

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

The July Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, July 25th, 2010

4:00 pm Presentation – Being Present in the Presence
Speaker – Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Meletios – Abbot of the
Monastery of St. John in Manton, 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,

These are exciting days for us now that the County of Ventura has approved our building design plans. Our architects are hard at work completing the construction drawings for the new chapel. Once the drawings are ready, it will take perhaps only three months before the County issues our building permit. This puts the commencement of actual construction around the Feast of St. Barbara on December 4th. In working with the County, however, “patience is the name of the game.” So, we are not really counting on this schedule. But just having a rough idea of what our timetable might be -- not to mention thinking that one year from now we might well be having services in our new chapel -- is very pleasant, indeed.

In the meantime, there are many things to consider and many important decisions to be made. This very week, we spoke with the contractor who will most likely be the supervisor and our consultant for the construction, because we have decided to take the “owner/builder” route of doing the job. Ryassaphor-monk Lawrence, whom we have been calling our “project manager,” will actually be fulfilling the role of contractor for us. Besides saving us a great deal of money, this approach will make it easier to change aspects of the project as we go along, should we want to, and to use volunteer help on the construction.

Meanwhile, our imagination has been captured thoroughly by Fr. John Finley’s novel and insightful ideas on church architecture presented at last month’s Friend’s gathering. He stirred our creative energies with his description of an imaginary church building imaging forth the Heavenly Jerusalem of Revelation, Chapter 21. Shall we make the floor in the altar look like jasper? Shall we make the iconostas gold instead of staining it to look like cherry wood?

Importantly, amidst all this interesting (and some not so interesting, it must be admitted) planning of how to build what will in fact be the center of life at St. Barbara Monastery, we are reminded repeatedly of the words of the Lord in the Gospel: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” We have not been allowed to forget that what we are really engaged in building here is, in the end, no mere structure of wood and concrete, but first and foremost the Kingdom of God. If this is not our principle activity and goal, our efforts to build St. Barbara Monastery are all for nothing.

Mother Victoria
and the Community
of St. Barbara Monastery



Getting ready to head out to Rose Valley

sack lunch, everyone returned to the monastery in the mid-afternoon for a lively talk given by Mother Victoria and Fr. Josiah Trenham entitled *Matters of the Heart*. After a supper prepared by the sisters and Vespers celebrated by Fr. Josiah, most everyone stayed for a bonfire and s'mores—very welcome on this evening turned chilly, but bright with stars as seen only in the mountains far from city lights.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

About forty young adults came out to St. Barbara Monastery for the pan-Orthodox singles mini-retreat on June 19th. Organized by Liz Lyman of St. John Church in San Juan Capistrano, the young people gathered at the monastery and then drove to a site near Ojai, where they enjoyed a hike along a trail well-known for its spectacular mountain views and beautiful waterfall. After a



If I could just get close enough to toast my marshmallow



Jenny, Mary, Madi and Charity after a restful night under the stars

the staffers. "We'll bring tents and sleeping bags." So, six young people duly arrived equipped for camping and spent their time with us participating in the round of daily services, reading, enjoying the monastery grounds, and just plain relaxing. From the monastery, they set out for yet more camping in the nearby Los Padres National Forest, before heading back down to Mexico to resume their usual, fast-paced days supervising the Orthodox groups who come to Tijuana in the summertime to build houses for the poor.

PROJECT MEXICO STAFF VISIT

Making an on-the-spot decision to spend their free week between scheduled house building sessions having some R&R in Southern California, the summer staff of Project Mexico contacted St. Barbara Monastery to arrange for a couple of days at the monastery in retreat. Since the County of Ventura banned our RVs and trailers last October, the monastery has had no guest accommodations except for a couple of sofas—and,

yes, plenty of space for camping. "No problem," said



Sotiri and Nikos also slept soundly serenaded by creatures large and small



Mother Olga setting up the booth for the Greek Festival

the Camarillo (St. Demetrios Church) and Santa Barbara (St. Barbara Church) festivals. The Camarillo festival was in June. But, if you would like to attend, you can still catch the Santa Barbara festival scheduled for July 31st and August 1st at Oak Park in Santa Barbara.

MONASTERY BOOTH AT GREEK FESTIVALS

This summer St. Barbara Monastery is taking its bookstore to two Greek festivals, where the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco (Manton) formerly operated a booth. When the monks decided to confine their participation in such events to festivals in proximity to their monastery, the nuns of St. Barbara Monastery were offered their slot at both



Customers begin filling in as they wait for the festivities to begin

NEWS FROM HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

The sisters at Holy Assumption Monastery often remark that they love everything about Calistoga, but miss their friends from Southern California. So, they have been very pleased that some intrepid friends have made the 400-mile trip north. Among these travelers have been Glenn Ritsema with Gandalf (the former monastery dog), Alan John and Sheilagh Means with son Jonathan, the Gonzales-Aden family, Bree-Anna Krammes, Cindy O'Brien, Jim and Regina



Sanding down the dining room chairs donated to the monastery

Roum and an entire host of youth from St. Andrew Church in Riverside, along with their pastor V. Rev. Josiah Trenham, who helped with a multitude of projects one day. And from even further south (not to mention on the other side of the Pacific) was Mimi Abriam, mother of Alana Abriam - Holy Assumption Monastery's koi expert extraordinaire.



Did you find something?

JULY 25th - DIVINE LITURGY

On Saturday and Sunday, July 24th and 25th, we will have the Vigil (Vespers, Matins and First Hour) and the Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM respectively. The Liturgy will be preceded by the Hours at 9:40 AM and followed by a luncheon. Our celebrant will be Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Meletios of the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in Manton, CA. Everyone is welcome.