



MISSION BELL

Vol. 5, No. 2 / Summer 2016

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



Please continue to spread the word about our fundraising campaign and the **DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCHING DONATION** opportunity. Use word of mouth, email, Facebook, and Twitter to spread this good news. Help us broaden our base of support and also multiply our donations for Phase III-A!

Thank you for your support!

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***A Message from the President* AL PAROLINI**

In 1882, Mission San Antonio was abandoned after the death of Fr. Doroteo Ambris. Twenty one years later, the California Historic Landmarks League, undertook the task of rebuilding the church walls and roof. In 1908, following the San Francisco earthquake a temporary roof over the church is completed by the California Historic Landmarks League. Fast forward to 1948, when Harry Downie in conjunction with the Franciscans, restored the church and reconstructed the convento for use as a training school for the Franciscan Brothers.

Historically, Mission San Antonio de Padua, has been named as California's most authentic mission. Today, the mission sits in practically the same setting as it did over 245 years ago. Yes, the mission has had its up and downs throughout history, but as it stand today, it remains a significant attraction, as over 30,000 visitors of all ages and origins annually travel to visit this historic landmark, for its beauty and natural setting.

At this moment in the calendar year 2016, we are midway through the completion of Phase II, which entails the seismic upgrading of the south convento – involving the library, gift shop, museum and the southwest meeting room. In addition to the physical restoration of this wing of the mission, the plans for Phase III have been prepared for submittal to the county for review and approval.

Saving Mission San Antonio de Padua for the future is a painstaking and challenging task. To begin Phase III-A restoration work in the second half of 2016, the Foundation faces the challenge of rapidly raising \$2 million. This challenge can be realized if we can raise funds to match an anonymous donor's donation of \$500,000 **Dollar for Dollar Matching Donation** which was received in January. As was noted in the spring newsletter, beginning February 1st, new donations and pledges which are received during the next twelve months will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000, through this generous gift. Currently, new money and pledges for the period of February 1st thru April 30th totals \$45,000.

Through my own involvement in the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio I have been fortunate to see the positive change that happens when people work together to achieve a common goal. But it doesn't happen without tremendous effort. It takes all of us, working together, to create the desire, the enthusiasm and motivation to achieve our goal!

Please reach out to your friends and acquaintances to explain the importance of saving Mission San Antonio de Padua.

Thank you once again for your continued and most generous support. ■



Can We Talk? *By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator*

The late comedian Joan Rivers often used this phrase to open her comedic monologues; but, the topic I want to talk about is really no laughing matter.

Since October, 2010, you have helped us to accomplish an amazing feat...the raising of the funds to complete both Phase I and Phase II of the stabilization of Mission San Antonio de Padua.

Some days, when the sawing, drilling and hammering overhead is deafening and the adobe dust is falling in my coffee like creamer, it seems like this project has already gone on forever. Other days, it seems like the time has flown by, that we just began yesterday, and I look around in amazement at all we've already accomplished.

A project of this magnitude (no pun intended) – a hundred-year fix – is both tedious and extraordinary. As with any renovation project, surprises have generously afforded us with ample opportunities to learn, adjust and grow in the knowledge of our wonderful historic treasure.

Work on the south convento has proceeded with relative ease. We continue to receive structural surprises from the 1948-50 reconstruction team (under the direction of Harry Downey), and our structural engineer, Scott Haggblade (from



Construction continues on the south convento.

Donald C. Urfer, Structural Engineering in Soquel, CA) is kept busy formulating competent responses to these interesting quandaries. The Project Team meets on a weekly basis to constantly assess and adjust the work parameters and flow to ultimately maximize the available cash on hand.

In the Winter 2015 newsletter, we discussed the distressed condition of one of our three main bells hanging in the companario. We pointed out that the bells are the *Voice of the Mission* and that we were looking for someone who would

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CAN WE TALK continued



The construction crew installs roof beams on the south convento.

help us restore the western bell that is cracked badly in two places or replace it with a replicated version. Not a week went by after publication before two individuals stepped up to the plate and offered to help us with this task, Nick and Pierre Azcona. Utilizing a crane that was on site for the construction end of the project, we removed the 300 pound damaged bell from the companario and initiated contact with the company chosen to complete this precision work, the Verdin Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. Within the next few weeks the bell will be crated and shipped to Ohio where the five-month process to cast a replica of the bell will take place. Both bells will then be shipped back to the Mission. The cracked bell, now retired,



The 300-pound, cracked bell will be displayed at the Mission for public viewing.

will occupy a place of honor at a yet-to-be-determined area of the Mission, with public access to viewing it. The new bell will be hung in the companario, restoring the voice of the Mission...the choir of bells that ring out clear and welcoming throughout the Valley of the Oaks. *Thank you to the Azconas and Azcona Harvesting, LLC, for making this possible.*

This brings us up-to-date with where we stand today, at the threshold of Phase III-A Construction, the stabilization of the west convento. In order to maintain the optimum economy of scale, we need to raise another \$2 Million, **IMMEDIATELY!** (if not sooner!) While Phase I and II were relatively time-consuming, the stabilization of the west convento will proceed more rapidly due to the fact that it is a single sided wing and the south convento (almost completed) is double-sided (like working on two wings at once.)

