



May 17, 2016

Rev. John Kavcak, M.S.C.
St. Theresa Catholic Church
2800 East Ramon Road
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Dear Reverend Kavcak,

We would like to introduce ourselves to you. The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation is a California 501(c)3 charitable organization with over 2,300 members. Our mission is “to educate and promote public awareness of the importance of preserving the historical resources and architecture of the city of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley area.”

A member of our foundation contacted us concerned that you might be considering the painting of the main sanctuary. This was prompted by the appearance of paint samples on the church.

In most instances the painting of historic concrete is not recommended, especially if the concrete is integrally tinted, as is the main sanctuary of St. Theresa (see U.S. Department of the Interior’s Preservation Bulletin 15, “Preservation of Historic Concrete”).

Painting concrete is inadvisable for two major reasons. Firstly, it obliges periodic future re-painting, thereby initiating a costly and recurring maintenance regimen. Secondly, painting concrete allows for moisture to be trapped between the paint and concrete. This speeds the disintegration of the concrete. Fortunately, there are many other methods of cleaning concrete which can restore the “freshness” of the concrete surface.

The foundation would be happy to have you consult (at our expense) with Susan Secoy-Jensen, an experienced and highly-regarded preservation architect. Ms. Jensen can be contacted at (714) 926-7812.

In closing, we would like to applaud your past stewardship of this significant building.

Please feel free to contact the foundation at (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Rosenow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Rosenow
President