



*St. Joseph Apache
Mission and Veterans'
Memorial*

*Restoration Project
Progress Report*

April 2011- October 2011

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May is here! We are looking forward to a very productive summer. We have hired two young men from Mescalero to work for the summer. The first is Gilbert Garcia. Gilbert was raised here on the reservation. He is a polite and responsible young man and it is fun getting to know him better. He is Sr. Juanita Little's, nephew. He was a great help with erecting the new scaffolding and is now learning how to clean out the deteriorated mortar and cleaning the stone to prepare it for some new mortar. Director/Foreman Tommy Spottedbird thinks that he will be a quick learner.

School will be out the third week of this month and at that time our second trainee will join us. Sky Kaydahzinne is eighteen and he will work for the summer and then return to finish his senior year of high school late in August. Sky is also a Tribal member and has a passion for sports. Sky comes from a long line of very talented artists and he has inherited that talent.

We also are waiting to hear from Isaiah Quintana, (one of the trainees that we had last year) to see if he will be returning to work with us for his summer break from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. This is quickly shaping up to be an industrious summer for us. The crew will spend the next five months working with the trainees on the west exterior wall where the entrance to the Mission is.

Martin Pizarro has been working on the Restoration Project since 2007 through a special grant. Martin has extensive construction experience which has been a huge help especially with carpentry work. Martin and his wife Norma live in Ruidoso with their two children, Eric and Angelica.

When we starting designing the stained glass windows Martin was very excited, he asked if he and Norma could donate the money for a St. Martin de Porres window. Saddened that his patron saint was not in the plan he decided on sponsoring the St. Jude window. St Jude is the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes. The window is dedicated in honor of the Pizarro family.

Teresa Thompson is the artist who has made all but one of the windows in the church. Teresa is well sought after for her work and is currently working our small windows in between the huge panels that she is under contract with Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic church in Roswell, NM. The next window that she will be working on will be the St. Cecilia window. St. Cecilia is the patroness of music. The window will be placed above the choir and is

being donated by choir member, Clarice Rocha, and her family.

The crew spent most of the past winter working on the south-west interior wall. Starting on the top of the fifty-plus foot wall and working down to the second level above the floor. They will leave those two levels for next fall when the cold weather sets in and they have to return inside the church to work.

While the scaffolding was in place the crew also repaired the window, sanding, sealing and painting the framing. This was the only window without any cracked or broken panes. It now looks as good as new. The scaffolding inside the church has been mostly taken down with only the area left where the repointing work is not finished, this will give the crew an area to work on in case of bad weather over the summer.

The Bull Elk Raffle was a great success. The winner was Kerry Walsh from Pearland TX. Kerry and his wife Linda have been great supporters of the restoration project and we were happy that they were the winners. We are hoping to get another Elk permit this year and have an all-inclusive Trophy Bull Elk Hunt. We are currently preparing for our 12th Annual Raffle. Last year's winner of the \$1,000 donated it back to the project. We are always moved by such generosity. This year we will again have fourteen great prizes. Besides the \$1,000 cash prize we will have a framed, signed print of Mel Herrera's Crown Dancers. Mel is a Mescalero artist who is extremely talented and generous.

Christmas is always so beautiful at the Mission, from the decorations to the services, and from the snow to the visitors. The people here at St. Joseph Apache Mission parish always look forward to remembering the birth of Christ. Nothing is as spectacular as Mid-night Mass, where people come early to get a place to sit. This is one of the times throughout the year that the church overflows its capacity and many people are forced to stand throughout the celebration.

This year Christa Baca used sign language while the choir sang the Our Father. There were many visitors some from as far away as Germany, California and Oklahoma. The placement of baby Jesus in a traditional Mescalero Apache cradleboard into the nativity teepee was done by Leandra Schimal who had made her puberty ceremony the past summer. This is truly an important part of the service, as is the use of Mescalero Apache music melding the Catholic and Mescalero traditions together. "The church building is a powerful example of cultural-blending, a reflection of the region's heritage, and the vast array of people who call this place home." We hope that you will visit soon.

Last month four different singing groups along with their dancers and medicine men gave our pastor, Father Paul Botenhagen, OFM, a deeply powerful and moving traditional Mescalero Blessing Feast. The first night the cooks fed over 1000 people and the second night around 800. Father Paul was very moved and honored, the women made a huge circle around him, adorned in their shawls and dancing while the singers and drummers played their blessing prayers. The dancing continued into the early hours of the mornings. It is important to us to be able to mix our Catholic and Apache traditions together.

Since 1998 we have raised \$2,020,787 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission church and Veterans' Memorial. Of that amount 49% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 23% from individuals, 13% through our stewardship program and the remaining 8% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "**Restoration Heroes**" have contributed \$253,322

since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,987,112. Seventy-two percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of April 30, 2012 the balance in the restoration fund was \$43,423. Income from this reporting period (November 1, 2011- April 30,2012) was \$86,005 and expenses were \$80,804. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$18,450. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project began has been \$1,238,135. We could not have accomplished as much as we have without all who have donated their time and talents to the project.

Since 1998 we have received grants or major donations from: the Stockman Family Foundation, Katherine D. Ortega through the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, the William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation, the Robert and Evelyn McKee Foundation, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the John and Katherine Naudin Foundation, the Burkitt Foundation (through the El Paso Community Foundation), the Rayonier Foundation, the Johnston-Lemon Group, Inc., the Chatlos Foundation, the LEF Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, the Daniels Fund, the Greater Houston Community Foundation, the Kerr Foundation, the Native Plant Society Otero Chapter, The Kay & Ray Denkhoff Fund through the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, T&M Braum Foundation, the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province, CA, Saints Simon & Jude Parish in Huntington Beach, CA, St. John Neumann Parish, Lubbock, TX, the late Cecil Russell, the late Clarence & Virginia Brown, David & Deedee Tremblay, Joseph & Barbara Kelly, Paul & the late Carmen Brusuelas, Sue Koepp, Jeffrey & Marie Spara, the late Louis Burleson, Barrett & Patty Covington, Felix & Nance Dupuy, the late Michael Pulice, Jesus & Rosario Ontiveros, Angela Jessee, William & Martha Murphy, Justin & Anna-Marie Roach, Richard & Mary Sue Mackey, Colin & Cecile Archibald, Paul & Marie Burgess, Bruce & Helen Klinekole, Michael Sell, Rose & the late Keith Miller, David & Mary Serna and the Estate of Benjamin Vaitus.

With two years left to complete the project it seems like yesterday that some of us were talking about how we were possibly going to pull off such a huge project without any funds. Now with twelve years behind us, we know that it was only done through hard work, passion, perseverance, and the help from many foundations and people who viewed what we are doing as important enough to invest in us and the project.

We plan on continuing our search for new funders and respect our partnership with those that have been supporting us. We are happy and proud of the work that this grassroots community project has accomplished and are committed to finishing the project in a timely fashion.

Soon we will begin working on our final phase of completion and planning our celebration to mark the end of the project with a traditional Mescalero Apache Blessing Feast. The public will be invited. The committee will be providing food, and there will be traditional blessings and dancing by the Mountain Spirit Dancers (Crown Dancers). This is a time where the people of our community can show their appreciation to all who have supported this important endeavor that is saving a majestic and sacred piece of their history while “Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives”.

Lastly we will be establishing an endowment fund to insure that the building continues to be supported and maintained in the future.