

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

The September Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, September 25th, 2016

4:00 pm Presentation:

THE MINISTRY OF THE ST. ANDREW BURIAL SOCIETY

Speaker: Maximus Diaz

St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside, CA

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 5 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,

Most of you know Fr. Lawrence Russell of Holy Annunciation Church in Santa Maria and know that he was chaplain to our monastery in its early years. On Sunday, September 18th, we made the trip up to Santa Maria to attend the celebration of Fr. Lawrence's twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of that parish. His flock organized a beautiful event, wanting to honor him for his love and faithful care for them over the years. But what *he* wanted was to honor *them*, which he proceeded to do by mentioning how all that the little Church had undertaken and accomplished over the years had been done by everyone together, priest and church members, such that not once in all that time did he have any sense of working alone. His words were a remarkable and touching tribute to all the members of that small Church, a tribute that ultimately was a doxology addressed to God.

What Fr. Lawrence said to his flock, we sisters would like to say to you, the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery. Since "The Friends" was first formed back in about 1995, we sisters have never felt alone either in our life of prayer or in our divers activities. The monastery's most recent project, building the new chapel—still not quite finished, as you know—is the result of the common efforts of ourselves and literally hundreds of you. The project has faced difficulties and setbacks along the way—indeed, we are facing a new one now (which you can read about on the next page of this Newsletter)—but never once did we feel we were facing them alone. Never once! It is not too much to say that, without you, there would be no monastery. We sisters live here, but the monastery truly belongs to all of us together. The truth of this probably offers up glory to God more than the existence of the new chapel itself!

We thank you with all our hearts. Even more, we thank God for all that He is accomplishing here, using the very difficulties and obstacles that arise to build not merely a structure of brick and wood but His Holy and Living Church. Scripture tells us that "if the Lord does not build the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Ps. 126:1). There is no doubt that our common work is a work of salvation. It is not in vain.

Abbess Victoria
and the Community
of St. Barbara Monastery

!CHAPEL CONSECRATION POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING!

What can we say! Despite our efforts—which seemed largely successful—to keep the chapel construction on schedule, so that the consecration could take place on the Feast of St. Barbara, 2016, an unforeseen obstacle—definitely “from left field”—has defeated us. Southern California Edison has informed us that the necessary additional electric power for the chapel must come from a transformer on the far side of Highway 150 (Santa Paula-Ojai Rd.); and the job will require a CalTrans team, including workmen who will direct traffic. While one month is sufficient for Edison to schedule its work, CalTrans requires up to six months. We are incredulous that scheduling such a work team could take so long and incredulous that this was never mentioned to us earlier. But there you have it! The consecration of the new chapel will have to wait. We have asked Archbishop BENJAMIN to set a new date for the consecration after Pascha.

Meanwhile, our construction crew continues the work here, finishing the walkways around the building as well as putting in stairs and a required handicapped parking space. Even if everything else is completed, however, without the additional electricity, the County of Ventura will not grant us occupancy.

BENEFIT DINNER FOR THE CHAPEL BUILDING FUND



The dinner held at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles on September 4th to benefit the monastery’s Chapel Building Fund was a great success in every way. Chef Kimmy Tang and Bogdan Popescu (pictured at left with Fr. Nicholas Speier) provided a beautiful Asian-Fusion spread for over a hundred guests, who listened with rapt attention to Archbishop BENJAMIN’S enlightening talk on the

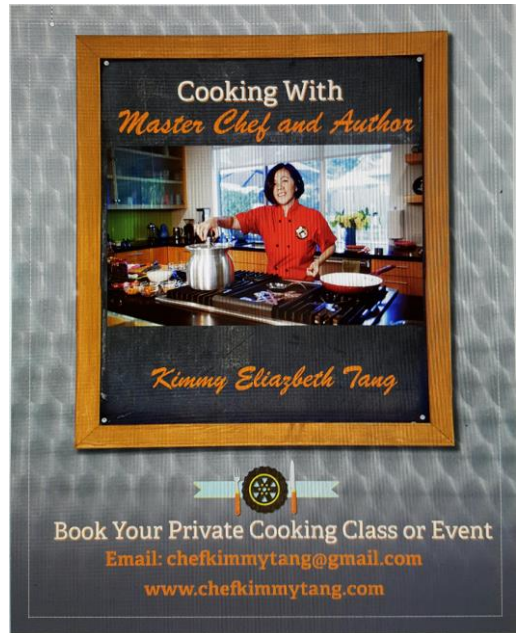
Old Testament roots and meaning of the Christian temple and its rites of consecration. The event was flawlessly coordinated by our friend and benefactor Mary Waian, who organized everything and supervised a flock of volunteers from a number of Orthodox parishes who came to set up, wait tables and then clean up. Our MC was Fr. Nicholas Speier of St. Athanasius Church in Santa Barbara, while Fr. John Finley (Dept. of Missions and Evangelism of the Antiochian Orthodox Church) guided everyone through the elaborate meal, introducing the wines



accompanying the various courses. Both have been our constant supporters since the first days of the monastery's existence almost twenty-five years ago. The complete list by name of all who helped—which does exist!—would fill the rest of this Newsletter. Instead of printing them here, they will all be remembered as “founders and benefactors of this holy temple.” Proceeds from the event amounted to \$20,000, which was immediately forwarded to our contractor in partial payment for work already completed on the chapel.

CHEF KIMMY TANG'S CONTINUED GENEROSITY

If you were unable to attend the Chapel Fundraising Dinner this month, you can still get a taste of the excellent food that Chef Kimmy Tang prepared for us. Her new cookbook, Kimmy Tang's Asian-Fusion Lenten Cuisine, includes recipes for several of the appetizers and main dishes that she served. The book is subtitled “Easy and Creative Recipes for a healthy joyous Lent.” As the Christmas fast approaches, you may be looking for added variety for your family's fasting menus. Dishes like Sesame Smoke Tofu Kale Salad, Veggie Curry Fried Rice, Shrimp LoMein, Stuffed Pepper with Quinoa, and Mango Cake are a few of the offerings. Kimmy dedicated the book to St. Euphrosynos and included his icon and biography.



In more good news for those of you who love to cook – or despair of cooking and want guidance – Kimmy is also offering cooking classes for groups at your home or at your church. As further temptation to order the cookbook or schedule a cooking class, Kimmy is donating a portion of the proceeds from each sale to support our Monastery Chapel Building Fund. Please see our monastery website to order the book or email Kimmy at chefkimmytang@gmail.com to schedule a class.