

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



***The June Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery***

Sunday, June 24th, 2012

4:00 pm Presentation

***Speaker: Rev. Yousuf Rassam,
Pastor of St. Innocent Church, Tarzana, CA***

The Church: A Sign of the Kingdom

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00pm Lenten Style 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,

As we continue celebrating our twentieth anniversary, we cannot help but reflect on what a spiritual adventure the gradual establishment of our monastery has been over the years not only for us who are members of the monastic community, but for you as well. For most of you, your involvement with St. Barbara Monastery was your first and only experience of what a monastery is. Gaining this experience little by little as the monastery put down roots and grew was in itself an adventure. You came and attended services, Friends gatherings and feast days, at first having little notion of what you might find. You contributed financially, spent the odd day as part of a work party helping out, and searched in the monastery bookstore for that special book you wanted to read. You wrote us letters and email messages or visited in person and sat down to a meal with the sisters. You made requests for prayer, spent time alone in some quiet corner of the property, or talked over your personal concerns. And you came away with what? Well, for one thing, with images imprinted on your mind's eye of how you might add a little of what you discovered here into the pattern of your own lives.

So, what did you discover the monastery to be? Simply describing the distinctive form of monastic life goes a long way toward a definition. (The sisters have such and such daily services, they do such and such work, they dress thus and so, the steps or stages of monastic life are x, y and z, etc.) But something essential is missing from this type of definition, the something that expresses the true and deeper meaning of the monastery.

Could it be said—and would it be sufficient to say--that the monastery is a community of persons striving to live the life in Christ one hundred percent of the time? Maybe this simple definition says all that is essential. Could a family qualify as a monastery then? Possibly, but probably not; but a monastery could be called a family. Could a church qualify? No, but a monastery is a church. It is not a “parish church,” but it is a church. Father Yousuf Rassam is coming to speak to us about *The Church* at this Sunday's Friends gathering and we expect he will deal with the question. Look for a little more of this discussion in our next newsletter.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

A VISIT FROM THE TEEN SOYO OF ST. LUKE'S, GARDEN GROVE

On Saturday, June 8th, the Teen SOYO together with their pastor, V. Rev. Michael Tassos, and the youth leaders of St. Luke's Church in Garden Grove (Orange County) visited the monastery for the day. While one group removed weeds and thistle and prepared part of the lavender fields for new planting, another group cleared part of the lower creek area of brush and fallen branches to make an idyllic pathway alongside the water. Still others cleaned brass and prepared envelopes for this newsletter's mailing. An enormous amount was accomplished for the sisters by these enthusiastic laborers, who obviously had great fun in the process. Later in the afternoon, Mother Victoria led a lively question and answer session for the teens, who raised a number of interesting issues for discussion.



The day concluded with Vespers celebrated by Father Michael and supper prepared by the sisters before the group set off for the long drive back to St. Luke's. Both the sisters and the visitors from St. Luke's are already looking forward to their next "pilgrimage" to the monastery.



V. Rev. John Finley will be with us for a Divine Liturgy at the monastery on Sunday, June 24th. The Liturgy is scheduled for 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM.

ANOTHER VISIT FROM THE OJAI RAPTOR SOCIETY

Reserve the date, June 28th, for a special visit to the monastery. Volunteers from the Ojai Raptor Center will be with us once again this year to introduce us to various birds of prey presently in their care—the same kinds that live in the wild around the monastery. They will bring with them and tell us all about owls, hawks, falcons, and other raptors, which the children will be able to see up close.



The program is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM. There will be time afterwards to enjoy the monastery grounds (the tire swing has been refurbished!). Following the usual service of the 6th Hour, the sisters will serve lunch for everyone.

Please let us know if you plan to come by leaving a phone message at 805-921-1563 or sending us an email: sbmonastery@gmail.com.

UPDATE ON PUNKIN

In reply to the many inquiries from our readers concerning Punkin's health:



Yes, Punkin continues to have to wear his cone (to keep him from licking his "hot spots"). We have even had to enlarge it somewhat! But, not to worry! He has become adept at doing all the things cats are supposed to do—like climbing trees—as well as performing all his special tasks—like patrolling the monastery property for marauding gophers—while wearing it. He is assisted in his work by his little sister, Blackberry.

