

CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Victor M. Grabrian, President & CEO, Announces Retirement

Carmel, California -- May 4, 2018 -- Victor M. Grabrian, President & CEO of the Carmel Mission Foundation, has advised the Board of Directors of his retirement, effective June 30, 2018. He will continue affiliation with the Foundation as a dear friend, and Advisory Board Member, advancing his decade-long commitment to preservation and restoration of the historic Carmel Mission. Colleagues and friends alike wish to express their sincere gratitude to Vic and wish him and his wife, Monica, the very best. The Board of Directors will begin a search for a successor President & CEO immediately.

Graduating from Regis Jesuit High School and Regis University in Denver, Colorado, with a B.S. degree in Business Administration, Vic went on to serve as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force. After completing his military service, he spent his business career founding and leading several international technology companies. The Foundation benefited greatly from Vic's executive experience and entrepreneurial spirit.

Vic Grabrian joined the Foundation in 2009, serving first as Director, Vice President, and Corporate Secretary. In 2012, he was appointed President & Chief Executive Officer, succeeding founder Sam Wright. Initially under Sam Wright's, and later Vic Grabrian's leadership, the Foundation carried forward heroic preservation and restoration projects.

Vic's departure coincides with the 10-year anniversary of the Carmel Mission Foundation, a fruitful period that began with the restoration of 11 bells in the Basilica's south bell tower and led quickly to the challenges of seismic instability and deferred maintenance. This was due to exposure to the elements over time among the Mission's 12, historic unreinforced stone or adobe structures and a crumbling infrastructure running below the surface of the 22-acre campus.

Vic became passionate about the Carmel Mission, sharing the belief that its buildings, grounds, and priceless works of art are worthy of our time and care. It is considered by many to be the most compellingly beautiful of all the California missions. In this place a confluence of cultures led to the rise, complete destruction, and rebirth of a jewel in our midst. Quite literally, on human shoulders and adobe and stone foundations rests the stage on which the drama of the formation of the modern State of California unfolded.

There being no funding source to make significant capital improvements to the Mission other than the newly established Carmel Mission Foundation, Vic Grabrian took on the pivotal role of leader, optimist-in-chief, fundraiser, and coordinator in the development of a multiphase, multiyear strategic plan for preservation and restoration. He is perhaps

most pleased to have served as a principal on the highly collaborative Preservation Team that managed the \$5.5 million restoration of the Basilica, completed in 2013, and recipient of two major preservation awards, including the 2015 Governor's Historic Preservation Award. The same Team completed the \$2.0 million renovation of the Mission's Quadrangle Courtyard in August 2016, a lovely space for quiet reflection and spirited gatherings alike, and now supporting unseen modern infrastructure below its surface that lay in wait for future restoration projects. Both projects were completely funded by generous donations to the Foundation.

Vic will be the first to spread credit around to many others, and he would be quite right about that, but he raised funds, participated in planning the work, coordinated with the parish and diocese to ensure that the projects were completed on time and on budget. His intelligence, expertise, and relentless optimism, combined with a full measure of good cheer, made the projects completed to date possible.

Vic leaves the Foundation with a message for all who cherish the special place to which he dedicated his heart and soul over the past decade. "Though we have successfully completed several major preservation projects, there lies an enormous amount of work ahead of us in preserving the remaining historic structures within the Mission's campus. We are most grateful to our donors who have made these past efforts possible, and who hold the keys to the Foundation's future Mission preservation success."

The Board of Directors continues its fundraising efforts for the proposed Phase II Northeast Quadrant restoration as well as for future projects so that the Carmel Mission may grace succeeding generations as a parish, a community gathering place, and welcome host to visitors and pilgrims from around the world drawn to witness the birthplace of the State of California and final resting place of the Mission's founder, St. Junípero Serra.

About the Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded in 2008 as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its sole purpose is that of saving the historic Carmel Mission structures, art, and artifacts, thus ensuring the preservation of their historic character and accessibility for future generations.

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Río Carmelo) was founded by Junípero Serra in 1771 and served as the first headquarters for the California Mission System. It is the repository of generations of culture, tradition, and history as well as a major tourist attraction and a primary economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula.

Contact:

The Carmel Mission Foundation
P.O. Box 221351, Carmel, CA 93922
(831) 624-3261

www.CarmelMissionFoundation.org





