

St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project

Illustrated Progress Report for May 2003 through October 2003



Architect and Historic Preservation Consultant Dale Zinn with our project Foreman Tommy Spottedbird and Director Peter Boegel, OFM.



Brother Peter, Tommy and Brother David Paz with TICRAT workshop group at the Dr. Woods house in Lincoln, NM.



Learning the art of dry stone wall construction from master waller Pete Mold are Walter Scott, Brother Peter and Christian Aldava

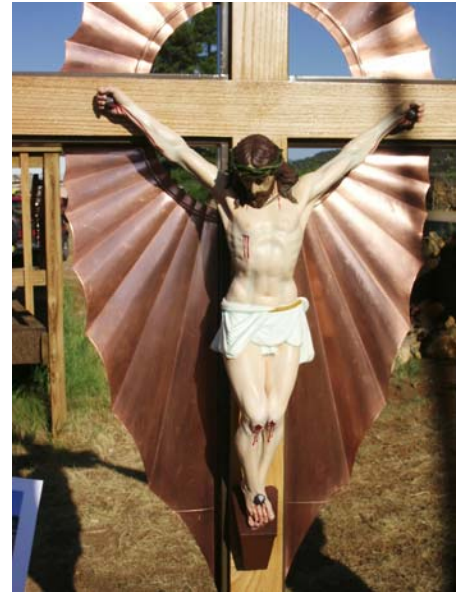




Brother Elmer Yung, OFM volunteered to help Brother Peter with some electrical work in the sanctuary.



Brother Jose Luis Nerio polishing the copper flare of the crucifix.



Teresa Thompson volunteered her services to repair and paint the corpus.



Tommy Spottedbird working with Christian Aldava and Walter Scott.



Before



Tommy prepares the voids to be repointed.

After



View of finished wall



The apse with scaffold, ready for restoration.



Raffle Prizes



Father Larry Gosselin, OFM blessing all those who purchased tickets or donated prizes as children wait to draw the winning tickets.





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Fall is a time for us to look back and give thanks to everyone who supports the restoration of this beloved landmark church and veterans memorial. It is because of the generosity of so many that our work continues. This project is a true mingling of cultures -- from the contributors to the crew -- we come from all over the country and from all over the world. It is exciting to realize that in February we will celebrate our fourth year of fulltime work on the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission.

As we head into 2004 we are looking forward to the challenges that await us. One reason that we are so optimistic is the fact that we have been able to hire Architect and Historic Preservation Consultant Dale F. Zinn. Mr. Zinn is well respected for his preservation work throughout New Mexico and Colorado. He will be providing us with a professional engineering assessment and a Historic Structures Report, along with expert guidance on prioritizing the work to be done. These will be extremely helpful tools to direct the Restoration Project, and should help us in obtaining grants.

All of our summer trainees were hard working young men. Anthony Escalanti was attending New Mexico State University in Alamogordo, NM and working with us at the same time. Walter Scott has been a trainee since mid-April. He graduated from Mescalero High School and is continuing to work with us until he heads off to college for the spring semester. A member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Walter is very active with the youth program at the neighboring Reform church, and belongs to the Botella Crown Dance group. Christian Aldava, also a Tribal member, is still attending Mescalero High School where he is involved in football and track. Christian and Walter were great help all summer.

Our training program is a very important part of the restoration. At first we were excited that we were able to offer much needed job training to young people who will eventually go out into the work field with experience and some expertise. Now we see that we are just as enriched by them, they bring a vitality and excitement to the job that we all appreciate.

Pete Mold the Historic Building Preservationist from England who has given us so much training in restoration work in the past, visited us once again for a total of four weeks this past spring and summer. He continued instructing Tommy and our trainees Anthony, Walter and Chris in the art of dry stone wall construction. Thanks to Mr. Mold a great deal of progress was made on the stone retaining wall in front of the Mission.

In May Brother Elmer Yung, OFM a Franciscan Friar from St. Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA volunteered his skills to help Brother Peter with some electrical work in the sanctuary. Carroll Vann, owner of **CVE Machine & Welding** donated his time and talent in repairing the six hanging lamps and the metal crucifix of the sanctuary. When all were finished Salvador Saucedo, from Alamogordo, NM gave the lamps and cross a new coat of paint while Teresa Thompson, from Cloudcroft, NM repaired and painted the corpus.

