



SAN XAVIER • PRESERVATION



PATRONATO

Mission San Xavier del Bac 2011

Patronato Creates San Xavier Tour Program

Would you like to learn more about San Xavier? Take the tour! Since spring 2011, docents for Patronato have been conducting scheduled free tours of the two-centuries-old church.

It's the first organized tour program in the church's history. Qualified volunteers take visitors through a 45-minute program outlining the history and architecture, while fielding tour questions.

"It was a logical step in expanding people's appreciation for this national jewel," said Vern Lamplot, Patronato's executive director. "If the church is to survive in the future, people must understand San Xavier's importance to the history and culture of Arizona. It is a unique treasure."

The tour program is part of Patronato's overall mission as a resource "solely and exclusively for historical, research, scientific and education purposes concerned with the restoration, maintenance and preservation of Mission San Xavier."

"I think the number one comment that we hear is 'I have been coming here for years and this is the first time

I have understood everything I am seeing,'" said Al Lockwood who is the volunteer coordinator of the docent program.

In February 2011, Patronato sent out requests for volunteers. The response was immediate. More than 40 people came to the initial meeting, and the program has been growing ever since. With about 20 members tour-qualified through self-study and practice, the docent program is now operating daily tours.

"The reservoir of affection for San Xavier in the community is not a surprise to those of us who love the church," said Lamplot. "But the speed that the docents organized themselves is amazing. It's a tribute to the quality of our volunteers who have taken on the challenge of interpreting a National Historic Monument that is also an active Catholic parish."

The tours have been a hit with visitors as well. "The tour is well worth the time," wrote one out-of-state visitor in the Mission's guestbook, one of many comments about the docents.

(Above on the left) Docent Joanne Myers describes facade to tour. (Above on the right) Al Lockwood, docent coordinator, at the crossing giving a tour. (Below) Docent Bill Ridlinghafer talks about life at the Mission in the 18th century.



"Thank you for arranging the Forum tour of the Mission. (Docent) Sarah Tunnell was excellent, and everyone enjoyed San Xavier," wrote another tour participant.

Special thanks go to Al Lockwood who coordinates the program and also to docents Carolyne and Jonathan Bass, San Xavier parishioners who schedule the tours and head the tour publicity committee.

The tour schedule can be found online at <http://web.mac.com/patronato> and, later this year, at www.patronatosanxavier.org

If you have an interest in San Xavier and would like to join the docent program, call (520) 407-6130 or email patronatoSX@earthlink.net



Photos by James Palka

Holiday Concerts Mark 15th Anniversary Milestone

Once again the rich harmonies of the season will fill the church at San Xavier this December 13-15, 2011, as Patronato celebrates the 15th anniversary of Christmas Concerts. The three-nights of six concerts feature the Sons of Orpheus and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus performing a selection of classical and popular Christmas music.

Last year's concerts were a return to sold-out houses, thanks in part to an opening night review by the Arizona Daily Star. The headlines proclaimed it "beyond dazzling - San Xavier music, sights are spectacular." The year's anniversary event promises to be its equal in every way.

Your support for the concerts has been a significant part of the event's success. Proceeds from the concerts support the restoration of the church. They provide a significant portion of the funds the Patronato needs to continue the preservation of San Xavier.

Patronato thanks our 2010 supporters: sponsor Ann Fallon and underwriters Laura & Arch Brown, John & Georgiann Carroll, Jim & Vicki Click, Tucson Electric Power honoring Liz Ogilvy, and Chuck & Pat Pettis.

Also providing significant assistance: The DanMarben Group L.L.C., Freeport McRoMan, Lewis & Roca L.L.P., Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., Tucson Electric Power, and Union Pacific Foundation. Last year's concerts were

(Above on the left) The concert view from the choir loft. (Above top right) The assembled choruses in concert. (Above bottom right) Outside the church after the concert, members of the Sons of Orpheus exchange holiday greetings with underwriter Georgiann Carroll. The post-concert wishes are a Christmas concert tradition.

dedicated to the memory of Elaine Stillb. Seats are again \$90 each with \$70 of the price a tax-deductible contribution to the restoration. Invitations will be mailed the first week of October. If you, or someone you know, would like to add your name to the invitation list, call (520) 407-6130 or e-mail patronatoSX@earthlink.net.

Sponsorship and underwriting packages are available for the 2011 concert series. Please contact us to find out how you or your business can support the restoration.

3rd Annual Spring Concert Highlights Local Jazz Group

Last April, Patronato presented its third annual Spring Concert, featuring

The Original Wildcat Jass Band in a rousing Sunday afternoon performance at San Xavier. In this special performance, five of the finest musicians in Arizona, offered a concert of New Orleans and Chicago jazz, performed in authentic style, true to its musical roots.

Nuns from the Mission school were also caught up in the spirit of the music, clapping as the group played traditional favorites from a bygone area. At the end of the concert, the group received a standing ovation from concertgoers.

The group featured Rob Boone, trombone; Greg Varlotta, trumpet; Ray Templin, piano & drums; Kelland Thomas, saxophone; and Kelly

Thomas on tuba. As The Original Wildcat Jass Band, they are a popular attraction with audiences at jazz festivals and concerts throughout the Southwest. OWJB has released four CDs; the latest is The Original Wildcat Jass Band "Live."

