

# CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION Cornerstone

WINTER 2016–2017

## First View of Phase II Quadrangle Courtyard Renovation Completed On Time, On Budget

Following the award-winning completion of the Basilica restoration in 2013, another major Carmel Mission preservation project has reached a successful conclusion. Funded by a grant from the Carmel Mission Foundation, the \$2 million Quadrangle Courtyard renovation took only four months to complete.



Photo by Kerry Belser

*Carmel Mission Classic Car Show,  
August 2016*

Though the Courtyard is a wonderful venue for events like the Carmel Mission Classic Car Show, below the surface lies new infrastructure for improving life

safety and setting the stage for restoration of the surrounding historic structures. Included are water, fire protection, and irrigation lines; drains; sewer and gas lines; communication conduits; 3-phase electrical power; and chiller lines for the future museum climate control system. Electrical convenience outlets have also been installed throughout the Courtyard.

The efficiency of Blach Construction allowed us to perform additional work not originally included in the Quadrangle Courtyard grant, such as installing the foundation and plumbing for a future restroom building, expanding irrigation and landscaping, and sealcoating the parking lots.

Thanks to your generous support, the Carmel Mission Foundation has been able to provide \$7.5 million in restoration grants to the Carmel Mission to date. (See page 3 for a preview of our next major restoration project.) ❖



Photo courtesy Carmel Mission



*Above: Aerial of completed Quadrangle  
Courtyard renovation, August 2016*

*Inset: Courtyard renovation work underway,  
June 2016*



## CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

P.O. Box 221351  
Carmel, CA 93922

Website:  
[www.carmelmissionfoundation.org](http://www.carmelmissionfoundation.org)

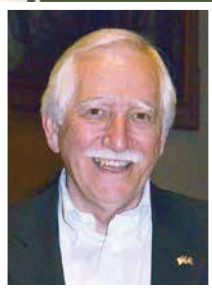
Email:  
[info@carmelmissionfoundation.org](mailto:info@carmelmissionfoundation.org)



The Carmel Mission Foundation was formed to fund the restoration and preservation of the historical properties and artifacts of the Carmel Mission. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit 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.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*From the President . . .*



*Vic Grabrian*

In past *Cornerstone* issues, we have highlighted preservation projects, donors, fundraising challenges and successes, project completions, and awards won. However, the Carmel Mission would not exist without the dedication of many people, three of whom we feature in this issue.

We begin in the 1930s with Harry Downie and the wonderful work he did to accurately restore the Mission's footprint from adobe wall remnants, to how it looked during the Mission's peak period in the early 1800s.

When Harry died in 1980, following nearly 50 years of intensive restoration, Hiiu Van Nguyen continued in Harry's footsteps, preserving the Mission and its wonderful artifacts.

Today, 36-years later, Hiiu continues with his commitment.

About ten years ago the Mission's historic structures were in serious need of restoration and new California earthquake safety standards were imposed on all unreinforced masonry buildings. Fortunately, around the same time, a construction expert by the name of Brian Kelly arrived on the scene. After retirement from a successful career in the construction industry, Brian came to the aid of the Monterey Diocese. Working on a pro bono basis for several decades, he repaired earthquake-damaged schools and churches and confronted restoration issues on several of the missions. Joining the Carmel Mission Preservation Team, Brian managed the restoration of the Basilica, and most recently the Quadrangle Courtyard renovation.

We hope you will enjoy the amazing stories of these three talented individuals. We are most grateful for their dedication and all they have accomplished to preserve the historic Carmel Mission.

As the holiday season approaches, the Foundation wishes to express its gratitude for your ongoing and generous support which makes our work possible. The Board and staff wish all of you a joyous holiday season, a merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Victor M. Grabrian  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*



*Aerial view of the Mission, Circa 1931*



# Phase II—The Beat Goes On . . .

## Fragile Historic Structures Need Lots of TLC

Now that the Quadrangle Courtyard has been renovated and new infrastructure installed underground to support restoration of the surrounding historic buildings, we are turning our attention to the next preservation challenge. It will focus on the Northeast Quadrant of the Mission complex and be the most significant project to date. Plans include the Downie Museum and Orientation Center (1); the Mora Chapel Museum (2); the Convento Museum (3); the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (4); the Museum Store (5); the Basilica Forecourt (6); and the front entrance, entry arch, and parking lot (7). There are many structural, safety, infrastructure, and restoration issues with this group of buildings, along with a need to upgrade the museum experience.

