

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

The August Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, August 29th, 2010

*4:00 pm Presentation – What Makes Orthodoxy
Different?*

*Speaker – Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett – Assistant Professor of
Religious Studies, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 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.

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,

August is when the Diocese of the West of the Orthodox Church in America asks us to send in a report on the monastery—a sort of “state of the union” summary of the past year coupled with a review of any plans we may have and our vision for the future. Given the life-changing events St. Barbara Monastery has experienced over the course of the past ten months, we thought all of our readers might be interested in reading this year’s report.

***St. Barbara Monastery Annual Report for 2009-2010
to the Diocese of the West of the Orthodox Church in America***

The main news of the past year is without a doubt the dramatic change that occurred in October, 2009, when an agent of the Ventura County Planning Dept. announced to us that all of our RVs and trailers, the temporary housing facilities for two thirds of our community, had to be removed from our property. In the space of a minute, the steady course of our monastery’s development was not only halted but set back to a point comparable to seven or eight years ago. Within two short weeks, thanks to His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, ten sisters were able to relocate to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, so that any hardship on the “homeless” was minimal. But we are just now realizing what this radical change has meant for us who remain at St. Barbara Monastery.

We are only five sisters now—the number that can be accommodated in the house itself—and have no hope of receiving more until our new residence wing can be built or some sort of temporary housing can be arranged. We have no rooms for guests. (We are edified by the number of pilgrims who have come anyway and slept on a sofa or provided their own accommodations by pitching tents.) It surely goes without saying that our reduced number and the lack of guest space have entailed a marked decrease in the activity of the monastery. Life here is quieter. But continuing the round of daily services, maintaining the grounds, offering hospitality to daytime visitors and pilgrims as well as hosting the monthly Friends of St. Barbara gatherings—all the while pursuing our goal to construct a chapel now and a residence wing in the near future—make for a schedule that is close to the limit of what we can manage. In all of this we are enormously helped by Ryassaphor-monk Lawrence, on loan to us from the Monastery of St. John in Manton, who is the contractor/project manager for our building project.

Unfortunately, this reduction in the size of our monastic community and the scope of our activity has also affected the monastery’s income, while many expenses remain fixed. Coupled with the downturn in the economy, which has much affected donations, we are definitely facing a financial crisis. We are looking into various avenues to alleviate this state of affairs, but so far have not found a solution.

Meanwhile, however, we have acquired the two acres of Seneca land that will allow us to build what we need for the future (a huge accomplishment that took no less than two full years and \$70,000.00 more than anticipated!), and preparations for the building of our chapel (with funds provided by the Diocese from the sale of the St. Eugene property in Point Reyes) are on track with construction projected to begin probably in December, God willing.

Thus, despite all that has happened this year, we continue to pursue our general plans. We trust that what the Lord has created here out of nothing is an earnest of the monastery that will develop in this place to the glory of God and the salvation of many.

Respectfully Submitted,
Abbess Victoria



Mother Mariamne on the day of her tonsure to the little schema

THE THREE YEAR MEMORIAL OF MOTHER MARIAMNE

July 23rd marked the third anniversary of the falling asleep of our dear Mother Mariamne. Father Paul Waisanen and Deacon James Mahlke, both of St. Herman Church in Oxnard, served a Memorial (Panikhida) for her at her gravesite near the entrance to the monastery grounds. We ask all of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery to remember Mother Mariamne in their prayers.



The Panikhida served at the gravesite of Mother Mariamne – Memory Eternal!

THE VISIT OF ARCHIMANDRITE MELETIOS

Archimandrite Meletios, Abbot of the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in Manton, CA, was our speaker at last month's Friends gathering. Accompanied by two of his monks, Fathers Nektarios and Evphrosynos, Father Meletios arrived at St. Barbara Monastery on Friday evening, July 23rd,



Mother Victoria introducing Archimandrite Meletios to the large gathering of friends

and devoted most of Saturday to a warm personal visit with the monastics here. He served the Vigil on



Archimandrite Meletios speaking

Saturday evening and the Sunday Divine Liturgy in the monastery chapel. The Friends gathering on Sunday afternoon, at which he spoke largely on the subject of attention at prayer, turned out to be one of the most heavily attended events we have ever hosted. We look forward to having him with us again. (A CD of Father Meletios' address is available through the St. Barbara Monastery bookstore for the cost of shipping and handling.)

USED BOOK SALE

Our plan to have a "Used Book Sale" in conjunction with the Friends gathering is coming together little by little. We have received quite a number of used books already and invite you to bring your used books with you to the next Friends gathering, when we plan to have the first such sale. This is an opportunity for you to weed out your bookshelves and "recycle" the Orthodox books and periodicals, classics, cookbooks, etc., you no longer have a reason to keep. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the monastery.



Father Joakim, Father John and Father Deacon Jeremiah during the procession

THE FEAST DAY AT HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

The sisters at Holy Assumption Monastery spent weeks preparing for the Feast of Dormition on August 15th—their first altar feast in their new home. Just four days before the Feast, master carpenters finished the lovely new deck that comes off the refectory towards the chapel, and three sets of stairs to the lower garden are now complete. On the eve of the Feast, seven more koi were returned to the pond—for a total of twenty-two. The beautiful fish are now happily swimming about, enjoying each other's company and the companionship of their human friends.

Fr. Joakim Provatakis (of St. Symeon Parish in Calistoga) served the festal Vigil for the sisters and around twenty-five guests, including Fr. Alexander Leong of Ss. Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church in Vallejo. A light lenten meal followed. On Sunday, the Feastday itself, Fr. Joakim and his parishioners came again to celebrate with the sisters. Also serving were Fr. John Schettig, Fr. Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, and Subdeacon Thomas Ells (all from St. Seraphim Church in Santa Rosa). Over a hundred people were present at the Liturgy, which was truly



The sisters singing during the procession around the chapel



Father John gives the blessing

glorious. At the agape meal that followed, the sisters and guests used the new deck for the first time and were very pleased with it. Among the guests were contingents from several of the local churches, including nine young women from St. Timothy Church in Fairfield, who graciously helped with the serving and the cleanup. The sisters thank all who brought food, helped in a myriad of ways, and came to this first celebration of the monastery's feast since their arrival.

A NOTE ABOUT DR. STEPHEN LLOYD-MOFFETT, OUR SPEAKER FOR AUGUST

Our speaker for this month, Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett, is author of the book Beauty for Ashes: The Spiritual Transformation of a Modern Greek Community (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2009). A popular and beloved professor in the Religious Studies Dept. at Cal-Poly in San Luis Obispo, Stephen has been sending his students to St. Barbara Monastery (as one of several choices) to learn about monasticism. He is also parish council president at SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in San Luis Obispo.