

St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



Illustrated Progress Report for May 2005 through October 2005

Our crew hard at work repointing deteriorated stonework-

Summer Trainees:



Walter Scott



Leslie Bigmouth



Gifford Valdez

Year-round Restoration Project stonemason crew:



Foreman Tommy Spottedbird



Brother David Paz, OFM



Arylis Chee



The crew from **Smith Roofing, Inc.** re-roofs the two sections of roof on the east end of the church, using *Ludowici* clay roof tiles and heavy duty copper flashing. **KD Enterprises** installed the new copper gutters and downspouts on the lower roof of the east end.



Before



After



This view shows the two re-roofed sections on the east end of the church, as well as the scaffolding used to complete the repointing on the east end, and the scaffold used to start the restoration of the north wall.



A nice crowd came to enjoy the flute music performed by James Pellerite at a special service marking the September 11 anniversary, and to celebrate Grandparents Day 2005.



Cleaning out deteriorated mortar –
– back to work on the interior of the west wall.



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Progress Report

May 2005-October 2005

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Summer seemed to pass so quickly! This past summer we had three trainees learning the art of stone building restoration work. It was great having Walter Scott with us once again while he was on his summer break from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Leslie Bigmouth joined the crew for part of the summer before leaving for South Dakota. Her family has been taking care of this church for many years in many different ways. Leslie began helping her grandparents clean the church when she was a little girl, so she felt good about continuing her family's tradition in a new way. Leslie, the senior class president, graduated from Mescalero High School in May. She is now attending college in Hobbs, NM. Gifford Valdez proved to be an exceptional trainee and is still working with our crew. Gifford graduated from Mescalero High school in May. He is a talented artist, a skill and temperament which helps so much in this type of work. We wish that we could keep him on as part of the permanent crew, but he will soon leave us to join the Marine Corps. Gifford said "When I complete my military commitment I would like to return to help finish the restoration."

The trainees picked up the work quickly and helped the crew finish repointing the stonework of the east wall exterior in July. The entire eastern portion of the church is now completely restored. It is so gratifying to see the scaffolding gone and to realize that this part of the church, sections of which had been in danger of collapse, is now secure and, quite frankly, beautiful to behold. The remainder of the summer work was focused on the north exterior wall. While work was in progress more bat access holes were discovered and sealed up. The crew completed repointing about one third of the north exterior wall before moving inside for the cold weather months. While working on each section windows and woodwork were inspected, cleaned and repaired as needed.

Foreman Tommy Spottedbird praised the trainees for the great work that was accomplished this summer saying, "Because of all the talent and help we had this summer from the trainees, we were able to accomplish much more than usual. Having the extra help encouraged me and renewed my enthusiasm to finish the restoration project."

Thanks to some extraordinary donations we were able to hire **Smith Roofing, Inc.** of Las Cruces, NM to re-roof the two sections of roof on the east end of the church. This was quite an endeavor. This new **Ludowici** brand tile is better suited for areas such as ours that experience repeated freeze-thaw cycles. The old tile was too porous for this region and as a result the tiles suffered cracking and breakage. Copper flashing was installed along with the new tiles. After the tile work was completed new copper gutters and downspouts were installed by **KD Enterprises** of Ft. Collins, CO. This work was made possible by the generosity of many people, and by selling some of the old roof tiles. We now are working to raise funds to complete the repair and replacement of the main roof. The amount needed to complete the necessary roof work is estimated at \$102,000. We still have painted and unpainted tiles from the old roof for sale.

On Sunday September 11, 2005 James Pellerite came to the Mission to help us celebrate Grandparent's Day and in remembrance of September 11, 2001. Mr. Pellerite is a talented flutist that fell in love with the Native American flute after retiring as the solo flutist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He played a number of pieces as a prelude, and then played several more as a part of the 10:30 mass. Mr. Pellerite wanted to provide this wonderful experience as his way to contribute to the efforts to restore this cherished place. This event was further enhanced by local singer Ted Rodriguez who sang two Apache songs he composed at the beginning and at the end of the mass. All Grandparents in attendance were honored in a special way and thanked for the important roles they play in our lives. From this wonderful experience James and Ted are now talking about collaborating in a recording project. People attending this concert and mass donated a total of \$339.00 for the restoration project.

