

December 2021

The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey



Activity Abounds

Mission San Luis Rey has always been a place of activity. In the early 1800's, thousands of Luiseno people and Spaniards lived, had families, and worked at the Mission. Throughout the many years since then, people have come to the Mission to learn about history, find peace, pray, or just enjoy the beauty of the Mission. So, over the last year and a half when the activity at the Mission was minimal, it was heartbreaking not to be able to share this sacred place with visitors.

It has been such a joy to again have noon Mass in

the Historic Church, 4th grade students touring the museum again, high school students deepening their faith on retreats, couples in love getting married in the historic church, and visitors roaming the grounds - shopping in the gift shop or relaxing or reflecting in the coffee shop.

Our staff and Friars are so happy to have activity back at the Mission. Based on the turnout at our Christmas concert this year, it seems that all of you are happy to have activity back at the Mission again as well. So, in the coming year we'll

continue to have many more events; we have some exciting new retreats scheduled, as well as some of our long-standing retreats; summer concerts, and perhaps a Mother's Day gathering. We'll keep you updated with our newsletters, emails, and of course, our website.

I hope to see you at Mission San Luis Rey throughout the year.

Peace and all good,

Gwyn Grimes
Executive Director



Mission EVENTS

Connect with the Mission During Christmas Break

- **December 26th**
 - 11am-Family Tour and make your own adobe brick
 - 1pm-Behind-the-Scenes Tour
- **December 27th**
 - 1am-Family Tour and make your own kiicha
 - 1pm-Behind-the-Scenes Tour
- **December 28th**
 - 11am-Family Tour and learn about basket weaving
 - 1pm-Behind-the-Scenes Tour (en español)
- **December 29th**
 - 11am-Family Tour and make your own adobe brick
 - 1pm-Behind-the-Scenes Tour
- **December 30th**
 - 11am-Family Tour and make your own mission bell
 - 1pm-Behind-the-Scenes Tour
- **January 7, 2022**
Franciscan Room Museum Exhibit Grand Opening
- **Every Weekend**
Behind-the-Scenes Tours
Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 1pm. Visit our website for times and availability. **Reservations are highly recommended.**

www.sanluisrey.org

Our Newest Museum Exhibit Takes Us Through Franciscan History



Mission San Luis Rey was established in 1798 as the 18th mission in a chain built by Spanish Franciscans to convert the local population of Alta California. Since then, there has been a Franciscan presence here, except for a few decades in the 1800s, when the Mission was abandoned and fell to ruins.

Fr. Antonio Peyri came to what would be known as Mission San Luis Rey in 1798, appointed by the second father president, Fr. Fermin de Lasuen. Peyri built and lived at this mission for 34 years before he went back to Europe in the 1830's. A few friars stayed, but after Fr. Ibarra died in 1846, the mission was abandoned for over 50 years.

In 1892, a group of 12 Franciscans came from Zacatecas, Mexico, to establish a school. Guided by Fr. Jeremiah O'Keefe, an Irish priest who came from Santa Barbara, they started the titanic labor

that was to rebuild Mission San Luis Rey from the ruins. Since Fr. O'Keefe and the 12 Franciscans from Zacatecas came to the area, the Mission has been restored for the most part, and has seen many young and not so young priests and brothers living and working in its hallways.

As part of our Franciscan history, a new exhibit has been added to our museum which tells the story of the Franciscan Friars. The exhibit begins with St. Francis and St. Clare starting the Franciscan Order. It continues with the Friars who formed the Missions of California, to the Franciscan Friars of California today. This new exhibition, which opens to the public on January 7th, will explain a few important points such as, what does it mean to be a Franciscan, what do they believe, and how the Franciscans at Mission San Luis Rey have built a community in this corner of the world for over 200 years.

Franciscan CORNER

Meet Fr. Alberto Villafan



Let me introduce myself as an associate pastor at Mission San Luis Rey Parish. I am Father

Alberto Villafan, ofm. I was born and raised in Mexico in the state of Michoacan. I have four sisters and one brother. My oldest sister passed away almost two years ago. I am the third child in the family. In 1986, I immigrated to the United States to work in order to help my family economically. In 1990, I joined the Franciscan Friars of Santa Barbara, California. I did my solemn vows in 2002. I was ordained as a transitional deacon in 2004 at Saint Anthony parish in San Francisco, California and as a Franciscan priest in 2005 at Saint Francis parish in Los Angeles, California. I worked as a priest there until 2009.

I was a vocation director for the

province of Santa Barbara for one year, then became an associate pastor at Saint Elizabeth parish in Oakland, California for six years. From there, I moved to Guadalupe, Arizona to be a pastor for four years.

