



MISSION BELL

Vol. 6, No. 4 / Winter 2017

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

In Memory of Rosario, The Mission Cat

June 2007 – September 20, 2017

After fighting valiantly against a toxin in his body, Rosario went on to the fields of heaven, where all good pets go.

Rosario was a wonderful ambassador for the Mission for the past ten years. Beginning with the miracle from which he was named, to the many lives he touched, Rosario left a loving legacy.

He is buried under the olive tree in front of the Mission. If you are able to visit the Mission stop by the olive tree and then sit a moment in the Padre's Garden, and allow Rosario's wife, Spirit, to approach you. Spend a few quiet moments with her, she's shy but friendly. She misses Rosario too!



Rosario and Spirit

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preservemissionsanantonio.org
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A Message from President AL PAROLINI

As we get ready to close out 2017 and embrace the new year I look ahead with hopefulness and confidence about the future of our Campaign. We have completed so much and come so far since starting this journey. Phase I, (the Church, with the exception of the interior painting); Phase II, (the south wing) which encompasses the Gift Shop, the library, offices, the museum, & conference room; Phase III, (the west wing) which is comprised of the overnight guest rooms and the seismic work on Phase IV, (the north wing) are all complete.

With all we have accomplished in the first four phases the remaining work needed to complete the project seems so small. All compliance issues will be met when we finish Phase IV, the electrical upgrades, plumbing, the A.D.A. bathroom and other compliance issues; and Phase V seismic work, beginning at the dining room, kitchen, smaller dining room, bathroom, archive storage room and car-port style tractor and tool storage area. In addition, with the objective of preserving the mission for the next 100 years, all of the electrical and plumbing within each of these respective areas will be brought up to code.

When I reflect on our fundraising I also see that we have accomplished so much, and what we need to raise to finish seems small in comparison. Since we started our campaign we have raised over \$7 million and it is anticipated that the needed funding to complete the remaining work is approximately \$3 million.

We continue to submit grants and explore new options to raise the additional funds needed. In October we received a \$2,000 grant from the South Monterey County Foundation and are waiting for a decision on a grant we submitted to the Community Foundation for Monterey County. We are well on our way to reaching the \$250,000 dollar for dollar match goal, with a little over \$185,800 raised between August 22 – October 31. We have until the end of the year to raise the matching funds and appreciate every dollar donated during this time. With the help of Gigi Greene and Joan Steele, we launched the **Wall of Wine Opportunity Drawing** on November 1st. You can read more about the fundraiser in this newsletter.

There is no doubt this past year has had its challenges, but I am confident we will succeed in our efforts to save this timeless treasure. I am extremely thankful for the support and commitment of our wonderful board, the project team, contractors and most important, you our donors. As we enter the holiday season, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I "thank you" for your support and generosity. ■

On a Stabilization and Restorative Mission...

Mission San Antonio de Padua

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator



Mission with Rainbow – the symbol of hope

HARVEY, IRMA, JOSE...tropical storms, hurricanes, earthquakes and firestorms...mass shootings and public terror...2017 has been fraught with an inordinate number of trials and tribulations. Why would I remind you of all these painful situations that have altered millions of lives? Merely because I want to acknowledge that whether on a catastrophic level, or simply on a personal, individual or family level, life can be difficult. Things happen to us; things that knock us out of sync, make us nervous, fearful and apprehensive. When our lives are disrupted by illness, financial hardship, separation and loss, we need assistance.

When disasters strike, we want to help. What can we do to help restore our sense of normalcy, our optimism, our hope-

fulness? We seek places that will enable us to recover our inner peace, reaffirm our confidence, reestablish our sense of well-being, rebuild our courage, restore our faith and renew hope in the future.

Mission San Antonio exists as such a place. Our Retreat Center continues to offer sanctuary to the world-weary. Tucked snugly against the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, Mission San Antonio offers a unique opportunity to step back in time, step away from the fray and rejuvenate. In a world that continues to spiral faster and faster, we need places like this Mission to allow us to slow down and re-focus, re-prioritize our lives. Whether for an hour visit or a week-long retreat, the Mission stands prepared to assist.

You know, if you've been following our journey through our California State mandated seismic retrofit/restoration project, that we have accomplished a lot together! We want to whole-heartedly thank you for your unwavering support. Thanks to you and many others, we currently stand approximately three-fourths of the way done. But we have NOT crossed the finish line yet!

We have completed the stabilization of all but the final phase, beginning with the dining rooms, kitchen, archives, laundry room, etc. to the east end of the north wing. We still need to complete the ADA and plumbing restoration of the North Convento. We need to tackle the seismic stabilization, electrical and plumbing restoration, ADA compliancy and fire safety installation for the remainder of the north wing (Phase IV). Then, we need to complete the restorative painting of the church and the civil work (grounds) in the Padre's Garden and in the area in front (south) of the Mission complex.

