

April 2024

The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey



Spring



Spring at Mission San Luis Rey is really my favorite time of year. As a gardener, the flowers blooming everywhere renew and refresh my spirit. This year, we're greeted with California poppies, irises, daffodils, and lilies blooming along the rose garden. The roses are just beginning to bloom, and soon will greet our staff and guests with their beauty and fragrance. No wonder spring is known as a time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth.

As the world around us warms and blossoms, new truths about God catch our attention in everyday ways. As you contemplate spring, sit or take a walk outside and observe the changes brought by spring. Let your

observation be a prayer that points your soul back to resurrection.

I invite you to come to the Mission this spring, to embrace our Franciscan hospitality - treat yourself to a retreat, sit in the church and feel God's abundant love, have a cup of coffee by the garden, stroll the grounds, spend peaceful time amongst the beautiful cemetery grounds, or revisit the museum and gift shop. Give yourself the gift of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. We hope to see you soon!

Blessings to you this Spring,

Gwyn Grimes
Executive Director



The Mission Domes & Crosses Get Painted!



Mission EVENTS

- **April 23 | 1 pm - 3 pm**
Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop
A free 2-hour workshop leads you through our Pre-Planning Guide.
- **May 10 | 7pm**
May 11 | 2 pm
Thanksgiving and Remembrance - A Choral Celebration
A beautiful and uplifting concert by the San Luis Rey Chorale celebrating their 45th Anniversary year.
- **June 15 | 11 am - 2 pm**
Mission Garden Tea Party
Enjoy an afternoon Tea among the beauty of the Mission San Luis Rey Rose Garden.
- **July 8 - 12 | 8 am - 1 pm each day**
Mission Summer Camp for Children
A fun week for children, ages 8-12 when they will learn Mission history by doing fun activities.
- **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

Meet Our Cemetery Staff

Danielle Napoli (center)

Danielle was born in Riverside, and has lived in Oceanside 25 years. She has been with Mission San Luis Rey almost 5 years and in the DeathCare industry almost 20 years. She is married with 3 sons and 2 grandchildren and has a Puggle named Dozer. Being called to the ministry at Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery has been a true blessing and has deepened my faith in ways she could have never imagined. "Each day I have the honor and privilege of being a part of the Franciscan community that is deeply rooted in prayer, generosity and kindness to all. In my heart, I believe that God has given me the gifts I need to support and guide families during their most difficult times."

Sarah Gardner (left)

Sarah is an Oceanside local who enjoys spending time with family & friends, playing golf, going to the beach and traveling. Her first time at the Mission was during her 4th grade project. She joined the Mission Cemetery in the summer of 2021, with years of experience in the DeathCare industry. "From specializing in simplifying the process with families for arranging and prearranging funerals to exploring property possibilities within the cemetery and using my creativity to design memorial markers, has been truly a blessing. Some would call it a job - I call it, my passion."

Monse Contreras (right)

Monse was born in Mexico City, Mexico and raised in Vista, California. Having the opportunity to work here at the Mission Cemetery has been a blessing. Knowing that she has been through something similar having a loved one buried here in the cemetery grounds has helped her feel that connection with the families in bringing comfort and support to our grieving families. "It's a great honor to be able to represent the Mission."



Luis Ruiz (left)

Luis is originally from the State of Michoacan, Mexico. In his short time working in the cemetery, he has had many lovely experiences and at the same time several sad ones when he accompanies the families in their sorrow as they pay their last respects to their loved ones. "I am thankful for those that made it possible for me to work at the Mission, especially the cemetery. I hope to continue serving the families that have loved ones resting in our grounds here at Mission San Luis Rey."

Eduardo "Junior" Ronzon (right)

Junior is originally from Veracruz, Mexico and has been working for the mission for ten years. He considers himself a devout family man. "Working in the mission cemetery has been a source of pride for me and it feels nice to help families during a time of grief, and being able to serve my community in that way. I see people of all walks of life through my work, and what unites us is our connections to each other and God."



