



MISSION BELL

Vol. 13, No. 2 / Fall/Winter 2024

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

A Message from Campaign President **MICHAEL LUGO**

WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE that Mission San Antonio de Padua recently hosted the first annual California Mission Walker conference, October 4-6, 2024. This historic event brought together guests from all corners of California, and the United States. The Mission was deeply honored to have been selected as the venue.

As a community, I understand that many families, including mine, may not have much money left at the end of every month. My family and I, however, have made a simple decision. It is easier for us to donate monthly to this beloved mission, than to try to give a large gift at year's end. I encourage you to consider this idea of a monthly pledge.

No matter the size of your donation, rest assured that it will play a critical role in preserving this unique and historic treasure, Mission San Antonio de Padua. Your commitment to this cause will be truly helpful.

The ongoing preservation efforts have included retrofitting and substantial restoration. With many projects planned for the future, our goal is to raise at least \$250,000. per year to keep our maintenance and historic preservation on track. When we approach a large project, we'll reach out with information for you and an invitation to participate.

By setting up a monthly donation, you will be a valuable member who is investing in the future of this special place. Your donations will combine with others' contributions serving as a Mission Community with a common goal, the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua. These donations will ensure that future generations can continue to be a part of this unique mission's unfolding story.

Please consider becoming a member of a family that ensures the preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua, a true California Treasure. One more plus ... your donations are tax deductible. ■

THE BOUNTY OF THE HARVEST and Continued Investment in Our Legacy

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator



Quadrangle Garden Update

FALL IS FLIRTING WITH US. A few cool nights and we're excited to welcome a change in seasons, only to once again be baked by triple-digit daytime temperatures. Welcome to Fall in Central California! We know the routine; we repeat it every year. We used the extended daylight of Spring and Summer to get a wide variety of projects completed at the Mission. Maintenance on the retrofit/restoration work is an ongoing process, critical to maintaining the best possible condition of the buildings and facilities.

Chris Ingram Lath and Plaster's team performed annual maintenance and repair on the adobe exterior. The crew from Sam's Tree Service completed an extensive project of trimming over fifty trees on the property. The focus of their work was safety for our visitors and maintaining healthy trees. Our quadrangle garden enjoyed a timely facelift, replenishing the cedar bark mulch and trimming the wide variety of native plants which now call this

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The Bounty of the Harvest continued

area home. Madrone Landscapes performed this critical work.

We welcomed back to the church a beautiful historic painting of St. Christopher, gone for almost a year, lovingly restored by South Coast Fine Arts Conservation Studios. A magnificent painting of St. James was also repaired, restored, and returned to the Mission. This painting had been donated to the Mission a few years ago after suffering a long and perilous journey through several countries, mistreatment, and even surviving a house fire. It is a lovely painting that, once framed, will find a home in the Mission's Gallery Room.

For three full weeks in May/June, 2024, we engaged a Geophysicist, an Archeologist and their IT Team from Archaeo-Physics, LLC, to conduct magnetic soil resistance surveys and ground-penetrating radar to document the historic use of the Mission grounds (specifically the original 8-acre vineyard area and its historic irrigation system). Mission San Antonio is unique in its ability to do this type of documentation, as we have never had a town grow up around us, nor has agriculture altered the historic underground landscape. We are awaiting the final report on this research. The results will help dictate the direction we take with the idea of possibly restoring a Mission vineyard on the property. We celebrate the bounty of 2024 and the amazing amount of



Hope and Joy, Rosario's niece and nephew surveying new cedar bark mulch in the quadrangle.

upgrading the retreat furniture (desks and banquet tables) with custom pieces from 805 Custom Woodworks.

We are planning future additions of more custom benches in the quadrangle garden, offering more areas for people to enjoy the peacefulness of the Mission, whether on a day-visit, or an overnight stay.

We are also considering consignment of a few bronze statues for the garden area, and perhaps an additional painting for the museum.

Our plans to restore the pavilion and fiesta grounds are temporarily on hold; we will need to raise a half to three-quarters of a million dollars to complete this work. As always, we have dozens of historic paintings that need repair and restoration before they can once again be displayed. We work on them as money becomes available.

