



*St. Joseph Apache Mission and
Veterans' Memorial
Restoration Project
Progress Report
Nov. 2009- April 2010*

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February 2, 2010 marked the 10th anniversary of full time work on the restoration of our beloved Mission and Veterans' Memorial. In honor of this occasion Father Paul Botenhagen, OFM gave all the workers a special blessing during Mass, he than gave credit to all of the people who have worked in the past and who are currently working on the project to restore St. Joseph Apache Mission.

Mary Serna talked briefly about the Restoration Project's history reminding everyone about the years that Sr. Juanita Little, OSF prayed that God would send someone to fix the church. God answered that prayer in his own way and time sending us two Franciscan Brothers Peter Boegel, and Harry Vasile. The two spearheaded the beginning efforts to get things rolling, along with the Restoration Committee who held many food sales, raffles and a powwow to raise funds to get the project started.

It was Harry's idea to use the project as an opportunity to offer job skill training to people out of the local rehabilitation center and young adults over 18 who needed job skills and employment while getting their GED or going to college. This training program has allowed 31 young adults to take advantage of the program. Harry is now the director of Youth and Family Ministries for the parish. Harry volunteers as our counselor for the crew and trainees alike, which is an important component to the success of our training program.

After the Mass one of our local traditional Apache Medicine men, Eldon Enjady and his group gave past and present workers a traditional Apache Blessing. It was very moving and beautiful. As Eldon said "the blessing was of thanksgiving for the work already done and for strength and dedication for the current crew to carry on their work safely to completion." We are committed to keeping tradition and culture of the Apache people included in what we do.

As we look back over the last six months we can't help but pat ourselves on the back. As Colin Powell once said "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work". The dream of restoring this important historic and beloved landmark has taken a huge amount of all three, indeed. The crew along with the help of trainees, Anthony Kaydahzinne, Sam Sosa and David Walters worked well together and really made a

great deal of progress. This all took place in the heaviest snow season in the past 32 years. It was so cold that our radiant floor heating system was frozen for over a month.

The crew spent the winter completing the repointing on two of the interior alcoves, leaving only one alcove left of the six to repoint. Finishing the alcoves coincided perfectly with two different alternative Spring Break groups. Volunteers are always a welcomed site at the Mission and are truly appreciated. The first group that volunteered was from Texas Tech University. These nine college students really got a workout. They began by moving everything out of the alcoves and cleaning up. This is always a big job after the restoration crew has been working inside all winter.

The group also spent a day working with our crew moving scaffolding despite the fact that it snowed most of the day and was extremely cold. Their other days were spent on projects around the reservation and at the Mescalero High School. The group was able to enjoy a presentation on the Apache people by author Henrietta Stockel, and eat some traditional food.

There were 72 high school students plus their chaperones in the second group from Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi, TX. The group was broken down into groups of 9 and we had 2 groups for three days. These students dusted, mopped and waxed the church floors, moved back the pews and all of the items back into the alcoves. Some of the volunteers also cleaned up the church grounds and planted flower boxes to decorate the interior of the Mission. This was a tremendous help, and the Mission looks so clean and refreshed.

Once the hard work was done trainee David Walters did some repointing work around the window in the south east alcove. Martin and Tommy installed the stained glass window of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha that Teresa Thompson made for the south east alcove. There is an active Kateri Circle here that is praying for her final step for canonization to be the first North American indigenous saint. Currently Tommy and Martin are working on the Kateri altar backing to fully show off the stained glass window. This will put the finishing touch on the alcove in honor of Kateri.

Another accomplishment that was just recently finished is the south exterior wall repointing. The crew has now moved up to the top of the bell tower and will work their way down. This will take at least the next two summers

Currently we have two trainees; Sam Sosa is one of the men we hired to work on the roof. He agreed to work at a lesser wage as a trainee in order to receive training in a construction area where he has no experience. The other trainee is David Walters. This will be David's third summer working as a trainee; he is taking a break from college in order to pursue his musical talent. We plan to hire a third trainee when funding allows. Nikona Hosetosavit, Martin Pizarro, Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna make up the rest of the crew.

We are gearing up for our 10th Annual raffle which will be held on October 3rd. Each year we wonder if we will be able to attract prizes as wonderful as in the past, and each year we are blessed with great prizes through the generosity of many people. This year Southwest Airlines has once again donated two round trip tickets for anywhere in the 48 states where they fly. With these tickets we will be adding some cash and a couple of nights stay from a well known hotel chain to make a nice vacation package. We also will have our \$1,000 cash prize and several Native American made art pieces. One is a pencil portrait that was done by Chino

Sumonait at the Institute of American Indian Arts when it was at the University of Santa Fe. Artist Kathy Morrow has donated one of her beautiful cutting boards. You can visit her website at: kathymorrowstudio.com. DJ's Jewelry in Ruidoso has also made a donation of a piece of lovely jewelry. In all there will be 12 prizes plus 4 prizes for the top ticket sellers. If you would like to contribute a prize it is not too late just let us know.

On June 19th a Veterans' group will be holding a Flag raising ceremony at the Mission. "Salute Our Troops" will honor all current military troops and veterans. We are excited to be chosen for this special event that is held annually in New Mexico.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,665,282 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission church and Veterans' Memorial. Of that amount 52% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 23% from individuals, 9% through our stewardship program and the remaining 9% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "**Restoration Heroes**" have contributed \$155,460 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,631,653. Seventy-one percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of April 30, 2010 the balance in the restoration fund was \$43,662. Income from this reporting period (November 1, 2009- April 30, 2010) was \$77,717 and expenses were \$87,932. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$33,991. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project began has been \$1,139,560.

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, the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province, CA, Saints Simon & Jude Parish in Huntington Beach, CA, St. John Neumann Parish, Lubbock, TX, Cecil Russell, Clarence Brown and the late Virginia Brown, Joseph & Barbara Kelly, Paul & Carmen Brusuelas, Sue Koeppe, 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, and the Estate of Benjamin Vaitus.

Economic hardships face everyone and this project is no exception. We are exploring different ways of raising funds. One of our decisions is to sell calendars for 2011. The calendars will feature our favorite seasonal photos of the Mission and our two Mission churches, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bent, NM and St. Patrick, Three Rivers Chapel in Three Rivers, NM. These will be available in the fall, through our website, by mail or phone in requests. Our staff and committee members continue to work hard to keep this project moving forward to completion. Please be assured that your investment in this project is appreciated and used prudently.