While some people may have believed we were done when we completed the seismic work on the church, they are sadly mistaken. A parish that claims only sixty-nine parishioners, ten under the age of ten, and the average age of seventy plus and living on fixed incomes, does not have the ability to accomplish a stabilization project of this magnitude. It is the income from our Retreat Center, in part, that makes it possible for the Mission to remain open for both the Parish and the greater community on a daily basis. If we do not complete the entire five-phase project, we will not be able to keep the retreat center open. If the retreat center closes, so too, will the rest of the facilities.

Through responsible collaboration, careful planning and employment of innovative solutions, the Retrofit Project Team has successfully utilized the approximately \$7 Million raised and spent to date. Capitalizing on our economy of scale and timing, we look to realize a \$4 Million to \$5 Million

Continued on next page



Peaceful sunrise at Mission San Antonio



Serene meditation in the Padre's Garden, Mission quadrangle with irises and California poppies blooming in celebration of Spring!

Continued from previous page

savings if we can keep the project moving forward. In order to reap this estimated savings, we only need to raise an additional \$3 Million dollars. This is a small price to pay for the continued insurance of Mission San Antonio remaining open and accessible for numerous future generations. Donations can be made as single time gifts and/or via multi-year pledges.

The fate of a precious historic treasure that continues to provide a very unique Mission experience to a world that desperately needs what it offers hangs in the balance. We need your help. We need your financial assistance. We need you to invest in this worthwhile opportunity.

There are many worthwhile causes asking for your year-end donations, please include Mission San Antonio as one of them. We need your help to complete this stabilization/restoration project, so that we can continue to help visitors and guests to restore and stabilize their lives.

Happy Holidays and may you enjoy abundant blessings in 2018! ■



Mission San Antonio de Padua nestled in foothills of Santa Lucia Mountain Range.

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Continued on next page

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In Thanksgiving to

Mission San Antonio

Joseph & Ilde Dughi

For Rosario the Mission Cat

Brigid Clawson

Happy Birthday to Al Parolini

Anthony & Louise Tesoriere

The following individuals and businesses have generously donated time and professional services:

- ☐ Armanasco Public Relations Inc.
- ☐ Casey Printing
- ☐ Natalie Rava – Hayashi & Wayland Accounting
- ☐ The Wecker Group Branding Design

Congratulations David and Susan Gill



Community Foundation for Monterey County 2017 Distinguished Trustee Award Recipients

Congratulations to our Past President Susan Gill and her husband David on receiving the 2017 Distinguished Trustee Award from the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The award honors those who have demonstrated philanthropic leadership in supporting nonprofits in Monterey County.

David grew up working on the family farm on the outskirts of King City. A third-generation grower, he heads Rio Farms and Gills Onions and is recognized as a leader in the agricultural industry. David heads Hartnell Community College's ag committee and chairs The First Tee of Monterey County.

Susan, a former educator, has been a steadfast supporter of local libraries and co-chaired the campaign to build the Hartnell Community College King City Education Center. She has served as a board member, fundraiser extraordinaire and hands-on volunteer for more than a dozen organizations. She helped found the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio and served as President for X years.

Steve McGowan, 2017 Board Chair for the Community Foundation, called the Gills "a dynamic duo for doing good," adding "The Gills have humbly, quietly and steadily been active donors and volunteers for dozens of nonprofit organizations from King City to Monterey. Their decades of involvement and leadership have inspired and encouraged others and helped change lives."

Read the Community Foundation's full article about David and Susan online: www.cfmco.org/news-events. ■

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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
Post Office Box 450
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION BELL Winter 2017

MEET OUR BOARD

Board Member DAVID ARMANASCO

I was born in Monterey and grew up in Carmel so the Carmel Mission has always been a part of my life. I have enjoyed two careers since coming home from college; fifteen years in the wine industry and since 1985 the public relations and public affairs business. I love Monterey County and feel privileged to have grown up, live and work in such a beautiful and diverse area.

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

My wife, Christine, and I have enjoyed visits and picnics at Mission San Antonio on one of our favorite drives to the coast on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. At dinner one evening we shared this with Susan and David Gill and I was told about the campaign and asked if I would come aboard, which I affirmed and accepted enthusiastically.



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

I believe Mission San Antonio is one of the rarest and special missions in California. To exist completely unencumbered by any development, in its original setting, is truly amazing. School kids and adult visitors gain a remarkable view into life at the mission as it was over 240 years ago. The visual story you can experience by taking both the outdoor self guided tour and museum is priceless and stimulates the imagination of the life at the beginnings of California. I also admire the determination of the Campaign Board and the many generous donors who believe in the importance of preserving Mission San Antonio!

Do you have a special memory of the Mission?

I have many special memories of the wonderful events held annually and staying in the guest rooms for weekend retreats. Walking the mission grounds at night under the stars and moonlight are magical experiences. More than any single experience is the special inspiring feeling one has by just being at the only California Mission completely preserved in its original setting.

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

We reach our goal so the funds are there to complete the retrofit and preserve for years to come an extremely important chapter of California's history! ■

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