



MISSION BELL

Vol. 6, No. 1 / Spring 2017

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

A Message from President AL PAROLINI

Momentum – One of Webster's definition of momentum: strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events—and the example used is as follows: *The wagon gained momentum as it rolled down the hill.*

The Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua is finally beginning to roll down the hill! As of December 31st we have raised \$6,493,000.00 and are approximately 60% through the five phase total retrofit project. Literally, we can envision the end and we are focused on continuing the momentum to ensure that we don't get distracted from all that is needed to complete this project.

At this stage of the project, we are breaking ground on Phase IV, the north wing of the complex, which encompasses 20 retreat rooms. Additionally, the internal work continues on Phase II & III—the library, gift shop, museum and west wing retreat rooms, respectfully. Bringing the overnight guest rooms and bath and showers into ADA compliance is and has been a major challenge, but one in which we will prevail. This internal work is painstakingly slow, but progress is being made.

On behalf of Joan Steele and the Board of Directors, we extend an invitation to visit Mission San Antonio and view the activity currently underway in completing the seismic retrofit and historic preservation of our beloved mission.

The Mission is holding its annual "Missions Days" on April 1st. It would be a great time to visit the mission, tour the work in process, and partake in the BBQ lunch. Held annually in the spring, this event with its participants, students and staff have worked to create a day in the life of the early mission—a re-enactment to reflect its early life during the 1800s.

I invite you and your family to mark your calendar, reserve this date and plan to enjoy the day with us. ■



"Mission Days" is an annual celebration of the life of the Mission during the 1800s.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA FUNDRAISING

Phase V
\$1.8 Million

Phase IV
\$1.5 Million

GOAL
Phase III
\$1.2 Million

THANK YOU!

GOAL
\$2 Million
Phase II Complete

THANK YOU!

GOAL
\$3 Million
Phase I Complete

THANK YOU!



Saving a Timeless Treasure

Come and See *By Brian Kelly, Project Manager*



AS FRIENDS, donors, and interested parties to the historical preservation of the Mission San Antonio de Padua, you are cordially invited to “**COME AND SEE**” the incredible progress and success we have achieved with the contributive dollars from the Campaign and yourselves.

From the planning, commencing more than six years ago, to construc-

tion, the project has moved forward without a shutdown, due to the fund raising efforts of the Campaign. This has allowed for the search and engagement of critical high quality contractors and subcontractors willing to come to the remote site to engage in the seismic strengthening, electrical upgrades, plumbing repairs and code upgrades, interior and exterior plaster repairs and replacements, mandated ADA requirements, civil site improvements, and numerous deferred maintenance issues.

Your contributed donations has allowed the engagement of the right people into a team focused on advocacy for the mission and dedicated to accomplishing the scope of work to preserve the mission for generations to come. The project is on a roll; the mission church is complete except for the painting of the interior; the museum wing is complete other than completing some cosmetic features, the west wing seismic work is complete, with the plumbing/bathroom work in progress, and the seismic work is underway in the north wing.

There is a vision to complete all three wings, the electrical infrastructure and code upgrades, along with the quadrangle



New plumbing/sinks have been installed in private retreat rooms by Knecht Plumbing and Heating.



The retreat rooms in the West Convento have been freshly painted and look great! Many thanks to Pete Vachek.

rejuvenation by the end of 2017. The vision includes avoiding a costly shut down and loss of the critical members of the team, and the added cost of startup if we don't raise the funds needed.

The project has a team of contractors, subcontractors, and the leadership to make this possible. It is critical to have your support and contributions to allow this to happen. To continue in a seamless manner, and maximize the contributions, the Campaign is in the process of raising \$1.8 million by the end of 2017.

We need your help! ■

This Place Matters *By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator*



We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel ... and a rainbow full of promises for the future of this historic treasure. This place does matter!