We had another summer volunteer, Brother Jose Luis Nerio, OFM originally from El Salvador and currently living in Oakland, CA where he is studying to become a Franciscan priest. Brother Jose Luis worked on the stone retaining wall and other aspects of work around the church. During the month of July Bro. Jose Luis helped Sister Robert Ann Hecker, OSF, teach classes to the children during the summer catechism program for the parish.

The Restoration crew attended the International Workshop for the Conservation and Restoration of Earthen Architecture (TICRAT) in Historic Lincoln, NM on April 23-27. This event was sponsored by **Cornerstones Community Partnerships**. Brother Peter gave a PowerPoint presentation on our Restoration Project. It was a wonderful opportunity for our crew to network with other people from the United States and Mexico involved in restoration work. Other presenters during the workshop were James Hare from the NM State Historic Preservation Division Office, Antonio Guerra from Chihuahua, Mexico, and David Yubeta of the National Parks Service. This was also a hands-on workshop in which we all got a chance to work with lime plaster on the historic Dr. Woods House being restored by the **Hubbard Museum of the American West**.

The Third annual Restoration Raffle was a success, thanks to all those who participated, and thanks to the generosity of the people who donated the wonderful prizes. Many people sent in an extra donation with the tickets. The raffle brought in \$6,873.37 and made ten people happy winners.

Thus far the Restoration Project has raised \$544,018.70. Thirty eight percent of that amount came from private foundation grants. Thirty three percent from individual donations, eight percent from fundraising activities, eight percent from family trusts, five percent from Cecil Russell (used to help make the church free of bats), three percent from the Franciscan Friars, three percent from outside parish appeals, and two percent from interest earned. Our total expenses to date have been \$463,153.57 with approximately 75% of that amount paying for labor and training. Restoration Project expenses are currently running at \$9,553.70 per month. As of October 31, 2003 the balance in the restoration fund was \$79,760.03.

We have received grants from the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, The Stockman Family Foundation, The William R. & Virginia Hayden Foundation, The Robert E. & Evelyn McKee Foundation, the Burkitt Foundation Perpetual Fund through the El Paso Community Foundation, the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, and the John & Katherine Naudin Foundation.

Our list of donors (who we refer to as “Restoration Heroes”) continues to grow, little by little. The Stewardship Program, composed of people who donate monthly, is becoming more popular. Our tours have been popular and beneficial, we find the people extremely interested in our Restoration Project and in the history of the Mission. With each tour we find a few new friends. To help us spread the word about our project we are creating a new Restoration Project website on the internet. This website is being designed and hosted by Tribal-run **Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc** at no charge. Webmaster Jim Wilcox is doing a wonderful job, and has even included the capability where people can donate to the Restoration Project directly from the site using their credit card. When you get a chance visit: www.matisp.net/stjoes1.htm . If you can help us find ways to attract visitors to the site, please let us know.

The crew is currently made up of Restoration Director Brother Peter Boegel, our foreman Tommy Spottedbird, mason Brother David Paz, administrator Mary Serna, and trainees Walter Scott and Corleen Chino. To date we have had ten students participate in our training program. It is very satisfying to get letters from our trainees expressing how much they gained and appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this project.

The crew is working this fall and winter to replace the deteriorated mortar, and make other necessary repairs, to the last three wall sections of the apse (behind the altar). While this area is under restoration we have removed the Apache Christ icon that Robert Lentz painted for the church in 1989. We are working with an art conservator from New Mexico State University, Syliva Marinas, to get an estimate of the cost to clean and restore this world famous icon. When the apse area is finished the repointing of the front of the church will be completed. This will be a huge milestone and will mark the first time in four years that the sanctuary will be scaffold-free.

This year we will continue to focus on generating interest and funding to ensure that the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission will continue. We are in the process of finishing up our application to be placed on both the Federal and State Registry of Historic Places. This listing will qualify us for additional funding sources. Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, along with an illustrated progress report showing the great work you helped support. Also enclosed is the latest issue of our Restoration Project newsletter, “The Burden Basket.” This semiannual publication is sent to all of our donors, while the more detailed Progress Report is sent to supporting foundations, major donors, and other interested people.

We witness each day how the Mission inspires and serves the community. It is with deep gratitude that we thank you and all of our donors for working with us to ensure that this sacred landmark will continue to meet the needs of the many people who come here, and the trainees that are gaining valuable skills, marketable experience, and a great sense of self-esteem.