We now have a full three years of experience and data recorded, since the official completion in 2021 of our seismic retrofit and restoration. This information affords us a firm handle on the dollar amount necessary to address our annual maintenance issues. It takes approximately \$250,000/year to keep this Mission and its facilities in optimal condition. If, and when, we decide to move forward on a particular project (i.e. the Pavilion and Fiesta Grounds restoration), we will let you know and will fundraise directly to address those projects. It is our goal, at this point – year end of 2024, to raise the \$250,000 we will need for maintenance issues in 2025. It takes a lot of money to maintain a Mission that is now 253 years old! It is our responsibility, at this time in history, to care for this historic, beloved Mission. Why? Because we want to be able to share it with our children, our grandchildren, and even their grandchildren. In a world that is often spinning out of control, we NEED places like the Mission. Places that offer the peace, serenity, grounding, and rejuvenation for our souls.



Grist Mill

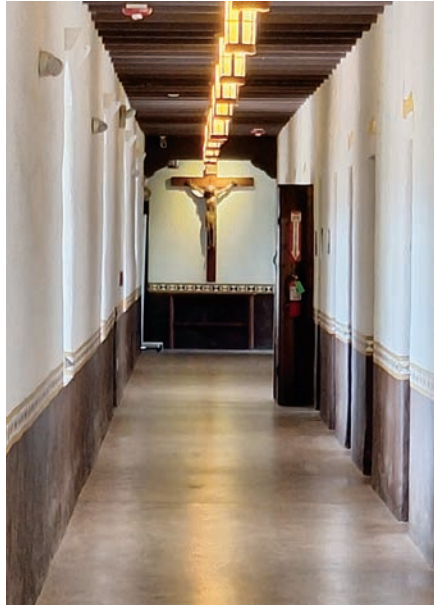
work that was completed, all thanks to your generous donations. As our Project Chairman, Brian Kelly, replied when I asked him, "Are you happy with how the retrofit/restoration project turned out?"; he said, "The Mission finally looks loved." What a wonderful response. It is our combined love for the Mission that made that statement possible!

As we approach the end of 2024, we are turning our focus to several areas. Since the main source of income to fund the Mission's daily operating budget stems from our Retreat Center, we are focusing on hospitality upgrades (new linens, pillows, beds, towels, etc.) to further enhance the comfort of our guests. We are

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The Bounty of the Harvest continued

Looking back on 2024 I am prompted to think of this place, not as much as a Mission, but as an Ark! During the rainy season, last January/February, we had three separate instances where three individual squirrels decided to burrow directly through the four-foot walls to get into the church building and get out of the weather! That required some serious adobe maintenance and repair! Then a wonderful hive of bees, while flying by on their journey, decided to stop at the Mission for a Spring retreat ... and stay! We thought we were good after the beekeepers came and took the hive and their queen away (to a ranch in Paso Robles), until the few bees that remained raised another queen and started another hive. This was, of course, in the highest point of the church attic. Another round of bee removal and then a very expensive structural repair to bar further retreats of this nature. While they were here, the bees did what bees do best. They made a lot of honey. This prompted the resident mother raccoon and her two full grown children (yes, they still live with her!) to go to the top of the church roof and tear the Spanish clay tiles off and break them, in an attempt to reach the honey. The repair for this damage was also expensive. Momma Raccoon and her kids have now repeated their new "game" at four other



New lighting added in the north wing of the retreat center

areas of the roof where we don't even have the excuse of potential honey. When I make a list of all the creatures who share this site with us and who are always trying to get inside, I definitely believe that we've become Ark San Antonio.

I hope that this gives you an accurate picture of what we've accomplished this year and where our focus will be for 2025. Everything we do is designed to enrich our visitors' and guests' Mission experience.

