



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**Sue M. Cobb**  
Secretary of State

For Immediate Release  
Oct. 4, 2006

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### **Blessing of Animals and Celebration of La Florida**

The Blessing of Animals originated in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in remembrance of St. Francis. He believed that all animals should be treated with dignity and respect. Similar ceremonies are held across the country each October. In 2005, approximately 500 animal lovers brought their pets to the inaugural Blessing of Animals at Mission San Luis.

A Celebration of La Florida commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15. Visitors to Mission San Luis, the only reconstructed 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish mission in Florida, can explore the state's Hispanic roots through costumed living history, archaeological demonstrations, and hands-on exhibits.

The Blessing of Animals and Celebration of La Florida will be:

**Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Mission San Luis**  
**2020 West Mission Road**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32304**  
**850.487.3711**

Please see the attached schedule for event details.

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**What: Blessing of Animals and Celebration of La Florida**

- Free admission and open to the public
- Individual pet blessings
- Free goodie bags for dogs and cats
- Free hands-on activities for children
- Music and dance performances
- Storytelling by celebrity readers
- Student art exhibit
- Exhibits from Angels that Purr, Inc.; Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team; Leon County Humane Society; LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System; Scholastic; St. Francis Wildlife Association; Suzy Q's Pet Boutique and Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center
- Food from Chef Joshua Butler available for purchase
- Photographs of each blessing available for purchase

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Performance Schedule

10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Kate Sullivan Elementary School Music Students
11:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.	Storytelling with Tallahassee Mayor John Marks
11:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.	Un Poquito de Mexico: Panhandle Area Education Consortium Performers
11:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Storytelling with Florida's First Lady Columba Bush
12:00 p.m.—12:15 p.m.	Student Art Exhibit Awards Presentation and Xavier Cortada Donor Recognition Ceremony
12:15 p.m.—12:45 p.m.	Corazón Dancers
12:45 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Storytelling with FAMU Professor Dr. Evelyn Trujillo
1:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.	Aconcagua: a Florida State University Ensemble
1:30 p.m.—1:45 p.m.	Storytelling with FSU Athlete Javier Cruz

**Where:** Mission San Luis  
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**Why:** The Blessing of Animals originated in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in remembrance of St. Francis. He believed that all animals should be treated with dignity and respect. Similar ceremonies are held across the country each October. In 2005, approximately 500 animal lovers brought their pets to the inaugural Blessing of Animals at Mission San Luis.

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