The Carmel Mission Preservation Team, made up of the Parish, the Foundation, the architectural firm of Franks Brenkwitz, LLP, and Blach Construction, is looking at ways to efficiently and cost effectively care for these delicate buildings that house some of the Mission's most significant treasures, not least of

which is the actual location of St. Junípero Serra's cell and California's oldest library. The Team also intends to minimize any disruptions to Parish activities and Museum Store operations during restoration work.

Planning for this multimillion-dollar Phase II Project has been underway for over two years. To date, the Foundation has funded \$700,000 in investigation and discovery, engineering, design development, and construction drawings. Last year, these plans were approved by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's Historic Resources Board and Planning Commission.

### Carmel Mission's Upcoming 250th Anniversary

The 250th anniversary of the founding of the Carmel Mission will be in August 2021. It is the Foundation's hope that we can raise the significant amount of funds needed in time to complete this work before the Mission's anniversary. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Cornerstone*. ❖



*The Mission's Northeast Quadrant*

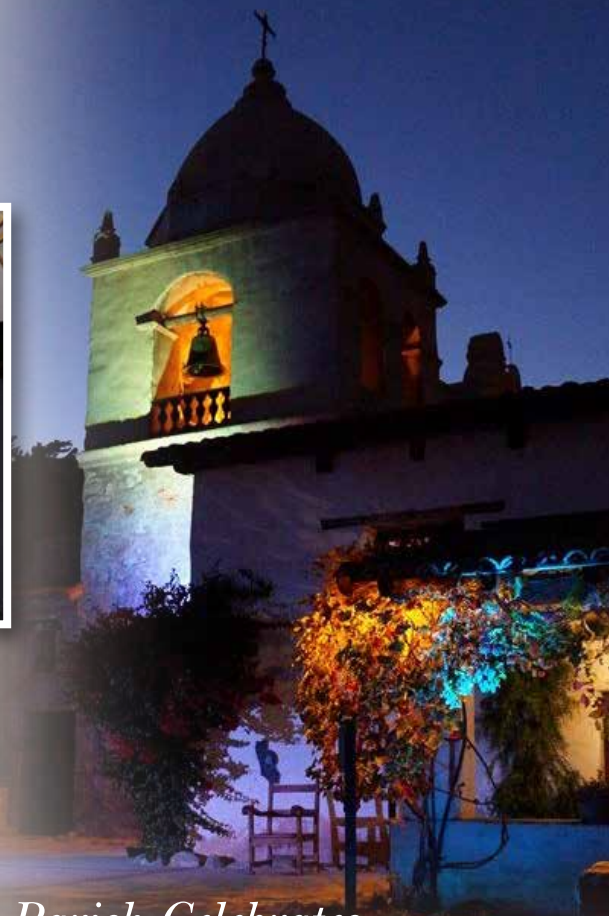
# First Anniversary of Junípero Serra's Canonization

On Saturday, September 24, Bishop Richard Garcia celebrated the 5:30 PM Mass at the Carmel Mission in honor of the first anniversary of Junípero Serra's canonization. Immediately following Mass, a special event was held to celebrate the anniversary and the completion of the Quadrangle Courtyard renovation.



As dusk started to fall on one of the most pleasant Carmel evenings of the year, and with the Basilica and Courtyard beginning to glow under colorful back-lighting, Fr. Paul Murphy thanked all those involved in the renovation effort, and Bishop Garcia blessed the Courtyard. Fr. Paul introduced the new Junípero Serra School (JSS) Principal, Bruce Stewart, who then presented the JSS Alumnus Award for 2016 to Carmel-by-the-Sea's Mayor, Steve Dallas. A graduate of JSS in 1981, Mayor Dallas was the first recipient of this prestigious award.





