



February 2025

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

As the season of Lent is fast approaching, it is time to launch our 2025 Annual Ministries Appeal campaign. Due to your incredible generosity, Carmel Mission was able again last year to contribute more than any other parish towards the various Diocesan ministries outlined in the letter you received from our Bishop, Daniel Garcia. This year our Diocesan contribution is set for \$75,900.

In consultation with our Parish Finance Council, I have set a goal of \$300,000 and decided to dedicate the funds we raise to preservation and restoration efforts in the Mora Chapel.

Our Mora Chapel is named for renowned artist and sculptor Jo Mora, who spent much time at our beloved Carmel Mission, and was captured and inspired by its beauty and historical significance. Mora wished to contribute to both, and so accepted a commission and worked for four years to create a beautiful cenotaph for St. Junipero Serra, unveiling it in October, 1924. The cenotaph is a main feature of our Mora Chapel and stands as a true and tremendous monument to the amazing accomplishments of our founder and first pastor, St. Junipero Serra.

Also featured in the Mora Chapel are precious liturgical items used by St. Junipero and his missionary brothers in the celebration of Mass. These historically used artifacts are a tangible link to our saint, and have been used in the modern era for special occasions such as celebrations surrounding St. Junipero's canonization in 2015.

Work is needed to mitigate less than ideal ventilation, clean and conserve the historic items and better display them for the enjoyment and edification of our parish family and the many visitors and pilgrims we welcome each year.

At Carmel Mission, we are proud of our rich history and the significant accomplishments of our saint, Junipero Serra. It is amazing to consider that in our Mora chapel are items he himself used every day to worship the same God, in many of the same ways as we do today. They form a living history for our church, our community, our state, and our nation. Preserving this for future generations is only possible with your generous support, so I am appealing to you today to participate in our 2025 AMA Campaign – The Mora Chapel – A Place of Living History.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and wish you and your loved ones blessings of good health and great happiness,

Fr. Paul

THE MORA CHAPEL

AMA 2025

A PLACE OF LIVING HISTORY

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