

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



***The March Gathering of the Friends of
St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, March 29th, 2015***

4:00 pm Presentation:

THE BOAST OF THE CROSS

Speaker: V. Rev. Lawrence Russell

Pastor of Holy Annunciation Church, Santa Maria

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Lenten 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,

During the Third Week of Lent, we participated in a wonderful event. For the first time ever, there was a convocation of the monks and nuns of our diocese. Not everyone could attend, but some thirty-six persons, including our Archbishop, BENJAMIN, registered for the gathering at the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in Manton, CA. We will long remember the gracious hospitality of the monks of St. John Monastery, who, while accustomed to hosting groups, most certainly exceeded themselves on this occasion.

The convocation, which was officially called a ‘retreat,’ was built around the daily church services and the common meals, which give structure to the monastic day anywhere. Actually, however, the gathering took the form of a ‘seminar,’ taught by Father John Behr, Professor of Patristics and Dean of St. Vladimir’s Seminary, using primarily material drawn from his book *The Mystery of Christ*.

For us, besides being an occasion for learning, it was a joyous “family reunion” with our sisters from Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. Unbelievably, it has been more than five years since they were obliged to relocate, and we hadn’t so much as seen most of them during all these years. (Most of you know the story of how the County would not permit the continued use of RVs and trailers for temporary housing here, making it necessary for ten of our sisters to move away.) Also, the newly-received Egyptian sisters from Montclair, CA, attended, with our good friend Photini Sorial providing a running translation of Father John’s amazing lectures into Arabic for them.

We wish all of our Friends could hear the spiritually refreshing (and one might even say ‘revolutionary’) presentations given to us by Father John, dealing with the theology of the New Testament and early Church Fathers. And happily, there is a way! One can listen to Father John on YouTube, presenting these lectures to various audiences. We urge everyone to listen, because what Father John has to say is not only interesting and enlightening but capable of renewing one’s vision of the Christian life.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

TEENS OF ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH VISIT



In what has become an annual event, the Junior High students of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta held a retreat and campout at the monastery on February 20th and 21st to prepare for Great Lent. Pictured at left are some of the teens along with their advisers: Father Nicholas Speier, Mary Gish, Mitchell Denny, Josh Dillon and Lara Jacobs. Because the retreat had to be cut short, the usual visit of the teens to the

ponds next door at Thomas Aquinas College was cancelled—which is all the more reason for them to schedule a return visit soon!



LADIES VISIT FROM HOLY CROSS CHURCH, PALMDALE

Accompanied by Father Nathan Thompson, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Palmdale, and Khouria Mandy, a group of ladies from the parish spent Saturday, March 7th, at the monastery, helping with various tasks, participating in the services and enjoying a day in the mountains. After lunch, there was time for a lively discussion as well as for browsing in the monastery's well-stocked bookstore. The afternoon ended with Vespers, served by Father Nathan.



Fr. Nathan and Kh. Mandy



A big thank you to Valerie Yova of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta for organizing the March 13th concert of the Yale University Russian Chorus on behalf of the monastery's chapel building fund. Almost two hundred people attended the delightful concert of mostly liturgical music.

***COME ONE! COME ALL!
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH!***



Come and see, first of all, what a little rain has done for the monastery grounds, not to mention the creek! There is a lot of weeding to do!

We will hold a work party to deal with the situation on Saturday, March 28th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Actually, there is a variety of tasks of every skill level to be accomplished. Besides weeding and trimming, the list includes preparing bay leaves harvested from the monastery's trees; polishing brass; clearing fallen leaves and brush; sanding caskets and various other wood working and small construction projects; painting; etc., etc. And besides these tasks, we will be raising tents for the Friends gathering scheduled for the following day.

If you plan to come, please phone the monastery at 805-921-1563 or send an email message to sbmonastery@gmail.com. Lunch will be provided.



***ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN
TO CELEBRATE LAZARUS SATURDAY LITURGY***

As has been the custom for many years now, Archbishop BENJAMIN is scheduled to visit St. Barbara Monastery and serve the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 4th. The Liturgy will be at 10:00 AM, preceded by the Hours at 9:30. The Liturgy will be followed by a luncheon. Everyone is welcome.

**We will have a Presanctified Liturgy at St. Barbara Monastery
on Wednesday, April 1st, at 3:00 PM
celebrated by Hieromonk Dionysie of Holy Resurrection Monastery in Temecula.
A meal will follow. Everyone is welcome.**