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NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT OPEN IN SOUTH WING OF MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

San Juan Capistrano, CA – September 4, 2009 -- Mission San Juan Capistrano new permanent museum exhibit in the South Wing Building is now open. The new exhibit highlights the lives of the padres who lived in the South Wing of the Mission during the 18th century. The exhibit showcases such items as abalone fish hooks, padres' ledgers, music sheets, musical instruments, books, branding irons, coins, lassos, flags and images. The exhibit focuses on the founding and decline of the Mission, the period of secularization, the transfer of ownership of the Mission to and from the Catholic Church, and the pivotal role Abraham Lincoln played in returning the Mission during the last months of his life.

The exhibit will be meaningful to students and visitors of all ages. For those students writing their Mission Reports, the exhibit addresses fourth grade curriculum learning standards such as:

- The purpose of the mission system
- Mission agriculture
- Orange County's native people
- The original land boundaries of the Mission territory
- Mission architecture
- Responsibilities and roles of the padres
- Trade and commerce
- Secularization and Statehood for California

Megan Dukett, Education and Interpretive Program Manager at the Mission, said: "I also think teachers will find the exhibit useful in helping to teach the California State Curriculum Standards in a dynamic way. The images, artifacts, and story within the panels make the story come alive."

Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence-Adams said, "These improvements are made possible through funds from our annual gala fundraising benefiting the museum as well as from private donations of generous supporters who recognize the important story we have to share. The Mission's museum will continue to undergo much needed upgrades to present fuller learning opportunities and a bigger variety in the stories being presented with our guests."

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18th century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com.

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