



MISSION BELL

Vol. 3, No. 3 / Fall 2014

Ring in the News of the Preservation Campaign for Mission San Antonio de Padua

A Message from Campaign President SUSAN GILL

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our donors. It is through your generosity that we were able to raise three quarters of the funds needed for **Phase I** of the retrofit. With this amount received in donations and pledges we were able to give the green light to our contractor Eagle Construction to start work at the Mission! We are so excited and happy to be able to share this news with you.

Eagle Construction anticipates **Phase I** will take six months. It is important the contractors begin work now as delaying the start of the project would take us into the rainy season, which would cause us to incur additional costs. You will find an article in this newsletter written by Joan Steele, Mission Administrator, which provides an update on the work that has begun at the Mission.

Although we started construction we still have a little more money to raise for **Phase I**. Since our last newsletter, we raised \$100,000.00 and continue to receive donations of all sizes from throughout the United States. In July and August we applied for several grants and we are thrilled the property for sale is receiving offers and hope to close a sale soon.

Again, thank you to all our many donors, volunteers, board members and everyone who is helping to spread the word about our campaign. Without your support we could not have started work on time. With your continued support I know we can reach our **Phase I** goal! ■

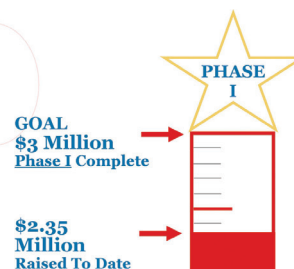
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CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA PHASE I FUNDRAISING



Make Donations To:
Campaign to Preserve MSA
Post Office Box 450
King City, CA 93930

Saving a Timeless Treasure



The Eagle has landed...at Mission San Antonio de Padua (as in EAGLE Construction)

Phase 1 of a Five-Phase Seismic Retrofit/Restoration Has Begun

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator and Campaign Board Member

Excitement is in the air – as is a great volume of dust – as **Phase I** of our Five-Phase, multi-year seismic retrofit/restoration project of Mission San Antonio begins.

The buzz of the saws and the persistent knocking of many hammers broke the stillness of a cool summer morning on Monday, August 4th, 2014. By mid- afternoon the construction crew had erected a series of wooden supports designed to shore up the lower roofs, enabling them to withstand the additional weight of the incoming scaffolding required to get the crew to the site of their work space.

The California redwood tree located on the northeastern side of the church had to come down. The tree, displaying a decidedly stressed disposition, was growing too close to the church walls and was negatively influencing the stability of its foundation. Don't despair, though, as the redwood was cut into 16-foot sections and prepped appropriately to ensure it dries properly for later use. It is the intention of the Project Team to mill the wood when dry (estimated to take about one year) and to deliver it to Rancho Cielo Youth Academy. In the year 2000, the Rancho Cielo Board was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purpose of developing a comprehensive center of learning and social services for underserved youth in Monterey County. Founder, former Superior Court Judge John M. Phillips witnessed the tragic cycle of offending and incarceration that many young people found themselves in. He wanted to create an effective alternative that would help keep first offenders from becoming repeat offenders. This school's staff has agreed to work with the Mission in repurposing the redwood into benches that will be returned to the Mission to their new home in the Padre's Garden.

Within the first few hours of the first day, the Spanish clay tiles began to be removed by the Salinas Valley Roofing crew.

After three long work days, the work week ended. After a few days of quiet, the dust settled and work resumed on Monday, August 11th. The remainder of roofing tiles on the lower roofs were removed, stacked and stored. As the next few days sped by, the scaffolding quickly climbed the outside walls forming a wooden exoskeleton.

Even though we've been involved in the discovery, preparatory and planning stages of this project for years, now that it's begun, it all seems to be moving sooooo fast! By the second week's end, the scaffolding is almost complete.

Monday, August 18th the roofers began removing the roofing tiles from the upper roof of the church. Construction workers began the labor intensive process of dismantling the now outdated chimney on the north side of the church building. Since we previously completed the restoration/remodel of the church's radiant floor heating system in 2012-13, which included the



removal of the old boiler and installation of new highly efficient propane boiler system, the chimney is now no longer needed. To address the potential hazard it could pose during inclement weather conditions (remember those?) we are removing it down to roof level, where it will eventually be capped.

