

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

***THE OCTOBER GATHERING OF THE  
FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY***

***Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018***

***4:00 pm Presentation:***

***RUMINATING ON THE ARTS  
AND ORTHODOXY***

***Speaker: BARRY KRAMMES***

***Professor Emeritus in the Biola University  
Department of Visual Art***

***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 Santa Paula-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.*

*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 Santa Paula-Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.*

*Continue as directed above.*



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

As this Newsletter goes to press, the Orthodox world is reeling with the news of the break in communion between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Patriarchate of Constantinople over the actions of the latter in Ukraine. Meanwhile, almost all the reports in the media regarding this crisis demonstrate gross misunderstanding of the important underlying issues.

The media would have us believe that the fundamental dispute has to do with human rights, freedom of conscience and democratic process—a dispute in which the Russian Orthodox Church is seen as the oppressor and a tool of the Russian government and the Ukrainian schismatic group the victim, while the Ecumenical Patriarchate is portrayed as the rescuer. (It would appear that the reporters and commentators have not had even a slight briefing regarding, for one thing, the canonical and hierarchical structure of the Orthodox Church!) Thus, the dispute is understood as political in nature and the Church as a mere human institution (whether the immediate reference is to the schismatic Ukrainian Church or the canonical one, the Russian Church or the Ecumenical Patriarchate.)

We Orthodox Christians, however, know—and know by experience—that the Church founded by Jesus Christ and preached by the Apostles is a divine-human institution embracing heaven and earth. Indeed, it is the Body of Christ. Moreover, it has had since the beginning a hierarchical and canonical structure, which is neither arbitrary nor incidental but of its very essence. Thus, in the end, what is at stake here—because it is being not only misunderstood but violated—is nothing less than Orthodox theology, in particular our Ecclesiology and our Tradition (note the capital “T”) regarding the nature of the Church.

We wish that more space were available in which to outline some useful historical information and to lend some perspective on the current situation. The effort to found a Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine separate from the Moscow Patriarchate a century ago was crushed by the Soviets. And its offspring in the Ukrainian immigration in the West only received canonical status—another long story—in the 1990’s, an event which surely has influenced the present day developments.

We also wish there were some way to inform the media—not to mention our government—what the issues really are and how this crisis presents a grave threat to the whole Orthodox Church.

In the midst of all the confusion—well knowing that, more than any other measures that might need to be implemented, hearts will have to change for any resolution to be achieved—our hierarchs have distributed two special petitions to be included at the Divine Liturgy. Here is the second of the two:

*Again we pray that Thou wilt look down upon the Holy Orthodox Church with forbearance and mercy, preserving it from divisions and schisms, enmity and tribulation. That its unity never be weakened or shaken, but instead that Thy Thrice-Holy name may be glorified in it, let us all say, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.*

Abbess Victoria  
and the sisters of  
St. Barbara Monastery

## ***VISIT OF THE MYRRH-STREAMING ICON “SOFTENER OF EVIL HEARTS”***

*“Soften our evil hearts, O Theotokos, . . . for looking on thy holy icon we are filled with compunction by thy suffering and loving-kindness for us and we kiss thy wounds. . . .”*

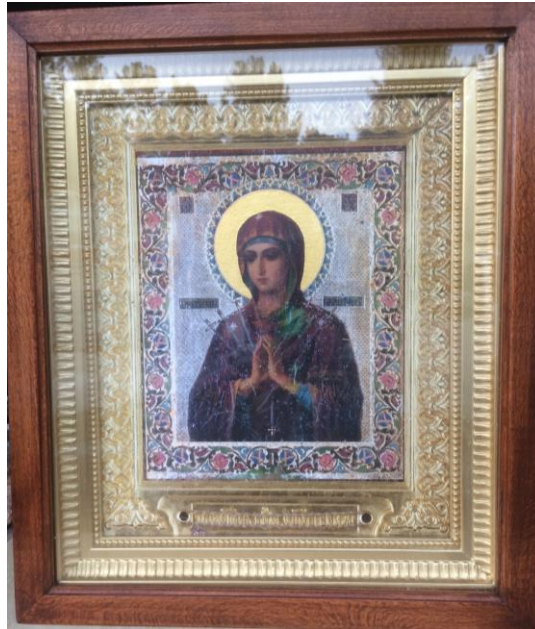
So began the *Akathist to the Mother of God, Softener of Evil Hearts*, when the icon visited St. Barbara Monastery on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The myrrh-streaming icon filled the chapel with a cleansing fragrance for the roughly sixty people in attendance. V. Rev. Lawrence Russell of Holy Annunciation Church in Santa Maria led the service, and the choir of monastics and visitors was directed by Serge Liberovsky, choir master at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles.

The icon itself is a mounted on wood, by copious tears of the stood in the center of of myrrh sparkled like inside of the icon’s

The icon streams myrrh when great world, for example on sinking of the Russian and again on 9/11, the Towers in New York Likewise, it has shown sorrow of the Mother occasion of many occurrences around the darken around us, it is a deep comfort to know that the Theotokos is sharing in our sorrows and is with us.

That we were granted a visit of the Mother of God through this icon both humbles us and gives us great joy.

We were gifted with a copy of the icon by Sergei Fomin, the guardian of the icon who travels with it around the world. This copy is currently available in our monastery chapel for veneration.



simple paper print though now blessed Theotokos. As it the chapel, her tears tiny jewels on the glass covering.

with large amounts of tragedies occur in the the day of the fatal submarine “Kursk,” day when the Twin City were destroyed. the concern and of God on the other sorrowful world. As the days

## ***BLESSING OF THE BELLS***

On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Friends' Gathering, we will bless the set of five bells cast especially for St. Barbara Monastery in Russia by the Pyatkov Bell Company and now duly mounted in the small belfry built near the chapel. Rev. Yousuf Rassam of St. Innocent Church in Tarzana has arranged to come and perform the blessing, at which the bells will be duly named and chrismated.

### ***A WORD ABOUT OUR SPEAKER***



Barry Krammes is a Southern California artist and Professor Emeritus in the Biola University Department of Visual Art, where he taught for 35 years. He uses found objects to create miniature tableaux, which lead the viewer ever deeper into contemplation of hidden truths and discovery of new worlds of meaning.

Throughout his life, Professor Krammes has been engaged with the integration of faith and art. In addition to his role as a faculty member, he was Art Department Chair, Director of the Green Art Gallery, and Program Coordinator of the Center for Christianity, Culture, and the Arts (CCCA). While at Biola, he designed a variety of integrated arts events for the university and created an online daily devotional for Advent and Lent incorporating the arts. A founding member of Christians in the Visual Arts, he has been the Visual Arts Coordinator for the C.S. Lewis Summer Institute in England. His MFA degree received in 1983 is from the University of WI, Madison.

He now attends St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside. Barry has been married for 40 years, is the father of three grown children and grandfather of one.

*As is our custom, there will be no Newsletter or Friends' Gathering in November. Instead, expect to receive your invitation to the Monastery's altar Feast of St. Barbara, which we will celebrate on the evening of Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a Vigil and the morning of Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, with a hierarchical Divine Liturgy.*

***SAVE THE DATES AND PLAN TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST WITH US!***