

# St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



*Illustrated Progress Report for May through October 2007*

This summer the restoration crew completed the restoration of the north wall exterior. Another milestone!



*Scaffold on the north wall*



*Tommy Spottedbird working with trainee Lyle Magoosh*

Three young men participated in our training program during this period. All learned a great deal and helped a great deal.

*Trainee Jerome Treas  
working with Nikona  
Hosetosavit*



*Trainee Adam Hill*



Carlos Flores volunteered a few weeks of his summer helping with the restoration project. Carlos is currently in the Franciscan formation program studying to be a Franciscan Friar. While in Mescalero Carlos also contributed his time and musical talent helping out the parish choir and teaching children in the parish summer youth program.



In September the crew moved back indoors and started to work in the “choir loft staircase room” and the adjoining alcove. The choir loft shown in the original blueprints was never constructed, so the staircase room never had a staircase. Over the years a small portion of this space has been used as a confessional and for storage.

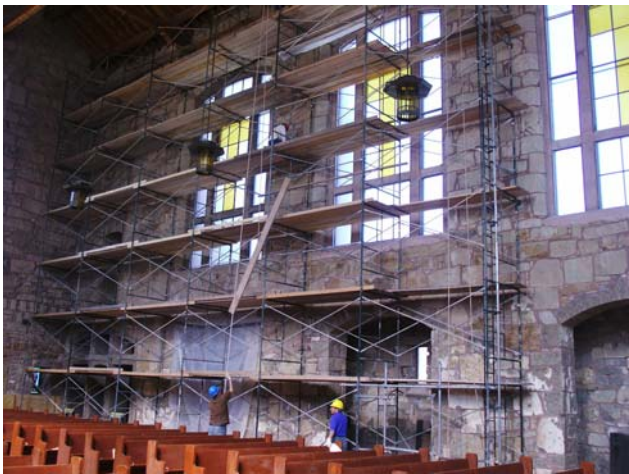
This staircase room measures 15 feet wide, 8 feet deep and about 27 feet tall. Currently Tommy, Nikona and Lyle are working inside this area repointing the stonework. The restoration committee will decide how best to use this space.







We rented a 45 foot articulating boom lift for a week to make possible a variety of little repair jobs around the church. The beauty of this electric lift was that it fit through our new entryway and could be used inside as well as outside.



In October we erected scaffolding on the back two-thirds of the north wall interior. Once the staircase room has been restored, we will start work on this wall, picking up where we left off last spring.

Our newest trainee, Martin Pizarro, is pictured here learning from project foreman Tommy Spottedbird. Martin's wages are being completely paid for by a grant from Katherine Ortega, through the Vanguard Endowment Fund.



Wayne & Lynette Brown along with Arturo Murillo all of Silver City, NM volunteered a week of their time to help with the restoration project. They worked hard, got dirty, and helped significantly.



## *St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project*

### *Progress Report*

*May – October 2007*

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Since the formation of the Restoration Committee in 1998 the main focus of the St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project has been to ensure that this cherished church and veterans' memorial will continued to meet the needs of all who come here to find peace and inspiration in their busy lives. Once fulltime work started in February 2000 the members of the Restoration Committee realized that this project provided a golden opportunity to help young adults in the community in need of employment and job skill training. It is gratifying to see the young people who have participated in this training program, twenty-two so far, gain skills and pride in a job well done that is greatly appreciated by so many people.

A great deal of progress has been made since our last report. Another milestone on this restoration journey was achieved this summer when the crew completed the restoration of the north exterior wall. The stonework of the north exterior wall has been stabilized, the mortar joints have been repointed, and the windows have been repaired and sealed. Since 2005 we have spent a total of about 12 months working on the north exterior wall, an area of almost 4400 square feet. This past summer our dedicated crew and trainees completed the restoration of the western-most section of this wall. Work on the outside of the church can only take place from May till the end of August so that the new mortar does not freeze before it cures. Literally hundreds of gaps leading into the church interior have now been sealed, keeping wind, rain, snow and critters from getting into the church through this wall.

Restoration crewmembers Tommy Spottedbird, Arylis Chee and Nikona Hosetosavit worked hard with a new group of trainees this past summer. We started in June with a returning trainee from last year, Clay Geronimo. Clay is attending New Mexico State University and is very involved on the College Rodeo Team. Because of his commitment to the team he worked a limited number of hours. Besides Clay, we employed two young men who came to the Restoration Project through our collaboration with the "GEAR UP" program at the Mescalero High School. Jerome Treas and Lyle Magoosh were grateful for the employment and training; both have found the work challenging. Jerome has moved on to a job at the *Inn of the Mountain Gods* in Mescalero. We hired Adam Hill to take Jerome's place. Adam, from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, is living here with his two year old son and with his Mescalero fiancée Leslie Bigmouth, a former trainee on this project currently attending college. Lyle and Adam continue to learn life and job skills as we shifted our efforts back to the interior of the church in September.

