

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

*The February Gathering of the Friends
of St. Barbara Monastery
Sunday, February 24th, 2013*

*4:00 pm Presentation:
Serving the Least of Christ's Brethren
The Gobezie-Goshu Home in Ethiopia*

*Speaker: Tsige-Roman Gobezie
Founder of the Gobezie-Goshu Home
With V. Rev. Lawrence Russell
Pastor of Holy Annunciation Church, Santa Maria*

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.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

A Friend of the monastery just sent us this poem by St. Nikolai Velimirovich, a rich gift as we approach Great Lent.

Forgiveness

**That God may forgive us, let us forgive men.
We are all on this earth as temporary guests.
Prolonged fasting and prayer is in vain
Without forgiveness and true mercy.
God is the true Physician; sins are leprosy.
Whomever God cleanses, God also glorifies.
Every merciful act of men, God rewards with mercy.
He who returns sin with sin perishes without mercy.
Pus is not cleansed by pus from infected wounds,
Neither is the darkness of the dungeon dispelled by darkness,
But pure balm heals the festering wound,
And light disperses the darkness of the dungeon.
To the seriously wounded, mercy is like a balm;
As if seeing a torch dispersing the darkness, everyone rejoices in mercy.
The madman says, "I have no need of mercy!"
But when he is overcome by misery, he cries out for mercy!
Men bathe in the mercy of God,
And that mercy of God wakens us to life!
That God may forgive us, let us forgive men,
We are all on this earth as temporary guests.**

In the original Serbian this poem probably rhymes and evokes the spirit of familiar Gospel passages; but surely in any and every language into which it may be translated, it resonates in the deep heart of everyone who has experienced the smallest drop of repentance.

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters of
St. Barbara Monastery

TSIGE-ROMAN GOBEZIE

What an honor it is for the Monastery to host Tsigé-Roman Gobezie once again this coming Sunday! Tsigé has been a close friend since the monastery's first days, helping us in many ways when she was still a resident of Santa Maria and a member of Holy Annunciation Church there as well as working as a pharmacist for the County of Santa Barbara. That was a time when her holy work in Ethiopia was only a cherished, slowly-developing dream.

Tsigé retired from her job with Santa Barbara County Public Health Services, sold her lovely home and all that she had, and returned to Ethiopia to spend the rest of her days serving the poorest of the Adwa. She began by land, which she quickly food crops, and where in the aged and indigent Goshu Home in honor of soon expanded to include and then “exploded” as to the small children of that many 5-year olds not spending their days on the went to work, Tsigé learning program for them, providing tuition, books, lunch and even a uniform. The last we heard, 560 children were being cared for by this auxiliary program of the Gobezie-Goshu Home, but we know that today the number far exceeds this.



poor in her home town of acquiring a small piece of planted with fruit trees and 2005 she built a home for known as the Gobezie-her parents. Her project visitation of the bedridden she reached out her arms the town as well. Finding yet of school age were streets while their parents established a kind of early

Come on Sunday to the Friends gathering to meet Tsigé and learn about her extraordinary work. Fr. Lawrence Russell, pastor of Holy Annunciation Church in Santa Maria and thus Tsigé's own pastor, will add insights and information from his personal experiences gathered while visiting her in Ethiopia and witnessing her work there first hand.

FIRE AT ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA CHURCH, EL CAJON

On Sunday, January 27th, the very day of our last monastery Friends Gathering, we learned of the arson fire that devastated St. Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church in El Cajon in East San Diego County early that morning. Father Simeon Corona, priest of the parish, was recently here at the monastery along with a group of his parishioners for the feast of St. Barbara on December 4th, and he concelebrated with the other clergy who attended the services that day. Thanks be to God, St. Gregory Church was unoccupied at the time of the fire. A neighbor reported the fire, and the individual who set the fire was soon apprehended by police.



The gutted nave of St. Gregory Church



Preparing for Divine Liturgy in the garage

The garage on the church property was quickly transformed into a temporary worship space so that the Divine Liturgy could be celebrated later that morning. The 80 families comprising the parish continue to use the garage in this manner, while looking for another temporary location.

Contributions toward repairing the church building may be made payable directly to St. Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church, 1454 Jamocha Rd, El Cajon, CA 92019, or to St. Barbara Monastery with “St. Gregory of Nyssa Church” written on the memo line.

There will be a Divine Liturgy at the monastery on Thursday, March 14th, the Feast of St. Benedict, at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.