

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

***THE OCTOBER GATHERING OF THE
FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY***

Sunday, October 30th, 2016

4:00 pm Presentation:

***ON THE OBSERVANCE OF
HALLOWEEN***

Speaker: V. Rev. Michael Laffoon

Pastor of St. Mark Church, Irvine, CA

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.



Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner!

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

A doctor—a psychiatrist—once came to old Father Dimitry of Santa Rosa asking for instruction in the Jesus Prayer. He had seen the prayer referenced in a book about mysticism as “the essential prayer belonging to the mystical tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church.” Checking a few other references, he thought this just might be what would help some of his patients, particularly those who needed calm. And then he heard that there was an old monk in Santa Rosa who practiced this prayer and could guide others to use it.

So, carving out a day in his busy schedule, he made the trip to see Father Dimitry. He was encouraged to find the old monk reserved and quiet, peaceful and kindly in his demeanor, certainly *looking* like someone practicing mystical prayer should look. So, accepting the invitation to sit down, the doctor enthusiastically and carefully explained to him his interest in learning to use the prayer so that he could teach it to his patients. When the doctor had finished, Father Dimitry sat silent for a moment or two, and then gazing intently at the doctor said to him: “Are you a sinner?”

The doctor, caught off guard, rose from his seat in some confusion, attempted to collect himself, and then, uttering some words of thanks, nodded his “goodbyes” and quickly left.

Indeed, the aim of the Jesus Prayer is not calm nor any other psychological state. The aim is salvation, the Kingdom of God, communion with Jesus Christ. And clearly, because one must mean what one says, its starting point is repentance, that is, the acknowledgement of one’s sinful state and the active turning away from it. There is no other way.

There is also an adaptation of the fundamental Jesus Prayer, effective because repentance leads of itself to angerlessness and forgiveness of others. Our venerable father Dorotheus of Gaza provides us with the words: *Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on Name, and through his/her prayers, have mercy on me, a sinner!*

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

On the cover: One of thousands of noisy tree frogs living at the monastery.

ANNUAL VISIT OF THE WOMEN OF ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, LOMPOC

On Saturday, October 15th, the women of St. Timothy Orthodox Church in Lompoc made their annual visit to St. Barbara Monastery.



Arriving mid-morning, they plunged ***right into the monastery workday***. Several of the women helped the sisters with the pruning of the lavender field, while others chose to work indoors preparing lavender sachets and labeling envelopes to mail this very newsletter. Stopping for Sixth Hour prayers in the chapel and the fine luncheon they had brought along for everyone, the early afternoon seemed like the right time for “spiritual food.” In place of the usual talk by one of the sisters, everyone participated in

discussion of various questions submitted earlier in a drop box.

The women still had time for a little more work on the projects begun that morning before Vespers, which was sung “reader’s style” by the sisters. Then, following a light supper, the women set out on their long trip back to Lompoc, already thinking about the visit to the monastery they hope to make once again next year.

SULPHUR SPRINGS, CA

This is actually the name of the place where St. Barbara Monastery is located. “Santa Paula” may be our mailing address, and you won’t find a sign anywhere other than old historical photos saying “Sulphur Springs,” but this is what our spot along Highway 150 is called on maps of California. Seismic activity has long since caused the springs to retreat deep into the earth, but just dig a well anywhere around here and what you find is sulphur water.

Months ago, the drought dried up Sisar Creek, the fresh water stream that flows (flowed!) through the monastery property, and we were obliged to switch to the well as our only water source. We soon learned that the system we had in place to remove sulphur was seriously inadequate. The “rotten egg” smell of sulphur—not lavender—is what greeted us when we watered our lavender fields, and the faucets began to yield not merely sulphur water but the black residue of hydrogen sulfide, which had been collecting for years in our water tanks and pipes. Moreover, this residue together with other mineral deposits was clogging the pipes so that water pressure was often down to a trickle—no mere inconvenience but a threat to our fire fighting capability.



Which lever should I push?



Pouring chlorine into the water tank – last time

The answer to our problems? A new water filtration system, which was installed this past month along with equipment to bring the pressure and water reserve volume automatically up to code to cover the Fire Department’s requirements for both the house and the new chapel. You will have to see it to believe it! So, at left is an interior photo of the pump house. The other photo shows an everyday scene from life at the monastery that is now a mere historical record—like the old sepia photo of the sign for Sulphur Springs: Mother Nina monitoring the water tanks and pouring in disinfectant.

CHAPEL ITEMS STILL IN NEED OF SPONSORS

We thank all of you who responded so generously and sponsored items from our *Catalog of Items Needed for the New Chapel*. Several of our Friends have inquired whether any items listed there still need sponsors. The answer is “Yes,” and there are additional items available to be sponsored, which were not listed in the *Catalog*. Here is the list of remaining items:

Center Chandelier ~\$ 6,000

Narthex chandelier ~ \$ 1,000

Holy Water Font ~ \$ 800

Processional Candle ~ \$ 250

Bells ~ \$ 15,000 (complete set) Sponsorship of individual bells is possible.

Belfry ~ \$ 2,500

Choir stands ~ \$500 each (4 needed).

Large vestry cabinet ~ \$1,500

Cabinets ~ \$500 each (4 needed)

Outdoor Sconces ~ \$ 200 each (4 needed)

Decorative Rain Downspouts ~ \$ 100 each (4 needed)

Trees for landscaping ~ \$ 50 each (8 needed)