

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

The January Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, January 30th, 2011

4:00 pm Presentation

Orthodox World View: From Earth to Heaven

*Speaker – Rev. John Tomasi – Pastor of the Mission of Our
Lady, Joy of All Who Sorrow, Culver City, 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 of St. Barbara Monastery,

Christmas and Theophany are no sooner over than our attention inevitably turns to _____ (fill in the blank). The answer is likely “money!” No sooner do we take down the Christmas tree, but the paperwork for taxes starts to arrive in our mailboxes (not to mention all the bills). You might think monastics have nothing to be concerned about here, but, alas, the “powers-that-be” don’t forget about us. And, of course, at this time the tax code requires us to send many of you a “no goods and services” letter for your records. (The monastery office is totally occupied with this task at present.)

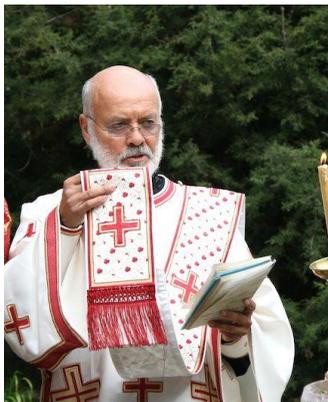
So, the season has prompted us to some reflection about money. It’s a curiosity, when you think about it, that the general subject should be such a delicate one as to be considered inappropriate in polite company. And have you noticed that, if the topic is mentioned in a sermon, the congregation immediately becomes a little edgy? Interestingly, the Lord seems to have had no hesitation talking about money, and He talked about it a lot. The Gospels record numerous instances in which He uses the subject as a vehicle for his teaching about other matters (the widow’s mite, the minas for investment) as well as talking about it quite directly (Pay your taxes! Give to the poor!). In short, the Lord tells us that our attitude toward money and how we handle it are very important and figure critically in our salvation.

But the Lord also takes the subject to quite a new level. Rather than scorning the skills of the market place, He teaches us that they are exactly what to use in order to acquire the Kingdom! “Trade till I come,” He says, and “Lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven!”

St. Seraphim, echoing the Gospels and the liturgical texts for the first days of Holy Week, explains this teaching to us in his *Conversation with Motovilov* (included with various biographies of the Saint and published separately as well). Just as we use our time and energy, our money and other resources to acquire earthly benefits, we can use these same resources to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit through earthly activity accomplished in the Name of Christ.

This is the most amazing thing about Christian life. Anybody and everybody can use their resources to acquire mere earthly goods—a fine home, for example. But, using these same resources wisely and in the name of Christ, we can acquire a mansion in heaven.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery



Rev. Deacon Michael Savko intones the lityany at the feast.

eling in Macedonia last year, Deacon Michael discovered the fine work of the nuns of Matka Monastery and purchased a set of vestments for his own use. When we asked him about his splendid new vestments, he was quick to



Rev. Yousef Rassam prepared to serve the Liturgy in the new vestments.

NEW VESTMENTS FOR THE MONASTERY

A few days before the celebration of our altar Feast of St. Barbara, we blessed a new set of priest's vestments and a new set of deacon's vestments generously donated to the monastery by Deacon Michael Savko of St. Herman Church. Trav-



V. Rev. Paul Waisanen blessing the new vestments from Macedonia.

offer vestments made by the same sisters as a gift to St. Barbara Monastery. Thankfully, they arrived in time for the Feast of St. Barbara. In the accompanying photo, they are worn by Fr. Yousef Rassam when he celebrated a Liturgy at the Monastery following the Feast of Theophany.

A Lenten Catechesis Retreat for Adults

Saturday, March 19, 2011

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

**St. Barbara Monastery
Santa Paula, CA**

Join Seraphima Butler and team for a relaxing and spiritually refreshing retreat modeled on key presentations within the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori based religious education method. This retreat offers adults ages 18 and up the opportunity to deepen their relationship with Christ the True Vine, reflect upon the health of their own "branch" in this Vine, and nurture their personal prayer life.

Cost for the day-long retreat is \$40.00 payable on the day of the retreat. Please make checks payable to St. Barbara Monastery.

Seating and materials are limited.

Please leave a message on the monastery's telephone answering machine at 805-921-1563 to make reservations.

Do you have further questions regarding the retreat? Call Seraphima at 805-403-6754.

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE MONASTERY

Father Paul Waisanen visited us on Friday, January 7th, the day after Theophany, for the annual blessing of the monastery.



*Father Paul blessing the
monastery library...*



*... blessing the main entrance to
the house and chapel...*



*...and on to the rest of the
monastery grounds.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The monastery is in particular need of help on the grounds. There are trees to trim, fallen branches to collect, logs to chip, brush to whack, grass to mow, leaves to rake. . . and the list goes on. If you can spare a few hours, please call the monastery and leave a message telling us when you are available. If you don't happen to have the talents of a woodsman, there are plenty of less strenuous tasks on our list as well, indoors and out.

IN MEMORIUM: LARRY KOVACS

Larry Kovacs, a member of St. Barnabas Church in Costa Mesa and a good Friend of the monastery, passed away suddenly on Monday, January 10th. He and his wife Debbie were enormously helpful to the monastery, generously donating a beautiful RV, which functioned as a monastic cell for one of the sisters for several years (until the County no longer allowed us to have RVs and trailers on our property). May his memory be eternal!



*Larry Kovacs Jr. and Sr. in front of Mother
Victoria's mobile cell*

COMMEMORATION SHEETS

A number of people have requested that we include a prayer list form with our newsletter. Formerly, we sent these out just once a year along with our feast day invitation. But starting with this newsletter, we will send them to you each month. Just fill out the form and send it back in the enclosed envelope.