



MISSION BELL

Vol. 10, No. 2 / Summer 2021

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

MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA is open with minimal hours



CURRENT SCHEDULE

August 4–6	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 7–8	CLOSED (Sat. & Sun.)
August 11–13	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 14	Open 10am to 3:30pm
August 15	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 18–20	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 21	Open 10am to 3:30pm
August 22	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 25–27	Open Noon to 3:30pm
August 28	Open 10am to 3:30pm
August 29	Open Noon to 3:30pm

Hours are subject to change, please call 831-385-4478, ext. 17 to verify whether the Mission will be opened as scheduled above. Please Note: When the Mission is closed, so too are the Mission grounds, gift shop, and retreat center.

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

This year Mission San Antonio de Padua is celebrating 250 years since its founding on July 14, 1771. The mission was extensively restored between 1948-1952 and here we are almost 70 years later close to completing another major restoration.

Over the last seven years so much hard work (and money) has gone into restoring Mission San Antonio and bringing it into compliance, from the seismic retrofit work to the modern updates and repairs throughout the mission buildings and grounds. It is incredible when we look back at how much has been accomplished and that we will be finished soon.

We have learned from history the necessity and importance of preventative maintenance. The elements of nature and even just the daily use of the mission facilities will impact the mission over time. We must prepare for the preventative maintenance that will be needed, and we must have the ability to fund the ongoing maintenance and repairs that will inevitably arise. We need to protect all the good work that has been completed and keep the mission in its pristine, restored condition.

The next phase of our work will be to create a fifty-year maintenance schedule and establish a stewardship fund that will provide the money needed to implement it. The Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio bylaws state that the purpose of our nonprofit is to promote and provide for the conservation, restoration, and preservation of historic Mission San Antonio. Since the stewardship fund will be used to continue the conservation, restoration and preservation of the work that has been done we do not need to change our nonprofit status to raise money for the stewardship fund, but we will be establishing a new Board of Directors. We will begin accepting applications and nominations later this year.

As always, thank you for your continued and generous support! ■

Two Hundred and Fifty Years and Counting ...

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator & Campaign to Preserve Mission San Antonio de Padua Board Member

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a day makes, or a week, a month or a year! Multiply that by two hundred and fifty and we find ourselves light years away from the world in which Fray Junipero Serra



founded his third Alta California Mission in the peaceful Valley of the Oaks. To visit the Mission today, however, still elicits a visceral response that welcomes the traveler, stills the mind and calms the spirit.

We at Mission San Antonio work hard to honor our past while committing our efforts to continuing to serve the greater community. This is accomplished through Sunday celebration of Mass, our participation in the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Matrimony. We stand with our grieving families at funerals. We link hands with our native brothers and sisters at our annual All Souls Mass that commemorates the faith of our forefathers who worked together to build this amazing Mission community.

It is because of our great appreciation and respect for those who went before us that we were inspired to save the Mission...to tackle the enormous challenge of the seismic retrofit/stabilization of the Mission buildings and the upgrades necessary to restore, preserve and conserve this precious historic treasure.

July 14, 2021, two hundred and fifty years from its founding date, finds Mission San Antonio in a very good



state of being. Together, we have completed the majority of the project! Phase V of Five is still moving forward. Now a full seven years from our project start date (August 2014), we find ourselves busy with museum upgrades, site historic ruins preservation and proceeding with our project donor recognition.

Nuno Iron & Mfg., Inc. located in King City, CA was commissioned to build and install a new wrought iron gate in the southeast corner of the garden for the breezeway. They did a marvelous job and the gate looks terrific!

805 Custom Woodworks in Paso Robles, CA, has been commissioned to build six new "old-growth redwood" display cases for our museum artifacts and will retrofit and refinish thirteen additional existing cases.

Jeanine Hattas from **Hattas Public Murals** in Lake Balboa, CA, has been



commissioned to paint a 20' x 8' mural honoring the native Salinan People in the Valley of the Oaks, prior to the arrival of the Spanish Franciscans in 1771. We are working closely with the Salinan People to ensure that our rendition is historically accurate and in keeping with their oral traditions.

Our garden restoration has been completed and now is busy "growing into itself." Spring was welcomed with a hearty portion of the garden arrayed in California's native flower...the poppy! Since we didn't plant any in the new garden, we were pleasantly surprised when our Creator added his own personal touch! We are enjoying the beautiful native plants, flowering alongside the gorgeous roses reserved from the last two garden restorations (1948 and 2003). Our original grape stock, climbing the trellis by the historic well in the garden, have not only survived last summer's complete renovation, but are thriving this year with a bountiful crop of grapes on the vine. The newly restored fountain provides a relaxing and restorative backdrop to the garden's serene atmosphere. Bees are buzzing, birds are flitting around the blossoms and splashing in the puddles, frogs are singing and toads are croaking...the garden once again exudes life! The mission garden is an enchanting place; a place to quiet your mind, provide a pause in your active life and help heal your soul and restore your sense of balance and purpose.

We are currently in negotiations with Max Randolph of **Max Randolph Studios**, in Paso Robles, CA, regarding our donor recognition art piece to be located in the mission garden. Max is a renowned metal smith whose creativity lends a wonderful addition to this important element of our restoration project.



