

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



***There will be no  
May Gathering of the Friends  
of St. Barbara Monastery  
on Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2018***

**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,

We have been thinking—with much prayer—about the future of our monastery...

Earlier this month, we marked the one-year anniversary of the consecration of our beautiful, new monastery chapel. This prompted us to give more serious thought to the question of ‘What comes next?’ as well as to more general future plans for development.

‘What comes next’ turns out to be not a choice but rather fulfillment of two requirements regarding our property. The first is a requirement of our mortgage lender, who exacted a promise from us, when we refinanced the monastery property last summer, to pursue a conditional use permit from the County of Ventura for our infant burial ground. We are presently in the application stage for this, and hope to include in the scope of the permit a cemetery to be located at the northwest corner of our property (presently the upper lavender field). We do not anticipate this project to be costly, because it involves no construction.

The second requirement comes from the Ventura County Fire Dept. When our chapel construction plans were approved five years ago, the Fire Dept. stipulated as a safety requirement that prior to any further construction our bridge would have to be enlarged to accommodate two lanes. Fulfillment of this requirement will be costly and will make some serious fundraising a requirement as well.

Once we fulfill these two requirements, our plan is to address what has long been a pressing need for more space to accommodate sisters and guests. What we envisioned, even before we began building the chapel, was a two-storey wing attached to the north wall of our main house. We already have architectural drawings for this, which propose a design of three attached modules, each with room for four more persons. This project will be major and will require major fund raising, but it is essential if St. Barbara Monastery is to develop.

We ask you to add your prayers to ours that these plans (or better ones!) might be found worthy of God’s blessing and bear good fruit. And we ask that, should you have reflections or suggestions for us concerning them, you not hesitate to let us hear your ideas.

Abness Victoria  
and the sisters of  
St. Barbara Monastery

## ***ST BARNABAS CHURCH, COSTA MESA, HOLDS A MONASTERY WORKDAY***



On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, a group from St. Barnabas Church in Costa Mesa came to help us with many tasks and enjoy the monastery grounds on what turned out to be an exquisitely beautiful day in the mountains. They helped with the preliminary work for mailing this Newsletter, weeded the monastery fields and prepared our vegetable beds for replanting. Supervised by Mitch Denny, they also repaired the gazebo and tree house damaged in the December Thomas Fire and did the finishing work on a recently built shed. In the midst of all this activity, they stopped for the Sixth Hour before lunch and Vespers before supper. Throughout the day, but especially at the

shared meals, there was plenty of opportunity for fellowship and conversation. All in all, everyone, including the sisters, had a lovely and memorable day of prayer and work.

## ***OJAI LAVENDER FESTIVAL***

Due to the Thomas Fire, which burned our two lavender fields, St. Barbara Monastery won't have freshly harvested lavender to sell at this year's Ojai Lavender Festival. But we will still have a booth there on June 30<sup>th</sup>, where we will be selling our lavender sachets, lip balm, hydrosol, dried bouquets and loose lavender from last year's harvest and other products.

## ***CAMARILLO GREEK FESTIVAL***

The St. Barbara Monastery Bookstore has been invited by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church to have a booth at the forthcoming Camarillo Greek Festival. The Festival will be held at the Camarillo Airport on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling Orthodox books, icons and gift items much as we have at past Greek festivals as well as our own lavender products.

## ***AN INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN***

On June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM the Ojai Raptor Center will be bringing some of their birds to our monastery for a special presentation about owls, hawks, vultures and other raptors. All children and their parents, who would like to come, see and learn about these remarkable birds, are welcome. There is no admission fee.

The Ojai Raptor Center accepts for rehabilitation raptors that have suffered injuries.



When the birds recover and are deemed capable of caring for themselves and living in the wild, they are returned to the area where they were first found. Pictured at left is a caregiver introducing a great horned owl to a group of eager summer school students at the monastery.

We first got to know the people at the Ojai Raptor Center when a baby owl, who must have fallen out of his nest high up in a sycamore tree on our property, was found by one of the sisters on the ground and unable to fly. The Raptor Center sent someone to get the baby owl and take it back to the Raptor Center. A long time later, when it had grown into a fine, mature owl, our owl was returned to us and released among the big trees in the area of our upper lavender field.

### ***PLEASE NOTE!***

Please find enclosed a card giving you the options of receiving our newsletter either by email only or by both US mail and email. If we don't hear from you, we will continue sending you the newsletter as we do now.

**Because the last Sunday in May is Pentecost Sunday, when most Orthodox Churches have Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers immediately after the Divine Liturgy, we are cancelling our Friends Gathering, which would normally be held that day. The next Friends Gathering will be on June 24<sup>th</sup>.**