

The Burden Basket



St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

PETER A. BOEGEL O.F.M.

Funding Progress

Since fundraising began in February 1998 we have raised \$477,641. Of that amount 36% came from Foundation Grants, 52% from our generous donors, and the remaining 12% from the hard work of raffles, food sales, concerts and interest earned. With 31% of funds needed, we are making progress!



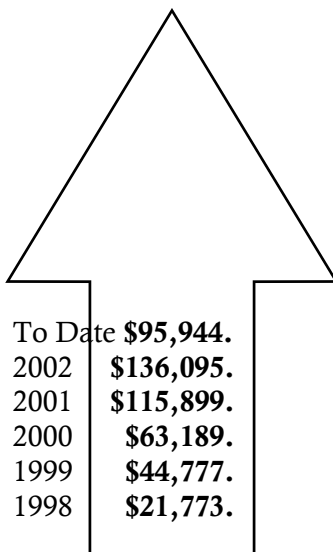
The restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission has been underway for three years now. Many challenges remain, but thanks to our growing family of restoration project supporters and workers, we are making great strides to ensure that this historic New Mexican treasure will continue to serve as church and veterans memorial. In this newsletter you will meet our foreman, Tommy Spottedbird. Simply put, Tommy is vital to the progress we are making and to the quality of the work being accomplished. Restoring the building and rebuilding lives. Wonderful things are happening here.

Expenses to date have been \$405,418.

Budget for entire project:

\$1,750,000.

Funds raised per fiscal year (July 1—June 30):



Thank you to the first group of Restoration Stewards!

We all know how bad the economy has been lately. The charitable foundations that support us have suffered the impact of the times as well. Many of the foundations that help us have had to cut back their support. This will have an impact on us this coming fiscal year. We will have to depend more on private donors, who have always been the backbone of our support. We are excited to offer a “Restoration Steward” membership program for people and groups who want to become monthly supporters. A big thank you to our starting members! We are very grateful to the many people who support us with both large and small contributions throughout the year. If you would like to become a monthly steward, contact Mary Serna at the restoration office (505-464-4539) and she will sign you up.

Mission Tours are a big hit with visitors

People from all over the world come to experience this special place, which remains open every day. Several years ago we began giving group tours. This year we have had one almost every week! Pictured here are members of the Lincoln County Historical Society with Brother Peter and Harry Vasile conducting the tour.

If you would like to book a group tour, you may contact Mary Serna to set the date and time. We encour-

age all ages, there is so much history here. Be sure to combine your visit with a trip to the nearby Mescalero Apache Cultural Center.





Bro. David & Anthony



Walter & Tommy

NEW TRAINEES

part-time while attending school. Both seem very interested in being a part of the restoration of the Mission.

Our new trainees are busy learning the basics of construction work in general, and restoration work in particular. There is equipment and scaffolding safety training along with the main

goals of learning the art of repointing stonework and constructing a dry stone retaining wall

Brother Peter, Tommy Spottedbird and Brother David all take great care to insure that our trainees have a good experience as they make a positive contribution and become a part of the history of this cherished building.

We have started a new training session and are happy to have Anthony Escalanti and Walter Scott on our crew. Both are Mescalero Apache Tribal members. Anthony is attending NMSU-Alamogordo and Walter attends the Mescalero Apache High School. Both are working

CONCERT HELPS BRING IN FUNDS

Once again *Schola Cantorum* from St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Santa Fe blessed the Mission with historic Christian music. This is their second concert to help raise funds for the restoration project. \$1,243.00 was donated by those attending the concert. Everyone enjoyed hearing the beautiful music in such an appropriate and inspiring setting.

Schola Cantorum is directed by Dr. Billy Turney and they find themselves traveling more and more giving concerts and singing for Liturgy on Feast Days at many northern New Mexico places such as Jemez Pueblo, Sile, Pena Blanca, La Bajada and San Ysidro.



On April 6, 2003 history was once again made at St. Joseph Apache Mission. Ricardo Ramirez, the Bishop of the Las Cruces, dedicated and blessed a painting of San Juan Diego.

“It is most fitting” the Bishop said, “that this is the first dedication of a painting of Juan Diego, the first indigenous person of North America to be canonized. It is wonderful that it has been painted by Oliver Enjady, [a local Mescalero artist] and placed at St. Joseph Apache Mission.”

Pictured here is Bishop

Ramirez with Father John Gibbons, Oliver Enjady and members of the parish standing in front of the painting. The Bishop remarked that the painting of San Juan Diego fittingly has some distinctively Apache characteristics.

After the Mass and dedication Oliver spoke about what an honor and challenge it was to put paint to canvas in order to do justice to such a man. “The painting is a representation of the past, the present and the future” Oliver said. We feel very blessed to have it here at St. Joseph’s.

