



# The Queen of the Missions

A newsletter of the Old Mission Santa Barbara

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A Living Mission

Spiritual

Cultural

Historical

Educational

Reconciling

An important part of the history of the Old Mission Santa Barbara is the continuing presence and service of the Secular Franciscans. This May marks the 125th anniversary of the St. Louis the King Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans which held its first meeting on May 18, 1884. It is the first West Coast SFO fraternity and one that continues in active service today.

The group is celebrating its milestone anniversary with a series of events over the course of the month. On Saturday, May 2nd, they began the process with a wonderful Mass

celebrated by Fr. Richard McManus, ofm. The group will continue to emphasize this anniversary during its regular

business and formation meetings. A special festive barbeque on June 6th will conclude their noteworthy celebration.

## 125 Years!



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Each year, thousands of students from dozens of schools throughout Southern California, along with thousands of tourists from all over the world, seek to learn something of the history of the Old Mission Santa Barbara. The Old Mission uniquely provides a space where dedicated people have sought both to preserve the past and to make it possible for us to understand the past. In the middle of the nineteenth

## The Future is History

century, about one hundred and fifty years ago, the Mission in Santa Barbara became the place where Franciscan friars, who were being forced to leave the other California Missions, often brought their records and historical treasures. The Franciscan friars never left Mission Santa Barbara, though they eventually had to leave all of the other missions in the state; that meant "the past" began to collect here

in a unique way in the form of records, letters, books and personal items of the mission era friars. Eventually, friars such as Zephyrin Engelhardt, Maynard Geiger and later, Francis Guest, began to use that material to write histories of the California missions and their friars based on documentary evidence. They also sought to augment the material which was already here (continued on page 2)

## Partnering with Our Community in Santa Barbara

As we endeavor to increase our involvement within the greater Santa Barbara community, two different projects have provided us the opportunity to continue in the development of a broader range of connection. One project, which is in its final phase, has been our participation in support of two marketing classes at Santa Barbara City College. Phil Balicki, a Covenant member with wide business experience, has given assignments to the SBCC students to develop marketing strategies for various aspects of the Mission. One assignment is to develop plans to increase the visibility of the Mission Renewal Center, the Museum tours and the Serra Shop. These are meant to be integrated with the work of another group of students who are preparing a report on the Mission and its historical place as a point of interest for the

many tourists that visit Santa Barbara. Both the Introduction to Marketing class and the Advanced Marketing group have constructed Power Point™ presentations and, at the end of the semester, will submit their work to the Mission for further review and possible implementation.

A course in public history at the University of California Santa Barbara has given us another opportunity to interact with the academic community. After being contacted by Mary Hancock, a history professor at UCSB, both Phil Balicki and Lynn Bremer, the Director of the Mission Archive Library, have begun collaborative work with three students in the public history class. Professor Hancock has expressed her delight with having a chance to work closely with members of the greater Santa Barbara history community as this class is

a key component of the University's curriculum in public history. The student interns are spending eight hours each week on a combination of work-related assignments and their final project which Lynn and Phil have outlined. The overall arrangement of the Mission museum, its presentation to the public, and the flow of the museum tour is the primary project; with secondary projects that include research into other historical elements of the Mission that can be displayed to the public. The students, who are enthusiastic and excited to be spending research time here and being engaged with such an important aspect of California's and Santa Barbara's history, will present their final project at the end of May and... we will have been involved in training a new generation of public historians!

### The Future is History (continued from page 1)

with material that they collected, usually by copying that material from archives in Mexico and Spain. Their work became the basis for the Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library, which is one of the great repositories in the State for material on the history of California up to the year 1846. Both the Mission Archive Library and its internet web site ([www.sbm.al.org](http://www.sbm.al.org)) are the destinations of many scholars each year. Lynn Bremer, the Director of SBMAL, works very hard with a voluntary board of trustees of the Archive Library, not only to preserve this invaluable heritage of the Franciscans in California, but to make its vast and unique holdings ever-more accessible to researchers. History in the Mission Archive Li-

brary is not something dead in the past, but a living, breathing part of our world today. Helping people understand the past is part of helping people shape a better future.

