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## **Embassy of the United States of America**

### **Public Affairs Section**

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### **U.S. Government Funds Restoration of Santa Teresa Convent in Cochabamba**

U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Larry Memmott inaugurated a restoration project for the Santa Teresa Museum and Convent in the city of Cochabamba on Thursday, January 23. The restoration project is supported by the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation.

The 2013 Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation awarded \$130,000 to fund the replacement of wooden beams, renovation of plaster and paint on the walls, and for the restoration of damaged floors and stairs in the church of Santa Teresa Convent. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Larry Memmott, Cochabamba Bishop Monsignor Tito Solari, and Santa Teresa priest Fr. Linton Guzman.

During the opening ceremony, Chargé d’Affaires Memmott noted that the Santa Teresa Convent is a Cochabamba landmark, a site renowned for its religious, historic, cultural and architectural value and that the restoration of the church will mean more visitors, more cultural events, and a more dynamic urban life in Cochabamba.

“I am proud to say that the Embassy has been a part of this renovation project since the beginning. Supporting cultural patrimony is part of a bilateral agreement between the governments of Bolivia and the United States, in which both countries share the mission of protecting important cultural heritage,” said Memmott. “The United States Government cares about the cultural patrimony of other countries; the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation is our way to demonstrate our deepest respect for the diversity and richness of countries like Bolivia. We have funded cultural preservation projects all over Bolivia since 2001, from the restoration of colonial chapels to the preservation of rock art sites, and many more.”

The Santa Teresa Convent, built in 1760, was one of the first convents established in Cochabamba. It has a unique design, modeled after the Italian Baroque style. The structure of the current church includes a circular dome, decorative architectural features, and a cloister surrounding a small garden.