The lavendaria and the threshing floor adobe walls will be the first of our historic site ruins to undergo a preservative procedure that involves protecting the historic adobe walls by encasing them in an external, sacrificial layer of limewash. This method is used to accomplish two areas of concern – to make the ruins more visible to visitors to our Mission, and to keep the elements (sun, rain, wind, etc.) from further deteriorating the historic adobe. While this work

is currently on “pause” mode due to the extraordinary summer heat in the valley (the wash doesn’t cure properly in excessive heat), it will resume when the temperatures are reduced in the Fall. When these two areas are complete, we will review additional historic sites on the property for the same type of procedure, as future-donated funds become available.

The Mission Gift Shop has reopened with reduced hours. Please see the Mission website at missionsanantonio.net for current scheduling.

The Mission Retreat Center is once again open for both personal and private retreats. Care is being taken to keep our guests healthy and safe and we ask all non-vaccinated visitors and guests to wear masks when inside our facilities. Everyone is encouraged to utilize the hand sanitizer readily available on site to maintain the healthiest possible environment for us all to enjoy. ■

Mission San Antonio de Padua

July 14, 1771 – July 14, 2021

250 Years...a Legacy of Love...a Living Vine

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO...it was a different world from what we know today. Europeans were flexing their muscles and venturing into the unknown world of exploration and perhaps exploitation. Spain and Russia were no exceptions as they raced to conquer and claim land and people for their respective governments on what is now known as the west coast of the United States of America – California. It is a story that includes Czars and Kings searching to expand their kingdoms. It includes, as well, another group who were seeking to claim souls for another kingdom, honoring a mission assigned to the disciples over two thousand years ago.

This story demonstrates faith, provides adventure, and personifies endurance and tenacity. It is a story of the current faith-filled community comprised of descendants of the original native Salinan People, Spanish and Mexican military, Californios, Swiss- Italian ranchers and a whole influx of various people who immigrated into the area of what is now the Central Coast of California. The Mission provides a birthplace of agriculture, irrigation systems, the wine industry and the early emergence of Spanish influence on California’s current culture.

Today, Mission San Antonio’s community is populated by pilgrims from around the country, and around the globe. They are drawn to experience the serenity and peace that this Mission, one that time seems to have forgotten, offers to an ever-increasing, frantically active world.

Historically the first Mission in Alta California to be built without a presidio, Mission San Antonio now heartily embraces members of the Armed Services, who train at Fort Hunter Liggett,

in preparation for deployment to active war zones. MSA is now the only Mission completely surrounded by a military reservation and we consider it an honor to welcome and support those who serve our country in the defense of freedom. We are humbled by their dedication and their selflessness.

Our story includes many, many heart-changing, life-changing moments for those who experience overnight retreats within our hallowed adobe walls. These members of our ever-growing Mission family add laughter, joy and even shared tears...the stuff of life... adding priceless chapters to the Mission’s narrative.

Over the past seven years, this ever-expanding community family has risen to the task of providing over \$12 Million dollars in funding to complete the mandatory seismic retrofit and the restoration of Mission San Antonio. We are in the home stretch, Phase V of Five Phases, the Museum and Archives upgrades and the preservation of our historic site adobe ruins.

While our history is an important part, it is not the only defining aspect of who we are. The twenty-one Missions of California are often referred to as the “chain of Missions.” I would like to suggest that it is time to “break the chain”.

Please allow me to explain.

A chain is a static, unchanging element. While that may serve to explain a series of forts or watch towers, it doesn’t do justice to the true mission of the California Missions. Missions were meant to be communities. They were meant to offer a means for cultures to meet and meld, for education, and working for the common good, and most especially to be beacons of hope and salvation in a sometimes very dark world.

While we have completed the seismic retrofit and stabilization of the Mission buildings, we have an unfinished quest that continues. We need to maintain a spirit of hospitality, service and interaction

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Campaign Board Members

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Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION BELL *Summer 2021*

MISSION SAN ANTONIO continued from page 3

with a community that continues to need a place of refuge and restoration. We need to replace the symbolic chain with the image of a living vine. In order to achieve our true mission, we need to be an active, breathing, caring community. We need to nurture the vine that connects the Mission communities. Vines, like people, need tending, care, nourishment and love. Mission San Antonio de Padua



needs to continue to reach out and interact with the greater community to remain vital and vibrant.

This is a story that isn't yet finished. At this juncture we are faced with our latest challenge. How will we choose to write the next chapter? Will we invite...empower...celebrate the diversity of our community? Will we continue to find new ways to serve the people who find their way to our doors? Will we continue to care about the maintenance of all that we have restored?

What will be our legacy? Saving the Mission was always about more than just saving the buildings. Will you help write the next chapter of our story? Stay connected, stay informed, and stay the course. The vines that connect these Mission communities need care and nurturing. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Won't you join us in the harvest?

The purpose, the mission, of Mission San Antonio de Padua is not over! St. Junipero Serra gave us direction...Siempre Adelante ...Always Forward...never back! Let's write the next chapter of this historic adventure together! ■