

# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



*Illustrated Progress Report for May through October 2008*



The main task this summer was to repoint the stonework of the south wall exterior. This area of wall is approximately 60 feet wide and 50 feet tall. Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors we were able to add three trainees to our crew for the summer.

**Summer 2008 Restoration Crew:**  
Foreman Tommy Spottedbird, Martin Pizarro, Trainee Warren Sago, Arylis Chee, Trainee Robert Morgan, Trainee David Walters.



A sample of the repointing work, here seen above one of the big windows

Before    After  
←            →



Tommy and Martin building forms and installing rebar for the new concrete cornices.



West  
Cornice  
before  
&  
after



During the summer work began inside the sacristy and other storage areas at the east end of the church. Brother Raul Dias spent his summer break from school lending a hand.





Sacristy before:



west side



east side

Here we see the sacristy with the drop ceiling removed, heater and furniture taken out, and the plaster removed:



west side



east side



The crew is currently stabilizing and repointing the stonework in these storage areas at the east end of the church.

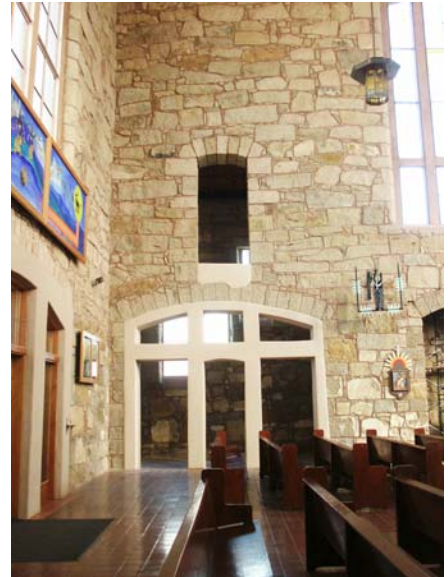




In October restoration crewmember Martin Pizarro along with José, Oscar and Daniel Ramirez covered the concrete archway leading into the choirloft staircase room with stucco, to match the stucco of the interior entryway.

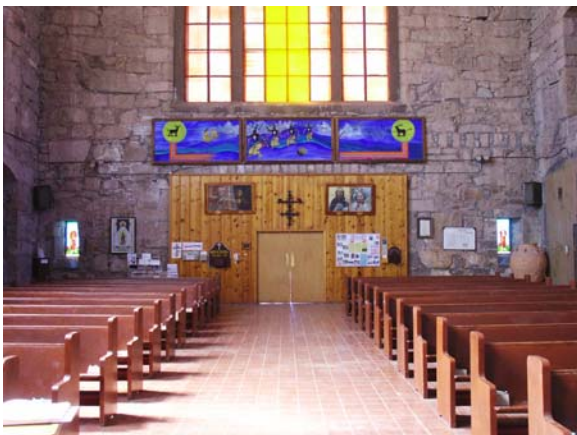


In the northwest corner of the church is this small “choirloft staircase room.” A choirloft was never built, so this room has been used for a variety of purposes over the years. Now that this room has been restored we are entertaining suggestions for how best to use this space.

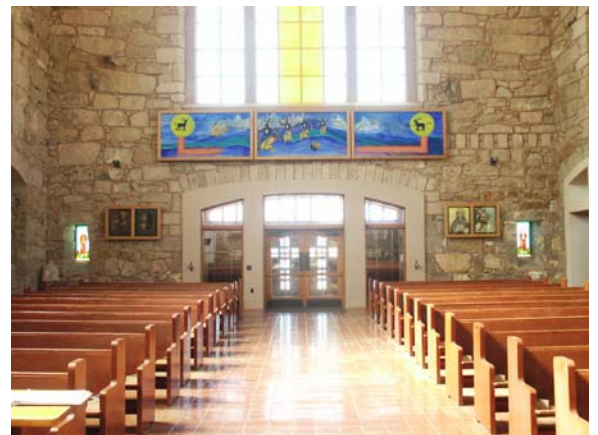


before

after



The artwork has been conserved, reframed and hung so the work on the west wall interior is finally complete.



before

after



## *St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project*

### *Progress Report*

*May – October 2008*

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Thanks to the generosity of all of our supporters great progress is being made in the ongoing effort to restore this cherished church and veterans' memorial. Our full time crew, Tommy Spottedbird (foreman), Arylis Chee and Martin Pizarro welcomed three trainees for the summer session: David Walters, Warren Sago and Robert Morgan. These trainees all worked hard, learned much, and gained an appreciation for the work going into safeguarding this landmark on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

During the spring and summer months the crew worked to restore the south wall exterior, an area of wall approximately sixty feet wide and fifty feet tall. The crew began the summer working at the top of this wall and managed to complete the stone repointing work down to just below the bottom of the large windows of this wall. With the scaffolding in place work was also done on the three big windows; cleaning them and applying a rust inhibitor and a coat of paint to the metal window frames. Work on this wall was interrupted in May as the crew helped build forms and install rebar for the new concrete cornices that top the stone walls at the east and west ends of the church. *Bar-M Construction, Inc.* was hired to pour the concrete and do the finish work. This work eliminated a number of leaks; the old cornices were riddled with cracks. Building new cornices was an important part of our re-roofing project to protect the church from water damage. As we reported in our last progress report, the wood of the roof is still in very good condition, but the clay tiles, the underlayment, the flashing and the roofing nails have all come to the end of their serviceable life. Once again we enjoyed a particularly wet "monsoon" season this past summer which again highlighted the need to re-roof the church. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, and a substantial donation from Katherine D. Ortega, we are coming close to having the funds needed to complete the re-roofing work. The estimated cost for the reroofing project is \$187,000.

