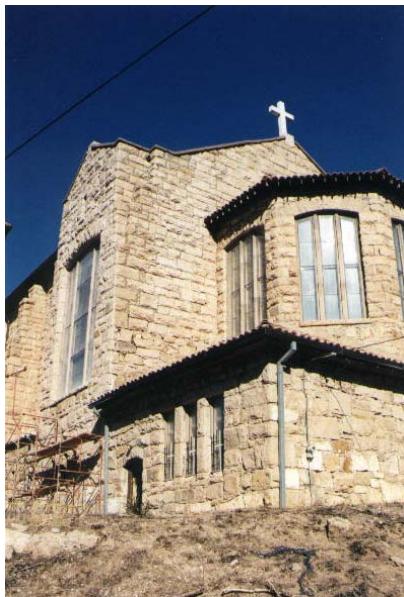
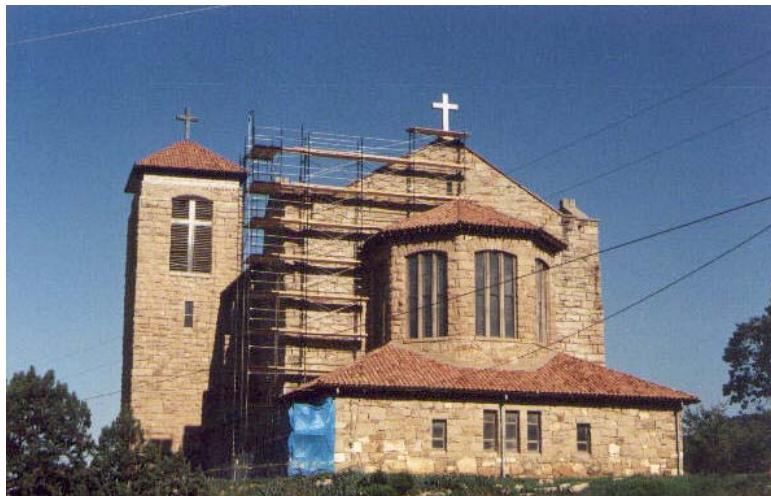


*St. Joseph's Apache Mission Restoration Project*  
illustrated progress report: Summer 2000



The southeast exterior corner of St. Joseph's Apache Mission church. Deterioration of the original mortar in this area is severe. Repairs have been made to this area over the years using a cement-based mortar, which unfortunately accelerated the deterioration of the wall.

After repointing the area of wall that was started last summer, the restoration crew restored the south exterior wall of the sacristy. This photo shows the condition of the wall after most of the deteriorated mortar has been removed.



With a little help from *Territorial CCI Turnkey Scaffolding* of Albuquerque, the restoration crew erected this scaffolding in July. This scaffolding was purchased thanks in large part to a donation from Sue Koepp of Ruidoso, NM.

**Restoration Crew:**

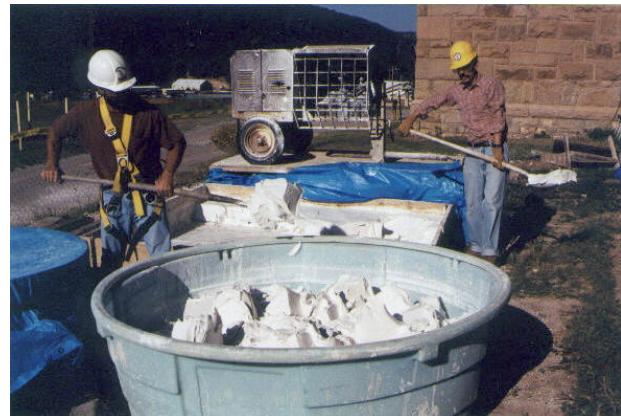
Tommy Spottedbird  
Harry Vasile  
Peter Boegel  
Ryan Torres



Restoration volunteer Alan Hill

Restoration part-time worker David Paz

The *Chemical Lime Company* is donating hydrated lime powder for this project. The lime powder is mixed into a putty and allowed to mature before being mixed with sand to form the mortar.



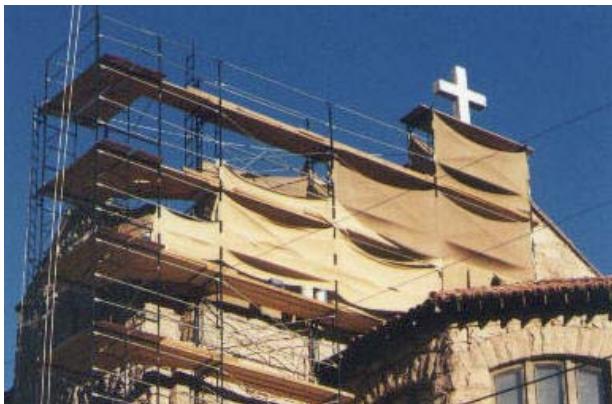


Examples of the stonework before any work is done.



Examples of the stonework after deteriorated mortar is removed.





