

St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



Illustrated Progress Report for May through October 2006



Brother Michael Bearce, OFM spent part of his vacation this year beautifying the hillside in front of the church, teaching us about native plant landscaping. Most of the plants were purchased with a grant from the Otero chapter of the New Mexico Native Plant Society.



Here Bro. Mike is working with Clay Geronimo and Nikona Hosetosavit planting a gambol oak tree. This tree was donated in memorial to Bro Peter's uncle, Fr. Joseph Boegel.



The Mescalero Apache Sawmill donated 127 cubic yards of shredded bark for this landscaping project. The shredded bark is for weed control and to help the hillside retain moisture.



west wall scaffold being removed



INTERIOR CORNER
 finished ← → yet to do
 (west wall) (north wall)



north wall restoration work underway

With the interior of the west wall repointing work finished, the scaffold was moved to the exterior of the north wall for the summer, to pick up where we left off last fall.

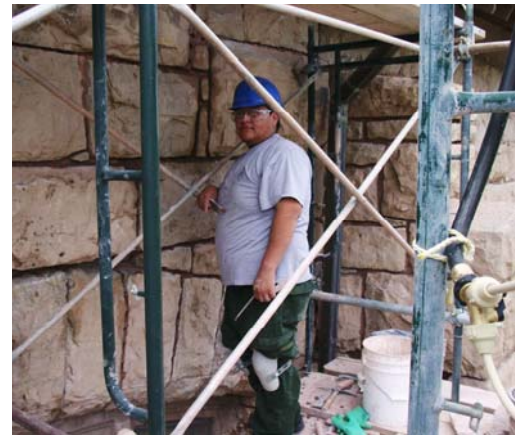


summer 2006 Restoration Crew



Tommy Spottedbird

Fulltime crewmembers Tommy Spottedbird and Arylis Chee are good instructors and great role models to all the students we are able to employ and train.



Arylis Chee



Clay Geronimo

Our two summer trainees learned a lot, and were a tremendous help. Clay Geronimo has now started his freshman year at New Mexico State. Nikona Hosetosavit is still working with the restoration crew on a part-time basis as he completes his high school studies.



Nikona Hosetosavit



The metal window frames were treated for rust and painted.



At a recent meeting of the Restoration Committee we discussed how to finish the interior entryway of the church. We are currently working with our architect and a local contractor on plans and a cost estimate.





St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

Progress Report

May - October 2006

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As fall quickly turns into winter we are delighted to report on the amount of progress that has been accomplished this past six months. As we commemorate Veteran's Day we are inspired to keep this project going, to complete the restoration of this cherished church and veteran's memorial. We give thanks for all the foundations, nonprofit organizations and individuals who have made this project more than a dream, but a reality that we can all be proud of.

In May two new trainees joined the crew and really helped to move the project forward. Clay Geronimo and Nikona Hosetosavit were two of the hardest workers we have had in our trainee program. Both of these young men came to us from the "Gear-Up!" program at the Mescalero High School. Both were quick learners dedicated to making their mark on this church on their reservation. Fulltime crewmembers Tommy Spottedbird and Arylis Chee are good instructors and great role models to all the students we are able to employ and train. Project Foreman Tommy Spottedbird was impressed with how reliable and focused the trainees were, "I appreciate the young people who are willing to spend a little of their time to help us restore this important historic building. These two young men were dependable and had the enthusiasm we look for." Clay has moved on to begin his freshman year at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Nikona continues to work with us on a part time basis as he completes his GED. We hope to be able to hire Nikona as a part of our full time crew once he completes his studies. We are privileged to be a part of these young trainees' lives, and we enjoy the satisfaction of helping them transition into responsible, productive, and proud members of the community.

Driving up to St. Joseph Apache Mission is even more awe-inspiring now thanks to the hard work of Brother Michael Bearce, OFM and a grant from the Otero Chapter of the **New Mexico Native Plant Society**. What was a scraggly weed-covered hillside in front of the Mission is now an area of beauty. About 130 plants were put in by Bro. Michael, who volunteered two weeks of his time while he taught us about native plants and the virtues of xeriscaping. Mescalero Forest Products donated 127 cubic yards of shredded bark that the crew spread over the hillside to control weeds and retain moisture. Next spring we hope to continue this beautification of the area surrounding the Mission