Your continued interest and support are much appreciated. It is our hope that you will be able to help us reach our maintenance goal of \$250,000 for next year's work. A year-end gift would be sincerely appreciated! If you can pledge a yearly donation for the next five years, at this time, that would help us tremendously in responsibly budgeting the critical annual maintenance plan. All donations, regardless of size, are needed and valued. We can't do this without your help! Together, the Mission San Antonio Community is building a legacy of history, educational experience, purpose, faith, and community. Please join with us in this process.

If at all possible, come see the improvements for yourselves. We would love to share the Mission with you. Please, however, do not climb to the top of the roof and rip off any more of our clay tiles!

Have a wonderful, wonder-filled Holiday Season! ■

Come Experience the *mission* of Mission San Antonio

By Joan Steele, *Mission Administrator*



Fountain in the garden

ON JULY 14, 1771, Fray Junipero Serra, a Franciscan friar from Spain (now St. Serra), founded the third of the twenty-one Alta California Missions in the Valley of the Oaks, nestled snugly against the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range. Serra's goal was to spread the Good News of the Gospel in the New World, saving the souls of the indigenous Native Peoples and establishing Christian communities. The goal of the Spanish government was to expand their territories and increase their tax base with the addition of new colonial citizens.

This article will not address the pros and cons of European expansionism. We all know that both good and bad came out of this movement, highly dependent on which side you were on

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Come Experience the mission... continued

and the disposition of the individuals involved at each Mission.

I want to focus, instead, on the original mission of the Missions. These places were meant to become Christian Communities. Places of hospitality and safety. Places where everyone would work toward the common good to include housing, food, clothing and above all, spiritual education and enlightenment to ensure eternal life for its inhabitants.

At Mission San Antonio, we haven't forgotten our initial mission. First and foremost, we remain a Roman Catholic Parish Community. From Baptism to Burial, we are here to walk through life's celebrations and challenges with our parishioners. We educate, we serve our community, we laugh and cry together, we pray for and lift up one another, and we welcome those who are inquiring about the tenets of our faith.

Our Retreat Center offers housing for both individual and group retreats in a variety of educational and spiritual venues. Our pristine location offers a unique perspective of a historical Mission and affords the perfect atmosphere for a step-back from the fray of our hectic lives. Mission San Antonio offers a place to relax, re-view, reset, rejuvenate, and reinvigorate our lives. It's a place of peace and rest, safety and serenity.



Updated retreat room

Whether you are considering bringing your family, your group of friends, your church family, your work community, or just getting away by yourself, we would love an opportunity to share our beautiful Mission with you. Rooms are simple, yet clean and comfortable. Private retreat guests are responsible for bringing their own pre-prepared meals, as the Mission no longer offers catering. You will have access to a refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and electric teapot in the dining room, but no access to the kitchen for cooking.

Groups, however, must provide a Certificate of Insurance that includes the Mission as an additionally insured property on your policy for the days you have participants on site. Groups pay a facility usage fee and have access to the kitchen, conference room, small chapel, etc. for their retreat use. They can bring in their own cooks to prepare meals for them, cook together with their group members, or arrange with local restaurants to deliver meals to them.

The quadrangle garden is newly restored and filled with a wide variety of native plants. Enjoy the relaxing sound of the water tumbling down the fountain and the fish swimming through the cool water and nibbling at the flowering lily pads. Delight in the industriousness of the hummingbirds and bees, intently working their way to every flower in this lovely native garden. In the evenings you can revel in the absolute splendor of the universe, on full display in the night sky, courtesy of the absence of any light pollution.

All reservations can be handled online at office@missionsanantonio.net. The retreat center is closed Sunday through Tuesday evenings and on holidays. Dates for 2025 are filling up fast, so if you are considering a retreat, individual or group, please contact us as soon as possible for



Renovated restrooms in the retreat center

Come Experience the mission... continued

your reservations. While on site, be sure to visit our Mission Gift Shop and Gallery. With our Circle of Giving program, we have dozens and dozens of artists who consign their crafts for sale in our Gift Shop. Items are unique and personal and not the run-of-the-mill items that you find at every other gift shop on the Central Coast.

