



NEWS RELEASE June 21, 2007

Contact: Rosellen Sanna (831)624-1271x212

## Carmel Mission Invites Local Organic Farmers to Join the Festivities and Bring Home Fair Trade

### Beginning organic farmers will offer fresh local produce at Carmel Mission's Founder's Day Celebration on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

At Sacred Heart Parish in Salinas, Sunday mass ends with immigrant farmers such as Maria Luz Reyes displaying baskets of organic tomatillos, cilantro, strawberries and lettuces in front of the church.

Throughout the growing season, churchgoers have enjoyed a variety of organic produce at Sacred Heart's Farm Stand each Sunday, a collaborative effort of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) and the Catholic Diocese of Monterey.

The success of this model has captured the attention of the Carmel Mission Basilica's Stewardship Director, Rosellen Sanna.

On Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Carmel Mission Basilica will open its doors to celebrate Founder's Day in honor of Blessed Junipero Serra. The **Founder's Day Celebration will feature an all-organic *Farmers' Market* featuring local farmers from ALBA – along with Mission Olive tasting, plein aire artists, mariachi, tortilla and Native American craft making and story telling, the, the Agriculture & Land-Based Training Association, in Salinas.**

ALBA is a non-profit organization that advances economic viability, social equity, and ecological land management among limited-resource and aspiring farmers. "Having the ALBA farmers participate in our Founders' Day Celebration, seemed only natural to me," said Rosellen Sanna, stewardship director. The Carmel Mission has focused much of its outreach activities on Environmental Stewardship and Fair Trade issues, and now serves only fair trade coffee at church socials. Putting the spotlight on small-scale organic farmers is a way to bring Fair Trade home, and that is exactly what is planned for Founder's Day.

"Learning about our relationship with the Earth and our interconnectedness to it, relates to our faith," said Patrick Mooney, youth and adult ministry director for the Diocese of Monterey. "What we experience in part at the Mass, what we eat, is the work of human hands."

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Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6264

Salinas, California

93912

Rural Development Center

Salinas

(831) 758-1469

(831) 758-3665 fax

Farm Training &

Research Center at the

Triple M Ranch,

Watsonville

(831) 786-8760

(831) 786-8766 fax

ALBA Organics

Fresh Produce & CSA

Salinas

(831) 758-5958

(831) 758-5315 fax

[www.albafarmers.org](http://www.albafarmers.org)

[alba@albafarmers.org](mailto:alba@albafarmers.org)

Highlighting our local agriculture heritage is in the spirit of California's founder, Junipero Serra, who brought much of the agriculture that we know today to California. Corn, beans, cattle and wheat, olives and grapes were soon established after the missionaries arrived.

Join the Carmel Mission and ALBA on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 6:30, to partake in the multitude of interactive activities that will give you a taste of California's unique history, delicious organic produce, and a whole lot of fun while supporting local family farmers!

*The Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA)* is a nonprofit organization working to advance economic viability, social equity and ecological land management among limited-resource and aspiring farmers.

*The San Carlos Borroméo de Carmelo Mission* (1771) is the site of the Carmel Mission Basilica and National Shrine of Blessed Junipero Serra.

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