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ST. BARBARA MONASTERY
NEWSLETTER

THERE WILL BE NO
FRIENDS' GATHERING
IN SEPTEMBER, 2021



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

It isn't often that we have such wonderful news to share with you. Thanks be to God, a marvelous opportunity has opened up in front of us!

Many of you know that the house next door to the monastery is for sale. (Perhaps you have seen it: the red house across the creek from the area of the tire swing.) We are delighted—and humbled—to announce that we are close to being able to buy it! The house is to the south of the monastery, and the two are literally connected across Sisar Creek by a footbridge that goes from one backyard to the other (as illustrated on the cover).

The house has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, a lovely and spacious living area that could be subdivided to create additional rooms, a new kitchen and even additional areas that could be dedicated to such tasks as making lavender products and sewing. The front and back yards are planted with grapevines, fruit trees and berries. The owner is leaving his small bird aviary and his chickens for us. He is also leaving the house fully furnished!

As you know from our previous Newsletters, because of our need for more living space to accommodate new sisters as well as guests, we considered adding a wing onto the current house or even building a smaller house on our property as a stop gap measure. Each of these options would be more costly in the end than buying the house next door. Moreover, owning the property insures it will not be put to some use that would compromise the peace and integrity of our current monastery property. Another benefit is that we can refinance all of our debt at a lower interest rate as part of a new home loan.

But, how much will this cost? The property costs \$930,000, and we will secure a loan that will refinance our current debt at a lower interest rate as well as contribute \$400,000 to the sale price of the new house. This leaves us with a fundraising goal of \$530,000.

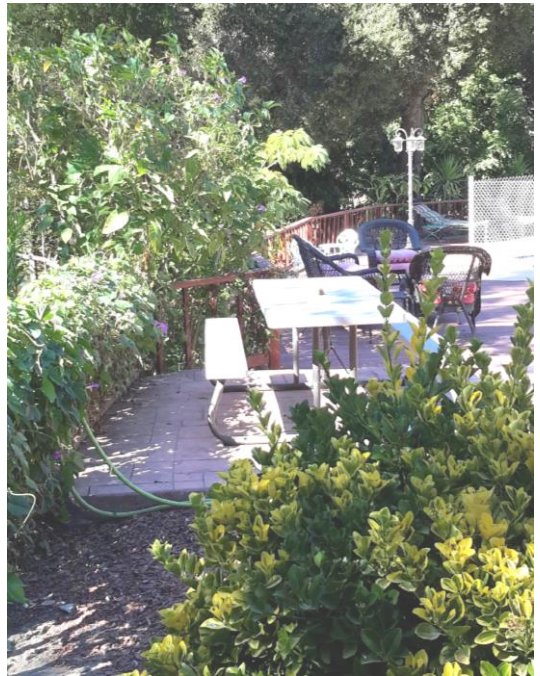
Now for the Good News: Between donations and pledges, we have already raised more than \$350,000 of our goal!

If you are able to make a donation of any size, you will be helping us “cross the finish line” to secure this house for the future of the monastery. Please feel free to may make a donation via Paypal on our website or by sending a check.

How grateful we are to God for your continued friendship and faithful support through the years! Without you, there simply would be no St. Barbara Monastery!

Abbess Victoria
and the sisters
of St. Barbara Monastery

PHOTOS OF THE PROPERTY NEXT DOOR



AT LAST! ICONOGRAPHY FOR OUR CHURCH DOME



The photo at left shows the present state of our monastery church as the iconographer, Matushka Anna Kalinina, assisted by her husband, Archpriest Leonid Kalinin, perched high up in the dome atop scaffolding, labor on the icons of the Pantocrator and Archangels.

Because the scaffolding leaves little space in the church for people to stand—not to mention the plaster dust everywhere and the uneven floor coverings—we have cancelled this month's Friends' Gathering. Everyone is invited to come in October to see the new iconography.



VENTURA COUNTY GREEK FESTIVAL 2021

The sisters of St. Barbara Monastery will be bringing their bookstore and gift shop to the Ventura County Greek Festival in Camarillo, CA. The festival will open at 5:00 pm on Friday, Oct. 22nd, and continue through Sunday, Oct. 24th, at Freedom Park next to the Camarillo Airport. Orthodox books for all ages, lavender products, honey and new Orthodox merchandise will be available for purchase. Please stop by!