High altitude, hot sun and the dry wind create a harsh environment for curing mortar. Burlap covers the scaffolding where new mortar has been applied. A misting system donated by *Arizona Mist* is used to keep the burlap damp so that the mortar does not dry out too rapidly.



Deteriorated mortar is removed, and then new mortar is applied. This work prevents unwanted bats and other creatures from entering the church, and keeps the walls from collapsing. The condition of the existing mortar is much worse than was anticipated.



*Before*



*After*



## **St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project**

### **Progress Report: Summer 2000**

Greetings from Mescalero. I am writing to give you the third progress report for the restoration work on St. Joseph's Apache Mission church. This has been a busy summer for the restoration crew, and a great deal of learning has taken place. Thank you for helping to make this project possible.

On May 16 our restoration crew (Harry Vasile, Tommy Spottedbird and I) attended a scaffolder certification workshop conducted by *Territorial CCI Turnkey Scaffolding* of Albuquerque, NM. For two weeks prior to this workshop the crew spent an hour a day studying the scaffolder training workbook. In Albuquerque we received hands-on training in scaffold erection and dismantling, and took a Scaffold Industry Association (SIA) exam. I am happy to report that the three of us passed this nationally recognized exam. This training will enable us to safely erect and dismantle the scaffolding needed to accomplish the restoration work.

Also in May a professional window glazier from *New Mexico Glass of Alamogordo* was hired to instruct the restoration crew in window repair and caulking. This instructor, Mr. Trankie Montoya, provided us with a day filled with hands-on training. Professional caulking tools and materials were purchased from *New Mexico Glass* making possible the replacement of several broken windowpanes and the recaulking of the entire window in the area where scaffolding currently provides access. As restoration work proceeds and the scaffolding is erected along the different walls of the church, we will continue to make necessary repairs to all windows using these newly acquired skills.

On May 30 W. Ryan Torres of Mescalero was hired as a restoration student laborer. Ryan is 18 years old, and has shown an interest in helping preserve his hometown church since this restoration project began. It was a pleasure being able to provide Ryan with a summer job and begin his training in stone building preservation. Harry, Tommy, and I each had the opportunity to train Ryan in various phases of repointing stonework. I hope to be able to hire Ryan again next summer, after he graduates from high school. Not only did Ryan gain skills in stone building preservation, but also the members of the restoration crew gained skills in teaching this art.

Several volunteers came to Mescalero this summer for brief training in stone building preservation. Two summer interns working for *Cornerstones Community Partnerships*, Debbie Whelaen of South Africa and Paul Caccamise of Las Cruces, spent two days under our tutelage. Another volunteer, Alan Hill of England, worked with us for two weeks in September, and in that time acquired a basic understanding of repointing work. Several other people have expressed a desire to volunteer some time on the restoration of this church. Hopefully they will be able to make the time to join us in this worthwhile endeavor. In November a Franciscan Friar, David Paz, will join the restoration crew on a part-time basis. David worked with us for about two weeks in September, and will be a good addition to the crew.

In July approximately \$12,000.00 of scaffolding was purchased and erected by our crew on the southeast exterior corner of the church. Since this was the first major scaffolding erection job attempted by our crew, we hired a professional from *Territorial C.C.I.Turnkey Scaffolding* to work with us for the first day to insure we had the necessary skills and understanding. This first attempt at scaffolding erection went very well: the scaffolding is safe, sturdy, and secure. Unfortunately the deterioration of the mortar in this area is quite severe, and we were not able to complete the repointing work before the cold weather arrived. The scaffolding will be partially dismantled for the winter, and reassembled next May.

Enclosed with this letter is an illustrated progress report showing the work that has been accomplished since the last progress report was written (April 2000). During the last week of September we experienced a light frost in Mescalero, so we have moved the restoration work back indoors. The fresh mortar must not be allowed to freeze during the curing process, so work on the exterior walls of the church can only be accomplished during the summer months.

To date approximately \$150,000.00 has been raised for the restoration of St. Joseph's Apache Mission church. Enclosed is a summary of the restoration project income and expenses to date. The current balance in the restoration fund is \$58,229. At the current rate of progress, the restoration of this church will take approximately 14 years. We continue to pursue grants and donations so that our work may continue. With appropriate funding more people can be employed and trained so that the project may be completed in a timelier manner.

Our restoration project has been publicized in a recent issue of the local newspaper, Ruidoso News. Enclosed is a copy of this article. The December 2000 issue of New Mexico Magazine will include an article about Fr. Al Braun, OFM the man responsible for the construction of St. Joseph's Apache Mission church. To further help publicize our efforts, there is now a website illustrating the work being done ([www.geocities.com/missionrestoration](http://www.geocities.com/missionrestoration)).

Harry Vasile and Tommy Spottedbird are now well trained in the art of historic stone building repointing, and will be able to teach others as the project continues. Thank you for making this training possible. If you have any questions or comments please write.

Respectfully yours,

Peter A. Boegel, OFM  
Restoration Chair