Seats for the fundraiser were \$75 each, with \$65 as a tax deductible contribution to the restoration of San Xavier.



(Left) Members of the Original Wildcat Jass Band

(Below) "A Gift of Angels" by Bernard L. Fontana and Edward McCain

Award-Winning Volume on San Xavier, "A Gift of Angels," Still Available

"A Gift of Angels' is crawling with facts and figures and more than 175 photographs --- and is gorgeous to boot." - *Review of Arts, Literature, Philosophy and the Humanities*

"We now have a rich and fulfilling record of the art and history of this important and cherished southwest Mission." - *Ted J. Crews*

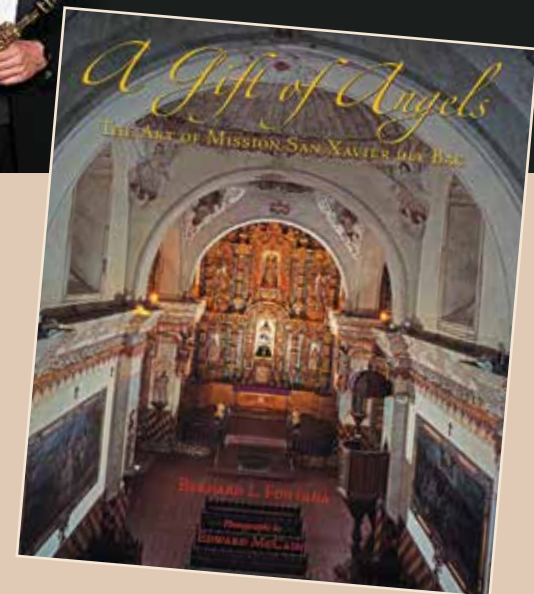
"A Gift of Angels: The Art of Mission of San Xavier del Bac' is simply stunning..." - *Midwest Book Review*

Those of us who love the church at San Xavier know that it is an unlikely structure - an ornate, theatrically embellished building standing nearly

alone in the desert, just above the flood plain of the Santa Cruz River. Its survival in the harsh and extreme environment of the Southwest through more than two centuries is perhaps even more unlikely.

Clues to its enduring hold on the imagination of so many may be found in the building itself. There is no more comprehensive guide to San Xavier than the volume, "A Gift of Angel: The Art of Mission San Xavier del Bac" by Patronato founder Bernard "Bunny" Fontana and photographer Edward McCain.

Fontana has devoted much of his life to studying and documenting the



history and art of San Xavier. McCain is an award-winning photographer who has spent years shooting the interior of the multi-domed church.

The award-winning "big book," published by UA Press in October 2010, sold more than 1,700 copies in its first six months. Retailing at \$75, it is available directly from UA Press, local book stores and online. The UA Press is committed to keeping it in print.



Arcade Project To Be Completed; East Tower Waits

Restoration work on the sacristy arcade will be completed later this year. The arcade, built in the early 19th century, was the first addition to the main church. The Patronato chose the arcade renewal now because it was cheaper than the multiyear East Tower project and could be completed faster with a smaller crew.

The project had two goals: to repair and stabilize the arcade which has been “restored” haphazardly several times over the years and to isolate structurally the arcade from the main church for earthquake protection.

Excavating the ground below the arcade revealed some unexpected and

potentially damaging developments. Our crew from Morales Restoration and Builders found that the wall separating the Chapter Room from the East Transept of the main church had very little foundation support beneath. Either portions of the foundation were never built or the footings became unstable and/or dissolved due to environmental conditions under the church.

Workers also found that the base support under the piers of the arcade was not stable. As they excavated one of the piers, the foundation settled and one arch cracked.

The crew filled in the space under the East Transept/Chapter Room wall with

a lime/concrete mixture. The concrete provides structural strength and the lime is compatible with the original brick and mortar within the wall.

They stabilized the pier foundations with additional pours of concrete and lime and consolidated the walls with fresh lime and sand plaster. The completed arcade will feature more authentic materials.

When the arcade is finished, Patronato hopes to move on to the East Tower project - long delayed due to funding problems. The East Tower continues to deteriorate, but without sufficient support anticipated to complete the tower's restoration, it's not wise to begin stripping the



East and north sides of East Tower

exterior, exposing the structure to further damage.

The continued restoration of San Xavier would not be possible without your generous support. We're especially grateful now because we understand that the poor economy has affected everyone. Nonprofit organizations in particular have felt the recession deeply. Many government grants have disappeared. Historic preservation programs have been especially hard hit.

Despite public support, the White House and Congress have ended the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership through the National Trust. The program provided \$250,000 in critical funding for the restoration of San Xavier's West Tower in 2005.

Arizona's legislature has repealed

the historic preservation funding of the Arizona Heritage Fund that was created by voter initiative. Earlier cuts to the program caused the State Parks board to rescind promised grants in 2009, including \$150,000 to Patronato for work on the church's East Tower.

These and other cuts put more pressure on nonprofits, private foundations and individuals to try to make up the difference. We must count on friends to provide the necessary funds to continue. Recently, the estate of James Geraghty has gifted \$20,000 toward the East Tower project. The Byrne Manson estate has made significant contributions to the Patronato Endowment Fund. Please join these generous and thoughtful people and their families to help us finish the restoration of this great cultural legacy and provide for its perpetual care.



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