



The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey

Joy

What is joy? Traditionally, the Christmas story revolves around four words: love, peace, hope, and joy. How can we bring Christmas joy to our lives? And, how can we add a little love, hope, and peace while we're at it? Think about joy as a gift you can share with others. Remember those who don't know freedom and who live in fear. Share this joy by opening your home to others. Joy comes in many forms, such as:

Generosity - It's always more rewarding to give. Seek out opportunities to give in your community. Let generosity be one of your commitments.

Peace - Make your decisions through the filter of "Will this promote peace in my community?"

Others - Put others ahead of yourself as a matter of routine. You'll be happier if you do. Look for people in your life who you can bless.

Hope - There are plenty of people who are struggling this year. Find a project that brings hope to someone else this Christmas.

Faith - Don't miss the central truth about Christmas. Make sure your activities this Christmas season are around the true meaning of Christmas. This time of year will mean so much more.

Story - Christmas is the heart of the greatest story ever told. Share the story. Don't skip the most important part of Christmas.

Love - When the Beatles sang "Can't Buy Me Love," they knew what they were talking about. Love is the primary gift you can give.

May your hearts be filled with love, peace, hope, and joy this Christmas season.

Peace and all good,

Gwyn Grimes
Executive Director

Community Outreach Partners

As some of you may know, one of the Mission's community outreach programs for the homeless is helping them with their laundry needs once a month. We couldn't do this without the support of Nick D'Agostini who tells his story here.

"My name is Dominic (Nick) D'Agostini, and I purchased the laundromat "SoapBox Coin Laundry" on Mission Ave. about 3 years ago. My wife and I were pretty hesitant at first because it would require us to put in everything we had in order to get it. But we took a leap of faith and haven't looked back since. There was a lot of trial by fire, but we soon learned what works and what doesn't. But one of the main lessons we've learned is to treat your customers well and provide them the best service you can. Laundromats are a local business. So when you provide good customer service, the word gets

around the community and it benefits everyone. We are constantly trying to think of different ways to improve our customer's experience and contribute back to the community, such as providing free delivery wash & fold, or reducing prices when the Mission's homeless outreach has an event at our store. We're just thankful to be a part of our local community, and strive to continue to build a mutually beneficial relationship for all our customers."



www.SoapBoxWash.com

Mission San Luis Rey Celebrates 225 Years

Well, 2023 is just around the corner. That means our Historic Mission will be 225 years old. Our staff and I feel so blessed to be a part of the long, beautiful history of Mission San Luis Rey. Our mission is to ensure the Mission will be here for the next generation. There are so many families who have been part of the Mission for generations; couples who married here, had their children baptized here, had their children's weddings here, and now grandchildren baptized here. There are many friars who have memories of attending the seminary at the Mission. There are many women who have fond memories of attending Academy of the Little Flower here. And of course, there are thousands of 4th graders who have memories of their field trips to the Mission. There are so many stories, and we're so thrilled when people share them with us.

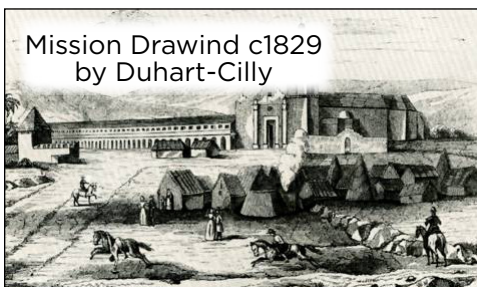
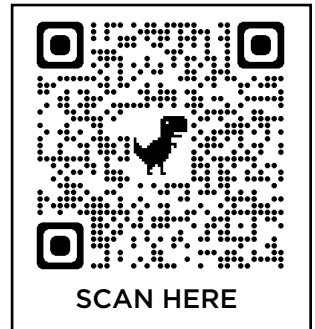
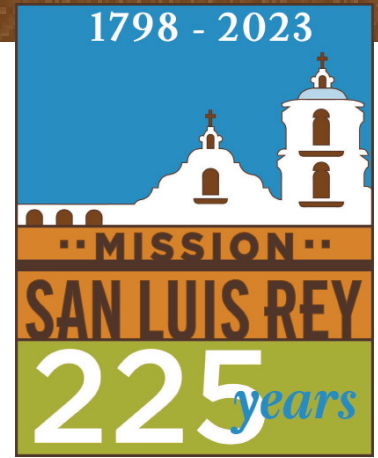
Throughout 2023, we will share the history and stories of the Mission with you. Starting with the history and music of the Luiseño people, followed by the history of the friars at the Mission, and the art and landscapes of the Mission. It will

be a year filled with celebrations – Mass on the founding day, June 13, 2023, in the Historic Church, Fiesta the following weekend, the Heritage Ball, and of course, celebrating our Patron Saint, San Luis Rey and our beloved, St. Francis of Assisi.

We hope you'll join us throughout the year as we celebrate this momentous occasion. Our gift to you in this year of celebration is our Franciscan hospitality. Please visit our webpage (www.sanluisrey.org) or scan the code for more information, updates, and to purchase tickets for events.

If you'd like to volunteer, be a sponsor, or a food or retail vendor, please contact us at info@sanluisrey.org

See you at the Mission!!



225TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 28 th , Saturday, 4pm	Lecture: Luiseno History <i>by Mel Vernon, Captain of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians</i>
February 12 th , Sunday, 6pm	Flute Concert <i>led by Mel Vernon, Captain of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians</i>
March 18 th , Saturday, 10am - 2pm	Art Festival - artists at work, a children's art contest and much more
May (TBD)	Concert - Mission Church
June 13 th , Tuesday, 6pm	Multi-cultural Anniversary Mass, Mission church
June 16 th - 18 th (Friday Evening - Sunday Evening)	Mission Fiesta
August 19 th , Saturday Evening	Heritage Ball
August 25 th , Friday Evening	Feast Day of St. Luis Rey Mass with Procession
September 9 th , Saturday afternoon	Lecture: Mission Franciscans
October 7 th , Saturday 10am - 2pm	St. Francis Festival and Animal Blessing
November 4 th , Saturday afternoon	Lecture: Franciscan Saints Art in the Historic Church <i>by Helena Hazelton, Mission Museum Director</i>
November 18 th , Saturday afternoon	Lecture: Mission Landscape Paintings <i>by Helena Hazelton, Mission Museum Director</i>
December 1 st and 2 nd , Friday at 7pm Saturday at 2pm	San Luis Rey Chorale Christmas



Heritage Ball



Christmas Concert



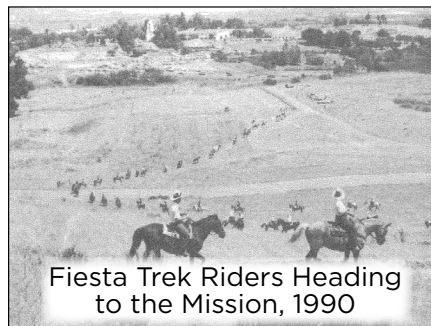
Luiseño History
Lecture & Concert
by Mel Vernon



Art Lectures by
Helena Hazelton



Blessing of the Animals



Fiesta Trek Riders Heading
to the Mission, 1990



San Luis Rey Feast

Retreats & EVENTS

- **January 20 - 22, 2023**
Serenity Retreat with Fr. Tom Weston
- **Feb 22, 2023**
Ash Wednesday Retreat
Presenter: Fr. Charlie Smiech, OFM
- **March 11, 2023**
Shaped by God: An Art and Spirituality Retreat
Presenter: Glenda Campos
- **March 17 - 19, 2023**
Spring into Serenity Retreat
- **April 6 - 9, 2023**
The Sacred Three Days: Triduum Retreat
Presenter: Fr. Charlie Smiech, OFM
- **April 11, 2023**
Spring Lecture Series: Exodus and Easter
Presenter: Fr. Mike Guinan, OFM
- **May 18 - 21, 2023**
Iconography Workshop
Presenter: Peter Pearson

Quiet Days

Spend a day away from it all at the Mission.

Private Retreats

Spend time in solitude and personal spiritual reflection

Visit our website for more information and to make reservations.

www.sanluisrey.org

Who are Secular Franciscans?

Look at nearly any map in California and you'll likely see the influence of the Franciscans such as in city names across the state from San Diego to San Francisco. San Francisco is one of two American cities named in honor of St. Francis; the other being Santa Fe, NM which was named after the "Holy Faith of Saint Francis of Assisi."

Look deeper and you'll see the impressions left on the hearts that have been touched by the Franciscans. St. Francis of Assisi turned his heart so fully to God that he inspired others to follow Christ by walking in his footprints. God gave St. Francis brothers to walk with him. These brothers became the Orders of Friar Minor, or the "First Order" of Franciscans. St. Clare of Assisi, a wealthy noblewoman, left her privileged life and entered a convent at San Damiano to bravely follow a contemplative path. Other women, rich and poor, joined her. St. Clare and her Sisters became the "Second Order."

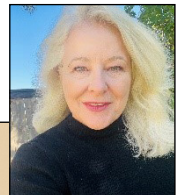
Just as a paper map unfolds across a table, the energy around how St. Francis followed Christ, spread throughout the world in all levels of society. Men and women - married and single, royalty and working people - wanted to follow Christ in the footprints of St. Francis too! These people became the "Third Order," known today as the "Secular Franciscan Order."

The Secular Franciscans live with their family and within their own communities, pray daily, and have hearts closely attuned to the Franciscan spirit. After a period of formation (learning and reflection) they make a lifelong commitment and become members of Franciscan Fraternities that gather each month to pray, learn, and support each other in living Franciscan lives in the world. There are Secular Franciscan Fraternities across the globe - with five in San Diego County alone - in different language groups (English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese). The San Luis Rey Fraternity meets right here at Mission San Luis Rey.

Would you like to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order? From anywhere in the United States, you can call 1-800-FRANCIS or www.secularfranciscansusa.org. For interest here in Southern California or especially the San Luis Rey Fraternity, check out our website at www.slr-ofs.org or reach out directly to Laura Chun, OFS, Minister of the San Luis Rey Fraternity, at chun@pacbell.net or call 760-271-4968.

May God Grant You Peace.

Laura Chun



San Luis Rey Fraternity of Secular Franciscans