



## CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **SEISMIC RETROFIT BEGINS FOR HISTORIC CARMEL MISSION**

*Carmel, California – August 30, 2012* – The \$5 million seismic retrofit of the Carmel Mission Basilica, a National Historic Landmark and a highly significant part of California’s heritage, was launched last week. After scaffolding is up, a tent-like weather protection structure will be erected above the entire roof. This will protect the ceiling from the elements and allow the removal of the clay roofing tiles beginning in September. The 220-year-old walls will then be stabilized by drilling over 300 center-cored vertical and horizontal holes into which steel rods will be inserted and fixed in place. The resulting steel framework will greatly strengthen the existing walls without affecting the look of the Basilica. Existing trusses and knee braces of the 76-year-old roof structure will be replaced and strengthened. A new structural roof diaphragm will also be put in place. Once all of this is complete, the roofing tiles will be reinstalled. This project is designed to bring the Basilica into compliance with modern building and safety codes and standards, while preserving the beauty of “The Headquarters of the California Missions”. During the construction period the Basilica will remain open for regular activities.

This project resulted from a successful fundraising campaign by the Carmel Mission Foundation. The \$5 million was raised in record time thanks to the generosity of over 3,000 parishioners and friends throughout the local community and beyond, coupled with grants from public and private foundations, including a \$650,000 *Save America’s Treasures* matching grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of Interior.

The seismic retrofit work will be followed by a \$2.2 million “finishing touches” phase to repair the Basilica’s lath and plaster, dome and woodwork. Mechanical, electrical and fire protection systems will also be upgraded and modernized. The Basilica seismic retrofit and finishing work is the first part of an estimated \$20 million, multi-year project to restore and preserve the Carmel Mission complex.

#### **About the Carmel Mission Foundation**

The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded 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 maintenance of the historic Carmel Mission structures, art and artifacts, ensuring their preservation into perpetuity.

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Rio Carmelo) was founded in 1771 and served as the headquarters for the California Mission System. 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.

#### **Contact:**

Vic Grabrian

Carmel Mission Foundation

(831) 624-3261

[vicg@carmelmissionfoundation.org](mailto:vicg@carmelmissionfoundation.org)

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Carmel Mission Foundation photo



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