The Restoration Project received a big boost towards the end of summer when we received a grant from Katherine Ortega through the Vanguard Endowment Fund to hire a new crewmember, Martin Pizarro. Martin is off to a great start, he comes with a wide breadth of experience in construction work. Martin lives in Ruidoso with his wife, Norma and their two children.

This summer several people supported this Restoration Project through the gift of time and labor. Brother Carlos Flores volunteered a few weeks in June. Carlos is currently in the Franciscan formation program studying to be a Franciscan friar. While in Mescalero, Carlos also contributed his time and musical talent helping out the parish choir and teaching children in the parish summer youth program. Fr. Albert Braun's grand-nephew Wayne Brown and his wife Lynette, along with Arturo Murillo, all of Silver City, NM came to do some volunteer work with us in October. All three enjoyed their time here and commented on the hard work that is being done. Having them lend a hand cleaning out deteriorated lime mortar and cement patches allowed the rest of the crew to concentrate on doing the repointing finishing work. While here they camped out on the church grounds. Arturo said "By doing this work I received payment through a blessing I received by making a connection with Martin. We shared a special time talking in our native language, Spanish, and it reconnected me with my son who passed away over eight years ago. I really enjoyed being here, but it was like having a full-time job, which was hard after being retired for over five years." We are grateful for their help and enjoyed working with them all. Volunteers have been a big help since the beginning of this project.

The first project being tackled this fall is the restoration of what we are calling the "choir loft staircase room." A small portion of this room was being used as a confessional and for storage space; most of this room has been hidden behind paneling for the past 30 years. It was interesting to see the space cleaned out; visions of what this area could eventually be used for are dancing through people's minds. Restoration work has also started on the small alcove next to the staircase room. It is indeed exciting to see so much progress being made.

Mark Garwood of Tularosa did a wonderful job building new frames for the large Apache Puberty Ceremony triptych and the four portraits of Apache leaders that have been hanging in the back of the church for many years. Mark used oak to match the new interior entryway. The portraits were painted in 1948 by Henry Schnautz, who was a friend of Lincoln County Historian, the late Eve Ball. Henry served in Europe during World War II and became acquainted with Father Albert Braun through Ms. Ball. Currently the portraits of Victorio, Cochise, Geronimo and Naiche are at the New Mexico State University Art Conservatory in Las Cruces being restored by art conservator Silvia Marinas. The cost for the stabilization/conservation work is estimated at \$2,800. The triptych is already back on the wall above the entryway, the Apache leader portraits will be hung on the west wall when the conservation work on them is completed.

At the end of September we rented an electric 45 foot self-propelled articulating boom for a week. This handy device enabled us to seal and repaint a leaking metal window frame. This boom was small enough to drive inside the church and tall enough to reach the electrical conduit mounted on the roof trusses. This allowed us to inspect the lamps hanging from the roof trusses. We made note of the fact that we will eventually have to rewire all of the interior lamps and give them a new coat of paint. We also repaired some leaking gutters, replaced four broken tiles on the apse roof, and lime-washed the concrete of the south transept window. In doing this work it

became obvious that having the use of this kind of equipment would save hours of heavy labor erecting and dismantling scaffold. In the future, once the Restoration Project is finished, easy access to the 50 foot walls would help ensure that necessary maintenance could be done simply and in a timely manner. We have submitted a grant proposal to a private foundation requesting the \$50,000 needed to purchase a reconditioned aerial work platform of this type.

This year's raffle was our most successful raffle yet, netting \$18,338! Once again all of the great prizes were donated, including the \$1,000 cash prize. We also had prizes for the top four ticket setters. We truly appreciate all who supported this raffle, with special mention going to the many American Legion Posts that contributed. A special thanks goes to Coonie Starr, the Commander of American Legion Post 48 in Mescalero, for his letter of support.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,176,780 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission. Of that amount 39% came from private foundation grants, 11% from non-profit group grants, 30% from individuals, 8% through our stewardship program and the remaining 12% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "**Restoration Heroes**" have contributed \$94,210 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,040,027. Seventy-two percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of October 31, 2007 the balance in the restoration fund was \$138,758.92. Income from this reporting period (May 1, 2007 – October 31, 2007) was \$114,903 and expenses were \$88,399. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$80,950. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project started has been \$863,579.

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 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.

When we look around this honored church and veterans' memorial we feel proud of what is being accomplished: the ongoing transformation of a sadly deteriorating building into a strong, safe haven of peace and inspiration. It is clear to everyone who visits St. Joseph Apache Mission that our restoration project has had an enormously beneficial impact on the stability and beauty of this sacred place. Less easily seen is the substantial impact this restoration project has had on the young men and women we have been able to employ and mentor. Thank you for your interest and support; you can feel proud too, because you help make all of this possible.