



MISSION BELL

Vol. 11, No. 3 / Fall 2022

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

**WE INVITE YOU TO
COME VISIT MISSION
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA!**



Mission visitors will notice a new sign located outside the Gift Shop. The sign shows the location of historic sites, with dates of when items were added on the mission property.

Mission San Antonio is open Wednesday through Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sundays 11:30am to 4pm (following 10:30am Mass). It is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The mission will be closed November 21 through November 24 for Thanksgiving. We will also be closed December 14. When the mission is closed, so too, are the mission grounds, Gift Shop, and Retreat Center. Please call 831.385-4478, ext. 17 to verify whether the mission will be opened as scheduled.

We look forward to seeing you!

A Message from Campaign President **MICHAEL LUGO**

So many are coming to visit our glorious treasure and like us appreciate the beauty of Mission San Antonio. Recently there were visitors from upstate New York, New Jersey, Arkansas, and California. Our strength relies on our relationship not only from our California friends but our new friends who visit from around the world. These visitors will tell others of our beautiful mission, but unfortunately what is beautiful now will not stay that way 10, 20, 50 years from now without ongoing care. It's impossible to continue the maintenance or even think of further restoration without planning for the future. Our mission remains the same to continue to raise funds for the preservation of the historic mission for future generations and our vision statement our board recently approved is as follows:

Vision Statement

Our Goal is to ensure funding to fulfill our mission and provide for the ongoing conservation for Mission San Antonio. Plans include but are not limited to:

- I. *Further restoration and continued maintenance of mission property, structures, and artifacts.*
- II. *Restore the historical viticultural environment in partnership with candidate universities and additional educational entities.*
- III. *Continuation of Archeological research in partnership with designated universities through Archeological Field Schools.*
- IV. *Assisting the Parish of Mission San Antonio de Padua in providing present and future generations opportunities to learn about California Mission history and the Native American history for this site.*
- V. *Providing a simple, safe and comfortable Retreat Center to people of all faiths ...a place to rejuvenate "body and soul" in a beautiful, serene, natural, historic setting*

The funding is critical to support these and other historically linked activities, while ensuring the restoration work already accomplished is maintained into the future.

As the year is coming to an end we need your support. The board realizes that the cost of living has skyrocketed and there are many worthwhile causes. We appreciate if you would consider giving to our campaign. ■

Stories or Stuff? What Will Your Legacy Be Made Of?

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

WE ALL WANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES WELL. We want to love and be loved. Deep down, we want to be accepted for who we are and remembered after we are gone. We want our lives to matter.

Each and every day offers us a multitude of opportunities to do, say or act in ways that will affect how we are thought of and remembered.

We treat each other kindly, with respect and compassion. We help those who are in need of our assistance. We sponsor ideals, activities and organizations that articulate our goals and convictions. We “*put our money where our mouth is*” in support of events and places that are significant and bigger than ourselves. Places that matter ... to us ... and we hope to those who follow after us.

We know that you understand all of this. It is why you are reading this article about the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua. Most likely, you have been one of the integral people who have donated to our Campaign over the past eight years, enabling us to complete the seismic retrofitting of the Mission and to continue on with the restoration and preservation of the facilities and historic artifacts.

Mission San Antonio stands today, 251 years after its founding in July of 1771, as a place of peace, serenity, rejuvenation and hope. In a world that tends toward frantic activity and constant stimulation, we need places where we can take a step back, take a deep breath, stop running around, and just be. Mission San Antonio continues to offer this enriching environment daily, to visitors from all over the globe and both individual and group retreat guests. The Mission also stands as an important historic element from California's early years, before it was a state, before this was part of the United States.

Your legacy is written every single day, with every moment of your life. You will be remembered by future visitors to the Mission as one of the people who made it possible for the Mission to remain open to the public due to your generous donations. We need to remember, though, that the Mission is made of adobe ... bricks made of mud, clay and straw ... and it needs consistent care and maintenance.

