

CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION Cornerstone

FALL 2021

Celebrating 250 Years Along with 150 Years of Restoration

As we commemorate Carmel Mission's 250th anniversary this year, we want to share the incredible history of community-driven support that has preserved this landmark since 1846, when the U.S. took control of the Mission ruins, and continues today.

In August 1771, Junípero Serra crested Carmel Hill to see the fertile lands of Carmel River and decided to move the San Carlos Mission to modern day Carmel. Building small structures to mark the land, it wasn't until Christmas Eve, 250 years ago, that Serra held a mass under a small wooden gazebo and announced the relocated Mission as San Carlos Borromeo del Río Carmelo. Construction continued for the next 60 years, leaving us with the renowned stone basilica, completed in 1797, and the adobe walls of the structures we see today. By the time the U.S. assumed control of Alta California and our 31st state was created, the Mission was in ruin, and in 1852 the roof on the stone church collapsed.

Thirty years later, in 1871, a century after it was the thriving headquarters of the California Mission System, the Carmel Mission property remained in complete ruin. There was no priest or parish congregating on the site. It was at this time when a Monterey priest, together with community members, local and state leaders, writers, and visitors became compelled to restore the Mission. They understood and valued the significant history of Carmel Mission and began raising funds to support repairs. By sparing the property from total ruin, they set the groundwork for what would become a thriving parish with resident pastor, home to the Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey, and center of community pride for the Monterey Peninsula. Today the Mission is one of California's most historic landmarks and has hosted world leaders, popes, presidents, and kings.

It all started a few years after the end of the American Civil War when Fr. Angelo Casanova joined the Diocese of Monterey and began opening the Carmel Mission one day a year, on San Carlos Day, with a celebratory Mass. Casanova started raising funds to put a roof on the church ruins. A young Robert Louis Stevenson came to Monterey and visited this celebration on November 4, 1879, which he wrote about in his essay "The Old Pacific Capital." He discussed the



"...visitors will flock to such a curiosity, as they flock to similar curiosities in Europe by the hundred and the thousand..."



CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

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CONTACT INFORMATION

200 Clock Tower Place, Ste. E-206
Carmel, CA 93923
(831) 624-3261

PO Box 221351
Carmel, CA 93922

Website:
www.carmelmissionfoundation.org

Email:
office@carmelmissionfoundation.org

The Carmel Mission Foundation's objective is to restore and preserve the historic buildings, grounds, and artifacts of the Carmel Mission, founded in 1771. The Foundation is independent from any religious organizations. The Mission is a U.S. National Historic Landmark, a California State Landmark, and is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Since 2008, the Foundation has awarded over \$14 million to support the restoration and preservation needs throughout the Carmel Mission campus.

From the Executive Director



As the Foundation closes to a productive 2021, I want to thank you all for your commitment in achieving our mutual goal to preserve this historic landmark. I am grateful to work with you all in restoring this extraordinary property and am proud to have successfully completed the Foundation's third major restoration in time to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Carmel Mission this year. Your contributions made that happen!

While there is much to be thankful for this past year, we need your help to continue the vision and increase the Foundation's impact in 2022. The vision for next year will begin with creating an Artifact Restoration Fund and an Artifact Restoration Committee charged with identifying smaller restoration needs and preserving these important pieces of art and history.

Together, we will rebuild our Capital Restoration Fund that made the successful \$4 million Downie Forecourt project a reality. Rebuilding this fund is imperative to continue the important research and assessment needs on the remaining museum buildings, Orchard House property, and any unforeseen emergency repairs that may arise, which occurred in 2020 when the perimeter wall crumbled and needed to be removed and reconstructed.

This vision plan will also focus on creating new history, art, and education programs for our community and youth. We plan to bring the Evolution of Carmel Mission exhibit to life both via digital media and as a tangible exhibit that will be displayed at multiple locations throughout the community. We have been invited back to local elementary schools to resume our popular 4th grade history presentations at multiple districts in the county. We plan to build on this program by creating a CMF Youth Ambassador Program for high school students to engage with the 4th graders by leading presentations sharing Carmel Mission's 250 year history. As community activities re-open, we are excited to re-engage our history lectures and presentations to civic organizations and service clubs throughout the county as well as art and social events.