## *Parish Celebrates New Quadrangle Courtyard*



The evening's celebration included food, wine, music by the Carmel Mission Choir and the Monterey String Quartet, and a slideshow depicting the Carmel Mission through the centuries. It was a lovely opportunity for parishioners, clergy, Foundation Board and staff, and donors to mingle with each other and members of the Team that performed the Quadrangle renovation work. ❖

*Celebration photos courtesy of Jonabel Perez*



## In His Own Words...

Excerpts from Father Serra's letters and diaries



Exhibit in the Mora Chapel Museum—envisioned and funded by the CMDA, and created and designed by artist Ed Greco, in honor of Fr. Serra's Canonization. The exhibit chronicles the life of St. Junípero Serra using his own words from personal diaries.

# Docent—Historian & Storyteller

When visiting the Carmel Mission, have you noticed the quiet individuals on the sidelines greeting you with a warm smile and welcoming presence? These individuals are part of a large family of dedicated, specially-trained volunteer docents who are there to enhance your Mission experience. Be it peaceful reflection, answering questions, or telling a compelling human story from the Mission's history, these individuals give a little of their time each month so that thousands of visitors each year can have a richer experience in this beautiful and historic place.



4th Grader's Carmel Mission Model

Formed in 2001, the Carmel Mission Docent Association (CMDA) has grown to over 60 active volunteers who love to share what they have learned about the art, artifacts, and early life at the Carmel Mission. The CMDA is committed to sharing the story of the Mission, and the role it played in early California history. To that end, the docents do research, develop talks and displays, create exhibits and learning projects—from conception to execution—and deliver programs.

As part of California's 4th Grade Curriculum, students learn about California's native peoples and Spanish exploration and colonization, including the human interrelationships that ensued and the role the Franciscans played in introducing agriculture and technology that changed the economy of California between 1769 and 1833. In 2015, the docents led educational tours to over 4,100 students

and enlightened them on the history of Alta California, showing how artifacts in museum displays were used as a part of everyday life at the Mission, and sharing stories of early settlements and St. Junípero Serra.

Also in 2015, the docents recorded over 5,700 hours leading group and personal tours, offering in-depth information on particular areas of

the Mission, researching, cataloging and cleaning Mission antiquities, and providing support to the Museum Manager. They also provide historical stewardship for the Mission and its art and artifacts.

It's important to acknowledge that the CMDA underwrites many of the restoration and curatorial services required to protect and sustain the Missions' treasures. Thanks to the generosity of the CMDA, many pieces of art in the Basilica have been conserved.



Karen Cumings

The Carmel Mission Foundation is pleased to share that Karen Cumings, who has been President of the CMDA since 2010, is also a Board member of the Foundation and serves as chair of its Art, History and Education Committee. The Foundation and the CMDA work in close collaboration with each other, and the Foundation wishes to

acknowledge the docents for all of the great things they do to help preserve this historic treasure. ✚

# A 360 Degree Digital View

Where possible, the Foundation has been instrumental in bringing new technology to the Carmel Mission preservation efforts, such as the use of laser scanning for the Basilica restoration. Now, we are excited to introduce another new technology that provides interactive, high-definition, panoramic imaging of the 245-year-old Carmel Mission.

Our friends at Orator Plus, who develop special imaging technology to assist organizations such as the Secret Service, FBI, and Homeland Security with infrastructure protection and forensics, have been helping us develop a virtual reality tour of the entire Mission complex. You will be able to immerse yourself in the historic structures, museums, and courtyards of the Carmel Mission, as if you were there in person. This is accomplished through a seamless, 360-degree virtual environment where you can look up, down, sideways, and zoom in or out. Those who can't personally come to Carmel to visit the Mission can still enjoy the wondrous details of this historic treasure through the panoramic interactive video tour on our website ([www.carmelmissionfoundation.org](http://www.carmelmissionfoundation.org)).

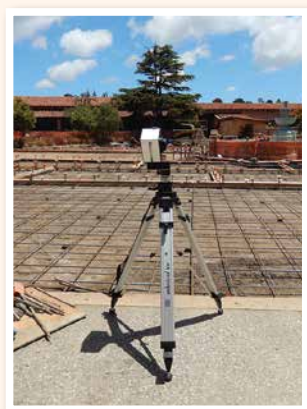
Since the Foundation's purpose is to preserve the Carmel Mission, we must communicate a variety of information about the historic structures to different audiences. For potential donors, especially those not living in the area, this new technology enables us to



*Virtual reality tour can be found on the Foundation's website.*

more accurately convey deterioration that has occurred over time, and to communicate the tremendous, positive impact donations can have. For those performing the actual preservation work, this high-resolution imaging technology is an invaluable tool in helping them with their planning and restoration efforts.

