

The Burden Basket



St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded our restoration project a grant to help replace the severely damaged west window. “This is a real boost for us” said Mary Serna, the project’s administrator. “To have such a prestigious non-profit preservation funder believe in our project is affirmation of the significance of this historical landmark, and to the hard work that everyone is doing here.”

Funding Progress

Since fundraising began in February 1998 we have raised 929,485. Of that amount 41% came from private Foundation grants, 46% from our generous donors, and the remaining 13% from the hard work of raffles, food sales, concerts and interest earned. With about 51% of funds needed, we continue to make progress. The work continues: Expenses to date have been \$844,497.

WEST WINDOW REPLACEMENT

The replacement of this big window is currently underway, using funds from the National Trust grant along with donations from many others, including a substantial donation in memory of Salvador Mison and David V. Estores made by David and Irene Estores. A tremendous amount of work has been involved in restoring this window. Battered by harsh sunlight and the strong vortex created by the wind patterns, this window was badly cracked and damaged.



Tommy Spottedbird removing the damaged Plexiglas



Ricky Jones sandblasting the frame

The restoration crew removed the old Plexiglas panels, and prepared the steel framework for sandblasting and painting. Carroll Vann, owner of **CVE Machine & Welding** in High Rolls, completed the needed strengthening and welding repairs to the frame. The sandblasting and painting work was expertly done by Ricky and Cathy Jones and Paul Jones of **Desert Sands Stripping** in Alamogordo. The new window will be composed of virtually unbreakable fiberglass reinforced copolymer plastic glass. Gregg & Lavonne Griffin, owners of **White Mountain Glass Company** in Ruidoso, have been a big help with advise and help, especially in cutting the 80 new window panes, each a different size and shape.

Revenue & Expenses

11/1/05—3/31/06

Expenses

Payroll Expenses	\$33,130
Equipment & Supplies	\$12,161
Professional Fees	\$11,623
Office Expense	\$1,630
Administration & Fundraising	\$5,978
Total	\$64,522

Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$24,000
Steward Program	\$9,495
Donations	\$16,037
Fundraisers & Interest	\$ 486
Total	\$50,018

Funds on hand: **\$84,988**

In-Kind Donations by Volunteers & Staff: **\$58,100**

HOME SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Restoration Project Foreman, Tommy Spottedbird gave Stephanie and her students/sons James and Stephen a hands-on lesson in making lime mortar. Lime mortar is the same medium that was used in the original construction of the church, and has been used around the world for thousands of years. Tommy explained to the group “We are able to have control over the process in a way that Father Albert and the early builders didn’t.” The group was fascinated and really loved getting their hands in the mud.

Tours of this wonderful landmark are available throughout the year. We encourage school field trips and interested groups to call the office at 505-464-4539 to make arrangements.



Tommy and his students digging in.



NEW BABY ONBOARD!

February was a big month for restoration worker Arylis Chee, who has been on the job for two years as a fulltime crew member. Arylis originally came to this project through the Mescalero “School to Work” program. Arylis and his wife Petra and son Jayvian welcomed a baby girl, Arliyana into their family. We are very proud of the work that Arylis does and we all can’t get enough of the sweet little Arliyana. It seems that Jayvian can’t get enough of her either, proud papa Arylis says “He is a good big brother and wants to help take care of her.” This is a lucky little girl, she has a great family, and the whole restoration crew to help spoil her.

RESTORATION HEROES

Carroll Vann, owner of **CVE Machine and Welding** in High Rolls, NM and one of his welders, Lonnie Stanbrough, have done quite a lot of work on the restoration of the church, donating time and material. “They are the very best in the business and are well known throughout the Tularosa Basin.” according to Mary Serna, project administrator. Carroll has stated that he wants to see this project completed, and is doing all he can to help bring that about.

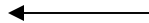
So many people have contributed their skills and talents in order to ensure that this cherished church and veteran’s memorial will continue to serve all who come here, for many generations to come.



