

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

THE MAY GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

Sunday, May 28th, 2017

4:00 pm Presentation:

The Holy Things - the Liturgy and the Economy of Service

Speaker: Rev. Arkadiusz Mironko

***Priest of the Diocese of the West,
attached to Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles***

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.



CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

In the aftermath of the Consecration of our new Chapel of the Holy Martyrs Barbara and Eugene, our speaker for the forthcoming Friends' gathering, Father Arkadiusz Mironko, has chosen the perfect topic. Those who attended the extraordinary, glorious, powerful services of the Consecration can have no doubt that this chapel building is no longer a mere construction of bricks, mortar, wood and glass and that the altar table is no longer an ordinary table. The chapel (better called a 'temple,' as Archbishop Benjamin taught us in his words of instruction) is now a holy place; the holy altar table is where God rests and where the bloodless sacrifice of the Eucharist is offered, and every other item belonging to this sacred space is likewise holy. When we enter the space of our new chapel, we find its holiness palpable! *Holy*: We do well to reflect on what this means.

Holy things—objects, persons, liturgical services—never mind that they exist in the midst of ordinary reality, require special care. And, because they exist in the midst of ordinary reality and their care is carried out by human beings—never mind that they, too, have been made holy—things can go wrong, accidents can happen. Thus, the Church has provided a host of canons, that is, regulations, to protect them and govern their care, as well as instructions regarding what to do when this holiness is threatened or compromised.

The clergy receive special instruction in these matters. But we, who are less likely to be responsible for the care of holy objects (like the items kept on the Holy Altar Table, for example) or for the proper celebration of the Liturgy, etc, should not remain ignorant of what the Church prescribes concerning these things. (For example, what should be done if a priest cannot complete the celebration of the Divine Liturgy? Or what should be done with, say, a chalice that is damaged and beyond repair? Or a consecrated church building that is beyond repair?)

Father Arkadiusz has published a small but valuable book on this subject. And this coming Sunday he will share some of its content with us.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CONSECRATION OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY MARTYRS BARBARA AND EUGENE May 5th/6th, 2017

Preparations for the Consecration of the new Chapel began months ago with the sisters and a host of volunteers planning the endless details of the event. (Mary Waian of St. Herman Church, Michael Easbey of St. Athanasius Church and Beth Krammes of St. Andrew Church immediately come to mind.) Meanwhile, Heather MacKean our iconographer was laboring to finish the principal icons for the iconostas—with exquisite results, Patrick Gilbert was spending days on end building and installing the beautiful iconostas, and Mitchell Denny, our Project Manager, found himself simply losing track of his days and nights trying to satisfy all the requirements of the County inspectors—all while trying to build the new altar table. Nevertheless, despite all the preparations and planning, the last week became a blur of activity—replete with last minute emergencies. (The shuttle bus company did not have enough vehicles available for the expected crowd, and the new paraments arrived a day late!) Archbishop Benjamin and Bishop Daniel arrived on Thursday, May 4th, and themselves set to work making sure nothing essential for the actual Consecration had been forgotten. But someone, if not something, had been forgotten, indeed! Late Friday night, it was the Archbishop himself who jumped in his car to meet Protodeacon Brendan’s flight from San Francisco!

The Consecration Services began with a Vigil in the late afternoon of Friday, May 5th, served by Hieromonk Innocent, the Superior of the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in Manton, CA. Rev. Yousuf Rassam of St. Innocent Church in Tarzana directed the choir composed of singers from a number of parish churches in Southern California. About a hundred friends of the monastery attended, some having come from as far away as Canada and the East Coast as well as the Pacific Northwest. A lovely supper was provided by Zaid Araya and the ladies of St. Andrew Church in Riverside. Everything came together...and everyone breathed a sigh of relief and thanksgiving to God.

On Saturday morning, our good friends Troy Harris of Santa Barbara and Chris Waian of Camarillo were on duty early at the monastery’s entrance to direct traffic and help the clergy with parking in time for the Consecration Service itself at 9:00 AM. Beginning the service in the new chapel, a procession of bishops, over twenty priests, three deacons, subdeacons, altar servers and some three hundred others then made its way to the old house chapel to get the holy relics there. The procession then returned to the new chapel, circling the structure before stopping at the closed outer doors. Following the rousing dialog of “The King of Glory” and led by the deacons, all in attendance then entered the new chapel rejoicing.



The holy relics are taken from the old chapel

At this point, the consecration of the Holy Altar Table commenced with the very building of it by the bishops assisted by the V. Rev. Nicholas Speier of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta and the V. Rev. Lawrence Russell of Holy Annunciation Church in Santa Maria, two archpriests who have been closely involved with the monastery since its founding twenty-five years ago. This was followed by a washing of the Holy Table with holy water and wine, its anointing, and its binding with cord to form crosses. Then the interior walls of the building were anointed with Holy Chrism. When the Consecration concluded, the Divine Liturgy—the first Divine Liturgy to be celebrated in the newly consecrated temple of the Holy Martyrs Barbara and Eugene!—began immediately.



The procession stops in front of the chapel



Deacon George Berni intones a litany

volunteers assisted with the meal and seeing to the needs of all the guests. Some stayed into the evening, joining the sisters for Great Vespers, which was served by the V. Rev. John Takahashi of Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. Father John graciously stayed an extra day to serve the Sunday Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated chapel.

It is impossible to mention all of the many, many friends and benefactors who have been part of the enormous effort to build this monastery chapel over the last several years and who helped now with its consecration. (Three electricians cannot remain unnamed, however: Nicholas Juganu and Cecil Roberts of St. Innocent Church and Jim Morrison of St. Athanasius Church!) But no one, no one is forgotten by the Lord, Who will give to each person his heavenly reward.

For more photos of the Consecration of the Chapel, go to the article posted our website. And watch for a video of the event, which is currently under production by Alexander Adzic and which the monastery will duly announce when the video is ready.



Archbishop Benjamin communes the clergy in the altar