

April 2021

# The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey



## *Hope Springs Eternal*

Spring is in the air, and with this Spring comes a great sense of optimism. As more and more folks get vaccinated, our fears and anxieties over the past year are now waning. SUCH A BLESSING! We are now so happy to see more and more of you visit our Mission; we sure have missed you! We have been able to open our museum again, for the third time in the past year. More and more guests are holding and attending retreats in the retreat center. Life at the Mission is starting to feel almost normal.

I have to say that I am so proud of all of our Mission team members for their hard work and dedication over the last year. Well really, I'm always proud of them, but more so than ever. Over the last year they have all been asked to juggle a lot of different responsibilities; to clean, clean, and then clean some more; to set-up for retreats and retreat meals all over the Mission property; to be creative in how we communicate with our Mission community; and to respect and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. Because of this, we have been able to keep all of our visitors safe.

While I've always been so grateful to be able to work here at the Mission, I have never been more grateful than over the last year. Don't get me wrong as there have been some difficult and incredibly stressful times, but the blessings have far outweighed the struggles. The peace and spirit that I feel everyday is what gets me through the difficult times and makes me appreciate the Mission and what it represents for all of us.

Peace and all good,

Gwyn Grimes  
Executive Director



Photo by Jeanne Marie

## Mission Online Auction Declared a Success!

**Online  
Auction**

Thank you to all of you who participated in our first ever online auction. The Mission staff put together a great variety of activities and Mission themed items for the auction. Look for this to be an annual event. A special thank you to the following winners of our auction items: *Michelle Schneider, Gavin Douglas, Pataricia Magallane, Jenny Jauregui, Jim and Diane Manning, Teri Rose, Jeffrey Burns, Anesa Cronin, Damaris Lizarraga, Renee Yanik, Phyllis McGreevey, Claudia Santos, Sally Meyers, Jeanie Franz, Anne Marie Last, Don MacKenzie, and William Hill.*

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# Meet the Mission San Luis Rey Board

## BRUCE SEYMOUR

Bruce Seymour, Board President, began his service on the Mission San Luis Rey Historic Foundation Board in 2013, before joining our Mission San Luis Rey Board in 2017.



Bruce is a retired attorney and former financial services executive. He holds a BA degree from the University of California Irvine, and a JD degree from Pepperdine University School of Law.

Bruce and his wife Lisa have raised five children together; they now enjoy travel, golf, and spending time with their seven grandchildren. They live in San Clemente.



## ERIC FORD

Eric retired from an administrative roll of managing a public water agency. Moving to Bonsall in 2014, he has since

fulfilled a dream of planting vineyards with Italian grape varietals and has started making wines, which has now developed into a licensed winery operation. He enjoys working in the vineyards and spending time with his family and their golden retriever, Oliver.

## ROB HOWIESON



Rob Howieson is Past President of the Board and is now Vice President. He and his wife bought a house in Oceanside

over 30 years ago and raised three wonderful children. He is a Real Estate Agent and has worked all over the Southern California Area. His hobbies include doing anything with his family.

## BETSY BRIGANTI

Betsy has been a volunteer at Mission San Luis Rey for the last five years, interacting with children and adults who



visit the museum. Betsy joined the Mission's Board of Directors in 2019. Betsy holds a Ph.D. in health policy & management from Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health. Betsy also enjoys gardening and traveling.

## FR. ANTHONY GARIBALDI, OFM



Fr. Anthony was born in Sacramento, CA, and first came to San Luis Rey in 1966 for his freshman year in college. He then

return to San Luis Rey in 1997 to minister in the Retreat House. Prior to that time he spent time with the Board of Directors when he was stationed at Huntington Beach. Fr. Anthony became Guardian in

2016 and has served on the Board of Directors since then. Presently, Fr. Anthony ministers as our Cemetery Chaplain.

## KATHLEEN FLANAGAN

Kathleen is a native New Yorker who worked her way west. While in Arizona, she became an active member of the



Franciscan Renewal Center. Her spiritual stirrings led her to accept the position of Executive Director at Mission San Luis Rey.

In 2019, she left Mission San Luis Rey to take on the role of Executive Director, Mission Integration and Ministry Support for the Franciscan Province of St. Barbara. She is an avid traveler, a voracious reader, an occasional hiker, and a very blessed mother and grandmother.



## BOB BROWN

Bob was born in southern California and has resided in north San Diego County with

his family for over 20 years. He works in higher education, both teaching and collaborating with a number of government & non-profit agencies studying environmental issues across California. In his free time, Bob likes to bike ride, hike, and spend time with his family. He is honored to have served on the Mission Board for four years and greatly enjoys working with the Franciscans, other board members, and learning more about St. Francis and Mission San Luis Rey.



Cem

## Franciscan CORNER

### Meet Fr. Peter Kirwin, OFM

Sitting in my room here at the Old Mission, I am reminded of a very significant saying that my mother would use in good times or bad – that being, “Count your blessings.” These words keep me focused to this day and help me to express gratitude to God for the abundant gifts and graces I receive. Returning to San Luis



Rey in active retirement is one that I treasure. Having been pastor here at the parish from 2002 – 2009, I was spoiled by

this community. Thus, when the opportunity presented itself to return, another of mom’s sayings spoke to me, that being, “Strike while the iron’s hot!”

