



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Restoration of Carmel Mission Basilica Wins Award**

### ***Mission Preservation Team Honored***

*Carmel, California – December 9, 2014* – The Carmel Mission Foundation announced today that the recent \$5.5 million restoration of the Carmel Mission Basilica has received a Project-of-the-Year Award from the construction industry for the Northern California and Hawaii Region in the religious/cultural category. Vic Grabrian, President & CEO of the Carmel Mission Foundation said, “We were pleased to receive this award, as it is a wonderful way to honor the donors who supported the project and demonstrates the care and quality of the restoration work completed by the Preservation Team. Moreover, the Phase I Basilica Restoration project was completed safely, ahead of schedule, and \$1.5 million below budget. It is our hope that the award will be helpful in future fundraising, as additional seismic retrofits and much restoration work remain to be completed at the Mission.”

Over 140 projects were submitted for this annual competition, conducted by the construction industry’s Engineering News Record (ENR), magazine through an independent panel of industry judges. Judging criteria included collaboration and teamwork, ability to overcome challenges, safety performance, and use of innovative design and construction solutions. The judge’s panel also considered the contribution to the construction industry and community, design quality, and construction craftsmanship.

The Carmel Mission Preservation Team, recently honored at an industry awards ceremony in San Francisco, includes Franks Brenkwitz and Associates, architect of record; Blach Construction, general contractor; Architectural Resources Group, preservation architect; Donald C. Urfer & Associates, structural engineer; on site management; and the Carmel Mission Foundation that funded the project.

### **Phase II Next – Restoration of Remaining Carmel Mission Historic Structures**

Grabrian went on to say, “The same team that did such an extraordinary job on Phase I, the Basilica restoration, has been chosen again for the \$20 million Phase II project, which will address the remaining historic structures within the Mission’s 22-acre complex. Included are five museums, California’s First Library, and the Orchard House, believed to be California’s oldest residence. Conceptual plans have been completed and design drawings are now under development. Once permits have been obtained, and depending on funding, construction work could begin as soon as 2016.”

The Carmel Mission Foundation is now seeking a few generous donors, other foundations, or businesses that care about preserving this historic treasure and are willing to step forward to help or even sponsor a segment of the remaining Phase II preservation work, such as one of the historic structures, museums, or courtyards,” said Grabrian.

## About the Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was formed in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its purpose is to fund the restoration and preservation of the historical properties and artifacts of the Carmel Mission in perpetuity.

## About the Carmel Mission

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Río Carmelo), was founded in 1771 by Junípero Serra and served as the Headquarters for the California Mission System, ultimately numbering 21 missions and forming the foundation for what was to become the State of California. It is the repository of generations of culture, tradition, and history, as well as a major tourist attraction and a primary economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula. It is also a National Historic Landmark.

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*The restored Carmel Mission Basilica*



*Restoring the bell tower and dome*

Photos Courtesy of the Carmel Mission Foundation