The Foundation's mission statement includes educating the public on the history of the California missions and the works of St. Junípero Serra. It is our hope that through this technology the historic treasure of the Carmel Mission will be more easily seen and enjoyed by many throughout the world. ❖



*Panoramic imaging camera documents Quadrangle Courtyard renovation.*



Be sure to attend a Carmel holiday tradition pairing local wines, local chefs, and jazzy holiday music inside the grand ballroom at the historic La Playa Hotel. Rich Pèpe and Jack Galante team up to showcase Carmel as a wine-oriented destination, contributing to the economic revitalization of the village, along with raising funds and awareness for the restoration of the Carmel Mission.

**Friday, December 9, 2016**

**5:00 PM–8:00 PM at the La Playa Hotel**

\$75 General Admission

Includes all access wine tasting and appetizers.

100% of the net proceeds are donated to the Carmel Mission Foundation to support the restoration of the Carmel Mission's historic structures, courtyards, and artifacts. ❖



*Rich Pèpe, Crystal Murphy, Mayor Steve Dallas*

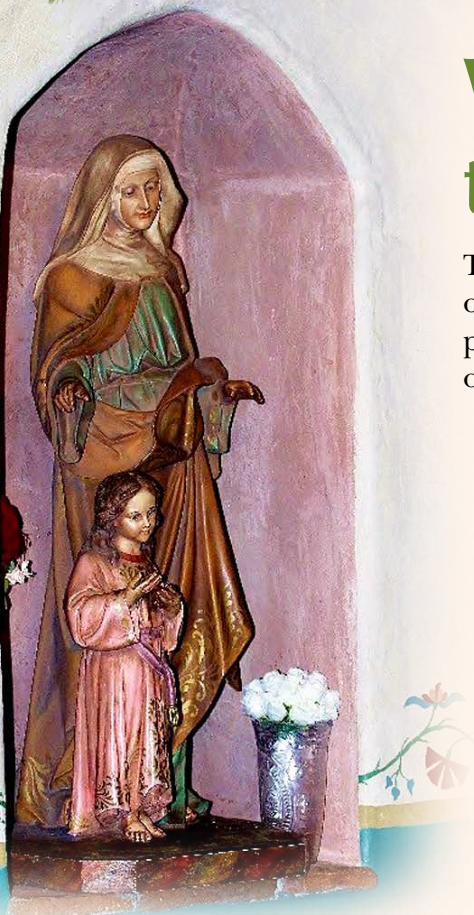


# Ways You Can Help Save the Carmel Mission

The Carmel Mission Foundation continues the legacy of over 125-years of individual and community commitment to the restoration and preservation of the Carmel Mission. The Foundation offers a variety of ways in which you can help:

- ❖ **Direct Donation of Cash or Securities.** Tax deductible donations can be made through our website, or by mailing your check to the Carmel Mission Foundation. You may also make a credit card donation by calling the Foundation office and providing your information over the phone, or by completing the enclosed remittance envelope.
- ❖ **Foundation Membership.** By becoming a Member of the Carmel Mission Foundation, you will receive free admission to the Mission's museums, discounts at the Museum Store, and invitations to Foundation-hosted events, such as our Annual Christmas Party.
- ❖ **Serra Memorial Circle Tile Program.** Add to your legacy with a permanent, custom-engraved tile in the Serra Memorial within the Mission's newly renovated Quadrangle Courtyard.
- ❖ **Sponsorship Opportunities.** The Foundation is seeking sponsors for the preservation of certain museums, historic structures, and courtyards.
- ❖ **Harry Downie Society/Planned Giving Program.** Take advantage of a deferred form of financial support for preserving the Mission by remembering the Carmel Mission Foundation in your estate plan.