Together with your support, the Foundation has a goal of raising \$600,000 annually to create an Artifact Restoration Fund, rebuild the Capital Restoration Fund, and design history, art, and educational programs for our youth and community. We will build our volunteer team and add to our Board of Directors for help advising these programs to guide their success. If you are interested in contributing your knowledge and time, please contact our office.

Together, we are achieving great things! Please consider making a pledge or donation today by filling out the enclosed envelope. A gift at any value will make a difference in reaching these exciting goals for 2022 and beyond.

We look back on 2021 with gratitude for you and the difference you've made in preserving this landmark for future generations and are confident that with your continued support we will have an exciting 2022!

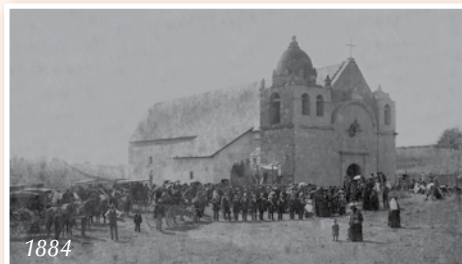
Merry Christmas,



Stephanie Zelei, Executive Director
sz@carmelmissionfoundation.org

150 Years of Restoration

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beauty of the ruins and need for restoration and that someday “visitors will flock to such a curiosity, as they flock to similar curiosities in Europe by the hundred and the thousand.” This caught the interest of many notables coming to live in Carmel such as Jane Stanford who made a large donation. To raise additional funds, Fr. Casanova offered 10-cent tours of the ruins to the affluent guests of the Hotel Del Monte that opened in 1880. In 1884, with \$4,000 raised, they were able to put a roof on the stone church to preserve the ruins from further decay.

The community continued to raise funds to work on the interior of the church as the Monterey Peninsula developed, but it wasn’t until after WWI, when Fr. Ramón Mestres helmed the Diocese of Monterey and began the 2nd restoration period. Fr. Ramón, renowned for his character in John Steinbeck’s “Tortilla Flats,” was quite a historian and took a special interest in restoring Carmel Mission from the ruins that remained. In 1910 he started the Restoration League, bringing community members from across the region to start researching and planning the Mission’s restoration. It became clear that an active parish would be needed to raise the necessary funds to restore the property as he envisioned. With that in mind he began the mission’s great restoration by building quarters for visiting priests in order to open the church regularly and build a parish. He found the footings of Serra’s second church from 1773 and used the padres descriptions and historical documents to build the Downie Museum we see today.

Completing this adobe in 1921 Mestres continued to restore other structures onsite, such as the Orchard House built in 1812 for the orchardist who managed the lower fields. He quickly completed the Mora Chapel Museum utilizing the skills of Carmel sculptor Jo Mora, who he also commissioned to create the Cenotaph of Fr. Serra and can be seen in the Mora Museum today.

To help fund these efforts, Fr. Mestres sold the newly restored Orchard House, in 1924, to three women, one of whom was Eva DeSalba, the 2nd mayor of Carmel, who opened the adobe as the Mission Tea House, a popular spot for Friday lunch and afternoon tea for locals until it closed in 1929. The Orchard House property stayed privately owned until 2012 when it was willed back to the Diocese and awaits restoration to this day.

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Evolution of Carmel Mission

The Evolution of Carmel Mission is a program that captures current views of the Carmel Mission and surrounding region and matches them with vantage points of historical images dating back to the 1860’s. A “Then and Now” concept, these images will share the Mission’s history and show the transformation of not only the Carmel Mission property, but also the surrounding area. With your help we plan to develop this imagery into both a live art exhibit and a digital media presentation to share throughout the community.

Donate today and make this program happen!