IT SEEMS like the holidays were just yesterday and yet, we are already well into Winter and winging our way towards the hope of Spring. Work on the Mission's seismic retrofit and restoration (aka *the stabilization of Mission San Antonio de Padua*) continues forward with equal hope. The proverbial light is now definitely visible at the end of the tunnel.

I won't attempt to give you another project update that reiterates the same construction/restoration details that have already been so aptly covered by Brian and Al in this newsletter. I invite you to look over the pictures I've provided for this issue that will bring you up to date visually. What I would like to do is, once again, remind you of how critically important this Mission site is to people, from near and far, young to old, and from many different walks of life.

During December (2016) and January (2017) the Mission has hosted numerous fourth-graders and their families on

visits, tours and private retreats. Located in the serene Valley of the Oaks, the Mission continues to offer a truly authentic Mission era experience to seekers of all ages and religious denominations.

Since our last newsletter conversation I have been contacted by a variety of people. The first was a woman calling from New York. She was seeking spiritual guidance for an extremely challenging episode in her life. Previously in her life, she had experienced the Mission in such a way that she felt led to return here (even if just by phone) for emotional and spiritual support.

A few days later I received a letter (written to Rosario, the Mission cat) from a woman in Morro Bay, CA. She has fallen on hard times and is seeking help to simply exist.

The following weekend I met with and gave a detailed tour of the Mission and its grounds to a fourth-grader and his family who spent a night in our Retreat Center while researching his Mission for his history project. Two days later I was giving a tour to a couple from Ohio that is deeply involved in research regarding the millstones used in the Mission gristmills. A day after that I was welcoming an interdenominational men's group retreat in for the weekend. Then came our *Annual Cutting of the Roses* event and brunch, when visitors from all over the state came to the Mission to celebrate the annual event and take cuttings from the roses and fig trees to propagate in their own private gardens ... and to have their own little piece of the Mission history at home. Following the event I received a phone call from an Army Captain who I'd met about seven years ago when he was training at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL). After he left FHL he called us when his two-year old twin granddaughters were tragically killed in a terrible accident. He needed someone to grieve with him and he reached out to the place where he had experienced compassion in the midst of his military training.

Continued on next page



Tiles returning to the roof of the West Convento, courtesy of Nieporte Roofing.



*View to the south shows the growing expanse of ground surface water courtesy of recent winter storms.
Our seasonal reflecting ponds entertain big hopes of growing into lakes of revelation!*

Continued from previous page

He is currently deployed and away from his wife who is undergoing chemotherapy. Once again he reached out for emotional support to the Mission that is still actively serving our military personnel.

I share this information with you to illustrate the vast variety of people whose lives are touched by the existence of, and the sharing of, Mission San Antonio. The list goes on and on.

This Place Matters! You've seen the placards on social media but I want to emphasize how deeply it matters. Mission San Antonio represents more than a collection of historic adobe structures. The Mission serves the community.

The historical, the educational and the spiritual needs of the greater community are met by the continued existence of this Mission. It would not be just disappointing to fall short of full completion of our stabilization/restoration project, it would be downright tragic.

We have come a long way on this project. We can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please help us to ensure that we reach the goal ... and that we don't let the lack of funds turn that light into an incoming train set to derail us.

This Place Matters! If it matters to you, please write yet another check to keep us on the track to success! ■



Our feathered friends have opted to spend an extended retreat with us. Weather permitting they'll be with us for several weeks. They say they love the new water features and the retrofit construction in the retreat wings doesn't bother them at all.



Our resident blue heron has assumed the responsibility of aqueduct maintenance (or fishing for frogs, we are not sure which).



The old Mission aqueduct is still on duty, moving water across the acres of Mission grounds for use in tannery, grist mill and irrigating crops.

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Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

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MISSION BELL *Spring 2017*



Our Mission ~ Saving A Timeless Treasure

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For other questions regarding IRA gifts,
contact Natalie Rava at Hayashi Wayland
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please contact Elizabeth Diaz at 831-386-0599/info@preservemissionsanantonio.org.