Photo by Kerry Belser



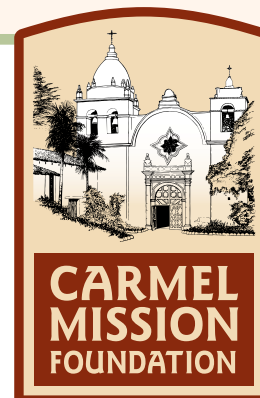
*Statue of St. Anne and a young Blessed Virgin Mary located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel*

**The mark of a life well-lived is what we achieve in the days allotted to us and the legacy we leave behind. Seize this opportunity to make a meaningful difference.**

As you consider your charitable contributions and tax deductions for 2016, we hope you will remember the Carmel Mission Foundation and its efforts to save and preserve the Carmel Mission.

For more information on any of the above options, please visit our website at [www.carmelmissionfoundation.org](http://www.carmelmissionfoundation.org), or call the Foundation office at (831) 624-3261.

Carmel Mission Foundation  
PO Box 221351  
Carmel, CA 93922





## Give a Christmas gift that will span generations!



Honor your family or someone special, or remember a loved one with the gift of a custom engraved tile that places their name in the Serra Memorial within the heart of the historic Carmel Mission. There is still time to order this unique gift before Christmas.

### Serra Memorial Tiles

8x8 inch tile \$6,000

THE  
GEYER  
FAMILY

8x16 inch tile \$12,000

IN HONOR OF  
MARIA SANDOVAL  
—THE GARCIA FAMILY

16x16 inch tile \$25,000

IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF  
KATHERINE LION

16x24 inch tile \$50,000

“PEACE  
BEGINS WITH A SMILE”  
—MOTHER TERESA  
❖  
DENNIS & MARION WAYNE



*The Serra Memorial*

*Tiles being readied for engraving in the  
Serra Memorial Circle*

The Serra Memorial is a permanent celebration of the life of St. Junípero Serra, the historic significance of the Carmel Mission, and a caring public's commitment to preserve an important part of California's history.

A variety of tile sizes are available, as well as a limited number of large perimeter entrance tiles. The number of lines and text spaces vary per tile, depending on size.

You may pledge payment for your tile over a three-year period, with a deposit of the first third at the time of your order. The date of actual engraving will depend on the engraver's schedule. **If the Foundation receives your order and desired tile text by December 15, we will provide you with a certificate showing your custom-designed tile layout, so that you can present your gift in time for Christmas.**

**Most important, your purchase will help fund the significant amount of Mission preservation work that still lies ahead. ❖**



# Harry Downie

## Master Restorer

Harry Downie was born in San Francisco in 1903. A young Harry developed an interest in the California missions and, with his family, visited the historic Carmel Mission on several occasions. Such was his interest that he created a model of the Carmel Mission at age 12 beginning a path—perhaps unbeknownst to him at the time—to a lifetime of intensive exploration, discovery, and rebirth.

A cabinetmaker by trade, Harry set off from San Francisco in 1931, at age 28, with his sights set on opening a cabinetmaking business in Santa Barbara. En route, he stopped off to restore statuary at the Carmel Mission. Harry said subsequently, “I came for one month, and I’ve been here for 35 years.” In fact, Harry Downie served as warden of the Carmel Mission until the time of his death in 1980, almost 50 years.



*Harry and Gaspar*

Downie’s knowledge, skills, and tenacity expanded and grew to whatever they needed to be in order to plan and execute the restoration of the Carmel Mission. Such was his devotion to the work that the cabinetmaker became student, researcher, architect, archeologist, carpenter, mason, plumber, collector, art historian, curator—and like many of his predecessors in restoration, fundraiser.

Studying written records, oral recollections that had been handed down, early photographs, and relying on his own astute observations, Harry painstakingly pieced together history. Following a trail only vaguely

marked by deteriorating adobe walls, he unearthed the original location of all buildings that made up the Mission complex. He reassembled many original books, art works, artifacts, vestments, and altar pieces. He also

designed and constructed significant appointments, including the massive reredos behind the altar in the church.

For his great work, Harry was named to the Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great. He also received a Knighthood from King Juan Carlos of Spain for his lifelong efforts in finding and restoring many of the artifacts that were lost when the missions were abandoned in the early 1800s. It is fitting that Sir Harry Downie—who died March 20, 1980—and his wife, Mabel, are buried in the Mission cemetery, along with countless souls whose lives are forever intertwined with the Carmel Mission.