Perhaps some who will carry the past into the future for many decades to come are all of those fourth grade students who come visit the Old Mission each year. For decades, the study of the California Missions has been part of the curriculum for fourth grade students throughout the State. Many of those fourth graders visit here and other of the Missions. Tina Foss, the director of the Mission Museum, has been at work for years, along with a very faithful corps of volunteer docents, to make the

experience of these young visitors to the Old Mission an opportunity for history to come alive. The young people see, touch and hear history as they explore the mysteries of the nooks and crannies of the Mission cemetery, always asking about the woman of San Nicolas Island and maybe even catching a whiff of incense lingering from a Sunday Mass in the Church. With all of these living elements of history at the Old Mission, and with dreams of new historical adventures (such as someday having resident scholars here and regular opportunities for people to come from all over the country to seek new understandings of the past), the future of the Old Mission may truly be rooted in its history!

## Aging

The process is relentless and it affects many parts of the Old Mission from the artwork and fixtures within the buildings to the structures themselves.

It may not be obvious to the casual observer, but under that familiar plaster exterior some essential parts of the most historical buildings at the Old Mission Santa Barbara are deteriorating. One study done in 2007 indicated that the mortar joints that bind the stone walls of the front "convento wing" are gradually breaking down. There are indications that some of the sandstone itself is deteriorating from trapped moisture in the wall environment. In effect, these load-bearing walls are slowly turning to sand and will require some timely repair before this situation becomes more critical.



## An Opportunity to Preserve

The good news is that there is hope on the horizon and there may well be an opportunity to do some extremely important preservation work at the Old Mission. Tina Foss, Director of the Old Mission museum for years, has been working with Executive Director Fr. Richard Mc Manus and others in administration, to prioritize the most critical needs identified as part of the preservation effort for the Old Mission.

We are now in the process of applying for major grants which will provide the best possible match for completing the necessary preservation work. Ms. Foss indicates that the Old Mission is well positioned to receive a grant in the coming year, if all goes well. Most of these grants require some degree of matching funds and the Old Mission will begin to actively engage in fund raising efforts to support the available grants.

Over the next several months, our website:

**[santabarbaramission.org](http://santabarbaramission.org)**

will contain regular updates about donation opportunities and more news and details on the current preservation efforts.

The need for this restoration work is essential, but the window of opportunity is limited. The Old Mission welcomes your interest in participating in this extremely important effort to preserve and maintain this historical legacy.



Workers replace moisture-damaged cornices in a recent project.

***"An entire architectural style, known throughout America as 'Mission Revival' is modeled on these structures and forms much of the West's architectural appearance today."***

An excerpt from a summary report on the priority for preserving the California Missions.

***"Contrary to what many people think, 19 of the 21 California missions are NOT funded by any governmental agency. Most rely solely on charitable donations to keep their wooden doors open. That's one reason why The California Missions Foundation was created-"to raise funds for the ongoing historic preservation, and rehabilitation needs of the California missions."***

*From the California Missions Foundation website*

*Historical Legacy**Junípero Serra*

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, approximately fifty scholars and others interested in the legacy of Blessed Junípero Serra in California, gathered in the Mission Archive Library for a conference sponsored by the Archive Library, the Academy of American Franciscan History and the Serra Cause (the official body seeking the canonization of Blessed Junípero Serra). The conference included three talks by noted scholars of California Mission era history and one talk by the archivist who has been working diligently for the last couple of years to make the Serra material in the Mission Archive Library more accessible to scholars.

Andy Galvan, of the Mission Dolores in San Francisco and the Serra Cause, introduced the symposium by noting that as activity builds toward the hoped-for canonization of Serra, the secular media will undoubtedly rehearse the controversies which have surrounded Serra and his treatment of Native Americans. One purpose of the conference was to show that those working most directly to seek the

canonization of Serra, as well as related institutions, are seeking to present what is known of Serra in the most honest, forthright and least biased manner possible. To that end, some of the speakers at the conference were actually best known among those who have followed the Serra Cause for their past criticism of Junípero Serra and the friars of the California Missions.

James and Tish Sandos, a husband and wife team of scholars of the University of Redlands, presented their most recent research on “Chisli and Junípero Serra: Indian Response to Mission San Diego, 1769 – 1775,” while Steven Hackel, of the University of California at Riverside explored “Junípero Serra’s California Indian Sacramental Community.” Both of these presentations made use of material now available on-line from the Huntington Library which makes investigation of the sacramental records of the early California Missions far more “searchable” for scholars. The second set of presentations was introduced by Jeffrey

Burns, the Director of the Academy of American Franciscan History, and began with another married couple team of scholars, Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, both of the University of Santa Clara. Using fresh translations of a number of things written by Serra, they presented an engaging lecture on “Junípero Serra and the Peoples of the Santa Barbara Channel.”

