

# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



*Illustrated Progress Report for November 2007 through April 2008*



The restoration crew spent this winter repointing the stonework of the north wall interior, completing the work begun in the winter of 2006-2007.

Restoration Crew (l to r): Adam Hill, Tommy Spottedbird, Martin Pizarro, Nikona Hosetosavit and Lyle Magoosh.



The first order of business was to repoint the stonework of the small room in the north wall that was intended to house a staircase to the choir loft. Since the choir loft was never built, this room never got a staircase. This room was being used as a counseling room and for storage. This little room measures about 15 feet by 8 feet and is 27 feet tall.



The Restoration Crew repointing the stonework of the north wall interior.



Martin Pizarro caulking gaps in the window frame to keep the cold wind out.

Here is a demonstration of “Before” and “After” our repointing work at the top of the north wall interior.





Patrick Enriquez and his *PLE Electric, LLC* crew from Alamogordo, NM upgrading the electrical service at the east end of the church.



We discovered that rainwater was leaking into the church through the deteriorated concrete cornices at the top of the stone walls.

*Bar-M Construction, Inc.* of La Luz, NM has been hired to install new concrete cornices.



Here we see the *Bar-M Construction* crew pouring concrete to form a new cornice.



## *St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project*

### *Progress Report*

*November 2007 - April 2008*

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As spring winds down and summer approaches we are preparing to hire a new group of trainees. It is always exciting to welcome new recruits to the restoration project. They bring a high level of energy and we all get to know them and their life stories. Our motto “Restoring the Building and Rebuilding Lives” is a simple yet telling description of what we are doing here in Mescalero. It is very rewarding to witness these young people come into their own and watch them become confident in their abilities and see the pride they gain by contributing to the restoration of this important building that is such a big part of their community.

Since our last report (November 2007) the main focus of the restoration work has been repointing the stonework of the north wall interior. A great deal of work has been accomplished; the north wall interior and the “choir loft staircase room” have been finished. Still to be repointed are two of the small alcoves on this side of the church. While the scaffolding was in place on this wall the big windows were repaired – cracked glass replaced, the window framework cleaned and repainted, open gaps caulked.

#### **A bit of a digression:**

People often ask, “What is *Repointing*?” Repointing stonework is a part of the normal maintenance work necessary for any historic stone building. Stone walls must be repointed periodically, typically every 80 to 100 years, depending on the quality of the original mortar and other variables such as climate, seismic disturbances or leaky roofs. To match the mortar used in the original construction, the mortar used in the restoration of historic buildings contains lime rather than cement as a binder or “glue.” To form the mortar lime putty and sand are blended into a stiff mix, one part lime to three parts sand.

The repointing process involves the following steps: First deteriorated mortar is removed, usually digging into the mortar joints one to two inches. In places we have found that the mortar is so weak it is necessary to remove a foot or more into the wall. This step also involves removing smaller stones no longer stable. The next step is to give the mortar joints and the face of the stones a good cleaning with a scrub brush and water. After the stones are clean from dust and grime a “base coat” of mortar is applied, filling in the deeper holes and resetting the smaller stones that had to be removed.

After the deep holes in the wall have been filled, and the mortar given some time

to cure (harden), a “top coat” of mortar is applied. Once the top coat cures for a day or two the surface of the top coat is scraped back using the edge of a sharp trowel so that the finished surface of the mortar flows smoothly between the stones without tool marks, thereby exposing the sand to provide an attractive color and texture.

There is a great deal of art to this repointing work, and like any art it requires patience and craftsmanship. The guys on our restoration crew excel in this ancient and noble craft. The **Chemical Lime Company** has donated all the lime we have used for this restoration project. The nice red-colored sand for our mortar has been donated by the family of Richard Saenz, Sr. in Bent, NM. The sand is hauled to the church courtesy of the **Mescalero Apache Tribe**. The attached “Illustrated Project Report” contains a “Before” and “After” photo to show the difference our repointing has made.

Thanks to the generosity of all those who contribute to this restoration project we were able to keep our trainees from last summer working until January. Trainees Adam Hill and Lyle Magoosh learned a great deal and contributed much. They and their families have been grateful for the employment and the job-skills learned. Lyle has now begun his college education at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, and Adam is working at the *Inn of the Mountain Gods* in Mescalero.

In November **PLE Electric, LLC** of Alamogordo, NM was hired to rewire and upgrade the electrical service on the east end of the church. We have been doing the electrical work in phases as funding permits. Approximately three-quarters of the needed electrical work in the church has now been accomplished.

One of the major challenges facing this restoration project is the need to replace the roof. 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. Last summer we enjoyed a particularly wet “monsoon” season, which clearly highlighted the need to address this problem. Leaks through the roof caused some damage to a few areas of stonework that have already been restored. Extensive testing with a water hose up on the roof helped us determine that some of the worst leaks were being caused by water penetrating through the concrete cornices at the top of the stone walls. While there are no obvious open cracks in the cornices, water has been finding a way through this old concrete.

To address this problem we hired **Bar-M Construction, Inc.** of La Luz, NM to construct new concrete cornices. Ernest Martinez, owner of **Bar-M Construction**, brought together an experienced crew of concrete workers to take on this challenging job. The proceeds from last years Restoration Raffle will pay for a portion of this work.

The estimated cost for reroofing this beloved church and veterans’ memorial is \$186,827. Thanks to our generous donors we now have \$63,258 in the special “Roof Fund.” Our goal is to raise the balance needed in 2008 so that the badly needed roof replacement work can be accomplished in 2009. Again this year we are dedicating proceeds from our annual raffle towards the roof project. Raffle tickets will be mailed in August and the drawing will be held on October 5, 2008.

Project foreman Tommy Spottedbird continues to lead the crew and ensure first-rate work from everybody. Arylis Chee, Nikona Hosetosavit and Martin Pizarro continue to improve their craftsmanship. Everyone on the crew deserves a great deal of credit for their dedication and commitment to doing a good job. With the coming of May the danger of frost has past, so the crew along with two new trainees will move back to the outside of the church to begin the restoration of the south wall exterior.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,264,576 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission. Of that amount 45% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 29% from individuals, 9% 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 \$113,570 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,129,534. Seventy-three percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of April 30, 2008 the balance in the restoration fund was \$135,042. Income from this reporting period (November 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008) was \$89,069 and expenses were \$86,367. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$63,821. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project started has been \$927,400.

Since 1998 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 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, Clarence Brown, Cecil Russell, Paul & Carmen Brusuelas, Sue Koepp, Joseph & Barbara Kelly, Clarence Brown and the late Virginia Brown, Jeffrey & Marie Spara, Louis Burleson, 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.

At times it seems that the restoration work moves slowly, but then a visitor will come by and tell us that they can not believe the amount of work that has been accomplished since their last visit. This type of affirmation gives us a great boost. Years ago at a fundraising meeting we were told that our biggest obstacle will be our ability to keep up the interest in a project that will span such a long period of time. However, we have found that not only are many people still supporting us, their passion is like our passion: deep and committed. For this we are truly grateful.

We can all take pride in the good we are doing. Thank you for the part you play in this endeavor. Your generosity is equipping young people with valuable skills. Your generosity is ensuring that this sacred church and honored veterans’ memorial will continue to serve and inspire our fellow travelers on the journey of life.