The dedication of Fr. Serra and his Franciscan brothers, the labors of the native peoples, and so many others known and unknown, reach us today across centuries. We are so fortunate that one

extraordinary Harry Downie came along when he did in the twentieth century to take hold of the past, restore and nurture it, and pass it on to benefit future generations. ❖



*Harry Downie and Fr. Michael O'Connell doing restoration work in 1939. John Yementes is laying adobe bricks.*



# Hiiu Van Nguyen

## Determination, Skill and Commitment

Have you ever wondered who takes such special care of the Carmel Mission complex filled with its amazing art and artifacts? Following in Harry Downie's footsteps, Hiiu Van Nguyen has restored, painted, repaired, rebuilt, or gilded virtually every item within the Mission complex over the last 36 years.

Hiiu is a very quiet and unassuming man who truly lives his life with the belief that God leads him each day. His is an amazing story that until a few years ago was known to only a few close relatives and friends.

It begins with his birth on a December evening in 1955. His courageous parents had previously fled the communist regime of North Vietnam to reside in the newly proclaimed Republic of South Vietnam. Hiiu was blessed with a natural, God-given talent for working with his hands in precise trades, honing this talent as he grew up in the workshop of his father, a master furniture craftsman.

Life drastically changed forever with the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the reunification of Vietnam into a Communist state. Hiiu, now a 22-year-old custom tailor, had proposed to a young Vietnamese woman named Kristy Lan. He pled with her to flee Vietnam with him and to marry when they reached freedom in the United States of America.

For one year, Hiiu methodically planned their escape. On a moonless evening in January 1977, Hiiu,

Kristy, and the rest of their twenty-six-person

group silently climbed into the small wooden motorboat Hiiu had purchased. They ventured out into the dangerous waters of the South China Sea with the prayer that a non-Communist ship would rescue them.

Through engine failures, torrential rains, high seas, and unrelenting seasickness, Hiiu and his fellow refugees prayed unceasingly for God to save them. God answered their prayers by sending the 587-foot U.S. Navy ship, the USN Sealift Arabian Sea, to their rescue. Hiiu, Kristy, and their friends were taken to Singapore, then Hong Kong, Japan, and finally Seattle, WA.

In April 1977, a Lebanese Priest and Vietnamese Sister became Hiiu and Kristy's sponsors. They were

relocated to Danbury, CT and in August 1977, were married. Hiiu continued working as a tailor by night and went to trade school during the day to become a machinist. Two years from the day they fled Vietnam, Hiiu and Kristy decided to move to Seaside, CA to be closer to her uncle.



*Hiiu Van Nguyen*



*Hiiu and the people he brought to freedom, Singapore 1977 (Hiiu and Kristy second row, third and fourth from left)*



*Hiiu and Kristy's marriage, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Danbury, CT, 1977*

*continued on page 12*

### *Hiiu Van Nguyen, continued*

Always looking for work, Hiiu learned of a gardening position at the Carmel Mission. In March 1979, he began working for Harry Downie, the man entrusted with the restoration of the historic Mission since 1931.

Harry had a reputation of being a character and Hiiu admits Harry was a “very, very tough guy who wanted every job to be done perfectly.” They got along quite well because of their shared work ethic, and it didn’t take long before Harry realized Hiiu was an underutilized talent and began giving him increasingly more and more artistic and creative things to do. Hiiu worked with Harry for almost a year. During this time Harry taught Hiiu many artistic processes, such as gold leafing and marbleizing, and how to properly maintain the Mission’s artifacts and buildings.

Needing to make more money to support his family, Hiiu was offered and accepted a position on a drilling rig in Oklahoma in 1980. Not wanting to resign his position at the Mission by phone, he drove the long way back from Oklahoma to Carmel to personally submit his resignation to Harry. Upon arriving at the Mission Monday morning, Hiiu learned that Harry Downie had died the day before. Hiiu could not bring himself to leave and made the decision to stay and continue his work at the Mission. He has been there ever since.



