

St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Santa Paula - Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060-9516  
(805) 921-1563 – [www.stbarbaramonastery.org](http://www.stbarbaramonastery.org)

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

***Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

***Presentation:***

***WORKING OUT OUR SALVATION TOGETHER:  
PRACTICAL STRATEGIES  
FOR STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS***

***Speaker: XENIA ENKE***

***Licensed Psychologist***

***Member of St. Andrew Church, Riverside, 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 5 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.*

*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,

Did you happen to hear about the speech William Barr (U. S. Attorney General) gave at the Notre Dame Law School a couple of weeks ago? Not to step into political territory (which is by no means the territory of our Newsletter), we want to note that Mr. Barr, a practicing Roman Catholic Christian, has courageously voiced an insightful assessment of the moral crisis and growing threat to religious liberty in America, which we all do well to read. How refreshing to hear someone of his stature laying out and addressing the issues directly and, mincing no words, bringing them out into the open forum! We read it together here at the monastery as “table reading” at dinner. (The complete text is on the website of the U.S. Dept. of Justice, where it’s easy to find.) Here is a short summary and a few key quotes:

Interestingly, Mr. Barr notes that the central question for the Founding Fathers of our country was whether “citizens in such a free society could maintain the moral discipline and virtue necessary for the survival of free institutions.” Today, seeing these institutions themselves under attack from within our society and our traditional Judeo-Christian moral system not simply eroding but the target of mockery and a comprehensive effort to destroy it, one fears their question is being answered in the negative. “Secularists and their allies. . . have marshaled all the force of mass communications, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia in an unremitting assault on religion and traditional values.” A rarely cited but critical factor in the equation, he points out, is the unprecedented degree of *distraction* provided by high-tech popular culture that makes it more difficult for society to come to its senses. And there is something else at work: Instead of trying to correct our course, “We call on the State to mitigate the social costs of personal misconduct and irresponsibility.” So, for example, the reaction to growing illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility, but abortion. The reaction to drug addiction is safe injection sites. “The solution to the breakdown of the family is for the State to set itself up as the ersatz husband for single mothers and the ersatz father to their children. The call comes for more and more social programs to deal with the wreckage. While we think we are solving problems, we are underwriting them.” “We start with an untrammelled freedom and we end up as dependents of a coercive state on which we depend.”

What amazed us was to find Mr. Barr concluding his speech with words which well could have been uttered by St. Seraphim or other venerable saints: “Only by transforming ourselves can we transform the world beyond ourselves” and “It is hard to resist the constant seductions of our contemporary society. This is where we need grace, prayer, and the help of our church.” We have nothing to add but to thank God for leaders like William Barr.

Abess Victoria  
and the Community  
of St. Barbara Monastery

## ***INTRODUCING V. REV. AND MRS. JACQUES JUDE LEPINE***



V. Rev. Jacques Jude LePine, a priest of the Orthodox Church in America formerly serving in the Diocese of Canada, and his wife Brigitte, arrived a few weeks ago to take up residence in retirement in the Ojai area, a drive of just fifteen minutes or so from St. Barbara Monastery! As most of you know, the monastery has had no assigned priest and therefore no regular Divine Liturgies for many years. In the blink of an eye, however, all that has changed and we can now announce to the glory of God that the Divine Liturgy will be served regularly in the monastery church on Sundays and Great Feasts at 10:00 AM, preceded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours at 9:30.

Father Jude (as he likes to be called) brings with him the fruit of many years of experience serving especially as a mission priest as well as an educator. Embracing Orthodoxy along with his wife in his native France, he originally came to the United States to study and holds a PhD degree in anthropology and French from Stanford University and an MTh from St. Vladimir's Seminary, where (in both cases) his work focused on the subject of non-violence. He has taught in various universities and colleges across the country and recently retired from his secular job as media director while continuing his online teaching. As a priest he served at the French-speaking parish St. Benoit de Nursie in Montreal and then the mission of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Matushka Brigitte is embracing this new chapter in their lives, being an RN "on hold" for the time being.

We warmly welcome Fr. Jude and Matushka Brigitte to St. Barbara Monastery. And we give thanks to God for His extraordinary care for us in sending them into our midst.

## ***MONASTIC VISITORS***

On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Stere and Maria Caratas, Romanian friends of the monastery from LA, surprised us with special guests: Mother Panteleimona from Varatec Monastery in Romania and Father Gregory from the Romanian Skete on Mount Athos. It is always a special joy to us to meet fellow monastics from faraway places, especially when those faraway places turn out to be ancient and venerable monasteries like theirs.



Varatec is the monastery from which came the nuns who helped Mother Alexandra establish monastic life at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA, back in the 1970's as well as the place where our own Mother Cassiana of Holy Protection Monastery in Colorado spent her early monastic life. (That's Stere on the right standing next to Monk Gregory.)

## ***A VISIT FROM THE LADIES OF ST. ANDREW CHURCH, RIVERSIDE***



Bright and early on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, under the cheerful leadership of Cindy Joris, twenty ladies were prepared to set out from St. Andrew Church in Riverside to spend the day at St. Barbara Monastery. The long ride ahead was expected to bring them to their destination by 10:00 AM. Instead, multiple delays occurred from the very start, and the ladies arrived closer to noon. Thus, the usual noontime service of the 6<sup>th</sup> Hour, normally experienced as a pause for prayer in the course of the workday, turned out to be instead the beginning of their visit. And by the time this short noontime service concluded, it was none too early for the fortifying luncheon the ladies had prepared and brought with them. (We simply cannot skip mentioning everyone's gratitude to Zaid Arraya for her marvelous contributions of Eritrean food.) Determined to contribute at least a few hours of labor to the monastery, directly after lunch the ladies set to work at a multitude of helpful tasks: weeding the lavender field, preparing the envelopes for mailing the hard copies of this Newsletter, making dried lavender bouquets and lavender sachets for upcoming monastery sales, etc. After two solid hours of work, during which an enormous amount was accomplished to help the monastery, everyone was glad to relax a little, listen to the helpful talk Mother Paraskeva had prepared on the subject of repentance, and then discuss the interesting questions raised in response to her words. Although their planned departure time had arrived by then, the ladies decided (in view of their late arrival) to stay for an early Vespers before setting off on the long drive back to Riverside (not to mention the additional drive home). Despite the difficulties of the long day, the ladies agreed they look forward to another visit to St. Barbara Monastery and another pilgrimage workday.

There will be no November Friends' Gathering. We will celebrate our altar feast of St. Barbara on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Look for the announcement in your mailbox or on our website in mid-November.