

# The Burden Basket



## St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

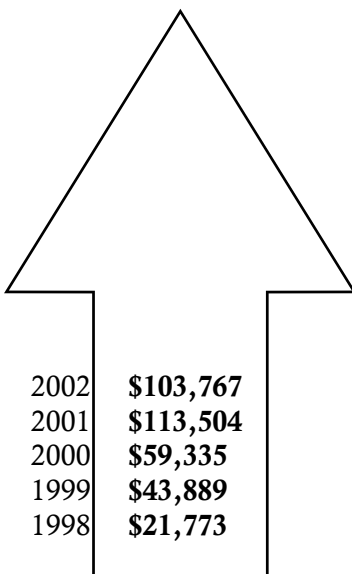
#### Funding Progress

Since fundraising began in February 1998 we have raised \$342,268.00. Of that amount 36% came from Foundation Grants, 54% from Private grants and donors with the remaining 10% from the hard work of raffles, food sales and concerts. With 22% of funds needed, we are off to a great start. Expenses to date have been \$285,436.08.

Funds needed to complete project:

**\$1,500,000.00**

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



We recently decided to use the Apache burden basket as a symbol of this restoration project. The drawing above was created by our faithful parishioner and hard-working volunteer Bruce Klinekole. The Apache burden basket was a utilitarian tool used for gathering food and other items needed by a nomadic people. Today the burden basket is used in the female Apache puberty ceremony. Filled with treats it is poured over the head of the girl becoming a woman during the ceremony as a sign of the blessing for good health and long life.

Some days I see this church and veterans memorial as a burden. This restoration project will take an enormous amount of money and work! But when I step back I see that St. Joseph Apache Mission is so very much needed and appreciated as a carrier of burdens. For example, whenever I need a little morale-booster I read through the things that people have written in our guest book. People from all over the world have left such beautiful messages:

*“Absolutely breathtaking. Touches the heart.”*

*“Very uplifting — full with the Spirit.”*

*“A sacred space. Thank you for open doors.”*

*“Inspira Paz”*

PETER A. BOEGEL O.F.M.



These same people who renew my strength with their messages of inspiration came here heavily burdened with life's problems; and here they found rest. People came here to honor veterans, who have carried the burden of pursuing peace in a world of conflict. People came here both to find blessing, and to experience that blessing being poured over them in abundance. Yes, this Mission is both burden and burden-carrier. In the end however, the burdens carried far outweigh the labor required.

Sharing the burdens and the blessings are the reasons for this newsletter. Thank you for sharing our burden of stewardship, so that this sacred and cherished place may continue to hold and bless the human burdens that we all carry on this nomadic journey of life.

## OTERO COUNTY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PITCHES IN



Throughout the past six months we have been working in collaboration with the Otero County Native Plant Society (OCNPS) and with the Mescalero

Apache Tribe on a project to landscape the hillside in front of the Mission. In January the OCNPS brought in Judith Phillips, author, educator and nursery owner specializing in native plants along with Wynn Anderson a native plant specialist and administrator at the Uni-

versity of El Paso, Texas.

This planning session accomplished a great deal, Mrs. Phillips drew up a landscape design for the group to follow in the months and years ahead. Mrs. Phillips said "If ever there was a project that was meant to be, this project is it." It has been exciting to watch the progress

on this project done entirely by volunteers and OCNPS grants. So far the hillside has been tilled and large boulders and rocks set in place. The next step will be planting.

Jim and Betty Claypool from nearby Bent, NM are in charge of the project and have put in many back breaking hours on the project.

## BATS BE GONE!

*It is one of our goals to totally eliminate the bats from inside the Mission.*

We have been in contact with Deanna Oberheu with the Caprock Canyon State Park in Texas. Ms. Oberheu has been giving us some direction on our continuing bat dilemma. It seems that the bats love our Mission as

much as we do. Although we have blocked all the access holes we could find, a number have managed to sneak back in. This indicates that we are correct in thinking that the entire church will need to be repointed inside and out

before we manage to keep the bats out entirely. One of Ms. Oberhue suggestions we plan to implement is the building of bat houses. To accomplish this we are inviting the high school shop classes in our area to get involved.

## DRAWING CONTEST



Pamela Cordova's 2nd grade class at Mescalero Elementary School had an art contest to raise awareness for our restoration efforts. Sixteen students drew such beautiful pictures that there was just no way to pick a winner, so courtesy of the **Big Chief** conven-

ience store and owner Patsy Blazer we were able to award each student a personal size pizza. This month we are featuring a drawing by M'Linn Hanks. She lives here on the reservation with her family. Great job M'Linn!

## REPOINTING ABOVE THE SANCTUARY ARCH IS FINISHED!

The crew has been busy this winter working 50-75 feet above the floor repointing the stonework of the arch above the sanctuary.

According to Brother Peter finishing this area is a major milestone in that we have now completed the interior repointing of the wall most in need of immediate repair. We are all breathing a sigh of relief. We hope to complete the exterior repoint-

ing of this wall this coming summer.

At present work is continuing on the interior apse wall, left of the altar. The crew is expecting to be finished with this section by the time they move back outside for the summer.

There is so much to do, and many challenges ahead. Yet we have been working full-time for over two years now making remarkable progress and seeing the realization of a dream.



## CRISOL-BUFONS GIVE FREE CONCERT

On December 6, 2001 medieval musical troupe *Crisol Bufons* performed a free concert inside St. Joseph Mission to help raise funds for the restoration project. It was a cold winter night and only 100 people attended, but it brought in \$775.00 and was a wonderful and enjoyable

concert. While the group was in Mescalero they also performed at the local elementary school. Another profitable local fundraising effort has been the enchilada dinners conducted by our parishioners, these have raised an additional \$2,085.00.



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## St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

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[www.geocities.com/  
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### Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives



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Mrs. Cordova's 2nd grade class displaying their drawings of the Mission with great pride. See inside article about their drawing contest.