

St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



Illustrated Progress Report for May 2004 through October 2004



This summer we restored the apse exterior



Trainee Arylis Chee with his wife Petra and their son Javian



Roof tiles before removal from apse



Summer trainee Tyrone Cervantes with restoration foreman Tommy Spottedbird



Restoration Project Administrator Mary Serna selling tiles at the annual Ruidoso Oktoberfest celebration



Bro. David, Arylis, Tommy, Bro. Peter and our instructor Pete Mold celebrate the completion of the dry stone retaining wall.



Raffle prize winners Veralyn and Helen presenting Brother Peter with their winnings while Clarice and Fr. Larry look on



Completed East end

Top section of the West interior wall
"before"



Scaffolding on west wall under construction



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As we look forward to completing five years of restoration work this February, we have to take a moment to catch our breath and look back on what has been accomplished. The east end of the church, the transept and apse, inside and out, is finished. From the stabilized and beautifully repointed stonework, to the repair of the huge windows, to the restored artwork and electrical fixtures, a significant portion of this cherished church and veteran's memorial has been lovingly restored. This represents about one-third of the restoration work we hope to accomplish.

In this progress report I would first like to tell you about our current trainee, Arylis Chee. Arylis is a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and first worked as a trainee for several months in 2001 while he was a high school student. Arylis came back to work as a trainee this past February. Tommy Spottedbird, our project foreman, says "It has been rewarding to witness Arylis change from a drug using teenager to a clean and responsible young adult, husband and father." Arylis' life was not easy, he shares with us "When I was 9 my parents divorced and I became responsible for my three younger brothers while my mom worked and went to school." By the time Arylis was 13 he was using drugs. About a year ago his love for his wife Petra and their 2-year-old son Jayvian provided the motivation he needed to change. "I am proud of being able to turn my life around" Arylis says, "I love my job, coming here each day allows me to provide for my family. I am proud to be a part of the history of this church, a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the St. Joseph Apache Mission Parish." Arylis' wife Petra, who is also a Tribal member, says "I have seen a huge change in Arylis for the better since he started working on the restoration project. It is because of the time he spends with Brother Peter and Tommy." She adds, "Our own families have seen the difference too, and are very proud and impressed that he is helping the community by restoring the church that is so important to all of us here in Mescalero." The restoration committee has a reason to be proud of Arylis. He is proof that this project is not only about the restoration of the church, but that we are "restoring the building and rebuilding lives."

This summer we stabilized and repointed the exterior stonework of the sanctuary (apse) area of the church. To do this we first had to remove the clay tiles from the lower roof on the east end to make way for the scaffolding. This tile has been on the roof since the 1930s, and was removed and reinstalled in the 1960s. After our preservation architect Dale Zinn inspected the

roof, seeing all of the damaged clay tiles and the failing flashing, it became clear that while we are doing the restoration work we should redo the roof. Right away some members of the restoration committee came up with an idea for raising the money needed for a new roof. We approached local artists to see if they would be interested in turning the old roof tiles into pieces of art. The response has been wonderful, a variety of young adults have been painting beautiful pieces of artwork on the historic tiles so that we can sell them to raise the needed funds. So far we have raised \$2,239. The artists feel good about using their talents to help restore their church, and they also appreciate the stipend we pay for each painted tile. The Mescalero Apache School art department offered to help as well; from an art class assignment we have several beautiful tiles painted by high school students. We now have the tiles available for sale in the restoration office, the art gallery at the Mescalero Inn, and at DJ Jewelers in Ruidoso. Many people have taken pride in helping with this unique fundraiser.

The estimate to re-roof the entire church is just over \$150,000. Not having that, it was decided to at least get a start by hiring Smith Roofing, Inc. of Las Cruces to re-roof two small sections on the east end of the church: over the apse, sacristy, and storage areas. Preliminary work will be done this fall, putting in the flashing and underlayment. Next spring newer, stronger tiles will be installed on these sections. By working in phases we will have some additional time to raise funds as we go.

