

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

The June Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, June 26th, 2011

4:00 pm Presentation

Psalmody: An Ecclesiastical Art for Our Salvation

*Speaker – Rev. Patrick O’Grady – Pastor of
St. Peter Church in Pomona*

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Lenten 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,

The festal period of Pentecost, the Coming of the Holy Spirit, has just come to a close with the great celebration of All Saints. We used to call Pentecost Sunday ‘Green Sunday,’ and the custom (sadly often neglected these days) is to fill the church (not just decorate a little, but *fill* the church) with branches newly turned green to express that the celebration is especially about the Giver of Life, the Holy Spirit. The renewal of nature and, indeed, the upsurge of life that we see all about us at this season comes in the end from the Holy Spirit as does the life of every living thing!—something the world no longer seems to remember. All the biological explanations aren’t go so far—and then stop of the living and the matter is that the essential the activity of the Holy it a human person or a vivifying works of the Holy Spirit. There is no life—be paramecium—without the Spirit.



Nature renewed in our own backyard

The Feast of All Saints of North America on the celebrations of the fulfilling the world, because they life as God meant it to be.

with enthusiasm because they offer such joyful testimony to the triumph of Christian life. “Yes,” they tell us, “Paradise is attainable! Human beings just like you, who have lived their lives in your very own land, have entered it!” And because the saints exhibit a right relationship with all of creation, these feasts testify to even more than the possibility of our attainment of Paradise. They testify to the possibility of the restoration of all creation *through human persons*—and, if we are willing, even through us! Is there really any point in fasting? In giving alms? In attending all those church services? In taking time to read my prayers? “Yes!” these Feasts emphatically proclaim to us. Through these practices and, indeed, all things done in the Name of Christ, the grace of Pentecost catches fire in us. Thus, does the Holy Spirit, (to quote the prayer we all know) “come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls.”

and the Feast of All Saints following Sunday are activity of the Holy Spirit in are celebrations of human We celebrate these feasts

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

MEN'S WORK PARTY ON JULY 16TH

We need all the help we can get!

On Saturday, July 16th, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, we will have a men's work party at the monastery. The focus will be the planting of our meadow with lavender. Ahead of this day, the meadow will have been plowed and disked, the beds marked out and prepared for the planting, and a watering system duly installed. As we write this, a thousand small plants (plugs) are being grown for us on a nearby lavender farm and are due to be ready for transplanting in plenty of time for the work party. (If this sounds like news you have heard before, it is! The lavender we had expected to plant in the spring did not survive in the supplier's nursery, and the whole process of growing the plugs was begun on our behalf once again.)

Although planting the lavender plugs will be our main task, we are hoping for a good turnout so that other jobs can be done on the same day as well. In particular, we still have trees to trim (bring your chain saw) and it would be good to stain those portions of the exterior of our house that were not finished last year. Numerous smaller tasks are on our "to do" list as well—like removing dead branches from the wooded area, figuring out why the porch lights don't work and stabilizing the swing set.

If you are able to participate in the work party in any capacity whatsoever, please leave a message on the monastery phone (805-921-1563) and let us know that you intend to come so that the sisters can cook up sufficient scrumptious food for everyone.



The Sisterhood of St. Barbara Monastery.

own right. For quite a while after their departure, we continued to print regular updates about them in this newsletter. Now, however, they publish a newsletter of their own. You can read the Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter online at www.holyassumptionmonastery.com.

CALISTOGA UPDATE

Many of you have been asking after the sisters who moved from St. Barbara Monastery up to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga a year and a half ago. We are happy to tell you that they are well, having duly settled into their new life in northern California and formed themselves into a community that constitutes a monastery in its



The Sisterhood of Holy Assumption Monastery.

USED BOOK SALES

The rainy season appears to be over at last. So, with the upcoming Friends Gathering in June, we are resuming our used book sales.

If you have books lying around on your shelves at home that you don't expect to read again, please gather them up and take them to the monastery. We will resell them at our Friends gatherings with profits going towards the building fund. Besides Orthodox religious books, we welcome literature, reference, how-to books, history, children's books, travel, coffee table books, etc.



S. O. S.

Rather than mount a formal fundraising appeal for St. Barbara Monastery at this time—which itself costs something—we have decided simply to inform all of you who read this newsletter that the monastery is presently in exceedingly serious financial straits. While, largely thanks to you, the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery, the monastery income over most of the past year has been sufficient to keep up with daily expenses, we are looking at some extraordinary and large bills coming due in the weeks ahead, and we are without reserves to pay them. These include property insurance, the expenses connected with planting the lavender, and some unusual health care expenses.

If you can help, please make your contribution out to “St. Barbara Monastery” and send it to the address on the front of this newsletter (or enclose it in the return envelope provided with hard copies of this newsletter). Consider asking your friends and relatives to join “The Friends of St. Barbara Monastery” and to do the same.

We are confident that with this kind of help from our Friends we will be able to meet these imminent financial challenges and avoid resorting to an actual fundraising campaign that would further drain the monastery's resources. All contributions are, of course, tax deductible and will be acknowledged in writing.