While all this is going on outside, the inside of the church is undergoing its own transformation as the majority of the artwork has been removed from the walls and stored elsewhere. For now, the statues remain in place, although most are covered by plastic to protect them from the dust.

During the next thirteen months, as we work our way through **Phase 1**, we will remain open to the public. Depending on the work being done on a particular day, portions of the Mission may be closed off temporarily. If you are traveling a distance for a visit, please call ahead to make sure all the areas you want to see are open.

If you live more locally, please feel welcome to come watch our progress. Since the work creates a fair amount of dust, the church will require dusting EVERY week – on Friday or Saturday – so it can be ready for the 9am Mass celebration on Sunday mornings. Many hands make for light work so if your schedule allows for it, we'd love to have you lend a hand (or two).

It is exciting! We must remember, though, that there are still four more Phases to go. At least an additional \$10 to \$12 million will be needed to complete the entire project. It is both our honor and our responsibility to care for this historic treasure. Please continue to spread the word... far and wide... ■

Caring for Mission San Antonio's Art, Before, During and After Seismic Retrofit

By Ann Beckett, Campaign Board Member



As the self-appointed worrywart of the Mission's Museum Team, I began asking questions months ago as to what would happen to the artwork in the church when the roof tiles came off. I had visions of lots of dust and/or water drifting between the blue ceiling boards. There are seven restored statues in our church, all bolted to the walls, including St. Michael the Archangel, twenty-feet in the air, perched on a canopy. That was a project, getting him up there, involving a specially built scaffold. There are fourteen Stations of the Cross and ten or so other paintings of saints, some restored. There are also two large restored demilune paintings, held to the wall with lots of nails. (We have been having artwork restored, a few at time with grants from the California Mission Foundation.) Other liturgical items, candles, altar linens and the like are kept in the church.

Many options were considered, and the roof is on its way off. The paintings and Stations of the Cross are wrapped in sheets and stored in the Portiuncula, a room off the retreat area. Sean Steele and his helper moved them. They have all been catalogued on Past Perfect, our program for managing the collection, but because of the rather mature bodies of our team, which aren't very adept at climbing ladders, the catalogue numbers haven't been attached. That will happen, with little paper tags, when the paintings are hung again, some thirteen months from now.

The statues are covered with semi-opaque plastic, which creates quite an eerie effect. Our contractor wanted to remove them from the church, but the bolting to the walls, done by Deacon Dustin Miller, prevented that. The demilune paintings are shrouded in plastic, as is the organ. The sanctuary is bare.

We will have 9 a.m. Mass on Sundays, probably involving some interesting adaptations. Yes, we will uncover the organ on Sundays. Linens, candles and other liturgical items will be brought in on Sundays and removed again.

Walking into a church lacking most of its artworks, the remaining covered in plastic, gives the distinct impression that preservation is really happening, at last. There is more evidence outside – scaffolding, fencing, yellow caution tape. I can now concentrate on other worries – termites, mice, people handling artwork without gloves, proper terminology. We are in good shape at the beginning of **Phase 1** of our big adventure. ■



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Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

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OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
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Photos Wanted



*Fort Hunter Liggett Soldiers at
Historic Mission San Antonio*

Do you have old photos of Mission San Antonio in your attic? Maybe you have them in a nice photo album that's been passed down through the generations.

The Mission staff would love an opportunity to scan your old photos to add to our photo archives.

Please call Joan Steele, Mission Administrator at 831.385-4478, ext. 19 to discuss details. ■

Donor Circle

The Rava Family has supported our campaign since we began in 2010 and they have become true advocates for saving Mission San Antonio. They recently donated a significant amount to **Phase I**. With so many wonderful non-profits in our community we are blessed and honored they chose to give to our campaign. Thank you for your generosity and heartwarming support.

Rava Ranches Inc. is a family-owned and operated produce company that uses sustainable agricultural practices to produce safe, high quality produce while minimizing the environmental impact on the land so that its employees and customers can maintain a high quality of life.



The Rava Family's Three Girls

Have you seen the new sign at the Mission to let visitors know about the restoration project and our campaign? A very special **THANK YOU** to Bullseye Sign Company for the discount they provided for the sign work. We truly appreciate your support and in-kind donation!

Bullseye Sign Company & Graphics is owned and operated by Dan Bittick and Rich Tomlinson. They are located northwest of Paso Robles in Bradley, California and specialize in custom work as well as producing stock products for individuals and businesses. ■