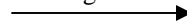
“MASTER PLAN” MEETINGS BEGIN



Mary Bloise Lucey



Community members at Planning Meeting



In December we had our first of many community “Master Plan” meetings. Now that the restoration project is nearing the half-way mark, it is time to start discussing what people want the interior of the church to look like when the restoration work is completed. In addition to members of the Restoration Committee, Mary Bloise Lucey came from South Carolina as an experienced consultant in liturgical architecture to donate her time and wisdom. Sister Lucy Meissen, C.PP.S. from the Diocese of Las Cruces was in attendance, as was Dale Zinn our Preservation Architect. It was a productive meeting and everyone had a chance to express their concerns and opinions. The main topic for discussion now is the entryway through the west wall. Several ideas have been generated, and once the interior scaffolding is removed people will be better able to imagine possibilities.

ELECTRICAL UPGRADE



Jim Shows and his crew at **Shanti Electric, LLC** were hired to upgrade the electrical service on the west end of the church. This work included installing new lights out in front of the church to improve safety. Jim worked with us to make the needed work affordable by showing us how to install the new conduit ourselves, both for the outdoor electrical service and indoors, embedding the conduit in the mortar joints of the west wall. All the work has passed NM State inspection, vastly improving the antiquated wiring on this end of the church. We are grateful to **Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc.** for sending Chris LaPaz and a trencher to dig the new trench lines.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: PETER BOEGEL, OFM

Another milestone was reached since our last newsletter, the stonework of the interior west wall has been completely repointed. This wall is now strong and stable. Several pieces of steel reinforcement were added where needed. Besides being strong and stable, the wall is beautiful — thanks to the dedication of our crew: Tommy Spottedbird, Brother David Paz, OFM, and Arylis Chee. The crew takes such great care in their work, in cold and uncomfortable working conditions. Someday songs will be written about them! Artists all, they are hardworking and devoted.

It is difficult to describe the feeling people have about this church and veteran’s memorial. At our first Master Plan meeting, we each took a turn to respond to the question, “What is one thing you appreciate about this church?” The answers were astounding. Joan Treas, the parish secretary, simply stated that “With the artwork, and awesomeness of the building, this church makes me proud to be Apache.” This church is a valued part of the Mescalero Apache Reservation, appreciated by all, no matter their faith or heritage.

To all who help in any way: Thank you for being a part of the restoration team, for helping keep this inspiring place alive.



St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

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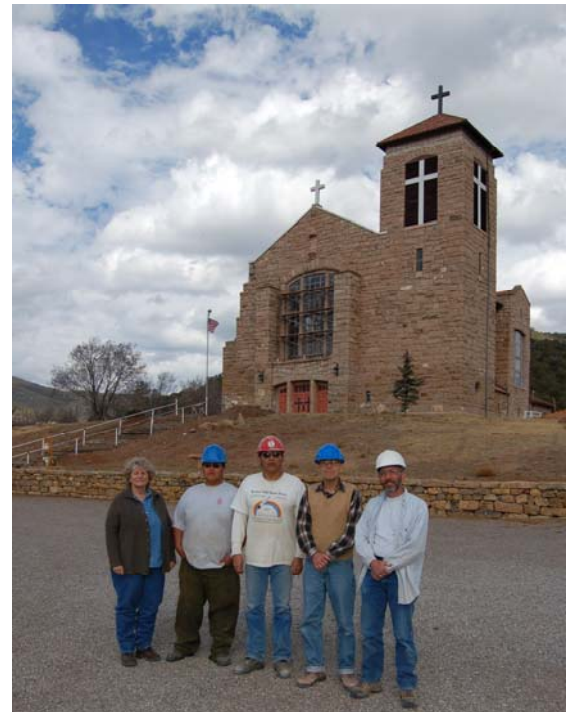
Visit our website
www.stjosephmission.org

Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives



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*St. Joseph Apache Mission
Restoration Crew*