The good news is that we will complete this phase quicker, the bad news (no, let's call it the challenge) is, that we will complete this phase much quicker. Thus, the rate

that the project is requiring funds to continue without interruption is also increasing; meaning, we will need a subsequent \$2 million in donations to carry us into the stabilization of Phase III-B...the north convento.

Way back in 2010 when we first formed the *Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua*, our Project Chair, Brian Kelly, likened this project to a train. He described the need to locate and engage a Project Team that would invest emotionally as well as intellectually into this multi-year, multi-million dollar seismic retrofit/preservation undertaking. He equated the Team to the Engineer and the Conductor and the Campaign Board Members to the individuals that would provide the crucial fuel that would allow the train to continue on its path down the tracks.

On August 4, 2014 the train pulled out of the station and this historic stabilization/preservation journey began. Approximately 100 weeks later we find ourselves at a critical crossroads. **We need a sizeable and immediate infusion of funds to keep this train moving forward.**

If you haven't given financially to this project yet, we now need you to step up to the plate and make an investment in this worthwhile endeavor.



Workers watch as a crane carefully removes the damaged bell.

Continued on back

CAN WE TALK continued

If you've given already, thank you so much for your show of support! We now need to ask you to give again. While our accomplishments are numerous and impressive, the journey is not yet over. The funds we raise are the fuel that will keep this train on the tracks.

To quote a passage from the publication, *Padres and People of Old Mission San Antonio* by Beatrice (Tid) Casey, in reference to the founding Fathers of the Mission, Padres Junipero Serra, Miguel Pieras and Buenaventura Sitjar, "It is their work we must study. Theirs is the labor that is to go on and on. Theirs is the responsibility for the San Antonio's failure or success. Idleness has no place here." Not much has changed in two hundred and fifty years. The work of the Mission continues and today it is your dedication and work that will be observed and remembered.

I sincerely appreciate the incredible show of support that each of you have already offered regarding this enormous project. It truly is this dedication that has empowered the progress thus far. We can't stop now! We can't leave the train out on the tracks, out of fuel, discarded and out of service. It's time to pull together, as never before, to get the word out to EVERYONE you know. Ask them to get the word out to EVERYONE THEY KNOW, and so on and so on. Just as the Mission was built one adobe brick at a time, so too, can the stabilization/preservation of it be accomplished...one dollar at a time.

There are no gifts too large or too small. EVERY GIFT COUNTS! It's not about equal donations, it's about equal sacrifice. What does Mission San Antonio mean to you? How much are you willing to sacrifice to keep it open? ■

MEET OUR BOARD



Board Member NATE HOLADAY

The Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua has an extremely dedicated and passionate board. In our upcoming newsletters we will introduce you to them and begin this series of articles

with a brief introduction to Nate Holaday, board member since 2010.

Nate was born and raised in Salinas. He attended Sacred Heart School, Palma High School, Hartnell College and California Polytechnic State University. A descendent of the Hartnell family, Nate's roots in the Salinas Valley are deep and he is committed to the preservation of the area and its history for future generations to enjoy.

We asked Nate the following questions:

How and when did you first come to know of Mission San Antonio?

I first learned of the Mission when I moved to King City in 1973 and joined the Young Farmers organization. The Young Farmers had been doing BBQ events at the Mission for many years and I began helping with the events.

Why are you giving your time to help preserve Mission San Antonio?

I've lived and worked in the area my entire life. I feel I am a part of the Salinas Valley and it is important to keep history alive for the community. I have been to many weddings, funerals, and events at the Mission. It is a special place for the community and for all who visit.

Do you have a special memory of the Mission?

I enjoy events at the Mission when I get to help BBQ. It is wonderful to see the people enjoying the Mission and coming together.

What are your hopes for the future of Mission San Antonio?

I hope the work we are doing to raise money to retrofit the Mission will keep the Mission open so the community will be able to use it for future events, the college students and 4th graders will continue to be able to study about the history of the Mission and surrounding land, the military and others will be able to continue holding retreats, and visitors from all over the world will be able to keep coming to the Mission. ■

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Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

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MISSION BELL *Summer 2016*

Inspiring and Stimulating Gospel Music Group Raises Retrofit Funds

Visitors and parishioners alike were thrilled to host two historic events on Sunday, February 27, 2016. *The Voices of St. Benedict Parish*, a Catholic Gospel Choir, joined Very Reverend James Matthews, from Cathedral of Christ the Light Parish, both in Oakland, California in celebrating a very rousing 9am Mass. Then at 11am, the general public was delighted by a Gospel Music Concert in the Mission church. We would like to thank parishioners Cheryl Bryant-Bruce and Ruben Flores for doing all the behind-the-scenes work to make this event happen. Proceeds of \$2,456 for this event benefited the Mission Retrofit/Preservation project. ■



The content for the newsletter is put together by volunteers. If you would like to contribute to a future edition or see a correction, please contact Elizabeth Diaz at 831-386-0599/info@preservemissionsanantonio.org.