



For Immediate Release

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Commemorating Our Past

*~ Mission San Luis holds its annual Mass
in remembrance of the Spanish missions of La Florida~*

TALLAHASSEE — The Friends of Mission San Luis invite the public to a commemorative Mass to be held on Sunday, December 12, 2010, from 2 P.M. to 3 P.M. From 10 A.M. to noon there will be cannon and musket firings by the San Luis militia and Los Presidiales de San Agustín, a member unit of Florida Living History Inc. Also join us from noon to 1 P.M. the same day for a children's *Las Posadas* reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. Admission to the site is free all day Sunday, December 12.

Led by Bishop John Ricard, the annual commemorative Mass at Mission San Luis honors the more than 100 Spanish missions that existed in *La Florida* during the 16th and 17th centuries. Throughout the day, visitors can explore Florida's past through living history, self-guided site tours and exhibits.

"The commemorative Mass at Mission San Luis is the perfect time to reflect on the important history of the Spaniards and Apalachee Indians," said David B. Ramsay, Chairman of the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. "Even though they were vastly different, they respected their differences and created a community based on tolerance and acceptance. What better message is there to send during the holiday season?"

Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission recreates this community through costumed living history interpreters, reconstructed buildings, exhibits, and archaeological research. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a Preserve America Presidential Award.

Mission San Luis is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street in Tallahassee, FL. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors over 65, and \$2 for children aged 6-17. Members, children under 6, and active duty military are free. Mission San Luis is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. Programs and events are sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. For more information, call 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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