

St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 921-1563 – www.stbarbaramonastery.org



*The August Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, August 30th, 2015*

4:00 pm Presentation:

WHERE DID WE GET THE GOSPELS?

*Speaker: Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo*

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Potluck

DIRECTIONS TO THE MONASTERY

From Highway 101 – Exit Hwy 126 East at Ventura.

Travel 11 miles east along Hwy 126 and exit 10th St/Hwy 150 at Santa Paula.

Turn left from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Travel about five miles (1/4 mile past Thomas Aquinas College) to 15799 Ojai Road.

The monastery driveway is on the right just past our mailbox at Highway Marker 2830.

Drive across the bridge and follow the signs to the parking area.

From Highway 5 – Exit Hwy 126 West at Santa Clarita.

Travel 27 miles to Santa Paula, and exit at 10th St/Hwy 150.

Turn right from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Continue as directed above.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

There is a story, which we have never found written down anywhere, that monks and nuns often tell especially to younger novices who appear “weary in well doing” (to use the apt phrase of a familiar prayer). It is attributed to St. Paissy Velichkovsky, who liked to compose instructive stories for the benefit of his monks.

Once upon a time, the story goes, there was an incorrigibly idle and lazy monk. He failed to perform his obediences (i.e., his work), slept a lot, and was routinely late for services—if he showed up at all. Nothing the abbot said or did to correct him worked, and the day came when the abbot stopped trying (which is what the monastic fathers advise when the abbot has tried and tried again to no avail).

After a time, the monk fell ill and was clearly on his deathbed. The monks of the monastery, one by one and sometimes a few together, visited the sick man, begging him to come to his senses and repent of his ways while there was still breath left in him. But the monk calmly declined. They came yet again, remonstrating with him all the more. But the monk simply turned a deaf ear on their entreaties.

At last, the brethren went to the abbot and told him the monk was about to depart this life. They begged him to come to the dying man and see what he could do, although it was now without a doubt the eleventh hour of his life. The abbot came, pleading with the dying monk to repent. “The angel of death is at the door!” he said. “Soon you will have to answer for your slothful life! Do you not fear the Judge?”

“No,” replied the monk. “I do not fear the Judge. I know well that I have lived my whole life in slothfulness, have not kept the commandments, and have not fulfilled my monastic duties. But I believe with all my heart what I have heard in the Gospel, which says ‘Judge not, that you be not judged’ (Mt. 7:1). And I have judged no one. So, no, I am not fearful of death and not fearful of the Judge.”

The abbot and all the brethren marveled, and in a few days time they buried their remarkable, saintly brother.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The construction crew has been hard at work. During the last month, we have seen the ADA restrooms progress from a simple foundation to near completion.



As you can see in the photo at right, they have been framed out almost entirely now. Next comes the rough plumbing and electrical before all the exterior finishes go on.

In the meantime, the framers have moved over to the chapel itself (photo at left) and have begun the process of laying out the interior walls.

We don't have an updated fundraising report available at the moment, but are happy to say that a few donations continue to come in each week. Meanwhile, to the often-asked question "How long will it take to complete the chapel?" our reply remains: "It will be finished in God's good time." Because of the required periodic County inspections with unpredictable wait times, the occasional unavailability of the construction crew (which works simultaneously on other projects), delays in materials deliveries, the need to raise the final funding, and other factors too numerous to mention, anything other than a ballpark figure is impossible. "Well, what is the ballpark figure," you ask? Probably another year.

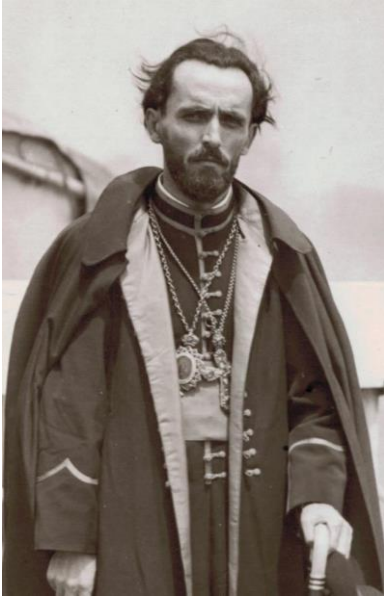


NEW MONASTERY PILGRIMS



These days, four peacock chicks can be spotted following their mother (who belongs to our neighbor Steve) around the monastery property. Their circuit always includes a long stop for baths in the dog dish we leave out on the lawn filled with water in this hot weather. (No one explains to them that the water dish is intended for a dog.)

TWO AMERICAN SAINTS TO BE CANONIZED



St. Mardarije

In just a few days, the Church will add the names of two new American saints to its calendar. In festivities lasting three days and centering on the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, September 5th, at St. Stephen's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra (Los Angeles), His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia will proclaim Archimandrite **SEBASTIAN** Dabovich and Bishop **MARDARIJE** Uskokovic as saints of the Orthodox Church.



St. Sebastian

Archimandrite Sebastian (1863-1940), who was born in San Francisco, was the first priest to be ordained in the United States. He immediately became a missionary, who labored principally (but far from only) in the American West. At a time when the Orthodox Church in North America was still one (i.e., prior to the Russian Revolution) and comprised mainly of members who themselves hailed from Eastern European countries and the Middle East, he founded many pan-Orthodox parishes as well as some specifically Serbian ones. Reaching out to the English-speaking second generation as well as Americans at large, he made English translations of church services and was the author of several English language books about the Orthodox Church.

Bishop Mardarije (1889-1935) was the first Serbian hierarch in the New World. Born in Serbia and receiving his theological education in Russia, he was originally sent to America by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1926, given the severed contact with the Church in Russia under the Communist regime, he was consecrated as the first bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America. The ten years of his episcopate are marked by the building of many churches, notably the diocesan headquarters in Libertyville, Illinois.

More information about the lives of these two saints as well as the schedule of events for their glorification can be found online.