



The Queen of the Missions

A newsletter of the Old Mission Santa Barbara

Volume 2 Issue 1

February—April 2009

A Living Mission

Spiritual

Cultural

Historical

Educational

Reconciling

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A year-end check up would show that the Old Mission is moving towards a much healthier situation. Physically it is getting stronger and the emotional "spirit" here is very encouraging. From a financial perspective there are signs of hope but a need for continuing attention.

In 2008, several long needed improvements were addressed. The Bonaventure room was upgraded with a new storage room, furnishings and a state-of-the-art audio visual center. The Friars' Lounge has new lighting, upgraded sound system and all new chairs. The former Scotus Library has been transformed into "Clare's Place" with upgrades including new lights, ceiling, new carpet and new wall finishing. New carpet will also be installed in some of the MRC offices and the guest rooms of the former Serra wing. At the back of the porter's office entry is a wonderful new peace garden that was completed in recent weeks.

To Good Health !

These changes allow the Old Mission and the Mission Renewal Center to provide a hospitable and more useful environment for the many groups seeking a place of culture, history, purpose and prayer.

In addition to handling some essential maintenance deficiencies this year, we will be moving forward with other important enhancements. Two of the most significant projects are the re-roofing and structural retrofit of the historical friars' vaults in the cemetery, and the re-do of the Old Mission Museum tour operations. Both of these projects are starting points for continuing development and exploring future options. There are definitely some good things on the horizon.

We understand that all of these projects are important investments in the health and welfare of the Old Mission Santa Barbara. They underscore our commitment to not only main-

tain this wonderful place, but to enhance and enliven the body of this living mission. Like any investment, it will take time for returns to be generated. But they will, and the returns will allow new programs and will promote new relationships with the community and all those who desire to participate in the Old Mission.

It is only through the vision and commitment, the generosity and the persevering efforts of many that we are at this point. The year 2009 will be a year of many challenges in extremely difficult economic times. But the year will offer so much promise, so many opportunities and a true abundance of good things to be done, together!



I Conoscenti di San Francisco

The year 2009 is the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor and Old Mission Santa Barbara hosted an event that began the year in a noteworthy and distinctive way. On the evening of January 10th, the original play, I Conoscenti di San Francesco - The Ones Who Knew St. Francis, was presented in the St. Barbara Parish church.

This unique play, created by Norbert Zwickl, the Director of Liturgy and Music at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona was performed by a cast of members of the music ministry from the Renewal Center and supported by a variety of professional performers.

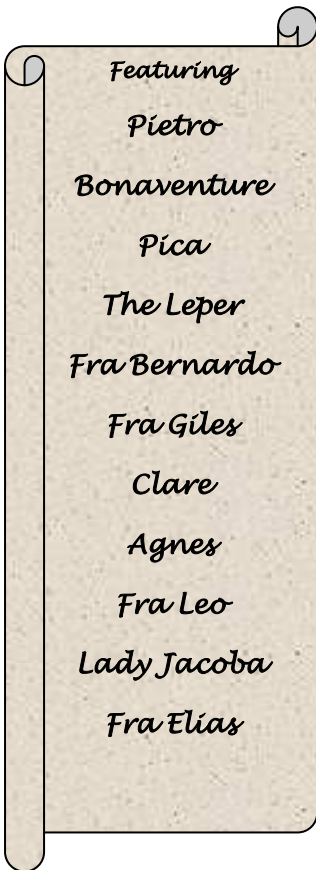
The large audience was captivated by the story of St. Francis, brought to life through music, story and dance in a way that generated a strong emotional response from many of those present. Comments such as "...a moving and spectacular performance", "the portrayal of Lady Poverty through dance touched me on many levels", and "the best performance ever in the Mission church" were shared with the cast as they interacted with the audience after the program.

The performers were enthusiastically grateful for the support that was shown by both the Old Mission and the greater Santa Barbara communities.

In the end, Norbert Zwickl's hope was that the audience would fall in love with Francis' story and his humility, simplicity and genuineness. Based on the commentaries received, the performance had this impact on many of those in attendance.

Norbert Zwickl has also written and produced a wonderful Christmas performance entitled Buon Natale Greccio. It tells the story of St. Francis' vision of the birth of Christ.

Norbert is the liturgist for the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ.



CLARE



LADY JACOBA

Provincial Chapter 2009

More than 160 Franciscan friars of the Province of St. Barbara gathered at Mission San Luis Rey from January 5-9, for their regular Provincial Chapter. This week-long gathering brought the friars together to pray, dialogue and to evaluate fraternal and ministerial issues that will be a part of the developing future. The theme chosen for this chapter was *Seimpre Adelante* (Always Go Forward) a call from the rich history of the Franciscans and the mission era friars.

This was an extremely important Chapter on many levels. Elections

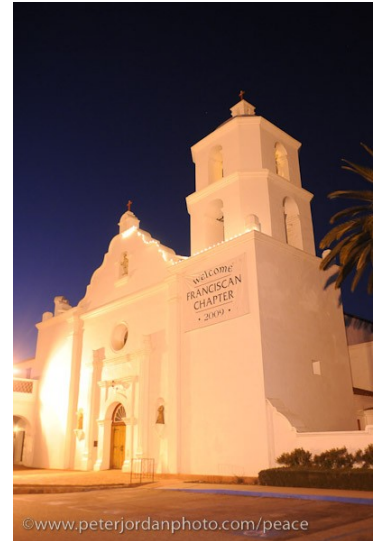
were conducted and resulted in a new Provincial Minister, Fr. John Hardin, ofm, and new Vicar Provincial, Fr. Ken Lavarone, ofm. In addition, there were four new definitors chosen during the election process. This new administration will be responsible for overseeing province directions, ministerial pursuits and the fraternal life of the friars.

Also attending part of the Chapter was the Minister General for the Franciscan order of friars minor, **Jose Carballo-Rodriguez, ofm**, from Spain. On Thursday, the Minister General addressed all of the friars as

well as a group of invited laity. He shared his message of hope and challenge as we seek to move forward in a time of both chaos and need. He clearly heard the voice of the laity gathered with the friars and responded genuinely.

Thursday concluded with a wonderful liturgy and celebration of the unique collaborative relationship that the friars of Santa Barbara Province have with the laity.

The Chapter was the beginning for many important changes that will unfold over the next few months.



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Visitor General Fr. Peter Williams blesses Fr. John Hardin



Fr. Ken Laverone with Fr. John Hardin



Fr. Mel Jurisich outgoing Provincial, with John Hardin



Fr. John Vaughn with Fr. Jose Carballo-Rodriguez

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

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

Adventures with Brother Fire

The friars are certainly familiar with Brother Fire. The history of the Province is marked by the impact of fires that consumed two churches, leveled the historic ranch house at St. Francis Retreat and the first retreat house at Malibu. Also, there was a fire that burned one building here at Santa Barbara in 1982.

Friars will also tell you that relationships have been forged in fire as well. The Tea Fire destroyed the Anglican retreat facility, Mount Calvary, and now the Old Mission serves as temporary home for Br. Roy Parker, an artist and calligrapher who a member of the Mount Calvary community. We invite all our readers to keep that community in prayer as they deal with the aftermath of the fire and all the transitions that will continue to unfold.

We join the Santa Barbara area communities in offering our sincere thanks to the many fire fighters that worked tirelessly to save property and to assist so many during this time of crises.

The Mission was blessed to have a unit from the Los Angeles Fire Department share meals with us and to catch some much needed rest time.



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