150 Years of Restoration

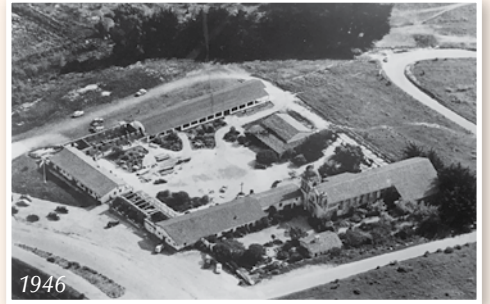
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It wasn't until 1931, when a young Harry Downie, at age 28, came down from San Francisco with his sights set on opening a cabinet making business in Santa Barbara. En route, he stopped off to restore a statuary at the Carmel Mission and remained indefinitely. In 1933 the Mission became an independent parish, and Msgr O'Connell's first order as pastor was to hire Harry Downie to restore the Carmel Mission ruins, which began the Mission's 3rd and greatest restoration period. Working with the community to fund and restore the ruins to the buildings we see today. He spent years researching and locating Mission artifacts to return to the property and continued to oversee restoration needs until his passing in 1980.

Over the next 25 years minimal restoration took place, with many of the buildings no longer stable and artifacts in need of preservation. Fr. John Griffith, along with a volunteer group of parishioners and community members led by Carmel resident Samuel Wright, joined together to create a new foundation focused on preserving and restoring this national landmark for future generations.

The Carmel Mission Foundation was established in 2008 with the sole purpose of planning and funding restoration and preservation of the historic buildings, grounds, and artifacts throughout the Carmel Mission. Since establishment, the Foundation has funded more than \$14 million towards these needs throughout the Carmel Mission property, which includes the restoration of the renowned Basilica, nine bells, Central Courtyard, Downie Museum, and Basilica Forecourt.

The Carmel Mission Foundation remains dedicated to continuing a 150-year-long legacy of joining our community together to preserve this historic and beloved property. In 2022, the Foundation will begin rebuilding the Restoration Fund with a goal of raising \$250,000 annually to assess and research the preservation needs of the remaining structures and artifacts and continue to share this incredible history throughout the community.



Please join us in our commitment: sponsor, pledge or donate today.



Third Restoration Project Complete!

The Downie Museum and Basilica Forecourt Restoration

Together with your help, the Foundation has completed its third major restoration at historic Carmel Mission. After three years of planning and fundraising for this front section of the 22-acre property, we are thrilled to have successfully completed this project in time to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Misión San Carlos Borromeo del Río Carmelo – the Carmel Mission.

Part of the original Northeast Quadrant project, the Basilica Forecourt and 100-year-old Downie Museum adobe were in need of restoration. By strengthening the adobe, making the courtyards accessible, and improving the infrastructure groundwork, this area of the property is now compliant with current codes and is preserved for future generations. Here are some project highlights.

Downie Museum Exterior

Structurally overstressed and deteriorating due to unreinforced masonry, this century-old adobe was seismically strengthened according to state requirements making it structurally sound for the hundreds of thousands of students, locals, and tourists who visit annually. New electrical and fire suppression lines were added, interior and exterior adobe walls were strengthened, and the roofline, fireplace, and wood support beams were reinforced. To prevent water damage to the building and eliminate future mold buildup, new rain gutters and drainage were added. The historic roof tiles were preserved and replaced, and the 1920's sandstone chimney was revived. Finally, long overdue ADA access was created throughout the museum.



Downie Museum interior

This historic adobe previously housed the main visitor restrooms, which took up half of the structure's footprint. The restrooms were only marginally functional and were removed, doubling the interior museum space. To meet state ADA requirements, a storage area on the west side of the museum was re-purposed to create two new single-use ADA restrooms. The original interior doorways were uncovered, restoring the adobe to its earliest floor plan and new tile was laid to match. The 1920 fireplace is beautifully restored to highlight the natural stone used at that time. New interior lighting and ADA accessibility both into and throughout the building were added to improve the museum experience.



Holiday Gifts!



Serra Tiles

Honor someone special or remember loved ones with the gift of a permanent, custom-engraved tile in the Serra Memorial Circle at the Carmel Mission.

A variety of tile sizes are available. Your tax-deductible donation will help support the critical preservation of the Carmel Mission's historic structures and artifacts.

