegel have provided a generous gift to pay for a portion of the \$50,000 project. The Mission Preservation Foundation is continuing in its efforts to raise the balance of the project's cost.

The Station of the Cross XII painting, titled "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. But in May of this year, Mission San Juan Capistrano Museum staff and conservators carried out an investigative process uncovering the original artwork.

The replica painting, painted by William Maldonado, will be cleaned by Haskins and hung in Serra Chapel until the original is ready to display.

"We're privileged to have the opportunity to resurrect The Resurrection in the Serra Chapel," said Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director of Mission San Juan Capistrano. "It's going to be a challenging project that's worth every penny and every effort to restore it to its original integrity that was envisioned during the founding of the Mission period."

The original Station of the Cross XII painting is part of the Station of the Cross collection of historic paintings that came from Mexico to Mission San Juan Capistrano in the early 1800s.

"What makes it so significant is the fact that this painting stands unique because it's part of the architecture of Serra Chapel," Lawrence Adams said. "We stand ready to reveal this painting hopefully in time for St. Joseph's Day (March 19), but for sure during the season of The Resurrection, Easter, in 2014.

For more information about making a donation to help pay for the conservation of 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.