We are happy to report on an important event in the history of this church and veteran's memorial: the granting of our application to be placed on the New Mexico Registry of Cultural Places. The extensive application was completed by restoration project administrator Mary Serna with help from James W. Steely, Consultant; Holly Houghten, Tribal Preservation Officer for the Mescalero Apache Tribe; Cody Browning, Mescalero Tribal Archaeologist; Peter Eidenbach, archeologist and professor at New Mexico State University; Sara Eidenbach, of Human Systems Research, Inc., in Tularosa, NM; Rick Wessel, archaeologist; Lynda Sanchez, author; and last but not least we received tremendous help from Dorothy Cave Aldrich, author. This official recognition is important because it gives us enhanced status in the state, and may open doors to new funding opportunities. Mary Serna has also completed the paperwork necessary to nominate this church for the New Mexico Most Endangered Places list for 2005. Currently Mary is working with Rick Wessel, Pete Eidenbach, Cody Browning, and John Murphy on an application for the National Registry of Historic Places. Thank you one and all!

With a final push from our friend and stone masonry consultant Pete Mold, the crew was able to complete the dry stone retaining wall in front of the church. This wall will stop the erosion of the hillside in front of the church. The wall looks great and we now look forward to moving ahead with our native plant landscape plan.

Our annual raffle was very successful, thanks in a large part to the people who donated the wonderful prizes and the many people who helped in a variety of ways. The first and second prizewinners both gave their prizes back to the restoration project! The income from the raffle was \$9,515. Note that 40% of the income was from extra donations sent in with the raffle tickets.

Another successful and enjoyable fundraiser was a concert held in October. Thanks are due to the choral group *Schola Cantorum* of Santa Fe. This wonderful group lead by Dr. Billy Turney donated their talent and time to put on a night of beautiful historic sacred music, complete with Gregorian chant, hymns, and traditional songs from around the world.

The end of September and beginning of October was spent preparing the west interior wall of the church for the restoration work we have begun this fall. The crew built a plywood tunnel to provide a safe entryway into the church underneath the scaffolding. Currently the crew is working on the top level of the west interior wall. The repointing work begins by first removing the deteriorated mortar and cement patchwork. Once a section of wall is cleaned we reset some of the smaller stones and apply several layers of a basecoat of lime mortar to stabilize the stonework. After that a topcoat of lime mortar is applied and tooled to give the wall a finished and handsome appearance. It is labor-intensive work inside this cold church. Tommy Spottedbird, Bro. David Paz and Arylis Chee are devoted and hardworking men. While the scaffolding is in place special attention will be given to any deteriorated spots in the roof woodwork, and the enormous window of colored plexiglass will be replaced. We expect the restoration of this wall to take us two or three years at the current rate of progress.

Since 1998 we have raised \$652,460 for this restoration project. Of that amount 36% came from private foundation grants, 54% from individual donations, and 10% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. Our total expenses to date add up to \$594,627. Approximately 75% of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "Restoration Heroes" have contributed \$27,750 since the program began in May 2003. As of October 18, 2004 the balance in the restoration fund was \$57,833. Of this amount approximately \$10,000 is committed to the architectural "Historical Structures Report" now nearing completion and another \$30,000 is committed to the roof work needed on the east end of the church.

We have received grants from the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, The Stockman Family Foundation, The William R. & Virginia Hayden Foundation, The Robert E. & Evelyn McKee Foundation, the Burkitt Foundation Perpetual Fund through the El Paso Community Foundation, the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the Rayonier Foundation and the John & Katherine Naudin Foundation.

Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, along with an illustrated progress report showing the important work you helped support. Also enclosed is the latest issue of our Restoration Project newsletter, "The Burden Basket." This semiannual publication is sent to all of our donors, while this more detailed Progress Report is sent to supporting foundations, major donors, and other interested people.

We are aware that it is only through the help and dedication of many people that this project will be successfully completed. We thank you for your contribution, and work hard to maintain a high level of excellence in our work. Together we are turning a dream into a reality as we save this sacred landmark and active parish church, ensuring that it will continue to meet the needs of the many people who come here. We hope that you are proud of the work that you are supporting, not only on the building, but with the young adults who benefit from this project in tangible and in intangible ways.