



Angel Jr. in the garden.



Angel Jr. in front of the St. Francis wishing well.

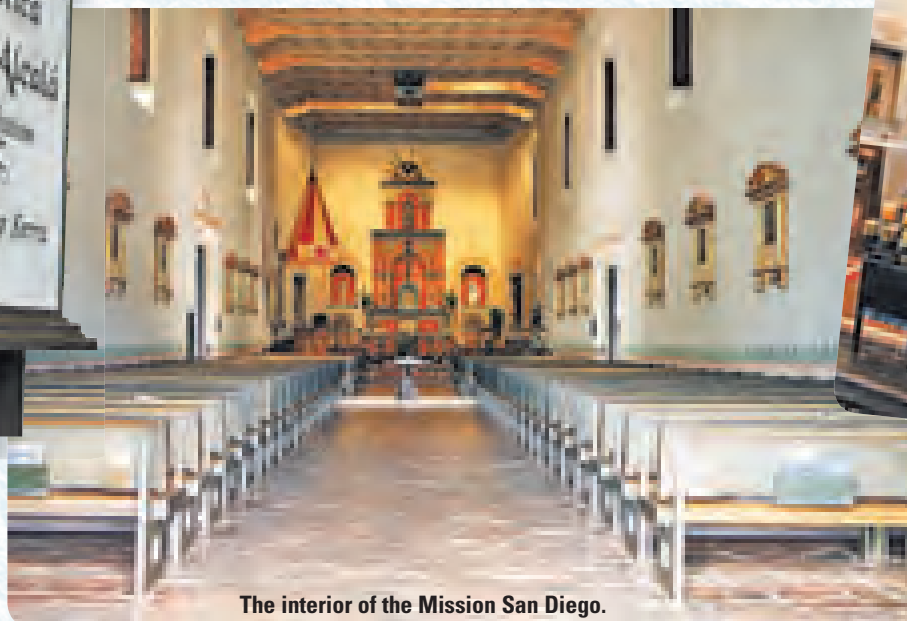
Angel's *Be Alive!*

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales



Send your photos to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. I would love to see them!

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá



The interior of the Mission San Diego.



The church's interior features lots of candles.

Hello again!

For this month's edition, we traveled to San Diego and stopped by California's very first mission church. Your children might have already visited a California mission for their school's fourth-grade project.

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá was founded in 1769 by Junipero Serra, a Franciscan monk from Spain, and it remains an active Catholic parish today. This mission was the very first of many more to come along the coast of California. California has so much history Let's begin!

History

For thousands of years, the American Indians lived in this area that we now know as the great state of California.

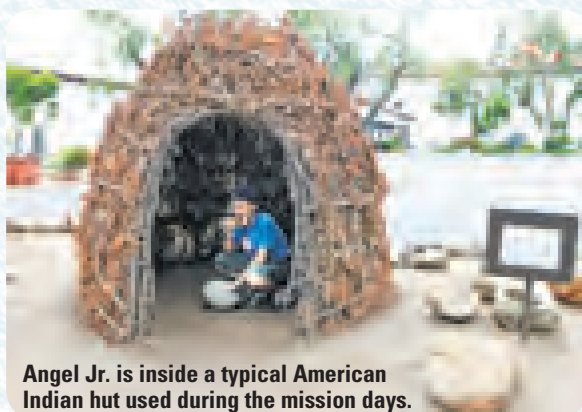
In 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, an explorer commissioned by the monarch of Spain, arrived in San Diego Bay and named it San Miguel after the saint whose feast day was closest to the landing according to the Spanish tradition. In 1602 Sebastian



The 1806 convent area.



A statue in the front corridor.



Angel Jr. is inside a typical American Indian hut used during the mission days.

Viscaino, leading another Spanish expedition, entered the harbor and renamed it San Diego after St. Didacus of Alcalá, Spain whose feast day was closest to the landing. San Diego was also the name of the flagship for this expedition.

Five expeditions were dispatched from New Spain (Mexico) – three expeditions by sea and two by land. Fr. Junipero Serra led the last land expedition, which arrived on June 29, 1769. On July 16, 1769, Fr. Serra established Mission San Diego, and the California mission system was begun on a site overlooking the bay. The mission remained at this site for only five years; the water supply was not sufficient for sustaining the crops, the soil was not fertile enough, and the American Indians were intimidated by the military. The mission was moved six miles east, but second one was burned to the ground by a mob led by two American Indians who were discontented with the mission's rules. The pastor, Fr. Luis Jayme, was killed; Fr. Jayme became California's first Christian martyr, and he's buried under the altar in the present church.

Fr. Serra rebuilt the mission according to the specifications of an army fort, and, through hard work, it became productive. In 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain, and the Mexican government did not have the same allegiance to the missions. The Decree of Secularization

in 1834 removed the administration of the mission from the Franciscans and gave it to Santiago Arguello.

After the United States acquired this area from Mexico, two companies of the artillery occupied the mission beginning in November 1853. For the next several years, various companies of artillery and cavalry were at the mission until 1858 or early 1859. They made some repairs and added a second floor to the church. Subsequently, the mission was abandoned for several years. In 1892, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet moved onto the mission compound and conducted an American Indian children's school for 17 years.

In 1931, the mission was rebuilt to mirror the 1813 church. It is an active Catholic parish and is visited by thousands of fourth graders from throughout the state studying California history.

We thank the Mission Basilica's official website for much of this information.

Our Visit

Wow! This area has so much history. I invite everyone to make the trip and see living history right now.

The mission is a site to see. If your child attends fourth grade, this would be an ideal place to visit and get a head start. Take some photos (add to the school report) and maybe bring back some hand-made replicas.

Just remember to bring some lunch or eat before you arrive, as there is no food available.

Also, you are in beautiful San Diego, there are a lot of things to do.

Thanks again for always reading this column and for saying hello. Just this weekend, I was out with my family in Old Town Pasadena, and I ran into a fellow Club Member and his lovely wife. It is always a pleasure meeting readers of *Alive!* Thanks again for being part of our ever-growing family.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos. Send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

As always, Be Alive!,
Angel

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá
10818 San Diego Mission Rd. • San Diego, CA 92108-2429
(619) 283-7319

MUSEUM HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$3

Mass is said every day at 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: Food is not allowed on the premises.

DIRECTIONS:

Take I-5 south, to I-805 south, to I-52 east, to I-15 south. Exit Friars Road east. Turn right at the first signal onto Rancho Mission Road. Turn left at the first signal onto San Diego Mission Road. The mission is one-half-block on the left.



Hours of operation.