

# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



*Illustrated Progress Report for November 2006 through April 2007*



The main job during the past six months was repointing the stonework of the forward half of the interior north wall. This work should be completed in early May. We are also replacing cracked panes of glass, rust-proofing the metal window frames and caulking the many spaces in the frame where cold air blows into the church.



From back to front: Tommy Spottedbird, Arylis Chee and trainee Nikona Hosetosavit at the top of the north wall.



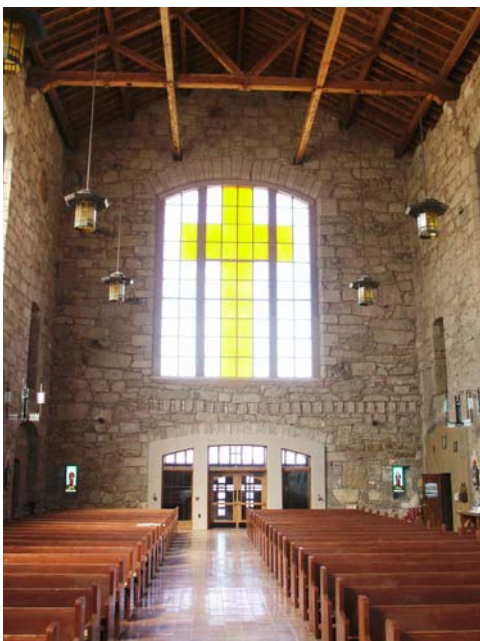
In preparation for the installation of the new interior entryway, the crew repointed the stonework between the interior and exterior entryways.



Contractor Ernest Martinez and his *Bar-M Construction, Inc.* crew create the new interior entryway



Finished entryway



In honor of their parents, the funding for the new interior entryway was donated by the children of Donaciano and Catarina Ortega.



Donaciano and Catarina Ortega



Nikona, Arylis and Tommy repointing the stonework of the interior of the north wall.



Before repointing



After repointing



## *St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project*

### *Progress Report*

*November 2006 – April 2007*

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In 1998 as the Restoration Committee was being formed, the main focus was to ensure that this cherished church and veterans' memorial would continue to meet the needs of all who come here to find peace and inspiration in a busy world. Soon after fulltime work began in February 2000, the members of the Restoration Committee realized that we had a golden opportunity to help young adults in the community who were in need of employment and job skill training. It is gratifying to see the young people who have participated in this training program, eighteen so far, gain skills and pride in a job well done that is greatly appreciated by so many people.

There has been good progress made since our last report. After much consideration and planning the dream for a new interior entryway into the church has become a reality. The funds for this beautiful entryway were contributed in memory of **Donaciano and Catarina Davalos Ortega**. Their daughter Katherine D. Ortega wrote, "My parents, my siblings and I knew and admired Father Albert Braun, OFM [*the man behind the construction of St. Joseph Apache Mission*]. We are grateful to be able to make this contribution in memory of our parents."

Everyone here is delighted with this new entryway. We cannot thank the Ortega family enough for taking on the financial burden of this important part of the restoration project. Preservation Architect Dale Zinn designed the entryway, which was reviewed and approved by the Restoration Committee. **Bar-M Construction, Inc.** of La Luz, NM was hired to build the new entryway. Ernest Martinez, owner of **Bar-M Construction**, and his crew took great pride and care in doing a first-class job. The custom oak and beveled leaded glass doors and surround components were crafted in Mexico. Solidly constructed and installed, this work provides a noble welcome to all those entering this majestic church and veterans' memorial.

We wish to publicly thank Daniel D. Ortega, Albert D. Ortega, Ethel Olson, David D. Ortega, Cecilia Harding, Katherine D. Ortega and their families for this wonderful donation, for the kindness and support that they have been to the restoration project and the staff. A brief word about their parents: Donaciano Ortega was born in Bent, NM on May 24, 1887. He attended the Indian School in Santa Fe, NM and then the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, PA. He served as the Justice of the Peace in Bent, NM and owned a blacksmith shop, a restaurant and dance hall in Tularosa. In the early 1940's he moved the restaurant to Alamogordo and the whole family worked there. Donaciano was an excellent carpenter and made custom furniture. After World War II with the help of his older sons they started a furniture store in Alamogordo. The store was

operated by the oldest son, Daniel, until he retired a few years ago. Donaciano encouraged his children to obtain an education and be self sufficient, be involved in the community and in politics. Catarina was the daughter of Augustin Davalos and Catarina Fields. She was born on July 31, 1892 at Canon del Nogal. Her grandfather, Luciano Davalos was one of the original settlers of Tularosa in 1862 and helped establish St. Francis de Paula Catholic Church. Her brother, Augustine Davalos, lived on the Mescalero Apache Reservation and was an active member of St. Joseph Apache Mission parish.

