

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 30th, 2012

4:00 pm Presentation:

THE POWER OF BONES: RESTORING CHRISTIAN FUNERAL CUSTOMS

Speaker – V. Rev. John Finley

Dept. of Missions and Evangelism of the Antiochian Orthodox Church

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.
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,

As this newsletter goes to press, we can hear heavy equipment at work in our meadow announcing that construction (well, okay, “pre-construction”) of the monastery chapel is underway. We are rejoicing with a certain amount of caution, of course, not forgetful of the innumerable unforeseen obstacles that sprang up along the way to delay the project—so that it has taken us seven years to get to this point! We remind ourselves frequently that it is only reasonable to expect even more obstacles to arise before the day comes when we consecrate the building!

In this issue of our newsletter, we are printing the obituaries of two people who were intimately involved with the life of St. Barbara Monastery from almost its very beginning: Mother Juliana and Deacon Howard (George) Shannon. Both of them prayed and labored for the building of St. Barbara Monastery—sharing intimately in the ups and downs of the venture thus far. Indeed, they both participated in the service for the ground breaking for the chapel. Providence did not grant them enough days on earth to see the completion of the chapel, but they are a part of it forever and will be commemorated forever as “founders of this holy house,” to quote from the litany said at every Divine Liturgy.

Building a monastery or a church (and a monastery is a church, of course) is a *mystical* work. God hands us this limited and material task to accomplish; but what we are doing is somehow also unlimited and immaterial. Moreover, it is a task that at once makes for the salvation of all who participate in its accomplishment as well as for the salvation of the many who will someday come to worship in it. Thus, to build a church is to erect a building—a specific structure of wood and brick—and to build the Church—with a capital ‘C’—in hearts of flesh, including our own.

If we reflect on the lives of Mother Juliana and Deacon Howard, we see two very different people following two seemingly very different paths of life. But they had this in common: Each had found the Church Christ planted on earth and counted this their greatest treasure. What is more, having found it, they dedicated their lives to building it up—in their local churches in Lompoc and Goleta and in their own hearts—all the while crying out to others by their very lives: “Come and see. For we have found the Christ.”

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

IN MEMORIAM: STAVROPHOR NUN JULIANA

Our dear Mother Juliana passed away peacefully on September 6th at the age of 75. She had come to St. Barbara Monastery late in life after raising a family, retiring from employment at Vandenberg Air Force Base, and faithfully laboring for many years at her beloved St. Timothy Church in Lompoc. Fittingly, the first Panihida was served by V. Rev. Paul Waisanen, chaplain to the monastery, and her funeral by Rev. John Sommer and Deacon L. J. Martin of St. Timothy's, with many parishioners as well as other friends and family present to pray for her and lay her to rest.



When asked what it was that she loved most about monastic life, Mother Juliana unhesitatingly replied that it was standing in the kleros and participating in the singing and reading of the daily round of services in the chapel. Despite her age and increasing infirmity as she succumbed to the ravages of Alzheimer's Disease, she continued performing what tasks she could as long as possible no matter how humble the work: raking leaves, packaging greeting cards for the bookstore, putting labels and stamps on envelopes for

our monthly newsletter mailing. Due to the extent of her illness, the last year of her life was spent at the Fillmore Convalescent Hospital, close enough to allow frequent visits. Up to the end, it was evident that hearing prayers and hymns was what meant the most to her. May the Lord richly reward his faithful servant and receive into the choir of saints the Stavrophor Nun Juliana! Memory eternal!



Laying Mother Juliana to rest

On Sunday, September 30th, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by V. Rev. John Finley at the monastery at 10:00 AM, preceded by the 3rd and 6th Hours at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome. This day will mark exactly seven years since the monastery relocated to Santa Paula.

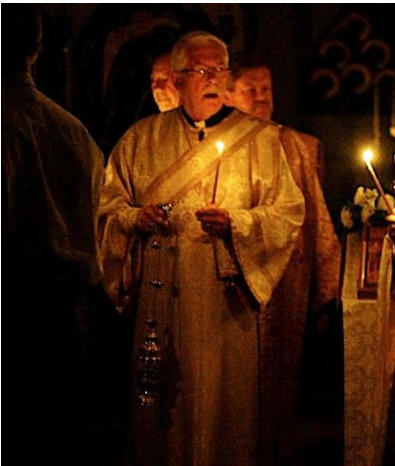
IN MEMORIAM:

REV. DEACON HOWARD (GEORGE) SHANNON

Our close friend and benefactor, the Rev. Deacon George Shannon (whom we all knew as “Deacon Howard” and even “Uncle Howard”) of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta passed away on September 21st.

Shortly before entering the hospital for surgery last month, Deacon Howard and his wife Gail visited the monastery, which is when we took the photo to the right of this paragraph.

How can we begin to describe what his friendship to St. Barbara Monastery was like! It was he who made it possible for Mother Juliana to join us! When the monastery was still located in Goleta and we had filled up our house with sisters, Deacon Howard and Gail made it possible to find a second house in the neighborhood. And Mother Juliana, as soon as she heard the news, made arrangements to leave her life in Lompoc and come to the monastery.



Later, it was Deacon Howard who through business connections helped us obtain the mortgage on the property in Santa Paula where the monastery is now located (a long and difficult process that took over a year). When fire threatened and we had to evacuate in 2006, Deacon Howard and Gail were among those who opened their homes to us until we could return to the monastery. And the list goes on. This newsletter does not offer space enough to describe all that Deacon Howard along with Gail did to foster the growth of St. Barbara Monastery, nor are there words to describe the loving spirit in which they did them. May Deacon Howard's memory be eternal!

LADIES FROM ST. MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Many thanks to the ladies of both St. Michael Church in Van Nuys and St. Michael Church in Whittier who on Saturday, September 15th, visited the monastery. In addition to listening to a talk by Mother Victoria, they labored diligently to process yet another harvest of lavender into beautiful sachets. We are very thankful for all the efforts of these dear friends of ours!