



## CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **CARMEL MISSION BASILICA RESTORATION COMPLETE**

*Carmel, California – June 27, 2013 –* **The Carmel Mission Foundation** announced today that work has been completed on the seismic retrofit and restoration of the historic Carmel Mission Basilica. It was the third major restoration of the Basilica since it was built in 1797. Because of these recent efforts, this historic treasure will be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



*Restored Carmel Mission Basilica*

Work began last August when scaffolding was erected, followed by the installation of a weather protection structure over the Basilica to allow work to continue during the rainy season. After temporarily removing the roof tiles, the roof was strengthened by the installation of additional wood beams and metal collectors. Cement bond beams and steel I-beams were inserted to reinforce and tie the structure together. The 220-year-old-walls were stabilized by drilling over 300 center-cored vertical and horizontal holes into which steel rods were inserted and grouted into place, thus strengthening the existing walls without affecting the appearance of the Basilica. New electrical and fire suppression systems were installed, together with new interior lighting. Finally, before the scaffolding was removed, repairs were made to the exterior walls, buttresses, towers, and dome, involving special restoration techniques compatible with the Basilica's historic materials. Now three times stronger than before, the Basilica is no longer an unreinforced masonry structure, and the earthquake warning signs have been removed.

Originally estimated to cost \$7.2 million, over \$1 million was saved by accelerating future Basilica restoration work to overlap with the current seismic retrofit and take advantage of existing scaffolding and contractor infrastructure already in place. All Basilica work was accomplished in record time and with no lost-time accidents, mainly due to the professional leadership and the unprecedented cooperation of the project team and the outstanding efforts of the general contractor, Blach Construction. *“The key to the success of this two-century-old Basilica preservation project was the creation of a collaborative team, all acting as advocates,”* said Brian Kelly, General Project Manager.



With the Basilica restoration complete, the next phase of the Carmel Mission's multi-year/multi-million dollar restoration addresses the Mission's five museums, including California's oldest library. Planned are seismic retrofits, infrastructure upgrades, and facility and courtyard improvements for better visitor traffic flow. *"Our goal is to enhance the museum experience by telling the story of the Carmel and Alta California Missions, and their significant impact on California's history,"* said Vic Grabrian, President & CEO, of the Carmel Mission Foundation. The Foundation is continuing with its fund raising efforts, as it proceeds with the restoration of the Carmel Mission.

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Rio Carmelo) was founded in 1771 by Junípero Serra, and served as the headquarters for the California mission system, consisting of over 21 missions. It is also Serra's burial place. November 24<sup>th</sup> of this year marks the Tricentennial of his birth in 1713, and a surge of visitors from around the world is expected. The Carmel Mission is the repository of generations of culture, tradition, and history, as well as a highly significant part of California's heritage. It is a National Historic Landmark, a major tourist attraction, and a significant economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula.

### ***About the Carmel Mission Foundation***

*The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its purpose is to fund the restoration and maintenance of the historic Carmel Mission structures and artifacts, ensuring their preservation into perpetuity.*

### **Contact for More Information:**

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