

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

# ***THE MAY GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY***

***Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

***4:00 pm Presentation:***

***MONASTERIES OF MOUNT ATHOS***

***(a slide presentation)***

***George Pal***

***Traveller and Pilgrim Extraordinaire***

***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!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

One might call this a season of ‘good-byes.’ Pascha is fast coming to a close; and at least from the perspective of weather, spring itself is vanishing. Two weeks ago, the mountain meadows around us were green and gold with mustard. But already they are turning brown—California brown, which definitely has a beauty all its own. But brown nonetheless. And in just a few days, we will be singing *Christ is risen* for the last time in this calendar year.

However, this season likewise seems to be bringing us a record number of visitors, and so we are conscious of many ‘hellos’ as well. And it turns out that many of these visitors are actually *pilgrims*. Visitors come to get a break from city living, to breathe some mountain air, to attend a service perhaps, even to share a meal and talk some. But pilgrims come for something more. Sometimes, so they tell us, they come to pray before the relics of the saints in our chapel or just to be in the environment of the monastery. What they are trying to say is that they come to withdraw from the distractions of their everyday life and to meet God. This is what distinguishes a pilgrimage from a visit.

When people who come ask for a word of direction regarding how to spend their time here, we suggest that they begin each thing they do with prayer, whether it be taking a walk in the woods, doing a little reading or helping us with some task. And we suggest that, however else they spend their time, they take a little while to be alone to pray—whether it be a canon or an akathist or prayer in their own words. Again, this is what distinguishes a pilgrimage from a visit or, you might say, turns a visit into a pilgrimage.

Hospitality has always been understood as fundamental to the life of a monastic community, and any guest—whether stranger, visitor, or pilgrim—welcomed as Christ Himself. Even a hermit, more often than not, opens his door when he hears a knock. So, it is with joy that we receive the many guests Providence sends us.

Abbess Victoria  
and the community of  
St. Barbara Monastery

# ***CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING FUND UPDATE***

## ***SPECIAL APPEAL FOR WINDOWS AND DOORS***

***“Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honor dwelleth.”  
(Ps. 25:8 LXX).***



As can be seen from the photo to the left, the new chapel is turning out to be very, very beautiful. At this stage, the outer walls are finished and the roof is partly in place, so that the outward form of the building is apparent. Much remains to be done, of course, before the chapel is completed and can be used. *The immediate need is to install the windows and doors* so that the building can be enclosed. However, at this time, we have only a portion of the funds needed for this

purpose. If you have not yet made a donation to the Chapel Building Fund, please consider sending one now toward their purchase. (Donations can also be made via PayPal on our website: [www.stbarbaramonastery.org](http://www.stbarbaramonastery.org).)

Once the windows and doors have been installed, the firm estimate for completing everything and receiving our occupancy permit from the County is a daunting \$350,000. ***But with the Lord all things are possible!*** Our plan is to launch a major fund raising campaign this summer to help us reach this goal. We may have to put a hold on construction while we do this. But we are confident that just as many people have come forward to help financially to build this house of the Lord thus far, the Lord will in like manner inspire many to contribute to help finish this holy work.



# ***JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> WORK PARTY***

## ***COME ONE, COME ALL!***

The monastery will hold a work party on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and there are plenty of tasks awaiting any number of people!

The main job for the day will be to stain the outside walls of the house—all four sides, if possible. We have been concentrating on construction of the chapel these last couple of years and have fallen behind on the important task of properly caring for the cedar walls of our house. Prep work (power washing) will have been done ahead of time, so that the work party can focus on the actual staining.

There are other tasks in abundance, of course! The lavender fields should be in full bloom, and help with the harvest will be welcome. There is always more sanding waiting for skilled and unskilled hands alike in the woodshop (where caskets are under construction). The same goes for weeding in the lavender fields. And “sit-down” jobs--like labeling, metal polishing, filling lavender sachets, and stamping--are never lacking.

The sisters will provide the meals for everyone, and participants are welcome for the whole day or whatever part of the day they can spare. Work will commence about 9:00 AM (following Matins at 7:00 AM and breakfast), break for lunch, and conclude at 4:30 PM, when we will have Vespers. Please mark June 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendars, and do email us at [sbmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sbmonastery@gmail.com) or phone us at 805-921-1563 to let us know you are coming. (And do consider transforming your workday at the monastery into something more by treating it as a pilgrimage!)



### ***LAVENDER AND LAVENDER PRODUCTS AVAILABLE***

Our monastery's lavender and lavender products will be sold at several festivals this summer. These items include lavender oil, lavender water (hydrosol), sachets and fresh and dried bunches of lavender flowers. If you are involved in a festival or other church fund raising event where you would like to include our products for sale, please contact us at [sbmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sbmonastery@gmail.com) or 805-921-1563.