Imagine this – You move to a new town and purchase a fixer upper for your family. You are excited and motivated by your new home's potential. You work on the repairs and the maintenance year after year. Finally, you have a beautiful home.

You live in your home for several years, enjoying both its beauty and its functionality. When it begins to look a bit weathered from the effects of the elements, and infrastructure systems begin to have issues, you ignore them. “I’m tired of working on it,” you tell yourself, “I’ve already spent enough time and money on this place.”

Meanwhile your next-door neighbor is always doing odd jobs around his house. Saturday mornings you wake to find him hammering away at a loose shutter or fixing the front steps. Just last week he was replacing his cracked sidewalk and painting his home's exterior. You get tired just watching him.

When the storms of winter arrive in late December, you're awakened in the middle of the night by the loud flapping of loose roofing shingles and you have to scramble to the kitchen for pots and pans to catch the rain that's falling inside your house! Morning dawns and you're able to locate a roofer, only to be devastated by the cost estimate he gives you for the repairs. “I don't have that kind of money! I guess we'll just tarp the roof when it rains,” you tell your family.

By spring you've experienced lots more bad surprises. The water that has been leaking into the attic has gotten into your heating and cooling systems. They have rusted and shorted out. Now, with the summer heat looming ahead of you, you realize that you will not be able to repair the cooling system.

That exasperating next-door neighbor is still waking you up on Saturday mornings. He's still working on all his small jobs around the house; jobs that keep his home well maintained and in good repair. You always did find him annoying, didn't you?

Now, let's step outside the story and ask ourselves, “Which homeowner made a difference in his situation?”

The answer, of course, is both. One made a difference by his action, the other by his inaction.

The home in this story is our own Mission San Antonio de Padua. We inherited a fixer-upper. We were then mandated by the State of California to seismically retrofit the Mission or face being closed to the public. In August, 2014, we enthusiastically began the physical hard cost work of this project. To maximize our dollars, provided by generous donations, from both private and foundation sources and generous grants, we completed the seismic retrofit and then repaired and upgraded the infrastructure, while we had the “roof off”.

Eight long years later we can now enjoy the fruits of our very hard labor. We cannot, however, sit down and decide that we are done.

We do not live in a vacuum. Time does not stand still. The elements of nature and even just the daily use of our facilities continually wear and tear at the remarkable work that has been completed. We can't sit down and ignore the continual preventative maintenance that will keep our facilities in their utmost condition.

Maintenance deferred most often becomes much, much more expensive down the road. We've learned this the hard way. Let's

not repeat the mistakes of the past. We need to move forward. We need to address our maintenance issues in a consistent and timely manner. We need funds to do that.

We need to acknowledge the necessity of sustained maintenance and repairs. We need to establish a fifty-year maintenance schedule and then raise the funds that will enable us to implement it. To do anything less would be irresponsible.

It is our responsibility, as the current stewards of the Mission, to procure these funds. The very conservative estimate is \$9 million dollars will be needed for maintenance over the next fifty years. We owe it to each and every donor who collectively contributed the \$12.4 million dollars we've invested thus far in this historic fixer upper.

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 with us in caring for the place of so many heartfelt stories?

We are asking you to continue to support the ongoing restoration and preservation work at MSA. There are many ways you

can show your support. One way is to give a one-time donation. You could opt to give on a schedule of your choosing (monthly, bi-annually or annually). Some of you may choose to remember the Mission with a bequest upon your passing. As you consider your own legacy, please also reflect on your own experience of Mission San Antonio. Share your own Mission adventures with us and with your friends and family. If you are so led, send us a few stories we could share in our newsletter.

It's the stories of our lives, not the stuff, that best paints a picture of who we are and who and what we love. Please take a moment and ask yourself, "Do I want to help make sure that Mission San Antonio remains open to those people who need a respite from the struggles and challenges of this world? Am I willing to participate? Will I play a critical role in ensuring its historic story continues to beckon to a modern world ... offering peace, serenity, healing and hope?"

