

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 26th, 2018

4:00 pm Presentation:

***FINDING THE DIVINE IN WRITING:
THE BIBLE IN THE EARLY CHURCH***

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

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

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,

August and the end of summer are marked, of course, by the Great Feasts of Transfiguration and Dormition. Yet, in the life of the Orthodox Church on this continent yet another feast figures large--the Feast on August 9th of St. Herman of Alaska, the very first American saint to be canonized or, as we say, glorified. The parish church that is closest to our monastery turns out to be the Church of St. Herman in Oxnard. So, each year, having sung the Vigil in our own chapel the previous evening, we travel there for the Divine Liturgy of the Feast.

Celebrating the day, our thoughts inevitably travel up to Kodiak, where we know bishops and priests and layfolk from all over are gathered for the culmination of the annual three-day St. Herman Pilgrimage. Weather permitting, one of the first two days will have been spent on Spruce Island, where St. Herman lived and labored for many years and where he died and was buried—until 1970 when his relics were transferred (by helicopter!) to the Church in Kodiak. Wherever the pilgrims are during these three days, along with the festal hymns to St. Herman prayers are offered--for the intentions of the pilgrims, for St. Herman's departed fellow missionaries, for the sick and suffering, for the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America and for all who live in this land. And, wonder of wonders, the pilgrims find themselves praying easily and fervently, because prayer flows easily in holy places sanctified by the holy lives of men and women who have lived and labored in them.

Pilgrimage is not a widely observed spiritual practice among Orthodox people in America. Still, it is not unknown (as you will see if you read the rest of this Newsletter). In traditionally Orthodox countries, it is fairly common. We think immediately, to name a few, of the annual pilgrimage in Greece to the icon of the Theotokos on the Island of Tinos, the pilgrimage to the Monastery of SS. Mary and Martha in Poland for Transfiguration each summer, the famous pilgrimage to the Monastery of Pochaev in Ukraine for the Feast of St. Job, and the enormous pilgrimage with starting points in several European countries to the relics of the Apostle James in Santiago de Compostella, Spain.

What are such pilgrimages about? It might be said that they are what we all do every time we set off for Church, but writ large. They are physical expressions of our heart's desire to touch God.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

SPEAKING OF PILGRIMAGE. . . .



On Friday, July 27th, a group of pilgrims primarily from Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles with some from other Orthodox Churches in LA, led by Subdeacon Vitaly Efimenkov (pictured at far right) visited St. Barbara Monastery. This was the first stop on their weekend pilgrimage to pray before the relics of the Holy

Hierarch John Maximovich at the Cathedral of The Joy of All Who Sorrow in San Francisco.

THE BELLS ARE RINGING!

Pictured left to right are Peter Speier, Mitch Denny, Adam King, and Luke and Jeremiah Hoppe. In the photo, the boys have just finished hanging the fifth and largest bell for our monastery chapel of SS. Barbara and Eugene.



The bronze bell, cast in Russia and weighing 189 pounds, is named “Dimitry” (for the Siberian St. Dimitry of Prilutsk, who is portrayed and named on the bell and who was the patron saint of Elder Dimitry of Santa Rosa). With socks temporarily covering the clappers, the sisters have already begun practicing the various peals that, once the bell is duly “baptized,” will summon our community to the various chapel services.

REMINDER!

If you would prefer to receive our monthly Newsletter via snail mail, please let us know. If we do not hear from you, the Newsletter will continue to reach you via email.

IN MEMORIAM: KEVIN ALLEN

Kevin Allen of Ancient Faith Radio and a member of St. Barnabas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Costa Mesa, CA, fell asleep in the Lord on August 7, 2018. Widely known in Orthodox circles for his program *The Illumined Heart* on Ancient Faith Radio and for his important roles in many notable Orthodox charities such as FOCUS NORTH AMERICA and IOCC, Kevin was also an active member of his home parish. At the same time, he was actively but less prominently engaged in many other Orthodox endeavors. Among these was St. Barbara Monastery, which Kevin helped support for many years. Indeed, he carved time out of his busy schedule to speak at our Friends of St. Barbara Monastery Gatherings on two occasions and took on an active role in raising funds for the building of the monastery's new chapel. It was his regret and ours that illness prevented his attendance at the consecration as well as the fulfillment of his desire to see the new chapel with his own eyes. Our community will sorely miss him. May his memory be eternal!



A WORD ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER:

DR. STEPHEN LLOYD-MOFFETT



We are delighted to welcome back to St. Barbara Monastery for another Friends' presentation Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett, Professor of Religious Studies at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Stephen invariably provides us with fascinating material and unusual insights into our Orthodox Faith and history that not only spark our interest but inspire us to pursue further inquiry into the topics he so ably addresses. No wonder he is a favorite, much-loved professor on the Cal Poly campus!

Stephen is the author of the book entitled *Beauty for Ashes* published by St. Vladimir's Press, an inspiring landmark study of the reinvigoration of a formerly languishing diocese of the Church of Greece.

COMING SOON!

Some weeks back, we had a short visit from Zosimas Sidway, a professional photographer presently engaged in producing a photographic pilgrimage (his word!) to Orthodox monasteries throughout North America. This "coffee table book," entitled *The North American Thebaid*, is due to be published toward the end of this calendar year. We hope to have it available in the St. Barbara Monastery Bookstore.