

# The Burden Basket



## St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

PETER A. BOEGEL O.F.M.

#### Funding Progress

Since fundraising began in February 1998 we have raised \$602,516. Of that amount 40% came from Foundation Grants, 51% from our generous donors, and the remaining 9% from the hard work of raffles, food sales, concerts and interest earned. With 33% of funds needed, we are making amazing progress! The work continues: expenses to date have been \$522,116.



My Dad used to say, "If you are going to do a job, do it right." I feel so proud of our restoration crew. Each person exhibits such care and concern in performing their job. To date we have hand-troweled approximately 30 tons of mortar into the walls of this cherished church and veterans memorial. As we restore and strengthen the stone walls, we make any other necessary repairs to windows, woodwork and pieces of art. This is truly a labor a love for everyone involved. Our crew and supporters can be proud of the good job we are accomplishing together.

#### RESTORATION WEBSITE

[www.matisp.net/stioes1.htm](http://www.matisp.net/stioes1.htm)

<http://www.stjosephmission.org> (7/22/05)

Thanks to **Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc.** and webmaster Steve Lee our new website is up and running. Donations for the restoration project can now be made on our secure donation page.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the site, let us know.

Thank you Mescalero Apache Telecom for this wonderful donation of time, talent and resources.

Please take some time and visit us at:

#### CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOSEPH APACHE MISSION

Christmas is always so beautiful here at St. Joseph Apache Mission. This year the restoration work in the "apse" area (behind the altar) was partially hidden by the full-size teepee and the 10 Christmas trees that were towering 12 to 15 feet tall.

Midnight Mass is a favorite service and the candlelit church is a sight to behold.



Revenue & Expenses	
7/1/03 - 4/19/04	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Payroll Expenses	\$74,338
Equipment & Supplies	\$5,990
Workshop Training	\$3,054
Professional Fees	\$6,545
Administration & Fundraising	\$4,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94,248</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Foundation Grants	\$54,000
Steward Program	\$12,055
Donations	\$28,470
Fundraisers & Interest	\$13,568
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$108,093</b>
Fiscal Year to 4/19 ending funds	
<b>\$92,589.93</b>	
In-Kind Donations by Volunteers:	<b>\$123,213</b>

## SUMMER RESTORATION TARGET AREA



*Tommy and Brother Peter removing clay tile while Arylis hoists the tile down in buckets.*

Now that winter has finally given way to spring, the crew is busy preparing the roof behind the apse to support the scaffolding that will provide access to one of the work areas for the summer months.

Many of the clay tiles of the roof are cracked and broken. Preservation architect Dale Zinn made a site visit in April and brought along a roof contractor to give us an assessment and estimate for repairing and re-roofing the church. It is evident that we have

no choice, but to repair and replace the clay tile roof to insure the protection of the walls and interior. This will also help to eliminate another entryway used by the bats. The roof contractor suggested that we replace the clay tile with concrete tile of the same color. The concrete tile is more durable for this climate, and also stronger for the occasional times when walking on the roof to make repairs is necessary.

We are hoping to sell the original tile to help pay for the new roof, so if you know of anyone who would like to purchase one or more vintage La Luz tiles, please contact our office. We will enlist the aid of local artists to paint images on some of these tiles, turning them into little works of art for sale. If you are interested in making a donation to be used to purchase the new roofing material you can send it with a notation that your donation be used for the roof. Thanks!



*Tile stacked and ready to sell; this is your chance to support the restoration while owning a piece of the Mission.*

## CROSSROADS OF CULTURE CONFERENCE

We were invited to give a presentation at the “Crossroads of Culture” conference held in Las Cruces, NM this April. This event was the 8th annual conference sponsored by the **New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance** based in Santa Fe. It was a great opportunity to meet others who are involved in heritage preservation and restoration work. The presenters were from all over the state, representing state departments, community

groups, Tribal programs, and Alliance members

Our 90-minute presentation was entitled, “Restoring a Church, Restoring Ourselves.” Brother Peter gave a *Power Point* presentation telling the story of our project, then Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna spoke about their experiences as members of the restoration crew. It was fun. We made some new friends and perhaps inspired a few with our work.



*Brother Peter explaining repointing methods*

## THE APACHE CHRIST GETS CLEANED AND PROTECTED



*The Apache Christ in conservation lab at NMSU, Las Cruces.*

The Apache Christ icon made a trip to the New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM for a badly needed cleaning. We were excited that NMSU's internationally recognized art conservator, Silvia Marinas, agreed to take on this task, and to do so at half of her normal fee.

The Apache Christ icon by Robert Lentz has become a popular feature of the Mission. This winter the sanctuary looked rather empty without the painting.

The icon honors the nobility of the Apache culture. Christ is depicted as a Mescalero holy man; an artistic celebration of the Incarnation.

A sun symbol is painted on his left palm, and he holds a deer rattle in his right hand. A basket at his feet holds an eagle feather, a grass brush, bags of tobacco and cattail pollen—items used in an Apache puberty ceremony.

He stands atop 12,000-foot Sierra Blanca, the sacred mountain of the Mescalero. Behind him flies an eagle, the guide who first led the Apaches to their “promised land.”

The inscription at the bottom of the icon is Apache for “Giver of Life,” one of the Apache names for God. The letters in Christ's halo are the Greek version of that name. The Greek letters in the upper corners of the icon are abbreviations for “Jesus Christ.”

Ms. Marinas informed us that the masonite board the icon is painted on lets out harmful fumes of formaldehyde and other components. So as a part of her work on the icon, she applied conservation micro-chamber paint on the back of the painting to absorb the fumes and protect the paint.

Ms. Marinas applied a protective coating to protect the paint from

harm, and gave us detailed instructions on how to safely clean the icon after it is re-hung in the sanctuary.

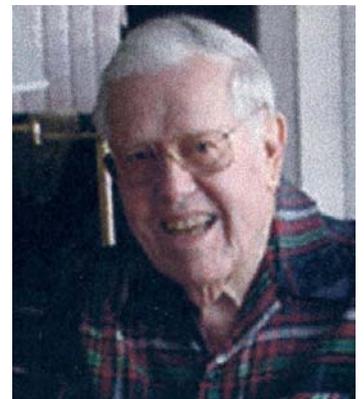
We look forward to re-installing the icon back into its place, but this time on a fully restored wall. We are planning to have a celebration to mark the reinstallation and the completion of the restoration of the entire sanctuary. This will be a milestone! Call for details: 505-464-4539.



*Silvia Marinas stands with the fully restored Apache Christ Icon.*

## HONORING CECIL RUSSELL

The restoration project at St. Joseph Apache Mission has had many donors since it got started, and one we would like to publicly honor is the venerable Mr. Cecil Russell. Cecil married his late wife Marie in the Mission in 1936. At the time, recalled Cecil, the church didn't even have a roof. Cecil was appalled to find that the church had become home to so many bats during the summer. Being a man of action, his response was to make it his mission to help us “Get rid of those darn bats!” Mr. Russell supports many charitable works, and we are proud to be one of them. Cecil is 96 years old and his only request is that we hurry and finish up the work so he can witness its completion. We look forward to that day! **Thank You Cecil Russell, we salute you.**



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# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

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~~Visit our website!~~  
~~[www.matisp.net/stjoes1.htm](http://www.matisp.net/stjoes1.htm)~~



## Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives



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Work in the apse of the church nears completion