The purpose, the mission, of Mission San Antonio de Padua is not complete. St. Junipero Serra gave us direction ... Siempre Adalante ... Always forward ... never back! Let's write the next chapter of this historic adventure together ... with a legacy of stories, not stuff! ■

Joseph Jacinto "Jo" Mora

Article contributed by Peter Hiller, Jo Mora Collection Curator

THE SUMMER OF 1903 FOUND ARTIST and author Joseph Jacinto "Jo" Mora (1876-1947) riding the El Camino Real as he explored the state of California. Picture him alone, riding his horse *Lady*, and carrying a bedroll, camera, journal, painting set and perhaps a change of clothing. One of his stops was Mission San Antonio as he penned...

"August 26, 1903 – It was really cold and I soon put on my coat. San Antonio de Padua—is the mission here, some 6 miles from Jolon. It is in a bad state to tumbling down now, tho' I learned at Jolon the Landmark Club [is] now going to restore it, and that the timber had already been contracted for etc. etc. It is an extremely picturesque old building and I enjoyed every second of the time I spent there sketching and photoing."

Many years later, in a descriptive introduction to the 1942 publication of his carte of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Mora reminisced about his time at Mission San Antonio:

"I camped several days at the deserted old Mission of San Antonio, making my sketches, painting and gathering material. It was then one of the most picturesque of the whole chain, as the outbuildings and beautiful arches were still standing. One day a couple of Indian vaqueros and a boy dropped into my camp, as picturesque a trio as I had seen in many a day. As I remember it now, they spoke but little English, and when they found I savvied



their noise [conversation], we got along wonderfully. Anyhow, I sent the boy back with a note to the shopkeeper at Jolon and some money, and I gave them a dinner party around my camp fire that night. The cookies, candy and soft drinks which figured in the menu set me back a couple of dollars, which was some party."

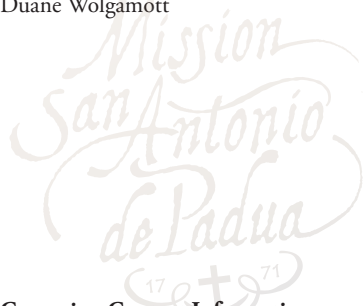
Jo was fluent in Spanish which heightened his enjoyment of his travels. Mission San Antonio continues to exist in much the same setting as it did during Jo's visit in 1903 – still a charming, and largely unchanged, moment in time.

The record of this experience is found in a journal kept by Jo at the time and now in the Jo Mora Collection which is part of the Monterey History and Art Association archive.

More info: jomoracollection.org ■

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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 *Fall 2022*

Meet the Board

Lawrence (Larry) Wise, Board of Director Secretary

My Great-Grandfather came to California in 1888, from the Azores Islands of Portugal. I was born in Palo Alto and have lived in California for almost all of my life.

I first saw Mission San Antonio in the 1960's with my parents. I have been coming to the Mission almost every year, some years more often, since 1984. The Mission itself is full of the history of California, set into the base of the Santa Lucia mountains much as it was 250 years ago when it was founded. The peace, quiet, and serenity of the place is beyond description. My eldest daughter had her wedding and reception at the Mission in 2013 and it was a magical event.

The times I've been to the Mission, where I was able to sit in the Padres Garden and immerse in the tranquility and beauty, are memories that will last a lifetime.

I retired as a CTO and Sr VP Engineering in 2018 after a 40+ year career in the Semiconductor Capital Equipment business, in R&D and Engineering roles for multiple companies. I continue to work in this industry part-time as a consultant.



Phoebe Wise, daughter Meredith Wise McCann, and Larry Wise.

When the opportunity was presented in 2020 to serve on the Board of Directors, to contribute in a hands-on manner beyond the financial contributions we've made over the years, I was more than eager to join. I plan to continue to support, financially and as a board member, the priceless heritage and environment that is perhaps unique to Mission San Antonio de Padua. There are few opportunities, where contributions on a human scale can have so meaningful an impact on so many people, now and into the future. ■

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 831-372-2259 / info@preservemissionsanantonio.org.

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