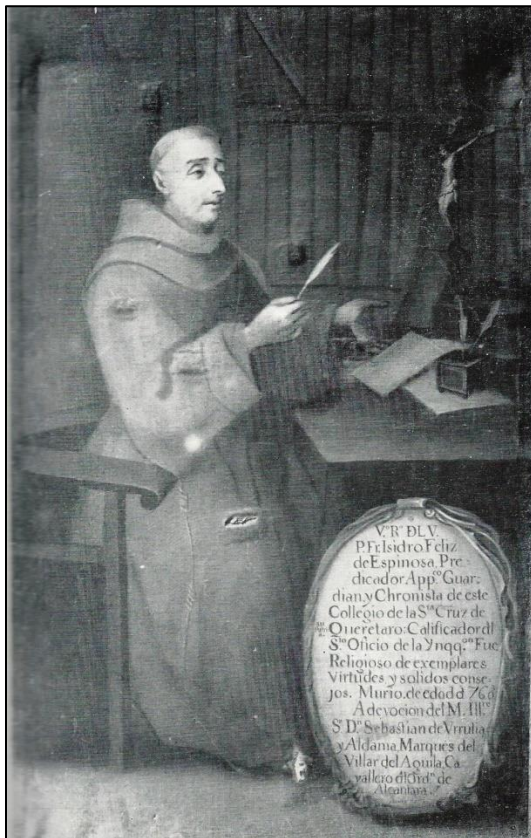


**Dedication Ceremony**  
**Misión Padre San Francisco**

**Celebrating the Tricentennial**

**July 5, 1716 to July 5, 2016**

**“300 Years of Christianity”**



**Father Isidro Félix de Espinosa**

**State Highway 21**

**Tuesday, July 5, 2016**



## **Mission Padre San Francisco**

**(Note the exact location of this misión has not been proven by archeology and historical records.)**

In 1690, the Spanish had tried to place two missions in East Texas in present day Houston County, but these failed for various reasons and the Spanish abandoned the missions in 1693. In 1715, French traders led by Louis Juchereau de St. Denis came here from Mobile to open a trade route with the Native Indians. In response to St. Denis's contraband trading in Spanish claimed territory, the Spanish send soldiers and priests to settle the land. Captain Domingo Ramon in April of 1716 led an entourage of 75 plus people into the Province of Texas. This group consisted of twelve Franciscan Friars who during the trip performed more than 300 high and low masses at all the resting places and over 10 giant wooden crosses were erected at each of the major stream crossings. Besides the soldiers and priests this group also contained seven married women and an eighth young lady, a member of one of the families, was married to a soldier on the trip. Two unnamed children ages 6 and 4 were part of this entourage and a baby was born on the trip. Twenty two other Spaniards assisted during the journey. Two unnamed Indian guides and three unnamed goat herders completed the list of 79.

This 1716 expedition was important because it marked a place in time which the Spanish would never again abandon the Providence of Texas both in civil and in religious activities.

# **Dedicación of Misión Padre San Francisco**

July 5, 1716 to July 5, 2016

## **10:00 a.m. - Welcome**

Dr. Deborah Burkett, Chair  
Cherokee County Historical Commission (CCHC)  
Tony Souther, Site Manager  
Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

Greetings from Senator Robert Nichols, District 3

Mary Germany, founder of the  
Venerable Antonio Margil Catholic Mission in Alto  
Rev. Mark Kusmirek, Pastor St. Mary's in Longview  
Rev. Juan Carlos Rivera, Pastor Margil Mission, Alto

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Morris K. Jackson, MD, Ph.D.  
Nacogdoches County Historical Commission

## **Mission Dedication Cast**

Viceroy Antonio María de Bucareli – Morris K. Jackson  
Louis Juchereau de St. Denis – Jimmy Partin  
Capitán Domingo Ramón – Tony Jasso  
Sgt. Diego Ramón – Jeff Opperman  
Father Isidro Félix de Espinosa—Bill Davis  
Father Gabriel de Vergara—Tom Middlebrook  
Father Benito Sánchez—Byron Davis  
Father Manuel Castellanos--Tommy Slay  
Spanish Soldados: Jeff Opperman, Bill Earley, Jay Jackson

## **Firing of Guns -- Ringing of Bells**

**Reception: Caddo Mounds State Historic Site Museum  
Sponsored by the Friends of Caddo Mounds and CCHC**

**This presentation is part of the yearlong celebration of the Tricentennial of Nacogdoches. It could not have been possible without support from the following:**

Senator Robert Nichols, District 3  
Cherokee County Judge Chris Davis  
Cherokee Co. Commissioners Norton, Underwood,  
Pinotti and Traylor  
The Grady Felder family of Alto  
Cherokee County Historical Commission  
Nacogdoches County Historical Commission  
Shawn Roberts, Assistant Professor of Art, S.F.A.  
John Sloan, Tommy Slay & Jimmy Partin, bells  
Peggy Jasso & Cynthia Davis, costumes  
Caddo Mounds Staff: Site Manager Tony Souther,  
Educator/Interpreter Rachel Galan & Michael Foster  
Friends of Caddo Mounds, Jeff Williams President  
Amy Derrington, Rusk, Virginia Singletary, Alto  
Steve Roper, Mixon Diana Vega, CCHC

"This program was made possible  
in part with a grant from  
Humanities Texas, the state  
affiliate of the National  
Endowment for the Humanities."



**Event Sponsored by the Nacogdoches County  
Historical Commission Reenactment Planning  
Committee:**

**Dr. Morris K. Jackson  
Tommy Slay  
Peggy Arriola Jasso  
Jeff Opperman  
Dr. Deborah Burkett  
Jeff Abt  
Dr. George E. Avery**

**Jimmy Partin  
Trisha Perkins  
Dr. Amy Mehaffey  
Jessica Sowell  
Dr. Patsy Johnson Hallman  
Dr. Tom Middlebrook  
Marion Upshaw**