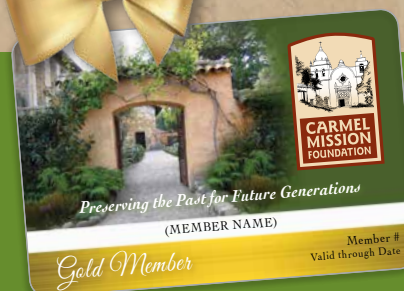
This year, give a gift that will span generations!

Contact the Foundation at 831-624-3261

MARRIED AT THE MISSION



JEAN & ROBERT JONES



Give a Gift of Membership

Members receive free museum admissions, invitations to all social events, exhibit openings, and more.

Third Restoration Project Complete!

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New Restroom Facility

A new, stand-alone restroom facility was constructed in the Central Courtyard to replace the restrooms removed from the Downie Museum. This was step one in the Downie Forecourt project and supported the successful reopening of the Mission for outdoor functions in the Central Courtyard and allowed the museum, parish, and Mission operations to continue through Covid restrictions. Tucked into the back corner of the courtyard, the facility and new landscaping was intentionally designed to blend into the location, allowing the Central Courtyard's enchanting beauty to be the focus.

Basilica Forecourt

The Basilica Forecourt, originally designed in 1936, required upgrades to drainage and accessibility. After the uneven concrete surface was removed, new exterior fire lines, utilities, sewer, and drainage were trenched and laid. New drainage solutions now prevent flooding issues potentially affecting the foundation of the renowned Basilica. New copper gutters were added to all structures surrounding the Forecourt to preserve the adobe, and a required storm drain system was installed to comply with the California Clean Water Act.

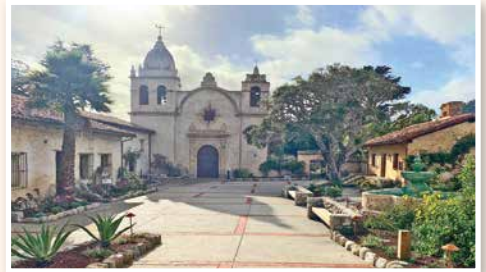
Grade alterations were made to create step-free pathways and to reduce the slope steepness from the entrance gate to the Basilica making it ADA compliant. Flowerbeds were pushed back, opening the courtyard for more functionality and ADA accessibility. Grading and paving were completely redone throughout the courtyard and garden to provide hazard-free access to the Basilica and museums. The entire Forecourt was resurfaced with a new concrete aggregate with brick borders to match the previous design.

Fountain Rejuvenation

The iconic fountain, with historic ties to the natural spring used during early mission life, has been revived. All plumbing issues were remedied and the fountain is now level and functioning as originally intended. Two new mission-style bench seats were created near the fountain, with material sourced from one redwood tree, enhancing this area as a focal point of the garden.

Garden Landscaping & Pathways

Outdated irrigation and overgrown landscaping were removed from the Forecourt Garden, revealing the historic stone perimeter wall. A new seating area was created in the corner which gives visitors a fantastic view of the Basilica. An old spire from the 1797 Basilica bell tower now sits along the pathway for close viewing. New low-flow irrigation system and garden lighting were installed to



highlight the courtyard. All garden stones were reused and matching new stones were added throughout the garden raising the beds and highlighting the paths. New, step-free, widened garden pathways now provide ADA access for all visitors and connect the courtyard to the garden and museums.

Front Wall Restoration

The front perimeter wall, which crumbled in August 2020, has been rebuilt. After the temporary wall was removed, a new wall was fashioned to resemble the existing adobe. New landscaping, irrigation, and up-lighting were added to highlight the exterior front perimeter wall. The main entrance gates were refurbished and a new pedestrian entrance to match was added alongside the Museum Store, offering better visitor traffic flow and more viewing areas from Rio Road.

This entire project was made possible from your donations and grants applied for and won by the Foundation.

Individual plaques have been placed in the Forecourt and the Downie Museum to honor the two major donors who contributed \$1.5 million and greater for this restoration. Donors who contributed \$5,000 and greater have been contacted and will be recognized with a plaque at the Serra Memorial Circle in the Central Courtyard early next year.

