

# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



## Illustrated Progress Report for November 2003 through April 2004



Tommy Spottedbird finishing work in the apse



Trainee Corleen Chino working in alcove



Brother David Paz working on alcove wall.

Completed alcove



Christmas 2003



Nighttime view seen from Highway 70



Art conservator Silvia Marinas cleaned and protected the Apache Christ icon.

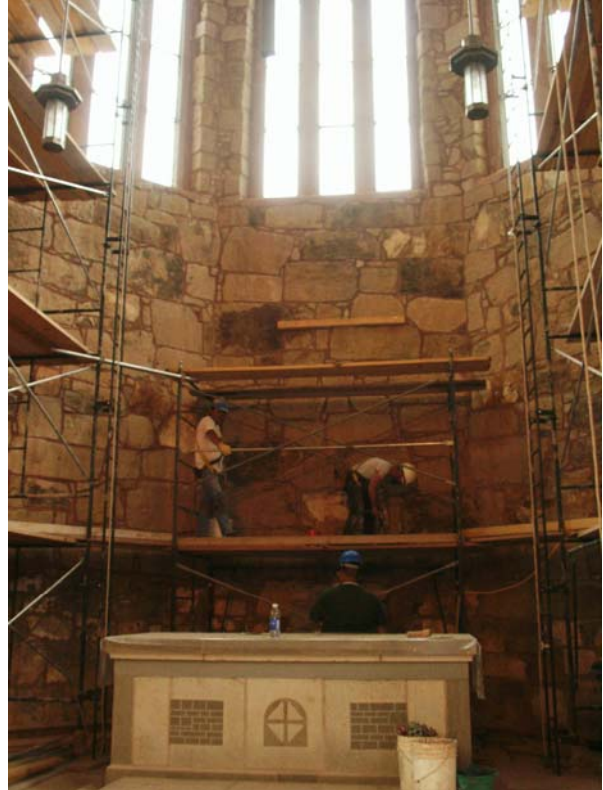


Brother Peter speaking at the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance conference in Las Cruces.





Scaffolding in the apse of the church



Scaffolding coming down!



The crew removing roof tile in preparation for summer work on the apse exterior.



Arylis and Tommy setting up scaffolding outside.



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## Progress Report

November 2003 through April 2004

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On February 2, 2004 we celebrated the fourth anniversary of fulltime work on the restoration of this cherished church and veterans memorial. With your help we are accomplishing something that has been longed-for by all the people who come here to find inspiration and help for life's journey. Our hard-working crew made a significant amount of progress this past fall and winter. The greatest accomplishment was the completion of the restoration work in the sanctuary area. We are preparing for a celebration to mark the complete restoration of the entire east end of the church. For the first time in four years the sanctuary will be free of scaffolding. Yes, there is a long way to go, but it is good to celebrate milestones along the way!

In November we hired a young Mescalero woman as a trainee while she was continuing her college education. Corleen Chino was a good worker and took pride in being part of this project. In February she left to concentrate on her undergraduate studies. A young Franciscan formation student, Jeff Shackleton, came in January for three weeks to do volunteer work with the restoration and also help out in the parish. Also in February we hired a local man, Willie Martinez, who trained with us for a short time. Walter Scott, a summer trainee from last year worked with us though December. He started college in January, and will return to work with us this summer. The winter ended on a very positive note when we rehired a past trainee, Arylis Chee. We are happy to have Arylis back as a permanent fulltime employee, and although he is still a trainee, he is advancing quickly in his mastery of restoration skills. Arylis is married now and has a son who will soon be two years old. Arylis is interested in making a career out of restoration work, so we are feeling proud of the impact this project is having in his life.

Another completed section of the restoration work is the southeast interior alcove. We have used this area as an initial training area for new crewmembers. Trainees Anthony Escalanti, Corleen Chino, Willie Martinez and Walter Scott, all practiced the art of repointing stonework in this area during the past year. The alcove looks beautiful now, and is home to a stunning sculpture of Blessed Kateri Tekekwitha created by local artist Steve Wall.

Art conservator Silvia Marinas, from New Mexico State University, finished the cleaning and preservation work on the Apache Christ icon. She also gave us instructions on how to care for the painting in the future. As we continue to move our way around the interior of the church working on the restoration, we plan to have the other works of art cleaned and restored. We are currently searching for someone, or a group of people, who would like to underwrite this particular aspect of our restoration project. So many people comment on the beautiful way European and Native American art blend in this church. This complementarity and blending is a wonderful illustration of how this church serves as a bridge between cultures.