*Reliquary built by Hiiu*



*The gilded Basilica reredos*

Hiiu, like his father, is a master craftsman. This can be seen in the exquisite reliquary which holds the shards of St. Junípero Serra’s coffin that was designed, built, and artistically painted by Hiiu. He has worked on projects too numerous to mention, but range from hand braiding the crown of thorns on the Great Crucifix on the reredos, to carving and gilding the wooden altar that houses Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Hiiu enjoys telling of the time Fr. John Griffin solicited bids for gilding the reredos. Gilding, an extremely expensive process, was one of Hiiu’s specialties. After receiving a bid of \$60,000, Fr. John happily assigned the gilding to Hiiu who completed it for just over \$1,000!

On his lathe, Hiiu has turned pieces of wood into intricate spindles for the railings on the Carmel Mission entrance gate. He artistically painted and decorated the new chandeliers that now hang in the Basilica. His loving hands have touched most artifacts in the Carmel Mission complex. He is also an expert at recycling and scrounges paint and materials to keep costs to a minimum.

Hiiu has been present and actively involved with numerous historic events held at the Mission from

the 1987 preparations for the September visit of Pope John Paul II, and the exhumation and verification of Junípero Serra’s remains that



*Carmel Mission Gate built by Hiiu*



*Finishing new chandeliers for the Basilica*

November, to assisting with preparations for Junípero Serra's canonization in 2015.

Hiiu has also shared his artistic talents with Mission San Antonio de Padua, Mission San Juan Bautista, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, Mission San Fernando Rey de España, and Mission San Jose.

An interesting fact to share about Hiiu is his Knighthood. Yes! Knighthood! He is a Knight of the Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. This is neither an ancient military order given up to charitable pursuits, nor a fraternal organization. Rather, it is a Papal decoration usually awarded by the Pope at the request of a local bishop to an individual for outstanding service to the Church. Knighthood was conferred by the Vatican upon Hiiu in 2004, as evidenced by the accompanying diploma signed by Cardinal Carlo Furno. One of the privileges this order carries, in addition to the title and right to wear the military uniform and insignia, is the right to ride a horse through St. Peter's Basilica. To the best of our knowledge, Hiiu has yet to avail himself of this privilege.



*Hiiu's Certificate of Knighthood*

The Carmel Mission Foundation is pleased to recognize and honor Hiiu for his courage, amazing talent, dedication, and loyalty in preserving the Carmel Mission for the last 36 years. We thank you, Hiiu, for your humble service. ❖



## Mark your calendar for the **Carmel Mission Foundation's Annual Christmas Party**

**Friday, December 16, 2016  
5:30 PM–8:00 PM**

**Carmel Mission's Crespí Hall  
Carmel-by-the-Sea**

Leave your checkbooks at home and allow us to express our appreciation to YOU for your continued support. This is a Membership event and great opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow supporters of the Mission's restoration.

- ❖ Valet Parking
- ❖ Wine and Buffet
- ❖ Christmas Carols
- ❖ Music by the Monterey String Quartet



Should you have any questions about the party or how to become a Member of the Carmel Mission Foundation, please call our office at (831) 624-3261. If you are not yet a Member, now is the time to join! ❖

# Brian Kelly

## Construction Management & Restoration Ministry

A special individual having a most significant impact on the recent preservation of the Carmel Mission is Brian Kelly. Brian managed the construction of not only the seismic strengthening, infrastructure upgrades, and award-winning restoration of the Basilica, but also the recent renovation of the Quadrangle Courtyard.



*Basilica Preservation Team meeting with Brian Kelly*



*Vic Grabrian, Brett Brenkwitz, and Brian Kelly*



After three plus years in the Marine Corps at the end of the Korean War, Brian received a degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and an MBA from Stanford's Graduate School of Business. He then went to work for Granite Construction Company in 1960 as an Engineer and worked his way up in the organization to Division Manager and then Vice President before leaving the company in 1983 to pursue volunteer community work and personal development. Brian returned to Granite Construction Company in 1995 when asked to serve on their Board of Directors.