And, so I did! The active portion of retirement allows me to do ministry without administrative responsibility – a true blessing to be with the people, sharing our faith, celebrating joyfully our relationships, proclaiming God’s kingdom and gratefully counting our blessings.

*Thanks, Mom!*

### Care for Creation

**Ditch the Laundry Jugs and Go Plastic-Free**  
One of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of plastic in your household is to stop using big plastic jugs of liquid laundry detergent. Over 35 billion loads of laundry are done annually in North America, which adds up to an excessive number of plastic laundry jugs that serve no greater purpose than to hold detergent for a relatively short amount of time.

One billion laundry jugs are discarded in the United States annually. Once empty, only an estimated 30% of these polyethylene jugs are recycled. The remaining 70% ends up in landfills, with many escaping and clogging oceans and waterways. There are less wasteful, greener options on the market that are slowly becoming easier to find, as long as you look beyond the laundry aisle of the supermarket. Here are some products that work well and don’t utilize plastic jugs: pure soap flakes, pure laundry soap powder, eco-strips made of laundry soap, purchasing refillable plastic laundry jugs, or if you’re really brave you can make your own laundry soap. To find any of these products

look in the alternative products section of your local store, or check online. You can google eco-friendly laundry detergent packaging to find green alternatives.

### Creative Recycling Ideas

Antique stores can be great fun to stroll through in an afternoon. One of the great things you can do while visiting your favorite antique store is to look for old things to repurpose. Repurposing keeps things out of the landfill and gives items a new life. Here are a few fun ideas to inspire creativity.



Medicine Cabinet  
from a Suitcase



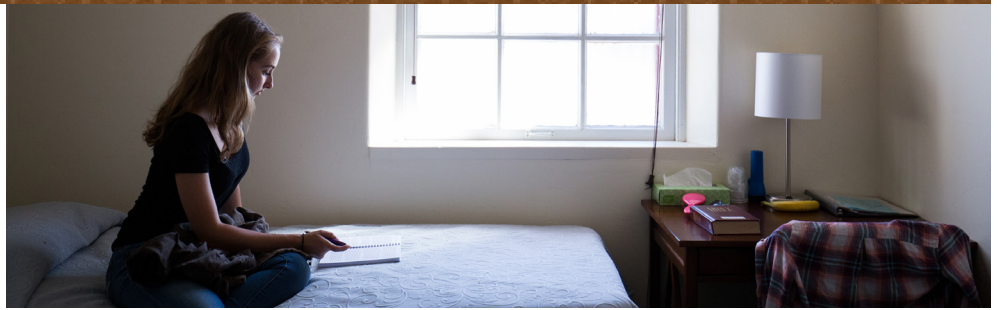
Lamp Made  
from Pipes

# Retreats & EVENTS

- **April 8 - 29, 2021**  
Thursdays-9:30am - 11:30am  
**A Work in Progress: Vatican II and the Making of the Modern Church**  
*Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM*
- **April 28, 2021**  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
**Cemetery Pre-Planning Workshop**
- **May 1, 2021**  
9:30am  
**May Crowning Blessing**
- **May 1 & 2, 2021**  
10:00am-4:00pm  
**Rose Garden Photo Op**
- **May 22, 2021**  
9:00am - 2:00pm  
**Images of Faith: The Spirituality of Iconography**  
*Peter Pearson*
- **June 9, 2021**  
6:00pm-9:00pm  
**Legacy Workshop (virtual)**
- **Every Saturday**  
**Behind-the-Scenes Tours** are available at 11am. Reservations required; call 760-757-3651, ext 170.
- **Quiet Days & Private Retreats** are available. Call 760-757-3659 to make reservations.

*Visit our website for more information and to make reservations.*

[www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org)



## The Retreat Center - Your Office Away from Home

So many people have been working from home for the last year. Most days it's wonderful to work in your pajamas, sit on your comfortable couch while you check email, or catch up on shows on your DVR while you eat lunch; but, after a year of being cooped up in your home office, it may be time for a change of scenery. Imagine yourself working at the Mission for a day or two. The different environment will do wonders for your mental health. Imagine yourself at the Mission sitting in the gardens

working, taking a nice stroll around the grounds between meetings, having someone else make lunch for you, and even taking a nap to recharge during the day. You can even work in your pajamas if you like! To register for a work day (a Quiet Day) or two (a Private Retreat) at the Mission, please visit our website <https://www.sanluisrey.org/retreats-events/quiet-day-available-dates> or call Mercedes Matthews at 760-757-3615 x123. See you soon!

## Museum and Museum Store

Hooray, our Museum is open again! What a joy to be able to welcome visitors, especially our 4th graders, back into our museum once again. Over the summer we finished the script for our new audio tour of the museum. Handheld devices (which are disinfected after each use) can be purchased with your museum admission. We're excited to offer this new enhancement to our museum.



The Museum Store is also open with the items you're used to seeing and of course, some new things as well. We have many items for First Communion and Confirmation as well. Stop by to see what's new!



*Did you know the Mission has a coffee shop?* The coffee shop is located in the former Welcome Center just past the colonnade. The next time you're at the Mission stop by for a cup of coffee or tea (iced coffee and tea as well), or a fresh baked cookie or Danish. You can enjoy your goodies on our outdoor patio next to the rose garden or strolling the Mission grounds. The roses are just starting to bloom!