

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

The June Gathering of the Friends of ST. BARBARA MONASTERY

4:00 pm Presentation:

The Female Diaconate— Questions and Considerations

*Speaker: Sister Margarete
from Holy Assumption Monastery
Calistoga, CA*

Vespers: 5:00 PM

Potluck 6:00 PM

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,

Breaking news. . . .

As many of you know, seven and a half years ago, ten sisters from our monastery, under the leadership of Mother Melania, set out from Santa Paula for Calistoga, CA, where they reinhabited a small, monastery complex by the Monastery. The reason for zoning code, which disallowed on our monastery property—most of us at the time. While charge, was appointed community, I remained the fulfilling my responsibilities



vacant, but very beautiful name of Holy Assumption their move was the Ventura County RVs and trailers for residential use the very accommodations in use by Mother Melania, as the sister in ‘superior’ of the Calistoga abbess of both monasteries—mostly via email! Now, after so many years, the new community at Holy Assumption Monastery is well established in its new circumstances, allowing Mother Melania to be duly installed as abbess there and me to retire from my Calistoga post. We have just learned that **the joyful event of her installation by Archbishop Benjamin is scheduled for July 3rd, 2017.**

The day in 2009 when we received notice to get rid of our RVs and trailers will never be forgotten. (It was the same day that a County biologist arrived to check our property for possible endangered species which might be adversely affected by the construction of our proposed new chapel—all routine to the construction permitting process.) When in our distress we phoned Archbishop Benjamin to inform him of the disturbing news, he astonished us by replying: “This is wonderful! This is from God!” Indeed, he had been hoping to find nuns to send to Calistoga in order to revive that monastery for quite some time. The message from the County that was such a blow to us was the fulfillment of his hopes! Now, all who have witnessed the development of the new community at Holy Assumption Monastery agree with the Archbishop that “This is wonderful! This is from God!”

One of the sisters in the group that moved to Calistoga was Sister Margarete, a new novice at the time. She has been back for visits to St. Barbara Monastery on several occasions over the years, and now we eagerly await her arrival again in a few days, when she will speak at our June Friends’ Gathering on the topic of the female deaconate, an institution which has all but died out in the Orthodox Church.

Abbess Victoria

THE HOLY FIRE COMES TO SANTA PAULA

The Holy Fire, which ignited at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Great and Holy Saturday, 2017, and was subsequently transported to numerous churches throughout the world, was brought by plane to New York. From there it was distributed to many churches throughout the United States, one of the last being the Church of the Theotokos, Joy of all Who Sorrow in Culver City on Sunday, June 4th. From there, our good friends Stephen and Lisa Wuertz brought the Holy Fire to St. Barbara Monastery on the evening of the same day. We immediately lit all the candles and lampadas in our chapel with the new fire, and are keeping the flame perpetually burning in the monastery.

Is it our imagination, or are the flames in all the vigil lamps brighter than they used to be?

ARRIVAL OF THE BELLS

On Friday, June 2, our long-anticipated bells from Russia made their ceremonious appearance at the monastery! Their arrival was not without a few amusing misadventures on the part of the freight truck delivery service which explored quite thoroughly nearby Thomas Aquinas College and a local campground before finally locating our monastery. Simultaneous with the delivery of the bells was the providential arrival of a set of pilgrims—the Moons from Santa Barbara and the Parrotts from Scotland—whose muscle



and help in unpacking and moving the heavy, unwieldy bells were gratefully received! This set of five bronze bells, ordered from Blagovest Bells and cast by renowned Pyatkov Bell Foundry in Kamensk-Uralsky, Russia, now awaits a permanent home in a belfry-like structure soon to be built on the monastery grounds to house them. The largest bell, almost 200 lbs, is adorned with an icon of the Theotokos (Vladimirskaya) and St. Demetrius of Priluki the Wonderworker—in memory of the late Archimandrite Dmitry

(Egoroff) of Santa Rosa. Thanks to a few generous friends, a portion of the funds needed to construct a belfry and install the bells professionally has already been collected, however, we would be grateful for any further donations to cover the rest of the belfry construction expenses. We look forward to the time when these beautiful “sonic icons” will ring out, calling the faithful to worship and establishing quite majestically the acoustic space of our newly built temple.

IT'S LAVENDER SEASON AGAIN!



Our small upper field of English lavender was harvested in May, and now our principal lavender field has exploded into full bloom. In a few days, we will be harvesting much of it to sell as fresh bunches at the forthcoming Ojai Valley Lavender Festival on Saturday, June 24th, and we will be sure to have more ready at the June Friends Gathering here at the monastery the following day. We also expect to have a booth for selling our lavender and lavender products at the Parish Life Conference of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles right after the 4th of July.

As in past years, many volunteers have been helping us get our lavender products ready for these annual sales. We especially want to thank our recent visitors Barbara Finucane of Claremont, New Hampshire, and Grace Prensner of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for their many hours of labor preparing vials of essential oil, sachets, bottles of hydrosol spray, lip balm, salve and dried bundles. The evening before the Festival, on Friday, June 23rd, we hope to be joined by several volunteer harvesters to help us cut fresh flowers and prepare bouquets. Even more volunteers are scheduled to come and help us tend our Festival booth—open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and always a busy spot!

***On Saturday, July 1st at 10:00 AM,
V. Rev. John Finley will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery
for the Feast of SS. Cosmos and Damien.
Everyone is welcome!***