Having worked in the construction industry all of his life, Brian has spent the past thirty years assisting the Bishop and Pastors of the Diocese of Monterey, on a pro bono basis, by applying his vast construction industry management experience to a variety of restoration projects, such as earthquake-damaged schools and churches. His talents were first applied to the construction of the outdoor Mass facility at the Laguna Seca Raceway for Pope John Paul II's visit in 1987 where 90,000 people attended. Since then he has managed restoration projects that have included the Royal Presidio Chapel in Monterey, the Carmel Mission, Mission San Antonio de Padua, and Mission San Juan Bautista.



*Royal Presidio Chapel*



*Carmel Mission*



*Mission San Antonio*



*Mission San Juan Bautista*

As a member of the Carmel Mission's Preservation Team, Brian has been a collaborative and dedicated team leader, working with the Parish, architects, the general contractor, and the Carmel Mission Foundation. We have been fortunate and are grateful to have had someone of Brian's caliber and expertise on the Carmel Mission Preservation Team. Our admiration and gratitude go out to Brian for the leadership and dedication he has provided in preserving so many of these historic treasures.



In recognition for his dedication and ministry to the Diocese, in 2010 Brian received the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal," also known as the "Cross of Honor." It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope. ❖



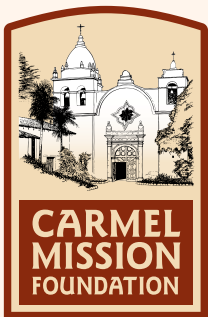
## Blach Construction Wins National Recognition

Another group of outstanding professionals who have contributed so much and deserve special recognition is the Blach Construction team. As general contractor for the award-winning Basilica restoration and recent Quadrangle Courtyard renovation, the quality of their performance is legendary.

We are pleased to share that Blach has just been recognized nationally by the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For in the U.S., ranking #30 in the mid-size company category. Because of the preservation awards Blach has already helped us win, coupled with this highest level of national recognition, donors to the Foundation should feel confident knowing their dollars are being put to work wisely by a team of the highest-level professionals. Our congratulations to Mike Blach and the Blach team. ❖



*Blach Quadrangle Courtyard renovation team: (l to r) Sam Marques, Project Engineer; Ken Treadwell, Vice President; Tim Treadwell, Superintendent; and "JT" Thornburg, Foreman*



# Cornerstone

Newsletter of the Carmel Mission Foundation

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Carlos Borroméo, Carmel Mission's patron saint, first became a cardinal, then a bishop, before finally becoming a priest. Usually, one ascends the hierarchy of the Church in the opposite order! His uncle, Angelo Cardinal de Medici, became Pope Pius IV and named his 22-year-old nephew a cardinal and later the Archbishop of Milan. After very successfully serving in the Vatican for a number of years, he went to Milan where he was instrumental in guiding the Milanese people through the great plagues in 1576. ❖



*(Courtesy of the Carmel Mission Docent Association)*



## Special Events!

**December 9, 5:00 PM**  
**Carmel-by-the-Glass**  
**Winter Holiday Party**

Held at La Playa Hotel  
[www.carmelbytheglass.com](http://www.carmelbytheglass.com)  
Benefitting the Carmel Mission Foundation (see page 7)

**December 16, 5:30–8:00 PM**  
**Carmel Mission Foundation**  
**Christmas Party**

Held at the Carmel Mission's Crespí Hall (Membership Event). It's not too late to join the Carmel Mission Foundation in time for the Christmas Party! (see page 13)



*Carmel Mission Choir*

**December 3, 7:30 PM**  
I Cantori di Carmel

**December 4, 7:30 PM**  
I Cantori di Carmel

**December 10, 6:45 PM**  
Camerata Singers of Monterey County

## Holiday Music at the Mission

The Carmel Mission Basilica is the preferred venue on the Monterey Peninsula for choirs and choruses to perform because of the excellent acoustics. The unique catenary-arched ceiling is the secret to this sought-after sound.

We hope you have the opportunity to enjoy one of the holiday concerts being held at the Carmel Mission. Please contact the individual organizations for ticket information. ❖

**December 13, 6:00 PM**  
Chanticleer

**December 17, 8:00 PM**  
Cantiamo!

**December 18, 7:30 PM**  
Lessons & Carols  
Carmel Mission Choir



Reindeer designed by Freepik