Besides the work accomplished on the south wall exterior this summer, work was also accomplished in the sacristy and other storage areas inside the east end of the church. Franciscan formation student Brother Raul Dias from St. Elizabeth Friary in Oakland, California was a big help during his summer break from school. Brother Raul went to work in the sacristy removing the deteriorated plaster from the walls. We discovered that many of the stones in these walls were quite loose and in need of stabilization. These walls were the first walls built when the construction of the church began back in 1920.

On October 5 the drawing was held for our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Restoration Project Raffle. This was another record-setting raffle for us, providing a net income of \$17,869. Of that amount, \$6,201 came from extra donations sent in with tickets. We are so grateful to all who donated prizes, helped with ticket mailing and everyone who bought raffle tickets. We feel particularly appreciative towards the members of the American Legion and VFW posts that bought tickets and made additional contributions. Many thanks to you all! The proceeds from our annual raffle the past two years has been set aside for the re-roofing project.

Many of our visitors are interested to learn that this majestic stone church is a dedicated veterans' memorial as well as an active Catholic church. When Father Albert Braun, OFM, returned to Mescalero from his chaplain duties during his tour in France during World War I he was determined to build a church that would honor both the people of Mescalero and all who had given their lives during the war. With only \$100 left from his army pay, a few volunteers and a lot of faith, they started an ambitious project that is now seen as nothing less than miraculous. Using a free rail pass given by a friend, Fr. Albert was able to travel to Philadelphia and convince noted architect William C. Stanton to design a fitting structure at no charge. Fr. Al called on friends, family, the Franciscan Friars and anyone who would listen to help make this dream a reality. Work began as soon as the architect sent instructions on how to lay out the foundation trenches. In 1920 the cornerstone was laid making St. Joseph Apache Mission arguably the oldest World War I memorial in New Mexico. After almost 20 years of construction the church was finally dedicated on July 4, 1939. Shortly after the dedication Fr. Albert was recalled to serve as an Army chaplain once more. He was sent to the Philippines where he was to spend 1210 days as a prisoner of war. After returning to Mescalero in 1945 Fr. Albert and the other surviving veterans from Mescalero rededicated the church as a memorial to the veterans of World War I and II. Thanks to everyone involved with this restoration project this special building will continue to serve, memorialize and inspire.

In the northwest corner of the church is a small "choir loft staircase room." A choir loft was never built, so this room has been used for a variety of purposes. Now that this room has been restored we are entertaining suggestions for how best to use this space. One of the suggestions is to create a veterans' memorial display. Other suggestions include using it as a reconciliation room, or an information center, or even perhaps, a room for children's church. In the months ahead careful consideration will go into the decision. Suggestions and help are welcome.

Last winter Silvia Marines, the art conservationist at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, was contracted to restore our portraits of historical Apache leaders Victorio, Cochise, Naiche and Geronimo. These portraits were painted by Henry Schnautz in 1948 from historical photographs. Mr. Schnautz gave these paintings to Eve Ball, a well known author and friend of Mescalero. Ms. Ball eventually donated these portraits to the people of St. Joseph Apache Mission. Unfortunately the paintings had become very dirty, the canvas was deteriorating and paint was beginning to separate from the canvas. Now these precious pieces are back up on the west wall of the church; clean and stabilized, hanging in beautiful oak frames built by local woodworker Mark Garwood of Tularosa.

Progress continues: We have been able to employ two trainees for the fall/winter session. Robert Morgan has continued his training with us and Lyle Magoosh has been hired as a returning trainee. We are happy to have Lyle back; he had worked with us during the summer

and fall of 2007. Trainees Robert and Lyle, along with fulltime crewmembers Tommy, Arylis and Martin are busy stabilizing and repointing the stonework in the sacristy and other storage areas at the east end of the church. This work will be largely unseen by most visitors, but is an important part of the overall restoration work.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,363,421 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission church and veterans' memorial. Of that amount 46% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 24% from individuals, 10% through our stewardship program and the remaining 13% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "**Restoration Heroes**" have contributed \$122,968 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,239,342. Seventy-two percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of October 31, 2008 the balance in the restoration fund was \$155,399. Income from this reporting period (May 1 – October 31, 2008) was \$134,931 and expenses were \$108,588. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$58,821. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project began has been \$986,221. The Roof Fund currently has a balance of \$79,871 with pledges of an additional 57,500 expected to come in within the next few months. This leaves us with another \$50,000 needed to re-roof the church.

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 Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province, 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 Koepp, Jeffrey & Marie Spara, the late Louis Burluson, 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.

It is obvious to all that our economy is suffering and we are concerned that this will affect the ability of our donors to be able to continue their generous support of this important project. Please be assured that your investment in this project continues to be put to work prudently.

Thank you for being a part of our restoration team. We can be proud of the craftsmanship that the restoration crew exhibits in their work. We can be proud of the job skills and work ethic being gained by our trainees. Your participation in this project is ensuring that this sacred church and honored veterans' memorial will continue to serve and inspire all who visit or call this place home.