Restoration crewmembers Tommy Spottedbird, Arylis Chee and Nikona Hosetosavit had a very productive winter and proved that they see this project as more than just a job; they take great pride in their work. When contractor Ernest Martinez told us that he could get the entryway installed sooner than we had planned, the crew jumped from their repointing work on the interior of the north wall to the area between the exterior and interior entryways so that all of the repointing work of the entryway would be completed before the new entryway was installed.

Even with the interruption, the crew really knocked out the stonework repointing on the forward half of the interior of the north wall. This is an area 50 feet tall and 40 feet wide. Project foreman Tommy Spottedbird reflected, “We can contribute our progress on the amount of help trainee Nikona Hosetosavit provided, along with help from trainee Clay Geronimo during his winter break from college and from the four community service volunteers we had.” The four community service volunteers, Frank Gallerito, Jeffrey Palmer, Jonathan Herrera, and Patrick Mendez all worked at cleaning out deteriorated mortar from the joints between the stones. This is dusty, dirty work. This freed the restoration crew to concentrate on reconstructing badly deteriorated stonework and applying the repointing coats of lime mortar into the joints between the stones. The Mescalero Tribal Court has chosen to send us these workers not only so they could fulfill an obligation for community service hours, but because our restoration crewmembers offer support and inspiration for people wanting to lead a healthier lifestyle.

While the scaffolding is in place we are replacing cracked panes of glass in the two big windows as well as rust-proofing the metal window frames and caulking the many gaps where cold air blows into the church. Another accomplishment was the completion of the stonework restoration of the south-west alcove. This alcove served as a good area to instruct new trainees and as an easy place for our occasional volunteers to lend a hand.

Thanks to our faithful supporters Godfrey Enjady and webmaster Steve Lee at *Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc (MATI)* we have an interesting new feature on our website ([stjosephmission.org](http://stjosephmission.org)). This “**Graphical Timeline**” provides a window into the progress that has been accomplished since the inception of this restoration project. From this timeline you can see for each year a brief outline of work accomplished, crewmembers and trainees employed, along with income and expense figures. For more detailed information every past Progress Report with both photos and text can be downloaded as PDF files. In the “year 2000” section you can even view a video showing the dangerously deteriorated condition of the stonework that we caught on tape on our first day of fulltime work. Many thanks go to Steve Lee for creating this wonderful new feature!

We recently discovered a treasure-trove of wonderful old photographs taken in Mescalero between the years 1915 and 1970. Included among these photos are some great shots showing St. Joseph Apache Mission under construction. Thanks to the *Bureau of Catholic Indian*

*Missions* archives at the Raynor Memorial Libraries at Marquette University these priceless photos are being preserved and made available. Thanks to archivist Mark G. Thiel, CA the Restoration Project Office now has many of these photos on display. If you are in the area please stop by the office to look through these windows into our past.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,119,632 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission. Of that amount 36% came from private foundation grants, 11% from non-profit group grants, 30% from individuals, 7% through our stewardship program and the remaining 16% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our “**Restoration Heroes**” have contributed \$83,305 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,006,608. Sixty-one percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of April 30, 2007 the balance in the restoration fund was \$113,024. Income from this reporting period (November 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007) was \$101,282 and expenses were \$59,771. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$65,767. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project started has been \$782,629.

Since 1998 we have received grants or major donations from: the Stockman Family Foundation, 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, Katherine D. Ortega through the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, 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 Native Plant Society Otero Chapter, the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province, Saints Simon & Jude Parish in Huntington Beach, CA, St. John Neumann Parish, Lubbock, TX, Clarence Brown, Cecil Russell, Paul & Carmen Brusuelas, Sue Koepp, Joseph & Barbara Kelly, Clarence Brown and the late Virginia Brown, Jeffrey & Marie Spara, 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, and the Estate of Benjamin Vaitus.

Around mid-May we expect to complete the repointing work of the forward half of the interior of the north wall. From there the crew will move back outside to pick up where we left off last September working on the exterior of the north wall. Through our collaboration with the Mescalero Apache School “*Gear-Up*” program we will hire two trainees for the summer. And so, the cycle continues. Young adults gain skills and confidence as they help restore this active church and veterans’ memorial. The work our crew is accomplishing, made possible by your generosity, will make sure that this special place will continue to serve the needs of all the people who pass through these doors. The restoration project is taking a long time, but the impact will be felt for generations. Thank you for your interest; thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavor.