Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

We greet you with the joy of the Resurrection! May each and every one of us receive this joy—not to be equaled by anything else in the world!

We can’t call this our “newsletter” because we really have no news to speak of—other than “Christ is risen,” of course! What we mostly want to communicate (in response to your many kind inquiries) is that we are well and the coronavirus thus far has not reached St. Barbara Monastery.

On Holy Saturday evening, we alerted our neighbors that all of our bells would be ringing around midnight as we processed around the church. And a few hours later, we began our very “down home” but glorious Pascha. The singing may have been weak, but it lacked no enthusiasm.

At present, we continue to “shelter in place,” and the monastery remains closed to visitors until such time as the directives (from our Archbishop as well as the Governor of California) are lifted.

Meanwhile, inside our gates, the daily round of monastery life continues: reader’s services, work—especially outdoor work in our lavender fields just now, meals, office work, and—in place of visitors—phone calls and email.

Just maybe (if not next month, then perhaps the month afterwards), we will be back to our usual newsletter announcing a “Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery.” As the Lord wills . . . .

Many, many thanks to all of you who have kept us in your prayers throughout this unusual time.

Abbess Victoria
and the Sisters
of St. Barbara Monastery