

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 26, 2014

4:00 pm Presentation:

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HELL?

V. Rev. John Finley

***Department of Missions
Of the Antiochian Orthodox Church***

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00pm 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,

It's official! We are in a drought! Of course, we have known this for some time. At a season when we normally see foot-high, green grass everywhere, our meadow and the mountains around us are brown and dry and our creek has ceased to flow. Fortunately, there are still some shallow pools to be found in the creek bed, where the deer can come and drink.

We doubt that we ourselves will suffer the water restrictions most Californians face, however, because we have a deep well on our property. The water is sulfurous and unpleasant to drink but safe and fine for watering our plants. We may have to use it for household purposes, but we have done that before on occasion, when for one reason or another we couldn't access running water. And for drinking water, the folks at the College nearby allow us to fill our 5-gallon bottles from the pipes that access the artesian lake under their property. The one lack that could prove serious is sufficient water to fight a fire should that be necessary, God forbid.

Meanwhile, we reflect, there is no drought in the Church! A couple of weeks ago the Church blessed water on the Eve of Theophany. Indeed, the Pacific Ocean was also blessed all up and down the Coast, including a spot near us at the Ventura Harbor (if not on Theophany, then shortly thereafter). Thus, we experienced the sanctification of material water for the refreshment and healing of body and soul—water becoming what it was meant to be. But what is even more wonderful, we continue to find in the Church the “living water” promised us by the Lord, springing up and flowing in abundance, refreshing us and quenching our thirsty hearts. What is this “living water” the Lord promised the Samaritan woman (John 4) and the crowd listening to Him in Galilee (John 7)? It is the fountain of new life springing up in our hearts little by little as we follow Christ and (to use St. Seraphim's words) acquire the Holy Spirit. May we never want for this “living water!”

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As you can see from the accompanying photo as well as the cover photo, taken just prior to printing this newsletter, the chapel construction is moving right along and the block walls are getting quite high. However, it does appear that the art of masonry has not changed much since the days when the pyramids were built. It is still a painstaking business of one brick at a time. The next step will be to install the steel frame to support the roof and cupola.



The progress pictured is possible because of the generous contributions of our many benefactors who responded to our December fundraising campaign. Our interim goal was \$138,000 to finance completion of the chapel shell and secure it against the winter rains—if they ever arrive! Thanks be to God, of this amount, we have raised \$126,000! We have every reason to believe we will reach our interim goal shortly. Then we will begin the fundraising for the next phase: completing the interior. The length of time it takes to finish the chapel to the point of occupancy will depend on the speed at which we are successful in finding the necessary funding, presently estimated at \$325,000.

Some of you have asked to hear who was the winner of the raffle held as part of our fundraising in December. The winner was Dr. Michael Malouf of St. Luke Church in Garden Grove. We are grateful to Ancient Faith Radio and St. Luke Church for advertising the raffle on our behalf.



Punkin can be relied upon to inspect thoroughly everything the building crew does

CHRISTMAS VISIT FROM THE ROEBERS



Once again this Christmas season, we were delighted to have as our guests Father Anthony Roeber, his wife Patricia, and his daughters Sister Margarete of Holy Assumption Monastery and Maria, a missionary for OCMC who recently returned from Tanzania. Last Christmas, Father Anthony was still a deacon. But this year, having been ordained last February, he was able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in our chapel. Father Anthony, who is also a professor of history and religious studies at Penn State University, kindly provided us with nourishment for our minds as well as our souls and gave us a presentation on the subject of human rights—an area he is currently researching in preparation for writing a book.

CASKET WORK PARTY

We wish to thank our long-time Friend—Has he ever missed a Friends gathering?—Robert Pankey for organizing a special work party from St. Barnabas Church in Costa Mesa to help us out with the casket making. Seven men and one young lady spent Saturday, January 11th, at the monastery putting their woodworking skills to intense use, thus providing a much needed boost to our casket production. Their help was much appreciated by all of us, but especially by Mitch Denny, who otherwise does all the carpentry work on the monastery caskets. Another woodworking day is planned for March.