With this third major restoration successfully complete, the Foundation is focusing on raising the \$600,000 needed annually to continue the important work of preserving this piece of California history. The Foundation will focus on educational programs and sharing the 250-year history of this incredible place by engaging in youth and community-oriented events, as we research and propose future artifact and capital restoration needs. To continue this work and plan for future restorations, the Foundation needs your support. Please consider a donation or monthly pledge today.

Your Gift Matters!

For more images on this project, please visit
www.CarmelMissionFoundation.org



Other Ways
To Give
This Season

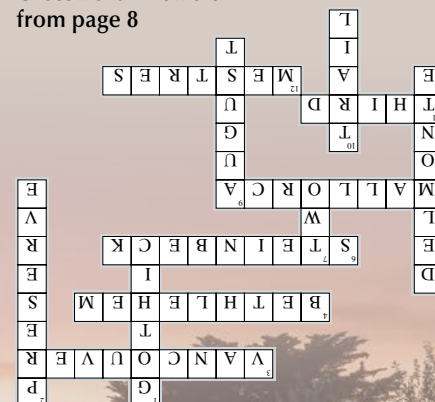


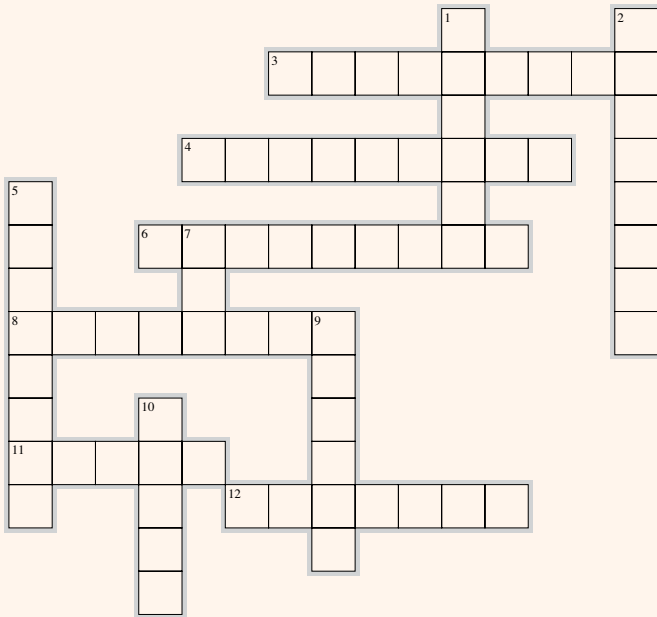
Maximize your donation by giving through **MC Gives** this December.
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Simply start shopping at
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 and choose the Carmel Mission Foundation as your charitable organization.

Crossword Answers
 from page 8





See answers on page 7!

Cornerstone Crossword

ACROSS

3. What famous English explorer founded an island and city in Canada, was the 3rd foreign visitor to the Mission, and wrote about construction of the Basilica in his journal?
4. The unique rose window in the Basilica is named the Star of _____.
6. This author wrote about "Father Ramon" in his first successful novel published in 1935.
8. Which island is Serra originally from?
11. The Downie Museum and Basilica Forecourt project is the Foundation's _____ major capital restoration since it was founded in 2008.
12. Father _____ founded the Mission Restoration League in 1910 and led restoration efforts at both the Royal Presidio Chapel and the Carmel Mission.

DOWN

1. This type of architecture is used on the ceiling of the Basilica baptistry and is unique to the Carmel Mission.
2. In 2008, the Carmel Mission Foundation was established to restore and _____ the historic structures, grounds, and artifacts throughout the 22-acre Carmel Mission property.
5. This hotel opened in 1880 and offered tours to the Mission ruins to their guests to help raise funds to put a roof on the church. (Two words)
7. As described in Serra's writings, the Mission has _____ fountains, which represent the number of fresh springs originally found on the property.
9. During which month in 1771 did Serra first see the fertile land of Carmel and decide to move the Monterey mission?
10. Mission _____ is the name of the path used to bring supplies and visitors between Carmel Mission and the Monterey Presidio.