Your stay at the Mission also includes your entrance into our newly refurbished Mission Museum – 10 rooms of historic items,

clearly identified and beautifully displayed. It's a not-to-be-missed part of your Mission experience.

If you come for the weekend, you are welcome to join us for our recitation of the Rosary at 10am in main Church. Then, please stay and join us in our Parish's celebration of the Mass at 10:30am. All are welcome!

P.S. The funds from the operation of the Retreat Center are critical to the success of meeting our annual operational budget. ■

The California Mission Walkers

By S. Woody



Walkers on a Pilgrimage

THE CALIFORNIA MISSION WALK is a pilgrimage on foot between the twenty-one historic Spanish missions founded in California from 1769 to 1823. A growing number of people are walking this challenging 800-mile route that follows the El Camino Real through California.

The reasons people walk this California Camino are varied. Some walk it as a religious pilgrimage, while others for a greater appreciation of California's vast beauty and complex history, and others for the unique challenge and adventure of completing this



Conference attendees who have completed the walk to all 21 missions journey along California's scenic Pacific shores, busy city streets, and quiet country roads. Over the past twelve years, a supportive community of over 2,500 people has grown around this walk and created the California Mission Walkers organization.

This first California Mission Walkers conference gathered this community in California's Central Coast, at the picturesque **Mission San Antonio de Padua**, on October 5, 2024. The theme of the conference was *The Mission Walk: A California Pilgrimage* and the purpose was to examine the California Mission Walk, share experiences, encourage and help others to start their journey, celebrate those who have walked the missions, and further strengthen the bonds of this growing community. Over 140 people attended this event, which featured speakers and workshops about mission history, mission art, and the California Mission Walk. The keynote speaker was Edie Littlefield Sundby, author of *The Mission Walker*. For more information about the California Mission Walkers go to: www.missionwalk.org or email: californiamissionwalkers@gmail.com ■

Donation Platform Change

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR DONATION platform from PayPal to Vanco Payments.

Vanco has been working with community organizations for over 30 years. The company works with more than 40,000 churches, faith-based groups, nonprofits, schools and educational

organizations to securely processing payments and donations.

If you currently have a recurring donation through PayPal those donations stopped being processed on October 15th. If you are interested in continuing your contribution, please visit our website to set up your donation through Vanco. For more information about Vanco go to www.vancopayments.com. ■



Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua

Charitable and Estate Planning Guidelines

These guidelines offer ideas and approaches for contributing to the Campaign from a Charitable Giving and Estate Planning perspective. Please use this document in consultation with your Financial Advisor or Estate Attorney in making plans that include the Campaign as a beneficiary of your generosity.

Donation Approaches

Below please see some suggested means of donating. Your financial advisor can elaborate on these and other ways that donations can be made, often with significant tax advantages. The table entries are offered as a starting point for your planning.

Donation Method	Key Attributes	General Limitations	Comments
Cash Donation	■ Donate by check, on-line transfer, or credit card	■ Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limits on donations	Can be done directly by the donor. Can be one-time or recurring.
Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)	■ Works like a normal tax deduction ■ Specified by the donor	■ Same AGI limits as cash contributions	Account custodian is informed by donor when and how much to transfer to recipient charity.
Donation of Appreciated Securities	■ No liquidation of securities and long-term capital gains tax.	■ Same AGI limits as cash contributions	Can be done directly through the account custodian.
Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)	■ Donation made from an IRA ■ Counts toward annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), if required from an IRA ■ Not included in taxable income	■ Annual limit of \$105,000 (2024) ■ Must be at least 70½ years old to make a QCD contribution ■ Not considered a tax deduction	Can reduce or eliminate RMD amount counted as taxable income, minimizing tax bracket impacts and potential Medicare rate increases due to AGI level. Can also be a recurring (annual) donation.
Charitable (Estate) Bequest	■ Made directly from the estate ■ Reduce size of estate for tax purposes	■ Consult with your attorney	Consult with your Estate Attorney first before discussing the bequest with the Campaign.

