



*St. Joseph Apache Mission and
Veterans' Memorial
Restoration Project
Progress Report
May- October 2010*

Mary M. Serna

Co-director

Restoration Administrator

Tommy Spottedbird

Co-director

Restoration Foreman

(575) 464-4539

Website: www.stjosephmission.org

Email: petrus@matisp.net

With the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approaching, we pray that you experience an abundance of the earth's greatest gifts; health, happiness and enduring friendships.

We have enjoyed a great Indian summer but snow and the cold weather are now the norm with a few mild days here and there. The church still attracts visitors who express their interest on what a remarkable job that is being done to save this "Jewel of the Diocese". Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop of Las Cruces once remarked that "if this church were in Las Cruces it would be the cathedral for the Diocese". The Mescalero Apache people are proud of this building and what it stands for, God, country, honor of our veterans and a place of peace and worship. It truly is a fine example of traditional and cultural blending.

The restoration project took many different directions since our last report. Because the church developed a leak over the arch of the sanctuary the crew found that the wall that supports the east cornice was the problem. This wall was covered in stucco and hiding an ugly secret. There were large voids and severally deteriorated mortar that had been covered up in the past fooling the architect to believe we only needed the flashing replaced. After the summer crew removed the stucco and repointed the wall adding stones where necessary it fixed the problem.

The next accomplishment was the completion of the choir loft staircase room roof. In the original blue prints this room's purpose was to house the stairs that were to lead to the choir loft. Since the choir loft never was finished the space has been used mostly as a confessional room, we do plan on it to be used for that purpose once again and perhaps other things. We have a family that has expressed interest in paying to have the entrance to this area constructed to replicate the main entryway, thus adding a new element of beauty to the church.

The remainder of the alcove roofs were finished by early summer, except for the one next to the bell tower. It will be completed after the crew finishes repointing the exterior walls of the bell tower next summer, as that roof is part of the scaffold support system for the bell tower work.

Rotted wood of the belfry was replaced and all of the belfry wood got a coat of primer and fresh paint. It looks good as new. While some of the crew worked on it, others worked on repointing the exterior wall of the bell tower to help keep the work on schedule. Tommy Spottedbird also took the opportunity to give the white crosses on the cornices a new coat of paint.

Another problem that side tracked the project was the continual breaks in the main waterline to the rectory offices and parish hall. Each time the line would break the crew would be forced to stop their repointing work due to lack of water. While we were out of water the crew would have to fill up 55 gallon barrels with water for the parish hall bathrooms and kitchen. We were able to work in collaboration with the Tribal Water Department on this project. The parish paid for the pipe and the water department crew did the actual work. This saved the parish over \$11,000 which was the estimate from a local contractor. It also saved the water department because they were patching the line on average three times a month.

In between all of the restoration work that was done, our 10th Annual Raffle was in full swing. This raffle was quite interesting. In the past the winners were spread out from coast to coast. This year however five of the prizes were won by Mescalero residents and the other nine prizes by people residing in New Mexico. The net amount of funds raised was \$15,971, that is down over \$4,000 from last years profit, which seems to indicate what everyone keeps saying “the economic times are bad” and that they are affecting just about everyone is a harsh reality.

A couple of new funding opportunities that we have been working on are starting to show promise. One is our first calendar, which features some of our favorite photos of the church. These are selling for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for mailing. These are nice Christmas gifts for those people who have everything or are hard to buy for. They can be purchased through our website, through the mail, email or by phone. If the calendars are successful we will add other items such as mouse pads, baseball caps and other personalized St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project items.

When September swept in and brought with it cooler weather, the crew began the cumbersome job of taking down some of the scaffold around the top of the bell tower to move it into the church. With the help of the crew and community service worker, Alfred Torrez, Tommy Spottedbird worked as the choreographer of this job as it were a dance. Within a week the scaffolding was completed and the crew began the repointing work at the top of the south interior wall. We had no idea that the deterioration of the mortar was so bad, there are many very large stones missing from the top rows of the wall. The crew became very concerned that the wall might collapse, but Tommy assured them that there were plenty stones behind the voids that would keep that from happening.

Tommy spent many hours cutting stones from a large bolder to the sizes needed to fill in the large voids. It is always amazing to see how the work continues through each stage, starting from the removing the loose deteriorated mortar, cleaning the voids and stone faces. The next step in the process is what is called the base coat, this is where the lime mortar is forced into the voids by the flick of the wrist using a very small trowel. The crew replaces the missing large stones and in smaller voids place smaller rocks and in deep holes they use small broken pieces of clay tiles from the old roof to help make the mortar stronger. The final step is the top coat; it is allowed to harden slightly and scraped back to form smooth even joints between the stone. During the entire process the wall is misted twice a day to allow it to cure slowly to become long lasting.

Currently we have one trainee, Sam Sosa is one of the men we hired to work on the roof. He agreed to work at a lesser wage as a trainee in order to receive training in a construction area where he has no experience. We are hoping to obtain some grant funding to allow us to hire an additional trainee or two, before the end of winter. Nikona Hosetosavit, Martin Pizarro, Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna make up the rest of the crew.

Since 1998 we have raised \$1,750,188 for the restoration of St. Joseph Apache Mission church and Veterans' Memorial. Of that amount 49% came from private foundation grants, 7% from non-profit group grants, 25% 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 \$158,010 since that program began in May 2003. Our total expenses to date add up to \$1,721,928. Seventy-two percent of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. As of October 31, 2010 the balance in the restoration fund was \$33,961. Income from this reporting period (May 1, 2010 - October 31, 2010) was \$84,823 and expenses were \$80,051. In-Kind value from donations of time and services for this period was \$29,596. In-Kind value from donations of time and services since the project began has been \$1,169,156.

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, 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 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.

The crew is pretty much on schedule, the winter will be spent working on the south central interior wall from the top working their way down. Once spring warming looks promising the crew will prepare to move the scaffolding back outside to finish up the bell tower. Administratively there are grant proposals to write and fundraisers to plan, the paperwork seems to never end.

In this season more than ever, may we all cherish the virtue of love, keep praying for lasting unity, and peace, and honor the spirit of freedom which as Americans makes us who we are individually and as a country. As our staff and committee members continue to work diligently to keep this project moving forward to completion, please be assured that your investment in this project is very important to our success.