Cem

Franciscan CORNER

Meet Two of Our Newest Friars on Staff at the Mission

Br. Javier “Tito” Garcia Marquez has been a friar for 25 years. Prior to Mission San



Luis Rey, Br. Tito ministered at Old Mission San Miguel, St. Mary’s Basilica in Phoenix, St. Elizabeth Friary in Oakland and Franciscan Renewal Center

in Scottsdale. In Oceanside, he completed his studies at the Franciscan School of Theology, served as director of Faith Formation at Mission San Luis Rey Parish and served individuals experiencing homelessness. While he considers San Juan de los Lagos in Mexico his hometown, he loves traveling to engage with other cultures and is an avid stamp collector. Br. Tito recently returned from South Korea where he served in a soup kitchen for elders and taught English as a second language in Seoul. Currently, Br. Tito offers days of recollection in English and Spanish and supports the mission docent ministries to share faith and love with the wider community.



Br. Dick (DT) Tandy, OFM describes himself as “actively retired” following nine years as a chaplain at St. Anthony’s Foundation in San Francisco.



He is a certified spiritual director with specialties working with recovery groups, all 12-step folks, and those experiencing vicarious trauma. Br. DT’s spiritual practices include contemplative prayer for almost 30 years and mindful movement for all abilities. His real passion is photography and he sees it as a wonderful way to express God’s beautiful creation and the human condition. Br. DT currently resides at Mission San Luis Rey.

Cem

Ecology CORNER



Spring Cleaning

I know what you’re thinking, Spring Cleaning, UGH. So, while you are doing your spring cleaning this year, think about Spring Decluttering as well. Remember in the beginning of the pandemic when we all took the time to clean out our garages and closets? Well it’s that time again.

Decluttering feels like such a great accomplishment and it allows you to share your treasures with others, as well as, gain a tax deduction. Here are some wonderful organizations in our community that would benefit from your treasures:

- Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop (<https://brotherbenno.org/thrift-shop>)
- Women’s Resource Center Thrift Shop (<https://www.wrcsd.org/thrift-store>)
- Casa de Amparo (<https://www.casadeamparo.org/>)
- Disabled American Veterans (<https://davpickupservice.org>) for larger item pick-ups

Retreats & EVENTS

- **April 5, May 3, June 7, Jul 5, Aug 2 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am**
First Friday Reflections
Br. Tito Garcia
- **May 4 | 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**
The Abundant Life: Listen to Your Longing to Be Free
An Art & Spirituality Retreat
Glenda Campos
- **May 16 - 19**
A Brush with God: Iconography Workshop
Peter Pearson
- **June 12 - Jun 16**
Reconnect with Your Art
A retreat for Artists, Creators, and Makers
- **July 20 | 9:30 am 3:30 pm**
Playful Prayer
An Art & Spirituality Retreat
Glenda Campos
- **Aug 11 - 16**
Annual Summer Retreat: With Open Hands
- **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

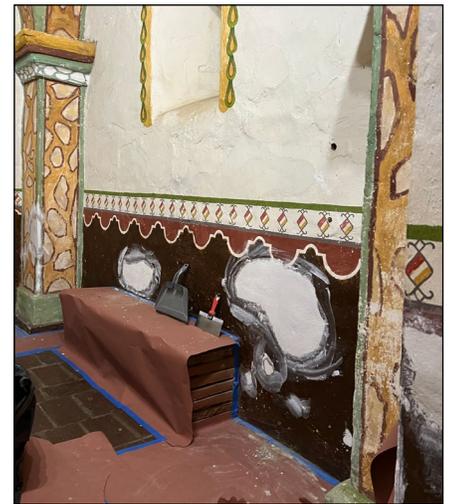
Restoration of the Historic Church

Due to generous donations and Heritage Ball attendees and supporters, we are able to begin restoration of the walls in the Historic Church. Work began on March 18th with the workers cleaning, then patching cracks and holes. They are now matching the paint colors of the wall



designs so it looks as close to the original as possible. We will show photos as the work progresses in our next newsletter as well as on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Thank you to everyone who made this project possible.



Mission San Luis Rey has partnered with **FreeWill.com** to provide a straightforward and complimentary resource for our Mission community. Writing your own will can feel daunting — that's why FreeWill worked with the nation's top legal experts to create an interactive online will maker. Enter your information and create a last will and testament customized to your wishes.

Other estate planning products, such as durable

power of attorney, revocable living trusts, and funeral arrangements are also available to help you get all your affairs in order.

As we welcome a new season and fresh start, we're reflecting on the words of St. Francis of Assisi:

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

With the brighter days, we invite you to start with a necessary and possible task — planning for the future through a will, an action that can have an enduring impact.