On September 5 the crew returned to the stone restoration (repointing) work on the interior of the west wall, picking up where they left off last May. We are confident that this wall will be finished this winter, and hope to be able to replace the damaged colored Plexiglas panels of the large west window. Woodwork and doors at the base of this wall will also need to be replaced, along with an electrical rewiring for this end of the church.

Our 5th annual restoration raffle was a great success. This year we had twelve particularly nice prizes donated by Restoration Committee members, parishioners, and other people who are passionate about the Restoration Project. The amount raised after expenses, including the extra donations people sent in along with their raffle tickets, was **\$16,529.44**. The drawing was held on Sunday October 9, 2005. Winner of the \$500.00 cash was Delbert Mendez of Mescalero. As soon as his name was announced he came up to the microphone and stated that he wanted to donate his prize back to the Restoration Project. Truly a remarkable statement of support for the work we are accomplishing. Joann Simmons of Alamogordo, NM won the Beaded Buckskin Quiver made by our foreman, Tommy Spottedbird. The Isleta Pueblo seed pot was won by Randa Worley of Tularosa, NM. The stained glass butterfly was won by Joe Chavez of Bent, NM. The *Retablo* was won by Joe's daughter Diona Chavez of Bent! Joe Salazar of La Luz, NM won the wood carving of Kateri Tekakwitha. Winner of the Pendleton blanket was June Nash of Arizona. Celia Paz of Washington won the Pendleton luggage. The beaded belt was won by Carmen Chavez of Alamogordo. Clara Blake of Mescalero won the agate and silver necklace set. The JP Chino paintings were won by Carmen Shanta of Mescalero. The squash blossom necklace set was won by Steve Anderson of Minnesota.

This year, because of the abundance of donated prizes, we offered prizes to the top four raffle ticket sellers. Bruce & Helen Klinekole took the top prize of a weekend getaway at the *Inn of the Mountain Gods* in Mescalero by selling 2,131 tickets. Second place went to Kim House who won a Pendleton blanket for selling 434 tickets. The third place prize went to Clarice Rocha for selling 260 tickets and the fourth prize gift basket went to Wendy Duffy who sold 210 tickets.

Since 1998 we have raised \$877,443 for this restoration project. Of that amount 36% came from private foundation grants, 53% from individual and group donations, and 11% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. Our total expenses to date add up to \$795,089. Seventy one percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "Restoration Heroes" have contributed \$35,165 since the program began in May 2003. As of October 31, 2005 the balance in the restoration fund was \$90,136. InKind value from donations of time and services this reporting period has been \$52,000.

Thus far 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 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, and the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province.

Another major source of income this summer was from the Benjamin Vaitkus Estate. Mr. Vaitkus was a good friend of Father Albert Braun, OFM, builder of the church. The two were captured on Corregidor by the Japanese during WWII, after his capture Mr. Vaitkus was forced to work in a steel mill until he was liberated at the end of the war. Mr. Vaitkus was in the Air Force; he was a long time member of AXPOW (American Ex-prisoners of War) and ADBC (American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor). Benjamin Vaitkus died in Escanaba, Michigan on May 25, 2004. We are most grateful and inspired by this generosity.

Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, along 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 this more detailed Progress Report is sent to supporting foundations, major donors, and other interested people. Because the newsletter must go to the printer a few weeks ahead of our mailing, you will notice the figures are not as current as those in our progress report.

This important restoration project is successful because of the dedication of many people. We thank you for your contribution, and we continue to work hard to maintain a high level of excellence in our work. Together we are ensuring that this beloved landmark, veteran's memorial, and active parish church, will continue to meet the needs of the many people who come here. We hope that you are proud of the work that you are supporting, not only on the building, but with the young adults who benefit from this project.