Thanks to **Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc**, the Tribal-run telephone and communications company, we have a new website that gives us the ability to receive restoration project contributions online. Our devoted web-master, Steve Lee, is doing a great job making the website attractive and user-friendly. The design, maintenance and the hosting of this site is being donated by Mescalero Apache Telecom. This year the cover of the regional phone book (serving Lincoln and Otero counties) is graced with a beautiful picture of our church!

In December we contracted with Ronnie Hemphill, CPA to do an independent audit of our accounting records. We received a clean report with no reportable findings. We were confident that our bookkeeping was in order, but are anticipating the possibility of attracting some larger foundation grants that require outside independent audits.

In February John Mason of KOB-TV in Albuquerque (an ABC affiliate) came with cameraman Mike Porras to film a short news story about our project. The story was aired on Sunday February 22 and then again on KASA FOX-TV on Monday February 23. We received so much positive feedback from the news story, and our website recorded 400 visitors the day after the piece aired. Three years ago John Mason did a news piece about our project, this was a follow-up to show our progress. The spot he did last time with Cary Moots received the "Best Feature of the Year in New Mexico" award from the Associated Press.

With much help from so many friends, Mary Serna completed and submitted our application to be placed on the State and National Registries of Historic Places. If granted, this recognition will allow us to apply for funding from the "Save America's Treasures" fund and other foundations that require the listing. It will also give us the tools we need to protect the Mission and archeological sites that surround it.

We were invited to give a 90-minute presentation at the eighth annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance Conference in Las Cruces, NM on April 16, 2004. Using a *PowerPoint* presentation, Brother Peter gave an overall view of the restoration project. After that, Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna spoke about their experiences working with the project. This was a great opportunity for us to network with others who are involved in restoration work.

Preservation Architect Dale Zinn is making good progress on our Historical Structures Report. In April Mr. Zinn brought along a roofing contractor to give us an assessment on the condition of the roof. 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 estimate for re-roofing the entire church is just over \$150,000. We hope to sell the old clay roof tiles to help defray some of this expense.

Presently the crew is erecting scaffolding on the eastern most exterior wall to prepare for the work ahead of us this summer. Each year work is performed on the exterior of the Mission after the danger of frost is past, and the work resumes on the interior in the fall.

Since 1998 we have raised \$602,512.96 for the Restoration Project. Of that amount 40% came from private foundation grants. 28% from individual donations, 9% from the Franciscan Friars and outside parishes, 8% from family trusts, 7% from fundraising activities, 6% from Cecil Russell (used to help rid the church of bats), and 2% from interest earned. Our total expenses to date have been \$522,116.00 with approximately 75% of that amount paying for labor and training. The Stewardship Program, "Restoration Heroes" composed of people who donate monthly have contributed \$13,335.00 since May 2003. The tours will be starting up again now that our weather is becoming nicer. We have found the tours to be beneficial in many ways. This fiscal year (which runs from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004) Restoration Project expenses have averaged \$12,846.69.70 per month. As of April 30, 2003 the balance in the restoration fund was \$90,589.93.

We have received grants from the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, The Stockman Family Foundation, The William R. & Virginia Hayden Foundation, The Robert E. & Evelyn McKee Foundation, the Burkitt Foundation Perpetual Fund through the El Paso Community Foundation, the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the Rayonier Foundation and the John & Katherine Naudin Foundation.

The crew is currently made up of Restoration Director Brother Peter Boegel, our foreman Tommy Spottedbird, mason Brother David Paz, administrator Mary Serna, and trainees Arylis Chee, with Walter Scott to rejoin us in June. To date we have had ten students participate in our training program, and we are looking forward to a new training cycle and the chance to introduce other young people to the art of historic stone building preservation.

Mary Serna is currently focusing on finding new funding sources and is working on some collaborative grant proposals with the Preservation Office for the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, with an illustrated progress report showing the important work you helped support. Also enclosed is the latest issue of our Restoration Project newsletter, "The Burden Basket." This semiannual publication is sent to all of our donors, while the more detailed Progress Report is sent to supporting foundations, major donors, and other interested people.

As we continue to work to ensure that this project is successfully completed, we pause to give thanks for your contribution and that of all donors who have helped change a dream into a reality. Together we are able to save this sacred landmark and active parish church to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the many people who come here. We are proud of the work that is being done, not only on the building, but also with the young adults who through our training program gain valuable job skills and a great sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and the appreciation of the entire community.