



*St. Joseph Apache Mission
and Veterans' Memorial
Restoration Project
Progress Report
November 2010-April 2011*

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Throughout the past eleven years so much progress has been made and with an estimated three more years left to completion of the needed restoration work it has become more challenging to keep the funding rolling in. Tommy Spottedbird is constantly asking "Where is your faith?" The meaning of the word *faith* differs depending on where you get a definition. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word used means essentially steadfastness, and so we shall be steadfast with faith and see this project to the end.

The winter brought many different challenges for us. The repointing work went slower than we had anticipated due to the extensive deterioration and massive missing stones on the top rows on the section of the southeast interior wall. The crew found themselves constantly stopping to cut a stone to the right dimensions in order to fill the large voids. This work lasted until the end of March. The finished section of the wall is beautiful making it one step closer to completion!

For the past three years we had anticipated that one of our old boilers that runs the radiant floor heating would give out. True to the prediction it quit working this past winter. We purchased a new unit and hired Bonito River Services, Inc. to install a new one. We were rather shocked at the price increase over the one that was replaced in 2005. The company sent Josiah Van Winkle to do the work. This wonderful young man did much of the labor as a donation of his time saving us a bundle of money. Now parishioners, the workers and visitors alike can stay warm.

We also have been searching for different ways to help fund the restoration project since competition is so tough for the grants that we qualify for. Part of the restoration plan is to replace some of the old and plain windows with breathtaking works of art by stained glass artist, Teresa Thompson. Teresa has created all but one of our windows over the years. Donors have stepped forward to pay for the eleven planned windows. Three of the new stained windows have been recently installed.

James and Lynda Sánchez from Lincoln, New Mexico donated the Mother and Christ window which depicts Our Lady as a Mescalero maiden holding her child in a cradleboard. The window was donated in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary and in memory of James'

parents, Samuel and Altagracia Sánchez. As a special surprise their daughter Katherine and son-in-law Andrew Sánchez Meador from High Rolls, New Mexico also donated a window in honor of their anniversary, and in memory of Eve Ball. Eve Ball was an historian and author and a good friend of Fr. Albert Braun who built the church and Lynda who considered Eve her mentor. It is fitting that the window of St. Thomas, patron saint of builders was placed above Fr. Albert's burial site in the sanctuary of the church.

On April 3rd there was a blessing for the two new windows and the window of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha that was donated by Teresa Thompson. Fr. Paul Botenhagen, OFM, blessed the windows in the Catholic way using holy water and prayers followed by a traditional Apache Blessing by Mescalero Medicine Man, Sherman Blake with prayers and sacred pollen. A blessing was also extended to the donors and the Kateri Circle who are actively praying for the canonization of Kateri.

The work crew has moved back outside and they are making good progress on repointing the exterior walls of the bell tower. They began working down from where they left off last summer. It takes approximately a month to complete one scaffold level. At the rate the crew is working Tommy Spottedbird estimates that the crew will be able to complete repointing the bell tower's exterior walls by the end of the summer.

"God's Warrior, Last of the Frontier Priests" a biography of Fr. Albert Braun, OFM (the builder of the church) by author Dorothy Cave is here! Dorothy and her husband, Jack Aldrich have always been great supporters of the restoration project and Dorothy has generously stipulated that 10% of all book sales go to the Restoration Project. We are truly grateful for her generosity.

We will be having a book signing by the author here at St. Joseph Apache Mission at **2pm on Saturday May 28, 2011. The public is invited.** Books will be available for purchase at a special rate of \$30. Regular store price will be \$32.95. Dorothy will also have copies of her other books available and there will be many special guests and great food.

The book jacket reads: "Fellow priests called his ministry "just short of a miracle." A superior castigated him as "an adventurer." Apaches and migrant Mexicans claimed him "one of us." Of himself he chuckled, "I've been in mischief all my life."

He was Fr. Albert Braun, OFM, in turn mule-headed, explosive, or penitent. Vigorously outspoken, he once charged a group of august bishops to "get off your butts and out among the people." His sense of duty was profound, his humor crusty. He arrived in New Mexico as missionary to the Mescalero Apaches just after Pancho Villa's raid, was a highly decorated chaplain in both World Wars, and after World War II he participated in the top secret birth of the first hydrogen bomb on a pacific atoll.

Drawing on archival and military records, letters, memoirs, and interviews, Dorothy Cave chronicles the amazing life of this last of the frontier priests from his birth in the lusty, brawling California of 1889, to his death and burial in 1983 in the church he built his beloved Mescaleros. This book is at once a biography and a kaleidoscopic history of the tumultuous times in which he lived. From it there emerges the inspiring saga of a man who changed thousands of lives with faith, humor, dedication, and a generous dash of pure hard-headed cussedness.

If you are unable to make it to the book signing event, you can order the book through us by sending \$33 dollars to the Restoration Project (Attn: Mary Serna). It also available at amazon.com and will be in many book stores soon.

Currently we have one trainee, Sam Sosa who has been with us for a year now. Sam is a fast learner with vast skills in construction and a great attention for detail. At the at the end of this month a new trainee from the Mescalero Rehabilitation Center will be joining the crew once he completes the last stage of his rehabilitation treatment. Nikona Hosetosavit, Martin Pizarro, Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna make up the rest of the crew.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,846,277 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission church and Veterans' Memorial. Of that amount 50% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 23% from individuals, 10% through our stewardship program and the remaining 10% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "**Restoration Heroes**" have contributed \$192,840 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,812,450. Seventy-two percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of April 30, 2011 the balance in the restoration fund was \$40,651. Income from this reporting period (November 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011) was \$96,201 and expenses were \$89,133. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$31,230. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project began has been \$1,200,386. We could not begin to express our gratitude for all who have supplied the project with their time and talents.

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 Kay & Ray Denkhoff Fund through the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, T&M Braum Foundation, the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province, CA, 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, David & Deedee Tremblay, Sue Koepp, Jeffrey & Marie Spara, the late Louis Burselson, 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.

With school ending and summer close at hand we expect to see visitors to the mission increase. It is interesting to hear where the visitors are from and what has brought them to this beautiful part of the country. If we had a dollar from every visitor who has told us that they had been driving by for years and had never stopped, the project would have been paid for. It is so stimulating for all of us to hear visitors comment on how beautiful the church is looking and what progress has been made since their last visit. Sometimes the work can be tedious from the office work to the repointing however, after eleven years we know one thing. Though this project at times has been difficult, grueling and challenging, it has also been rewarding, fun, stimulating, and always an incredible blessing.

We can never express our gratitude enough or put into adequate words how much your support has assisted us in this special mission of restoration and preservation.