I moved from Guadalupe, Arizona to Oceanside, California in the summer of 2020. I have been an associate pastor at Mission San Luis Rey Parish since 2020. I am very happy to minister and serve at this parish. The parishioners have been hospitable, warm and friendly. I love the parish as well as the City of Oceanside, California.

*Sincerely and fraternally,
Fr. Alberto Villafan, ofm*

Remembering Our Sister of the Precious Blood, Sr. Hildebertha



The Sisters of Precious Blood, under the leadership of Mother Emma Nunlist and Sister Electa Fleck, founded a private school at Mission San Luis Rey in 1913. Over the 65 years that she school was at the Mission, the school was known as the Old Mission School, San Luis Rey Boarding Academy, the Academy of the Little Flower (I think the name most of us remember), and the San Luis Rey Academy.

In 1920, as a novice, Sister Hildebertha Gutman was sent from her motherhouse, the Community at the Maria Stein Convent in Maria Stein, Ohio in hopes that the warm weather would help her recover from tuberculosis. But it was not meant to be. At the young age of 21, Sister Hildebertha died on August 27, 1921 at Mission San Luis Rey.

Brother Rufino was walking the grounds of the Mission, as he often did during the COVID lockdown, when he came upon Sister Hildebertha's grave in the old section of the cemetery, right next to the historic church. Brother Rufino wondered how she died at such a young age, and why she was buried at the Mission rather than her motherhouse. Brother Rufino being the curious person that he is, contacted

the Congregation's archivist, Sarah Aisenbrey, who sent him information about the young sister.

Brother Rufino, also being a kind and caring person, wanted to ensure that the 100th anniversary of Sister Hildebertha's passing did not pass without remembering and honoring her. So, on August 27, 2021, three Precious Blood Sisters travelled to the Mission to attend a prayer service in honor of Sister Hildebertha. Also in attendance were Father Anthony Garibaldi, Father Michael Dallmeier and Father Peter Kirwin, who served and ministered with Precious Blood Sisters.



Retreats & EVENTS

- **February 5, 2022**
Being Beloved: An Art & Spirituality Retreat
Presenter: Glenda Campos
- **Feb 11 - Feb 13, Feb 15, 2022**
When We Care: Spiritual Resources for Caregivers
Two ways to participate: in-person (Feb 11-13) and online (Feb 15)
Presenter: Laura E. Pasquale
- **March 2, 2022**
Embracing Lent: A Season for Prayer and Healing
Presenter: Fr. Charlie Smiech, OFM
- **April 14-17, 2022**
Standing on Holy Ground: Triduum Retreat with Easter Sunday Brunch
Presenter: Fr. Charlie Smiech, OFM

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- **Quiet Days**
Spend a day away from it all at the Mission.

- **Private Retreats**
Spend time in solitude and personal spiritual reflection without participation in a formal program.

Visit our website for more information and to make reservations.

www.sanluisrey.org

The Hacienda at Mission San Luis Rey



If you've driven past the Mission in the last month or so, you have probably noticed the great progress that has taken place on the construction of *The Hacienda*, the future senior living community. Over the last few months the construction crew brought in truckload after truckload of dirt to raise the ground level to establish the foundation. They're now starting to put in the utility and water lines. It's exciting to watch the great progress.

Last month we held an informational meeting about *The Hacienda*, with

about 70 people in attendance. Representatives from Oppidan and Watermark, two of our partners, were there to discuss some of the details of *The Hacienda*. Don't worry, if you missed that meeting we will have another. Not all of the details, like room layouts and pricing are finalized yet, so we'll hold a follow-up meeting in the Spring. If you would like information about *The Hacienda* before then, please call our Watermark sales associate at 760-826-2900. I'll continue to keep you updated.

Lavanderia Restoration and Rejuvenation



We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$250,000 to restore and rejuvenate the Lavanderia. Over the last two months we've raised almost \$35,000 thanks to your generosity. The funds raised will be used for restoration of the kiln; erosion abatement to protect the grand staircase, bathing, and channel systems; improved walking paths; a native plant garden; educational

signage; and a labyrinth. We estimate this to be a two-year project. The funds raised so far will help us get a good start on the project. Two of our partners in *The Hacienda* project have also contributed to our restoration project by donating materials and labor for some of the work. The rejuvenated lavanderia will be a lovely area for visitors to the

Mission and our new neighbors at *The Hacienda*.

If you'd like to contribute to this special project, please visit our website and click on the Make a Donation button, please indicate Lavanderia in the comment section of the donation form, or you can call Gwyn Grimes at 760-231-8403.