All of July and August and a few weeks of September were spent repointing the stonework of the exterior of the north wall of the church, continuing where we left off last fall. This summer we covered an area approximately 50 feet in height and 40 feet in width. There are several steps to this process of repointing. First we remove several inches of the deteriorated

mortar using an air chisel and hand tools. At times the mortar is deteriorated far into the wall; it is not uncommon to find passageways that the bats have used for access into the church. Next we scrub the joints between the stones so that the new mortar has a clean surface to adhere to. After that we apply a base coat of lime mortar into the joints, also resetting smaller stones that had been loose and were removed in the cleanout process. Once the base coat has had some time to cure, we apply a finish coat of lime mortar to fill in the mortar joints. Finally, we scrape back the surface of the finish coat to expose the aggregate (sand). This makes the mortar joints look nice, lends cohesion to the uneven stone surfaces, and helps allow the mortar, indeed the wall, to breathe so that the sandstone walls will not be deteriorated by the damaging effects of trapped moisture. This summer, in addition to repointing and strengthening the stonework of the north exterior wall, the metal framework of the windows of this wall were treated for rust and repainted. In Mescalero we can usually expect some freezing weather in October, so outside mortar work was stopped in early September to allow time for the mortar to cure before the first frost. The exterior of the north wall is approximately three-quarters finished now; next summer it will probably take us another two months to complete the repointing of this wall.

One final detail of the interior west wall restoration work remains to be completed — the construction of a new interior entryway. On September 20 a meeting of the Restoration Committee was held to discuss various options for this entryway. We are currently looking for a finish carpenter to perform the required work. You can visit the “*What’s Happening Now*” page on our website for a look at this entryway in three pictures: “Before,” “Currently,” and a simulation of the “Proposed” entryway.

Our sixth annual Restoration Project Raffle was a success on several levels. Besides raising funds needed to keep this project going, the raffle helped spread the news about this project and the tremendous progress that is being made to keep this beloved church and veteran’s memorial open and serviceable for generations to come. The eleven prizes were donated by Restoration Project committee members and other people passionate about the project. The net amount raised, including the extra donations people sent in along with their raffle tickets, was \$13,011. So many people supported this raffle in a variety of different ways; it was our most successful raffle to date.

The Restoration Project lost a valued member of the team when Brother David accepted a transfer to Guaymas, Mexico for a new assignment. We will miss his quiet peaceful manner and his talent in instructing our trainees. Joining the Restoration Project in September of 2000, Bro. David has been a big part of the success of this project. We wish Brother David all the best as he begins his work with the outreach ministries of *Casa Franciscana* in Guaymas

With cooler weather Tommy, Arylis and Nikona are now repointing inside the church, finishing up the restoration of one of the side alcoves. As soon as this alcove is finished the crew will begin repointing the stonework of the interior of the north wall.

Our next large challenge will be to raise the \$150,000 needed to repair and replace the clay tile roof over the main portion of the church. This funding will have to be in addition to our annual budget. We are pleased with the work that was done last summer by **Smith Roofing, Inc** of Las Cruces, NM to replace the two small sections of roof on the east end of the church. We are hoping to raise this roof money within the next two years. If you know of a group or anyone

who might be interested in helping us raise the funds for this particular aspect of our project please contact us.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,016,610.00 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission. Of that amount 37% came from private foundation grants, 45% from individual and group donations, 18% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our “**Restoration Heroes**” have contributed \$49,038 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$935,443. Seventy-eight percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of October 31, 2006 the balance in the restoration fund was \$81,167. Income from this reporting period (May 1, 2006 – October 31, 2006) was \$84,394. and expenses were \$75,040. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$80,704. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project started has been \$719,991.

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 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 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, Louis Burleson, Barrett & Patty Covington, Felix & Nance Dupuy, Robert & Nancy Hanagan, Joseph & Barbara Kelly, Bruce & Helen Klinekole, Richard & Mary Sue Mackey, Jesus & Rosario Ontiveros, Michael Sell, Jeffrey & Marie Spara and the Estate of Benjamin Vaitus.

Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, along with an illustrated progress report showing the important work you helped support – as the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” 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. (Note that in “*The Burden Basket*” the *Funding Progress* section on the first page has an error in the total amount raised since 1998. We neglected to include the income for the roof project work done last summer in this total, an amount of \$55,108.)

It is exciting indeed that we have passed the one million dollar mark in funds raised. This confirms our preliminary estimate: In six and a half years we have raised approximately half of the money needed for the entire restoration project, and completed approximately half of the work that needs to be done. Even though we have passed the halfway mark in what we need to raise, the fact is that the eight hundred thousand to a million dollars still needed is a formidable amount; yet we can assure you that we are up to the challenge. Thanks to people like you.