



MISSION BELL

Vol. 9, No. 2 / Summer 2020

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

A Message from Campaign Co-Presidents SUSAN GILL & ANN BECKETT

THE COVID-19 VIRUS has been devastating to the world and the past couple of months have been very challenging, to say the least. As we continue life during this time of uncertainty it can sometimes help to step back from the constant negative news about the pandemic and remind ourselves of the positive news and the many ways people are coming together.

We have seen many acts of thanks and kindness since the shelter in place order – from neighbors stepping up to deliver groceries to seniors in need, to restaurants providing meals to healthcare workers and first responders.

One small town set up a quarantine “Bear Hunt” for young children. This type of bear hunt encourages residents to place a stuffed teddy bear or picture of a bear in their window for kids to spot while on a walk or drive. The idea was so popular online it has spread to other communities as well and is uniting neighborhoods.

In Monterey, shortly after the shelter in place order, Fisherman’s Wharf restaurant owners Chris and Sabu Shake were forced to close their four restaurants and transition one of them to take-out only, causing them to furlough 400 of their employees. To help employees get through the difficult time the brothers committed to feeding all 400 employees throughout the duration of the shelter in place order. Each day, seven days a week, employees can go into the restaurant and take home a hot meal at no charge.

Here in King City, the King City Union School District teachers organized a teacher parade. Dozens of vehicles drove

through many of the city streets with signs, balloons, decorations and honking horns for hours as the caravan of educators cruised along. Teachers wanted to let their students know that they missed them and were thinking about them during the school closures. Likewise, many students and families held up signs letting their teachers know they missed them as well.

These are just a few of the many, many heartwarming stories. Small acts of kindness are happening all over the world, raising spirits and reminding us of the good. It is inspiring to see people coming together to support each other and the willingness to help others during this difficult time. While the pandemic and social distancing is keeping us apart it also bringing us together.

At some point this pandemic will subside and we will get back to our lives, back to a “new

normal.” Until then we are extremely thankful for the grocery store clerks, delivery drivers, and of course healthcare workers who are bravely serving on the front lines.

Please continue to check on your neighbors, support local small businesses, thank our teachers who are teaching our children virtually from home while also trying to care for their own families, and most important take care of yourself—physically and mentally. It will take time, but we will get through this together. ■



We Protect What We Love

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator



WHAT A DIFFERENCE a few weeks make! When I last reported to you on the Mission project, we were completing the seismic stabilization and preparing to move full steam ahead into the restoration of the quadrangle (Padre's Garden), the upgrade of the museum and the protection and interpretation of the historic landscape.

Fast forward to today and we find ourselves sheltering in place, businesses shut down and our economy suffering devastating attacks. As we follow the mandates and recommendations of our health and public officials, we strive to produce a "new normal" where we stay home, teach our own children and use our remarkable technology to conduct business and stay in touch with our extended families of friends and family.

As Administrator of Mission San Antonio, I am fortunate, in that I am obligated to be at the Mission every day during this challenging time. I have animals and plants to tend to. Many of us in the Diocese are also working from home. I answer phone messages and emails from many, many people who want to know if they can just come and sit in the church, or on the grounds, and let the peace and serenity soak into their inner core. Unfortunately, I have to say "no" as we are obligated to follow the same guidelines as all of you and retain closure and social distancing.

Reflecting over the events of the past several weeks, I am wholeheartedly touched and encouraged by the number of people that have reached out to see how the "Mission" is doing and offering their emotional and spiritual support.

Many tell me that they just ache for a chance to return to this hallowed ground, for visits, retreats, etc.

This has confirmed for me that we are doing the right thing by stabilizing and restoring this precious historic treasure. It has been a long, costly and difficult road thus far but at least the end is now in sight!

While the work on the garden is currently at a standstill, we are moving ahead with preparations to resume work as soon as able. We have potted seventy of our best rose bushes to be replanted into our restored garden. We would like to offer the remainder of the roses for sale/donation to those who would like to have them for their own gardens. Watch for information or advertisements in local papers once that option becomes viable, or email me at office@missionsanantonio.net to let me know you are interested.

I have included photographs with this article to show you that the roof is now back on in Phase V and the limestone cement wash is near complete. The members of the Project Team have proven to be responsible caretakers of all of the financial support that you've given this project. We aren't yet done, but we have faith that we will complete the task we've been given.

Our hearts and our prayers are now with you and your families. We hope and pray that you remain safe and healthy. We pray for our first responders, our doctors, our nurses, our agricultural businesses and workers, our grocery store clerks,



our pharmacists, our scientists, our researchers, our postmen and women, our civil officials and everyone else that works on the front lines to keep us safe, healthy and fed.

We protect who we love. That's why this stay at home order is so important! We protect what we love. The Mission Parish Prayer Warriors are praying for you during this challenging time. Please include us in your prayers also.

We will emerge from this crisis, stronger and more committed than ever to complete this Retrofit/Restoration/Protection project. Places like the Mission are critically needed in this uncertain, turbulent world. We need to finish our job. Why? Because we protect what we love.

Stay safe! Stay healthy! **Stay home!** ■

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MISSION BELL *Summer 2020*



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