



CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

Cornerstone

SUMMER 2010

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The Carmel
Mission Foundation
was formed to fund
the conservation

and preservation of the historical
properties and artifacts of the
Carmel Mission. The Foundation
is a 501 c 3 non-profit corporation
independent from any religious
organization. Its tax ID number is
26-2981780. All contributions are
tax deductible to the fullest extent
allowed by law.

Tricentennial Capital Campaign to be launched in June

The Carmel Mission Foundation is planning a major capital campaign to fund the multi-million dollar restoration of the Basilica and its outbuildings. As part of this campaign a permanent memorial wall will be erected in the Mission courtyard to celebrate Junipero Serra's 300th birthday in 2013. This Memorial Wall will recognize the campaign's major donors. Printed materials and details about the Tricentennial Campaign will be available shortly.



*3rd graders from Junipero Serra
School meet retired 203 year old bell
"Ave Maria". Photo by John Castagna*

The Return of the Bells

The much-publicized sojourn of the Mission bells to Cincinnati, Ohio, ended on April 15th as the Bells were returned and re-hung in their traditional places in the south bell tower. During their 10 month absence, the bells were in the care of the Verdin Company, the country's oldest bell manufacturers, where they were re-mounted and equipped with automatic strikers. The work was funded through a grant to the Foundation from one of our donors.

The re-mounting of the bells consisted of replacing old ropes and wires with stainless steel concealed in raw-hide. The automatic strikers will now allow the bells to be rung remotely as opposed to manually with ropes attached to their clappers. David Verdin of the Verdin Company provided some detail with respect to the work that has been performed on the bells: "The challenge is to mount the bells as was historically done, yet electronically strike the bells with the modern strikers. Because the bells are not firmly attached to their mounting beams, it is a "trick" to fasten the bells in a historic nature, yet electronically strike them. It is a unique project."

Two of the bells, Ave Maria, which was cast in Mexico in 1807, and Animas, the "Soul Bell", were re-cast by Petit-Fritsen Royal Bellsfounders in Holland.

The return of the bells was formally celebrated on Sunday May 2nd with a special afternoon Mass at which the bells were blessed by Fr. John Griffin, and was followed by a reception in the main courtyard. ❖

Foundation Funds Initial Steps in Major Restoration



The chain of events that will ultimately result in the restoration and retro-fitting of the Basilica and its adobe outbuildings has started with preliminary investigative work. The project manager, Brian Kelly, and the Architects of Record, Franks, Brenkwitz and Associates are the same team that was responsible for the extensive restoration program at the Royal Presidio Chapel in Monterey.

The project in its entirety consists of two principal phases: first the “soft costs”, which include all of the pre-construction requisites including architectural engagement, master planning, hydrology investigations, drainage mapping, preservation architect selection and scope design, structural/seismic engineer selection and engagement and initial investigation.

It is estimated that the “soft costs” will run in excess of \$700,000 in order to produce the information and designs as pre-requisites to obtaining building permits, and that work will take about 15 months as funds become available. The Foundation has received a matching grant from Save America’s Treasures for \$650,000, through the California Missions Foundation, and these funds will be utilized in the actual construction process.

In the near future, the Foundation will be announcing details of the capital campaign to raise the funds for this work. The campaign will be conducted in commemoration and celebration of Father Junipero Serra’s 300th Birthday in 2013.

A message from the President



Sam Wright

In the February issue of *CORNERSTONE* I reflected on how telling the story of the Mission’s history from its founding through the tragedy of its abandonment and its subsequent restoration is part of the Foundation’s devotion and our challenge. Knowing that the Mission at one point was in shambles when cattle grazed on the grasses growing on the floor of the church, one is inevitably led to ask how this building, or for that matter, this book or that bell or art work, survived or was re-discovered. On the other hand, if it surfaced after the original restoration, who made it or donated it and how and when?

The continuing pursuit of information in that direction has brought me into contact with a growing group of people who have volunteered access to personal works, memorabilia and information that have been heartwarming and exciting additions to our store of knowledge. In that respect we want to thank three women who have been generous with their time, information and material: Katie Ambrosio, who ran the Mission store for a number of years; Elizabeth Barratt who recently completed her pictorial history of Carmel Valley; and Sister Celeste Pagliarulo SND who is extremely knowledgeable on the subject of Harry Downie and his role in the Mission’s restoration.



If these walls could talk...

The information and materials they have provided us is not only enlightening but is indicative of the latent level of caring about the Mission that exists in the community and is reflected in the growing support that we continue to experience for the Foundation.

Again, hearkening back to our February issue, I mentioned we were in the process of finalizing a “visual presentation” of the Mission’s history. We have now completed what we like to think of as an attractive and informative slide presentation on the 240 years of the history of the Mission from 1770 to 2010. We have received some early requests for public presentation of this material and would be happy to hear from our readers if you are part of or know of a group or organization that would be interested in this.

To our growing group of friends and supporters we want to again express our continuing appreciation.

To Our Donors

The Foundation has received heartwarming support for our programs and for that we are deeply grateful and want to express our thanks to all of those who have contributed to our cause. Donations after April 1, 2010 will appear in our fall newsletter.

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Newsletter of the Carmel Mission Foundation

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An Earlier Chapter from the Restoration of the Mission

On October 21, 1921

The cornerstone was
laid for the building

which is now known as the Mora Museum. This was the beginning of Fr. Mestres' vision for the total reconstruction of the Mission properties. The stone is being held by Manuel and Alejandro Onesimo. The father, Manuel, was baptized in the Mission when it was still held by Mexico. The Onesimos were direct descendents of natives who worked, and lived on the Mission grounds in the 1780's during the time of Fr. Junipero Serra.



(Courtesy of the Downie Collection)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

You're Invited

Founder's Day Saturday, June 26

Celebrate the founding of the Carmel Mission by Junipero Serra in 1771.

12:00 pm Opening ceremonies in the Mission Basilica. Enjoy art, live music, interactive exhibits depicting life in 1771. The Mission's five museums and breathtaking gardens will be open.

5:30 pm Mass in the Basilica immediately followed by a BBQ dinner.

Please stop by and see us at the Mission Foundation Booth.

Current Exhibition at the Mission



On display in the Mora Chapel Gallery through September 28, 2010 is "E. Charlton Fortune (the great California impressionist) and the Monterey Guild, 1928-1958" featuring a dozen paintings along with many examples of Fortune's liturgical designs – executed by members of the Monterey Guild using clay, wood, metal, paper and textiles.

Among her previously unknown paintings is "Fray Junípero Serra's First Mass at Monterey," on loan from the estate of Monterey Guild member August Gay (see photo). Effie Fortune was a member of the Carmel Mission parish in the 1960s. ❖