BISHOP RAMIREZ DEDICATES SAN JUAN DIEGO PAINTING



MEET TOMMY SPOTTEDBIRD, OUR PROJECT FOREMAN



March was a big month for Tommy Spottedbird, he celebrated his third anniversary working on the restoration project, his third year being sober and his third wedding anniversary.

Tommy is a Kiowa man born in Hobart, OK in 1952. After graduating from high school Tommy got an Art degree from Haskell Jr. College in Lawrence, KS. Soon after that he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. It was after he was honorably discharged in 1975 that he started to drink heavily and lose control of his life. He worked at a variety of jobs from laborer to steel worker to being an Administration Assistant at Indian Health Services in Rockville, MD. But because of his alcohol addiction he was never able to keep any long term commitments.

Although Tommy searched for a purpose in his life, and went through

at least 18 rehabilitation programs, he could not find a reason to turn his life around. That is, not until he came to Mescalero.

In 1999 Tommy went through the rehabilitation program run by the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Afterward he came to work at St. Joseph's restoration project as a trainee, met his wife to be Hazel Botella, a Mescalero Tribal member, and decided that he wanted to make some big commitments in his life.

When Tommy was hired he asked how long the job would last. The response by Brother Peter was, "We just don't know." And so, Tommy made his first long term commitment by saying that he would stay until the job was finished. He laughs about that now because now we realize that the project will last 10 more years at the current rate! Soon after starting work Tommy and Hazel were married. By marrying Hazel he made a vow to her and to God, which has helped him to remain sober through the good times and the bad times. Tommy was promoted to Job Foreman in November of 2002 after Harry Vasile took a job with the Mescalero Schools.

"I enjoy my work with the young people. By sharing my life choices with them" he says, "I hope that it will help them to make better choices in their own lives". Tommy says that he loves the quiet time he has while

working on the restoration project, "it gives me time to meditate on my life and any problems I might be trying to solve".

"It also gives me an opportunity to share my concerns with my co-workers, who have been instrumental in helping me maintain my sobriety and live a meaningful Christian life. Tommy is a real ecumenical man, he is a Baptized Baptist, attends the Mescalero Reformed Church and works to restore a Catholic Church.



Whenever possible Tommy enjoys participating in intertribal powwows and Kiowa Ceremonials, either singing or dancing. Sports are another of Tommy's passions, especially long-distance running. -Semper Fi Tommy.



STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2003

Brother David Paz and Tommy Spottedbird had the chance to attend a day at the *Stonework Symposium* held in Santa Fe in April. "It was very informative" Tommy stated "We were impressed by the many different experts that were there." One of those experts was Dan Snow, who is a dry stone waller and au-

thor of *In the Company of Stone*. His presentation was very interesting to Tommy and Brother David because of the dry stone retaining wall we are building at the bottom of the hill in front of the Mission. Now that spring is here the crew is once again working on the wall and will finish it this summer.

**St. Joseph Apache Mission
Restoration Project**

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Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives

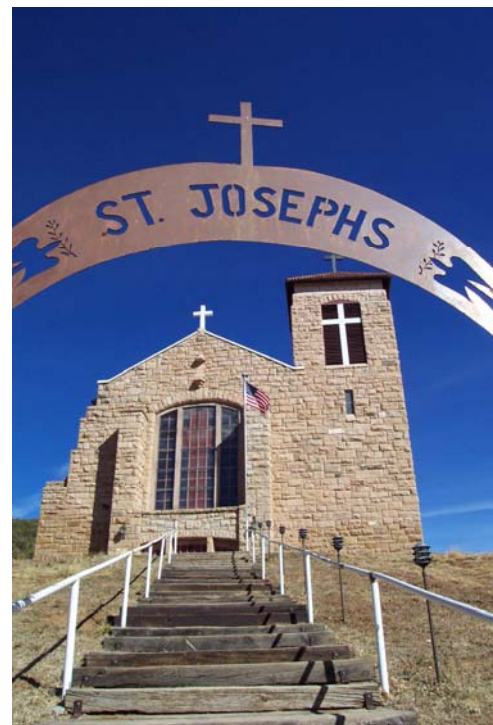


What's inside:

- ☼ *Director's Report*
- ☼ *Mission Tours*
- ☼ *Restoration Stewards*
- ☼ *New Trainees*
- ☼ *Schola Cantorum*
- ☼ *Stonework Symposium 2003*
- ☼ *Meet Tommy Spottedbird*
- ☼ *San Juan Diego*



Spring 2003 Restoration Crew



Stairway to St. Joseph Apache Mission