The final presentation by Brother Lawrence Scrivani, S.M., who has been at work organizing the Serra material there, was “Seeing the Serra Documents through the Eyes of an Archivist.” Much of his presentation dealt with the newly available records of the Serra Canonization Cause.

Lynn Bremer of the Mission Archive Library had worked closely with Andy Galvan and Jeffrey Burns in the organization and logistics of the Conference, which included a wonderful reception after the presentations prepared by the Mission Renewal Center kitchen staff.

**Junípero Serra** has been declared a Blessed of the Church by Pope John Paul II. Much of the work to achieve that goal was done here at Old Mission Santa Barbara by an entity known as The Serra Cause. Work began on this project in the 1940’s and has been advanced since then thanks to friars such as Eric O’Brien, Noel Moholy, and John Vaughn, who currently lives and works here at the Mission. Father John and those who have gone before him investigate the possibilities of miracles in response to prayers to Blessed Junípero Serra, as well as working very hard to keep his name before the Catholic faithful, that they might ask Serra’s intercession for their needs. History with the Serra Cause is certainly very much alive and intimately connected to the on-going spiritual life of the Mission, to those who visit here and those who turn to Blessed Junípero throughout the world.

## Exploring the Archives

If you Google™ **Provincial Archives**, you will find many offerings from our Canadian neighbors. A lesser known entity resides here at the Old Mission and has been a growing part of the history for several years.

The Provincial Archives of the Franciscan Friars of Santa Barbara was established in 1988 by the Franciscan's provincial administration, headed by then Provincial Minister, Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM. Up to that point, various records, memorabilia and historical artifacts of the friars were scattered and stored in a variety of locations throughout the province.

Br. Timothy Arthur, OFM responded to the province's call to serve as archivist and to find, organize and bring a sense of shape and structure to this massive and eclectic collection

of personal and communal treasures.

In a large upper room here at the Mission, he has filed and catalogued the records of the friars in California since the 1880's, where they have been and what they have done. Beyond records, he has dealt with hundreds of pieces of memorabilia, ranging from autographed footballs to honorary degrees, to a piece of the heat shield from the space shuttle given to a friar as a gift.

Brother Timothy especially keeps track of all of the friars who have died and, sometimes, that is not an easy task. Often relatives of a deceased friar will want to know where "uncle" or "cousin" so-and-so served as they explore their family history. Parishes and other institutions where the friars have served will ask Brother

Timothy for information about their history, as well as the public at large.

After 20 plus years of patient work, the archives are now a living repository of ten's of thousands of stories. The stories are not simply represented in official records, but in pictures, writings and symbols, and everything in between. And this is not merely static storage.

This priceless resource also serves as a means of connection for the friars and relatives of friars current and long past. It allows those who are searching to make a connection and, in so doing, to create a personal memory and yet another chapter of the story that becomes this continuing and wonderfully unique history.

**Br. Timothy shared the story of some recent visitors: Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. While in the archives, they were examining the football autographed by Notre Dame players. Two of the brothers were surprised to find that one signature belonged to a student that they had taught in high school many years before. Another connection made!**

Br. Timothy's role of Archivist makes him a vital link between a searching public and this treasure house of information. He often serves as an ambassador for the Old Mission and has forged some important relationships. In the past month he has had visits from other ambassadors: Sheila Lichacz of Panama, a well known artist who's work hangs in Cana of Galilee, and recently Ambassador March Fong Fu visited the Old Mission and spent time with Timothy. She is the former Secretary of State for California and was appointed by President Clinton to be Ambassador to Micronesia.

### Some Gems from Br. Timothy

**On the key perspective:** "Having the foresight to preserve yesterday and today for tomorrow."

**To the friars on their role:** "...I'm only collecting it (history)... ...you're making it ...remember to keep the archives in mind each time you or your community has an event..."

**On his hopes:** More space (for a display museum); less space (used by paper files, which will be converted to digitized discs); increased interest by those that can help—there is always much to do.



Br. Timothy with one of the display cases of personal remembrances. The wood case on top contains a special Greek language typewriter.

## Featured Volunteer

In previous issues of the Queen of the Mission, we have noted the generous contribution of our many volunteers who provide outstanding and continual service in support of the Old Mission. Many of them go unnoticed, as they often work 'in the background' to contribute their unique knowledge and experience in specific areas.