Making Your Donation to the Campaign

The Campaign's objective is to raise \$2,000,000 over the next two to three years in order to endow the Mission's on-going restoration as well as to sustain the work already accomplished. The \$2,000,000 goal will provide the Mission with at least a twenty-year time horizon of growth and service to the community engaged with the Mission.

Planning your donation requires considering your means and overall donation objectives. Donors may make a single donation or bequest, or they could consider making a multi-year donation that renews annually. Joan Steele is your first Campaign contact with whom to discuss your donation plans. She is the Mission Administrator and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Campaign. Joan and the Campaign Board members can provide the necessary information to support your planning with your Financial Advisor or Estate Attorney.

Joan Steele can be reached daily Monday through Friday through the following means:

Telephone: 831-385-4478

Email: office@missionsanantonio.net

Other basic charity information:

Legal Name:

Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua

Mailing Address:

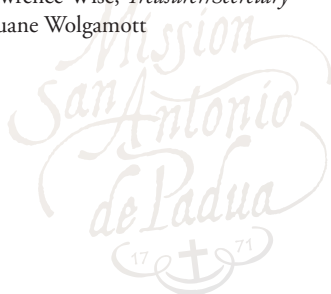
Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua
Post Office Box 450
King City, CA 93930

Tax ID Number: 27-4012100



Campaign Board Members

Clancy D'Angelo
Susan Gill, *President Emeritus*
Michael Lugo, *Interim President*
David Mascorro
Jessica Rogers
Joan Steele, *Mission Administrator*
Lawrence Wise, *Treasurer/Secretary*
Duane Wolgamott



Campaign Contact Information

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EMAIL info@preservemissionsanantonio.org

CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
Post Office Box 450
King City, CA 93930

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION BELL *Fall/Winter 2024*



Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

Sharing Your Gifts

AUTHOR, PAULO COELHO, SAYS, “The reward for our work is not what we get, but what we become.”

That is a profound thought.

Spring is blooming and everything is infused with new life. This is a good time to review our own lives to see where there is room for new growth.

While you are considering your many talents and gifts, please also consider how you might share them with a very special place that we've all come to cherish . . . Mission San Antonio de Padua.

We are currently looking for new Campaign Board Members. We are primarily seeking individuals who love the Mission and want to help secure its best future. Board Members work together to spread the word about the Mission; they help tell the story of MSA and explain our future

goals, projects, and maintenance and restoration issues. We talk to people; we make connections. Our love for this unique place spills out into our conversations, our relationships and our social media posts.



“Iron Oak” Donor Appreciation Tree

We are looking for individuals who are willing to reach out to others and invite them to be part of the Mission story by donating to a very worthy cause.

Do you have any prior fundraising experience? Do you enjoy working with people and sharing their experiences? Do you have time to devote to helping us secure funding for future restoration and maintenance needs?

We need you and your unique gifts to continue to honor Mission San Antonio, its history and its future.

Please contact us at office@missionsanantonio.net if you are interested in participating with the Campaign Board. ■

**Thank You to the
2023 Donors who we
missed recognizing:**

**In Memory of Matthew
David Schmierer**

Sharon Muha

**Thank You to the
2024 Donors**

Individual Donations

Anonymous Donor thru

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Paul Cain Family

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& Diane (Cole) Hansen

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Barbara Richardson

In Memory of

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and Family

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Ilde Dughi and Family

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Clem and
Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Ross Ramsey

James and Christi Dowd
Clem and
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In Memory of
Sue Sargenti

Clem and
Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Tommy Smothers

Clem and
Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Diane Sweet

Clem and
Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Susie Sweeten

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Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Winky Thommarson

James and Karen Fanoe

Glenda Rodman and
Family

In Memory of
Rick Thorup

Clem and
Barbara Richardson

In Memory of
Fr. Norman Weslin

Daniel and Carol
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In Memory of
Harry J. Zahner

Jill Zahner

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

- Armanasco Public Relations, Inc.
- Tim Baldwin, Attorney – Noland Hamerly Etienne & Hoss
- Casey Printing
- Natalie Rava – CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)
- The Wecker Group Branding/Design

*Donations received through
September, 2024*