**Pat Pung**, a retired librarian from UCSB, is one of the generous volunteers who has worked in the Mission Archive-Library and has become the longest serving member of the volunteers there. In addition to spending over three decades as a librarian at UCSB, Pat has been a volunteer librarian in the Archive-Library since 1971! She began helping Fr. Maynard Geiger that year, working on Saturdays to catalogue some of the books in the library. And this cataloguing has not been an easy task.

The Mission-Archive Library contains a wide variety of books, some of great age, and many not written in English. Volumes have to be identified by subject, referenced appropriately in the Library of Congress classification, assigned



subject headings and put onto information cards with the author title. Pat began her work using an IBM Selectric™ typewriter (!), but now uses her computer to research her work on-line and is getting close to posting the entire list of library books on the Library Archive website.

A native of North Dakota, Pat has a Master's degree in Library Science from the College of St. Catherine's in St. Paul, Minnesota and worked at the University of Idaho and Portland State College in Oregon before joining the staff at UCSB. She travels frequently with Elderhostel, reads many mystery stories, and works crosswords puzzles. What a wonderful and active life for the Archive-Library's #1 volunteer!

***'Pat can honestly say she has put her hands on every book in the Archive-Library.'***

***With Gratitude to the Generous Donors***

***To the Fr. Virgil Cordano Living Memory Fund***

(gifts since February 2009)

**Lyn L. Anderson**

**Lois G. Capps**

**Robert A. Goeller**

**Maria G. Arroyo**

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**Linda Lanet Bochniarz**

**Joseph W. Connolly**

**William R. MacDonald Jr.**

## Change in Our Franciscan Community

The Franciscan community at the Old Mission will experience some significant changes in the coming months.

**Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM,** has lived and served with the community here for some five years while completing his doctorate and teaching at UC Santa Barbara. In June he will be returning to his home province, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in New Mexico and will be responding to the call of "what next". He hopes to be able to continue not only expanding on his adventures as an itinerant teacher, but also to dedicate more time to his research and continue writing Franciscan history.



Fr. Jack is a dedicated historian and has shared his extensive knowledge and unique perspectives with parishioners of St. Barbara parish, his Franciscan family, and with the greater community. His presence has truly been enriching and Fr. Jack leaves behind some important seeds for the Old Mission to nurture and develop.



**Br. Angelo Cardinalli, OFM,** has been named the new vicar for the Franciscan community at the Old Mission. He will be relocating from St. Francis Retreat in San Juan Bautista where he spent the last 11 years in support of the retreat ministry there. While at St. Francis, Br. Angelo lived and served with Fr. Richard and was the guardian for that community for six years.

After the destructive fire at the Retreat Center, he was an integral part of the post fire efforts and was essential in holding the community together during those difficult times.

Br. Angelo has also done some extensive work with men's groups in the Monterey area. He is scheduled to arrive sometime in September and will bring his genuine spirit of Franciscan hospitality (with a Sicilian flavor) and strong commitment to community.



### Other News & Happenings

Fr. Richard McManus and Fr. Jack Clark Robinson have both completed their doctoral projects and will be participating in their respective graduation ceremonies. Fr. Richard graduates at Berkley from the Pacific School of Religion on May 24, 2009. His Doctor of Ministry thesis is titled: "Franciscan Conversatio Process: A Faith Story-based Dialogue Method". Fr Jack graduates from the UCSB on June 15, 2009. His doctoral dissertation from the History Department at UCSB is on the history of the Franciscan friars in New Mexico, 1957 to 1985.

Both of our new doctors have spent countless hours writing and editing, especially over the last six months. The community was very challenging as well as supportive. Fr. Tom Messner and Phil Balicki of the Covenant Program generously provided their proof reading skills.

Br. Angelo will be celebrating his 50th jubilee as a Franciscan friar this July. Another noteworthy milestone that we look forward to as a community.

**Readers**

**In our efforts to conserve, we will continue to print fewer hard copies of the Queen of the Missions. You will find the newest edition on the web at [www.santabarbaramission.org](http://www.santabarbaramission.org)**

**Please send us your e-mail address if you wish to receive a copy by e-mail. As always, your feedback is appreciated and needed. Let us know what you would like to hear about from the Old Mission.**

**communications@  
sboldmission.org**

On May 21, 2009 we will remember Fr. Virgil Cordano with a special Mass on the vigil of the anniversary of his death. The Mass will begin at 7:00 PM at the Old Mission church and will be followed by a reception in the Sacred Garden on the Mission grounds.



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