

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

Sunday, June 29th, 2014

4:00 pm Presentation:

THE GOBEZIE GOSHU HOME

A work for “the least of these my brethren”

Speaker: V. Rev. Lawrence Russell

***Pastor of Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church
Santa Maria, 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,

Judging from the news headlines, not only our own society, but the whole world is changing at an ever accelerating rate! And the changes touch the fundamental aspects of our lives as well as the more incidental: what we eat, what we wear, who our neighbors are, the borders of nations, how we communicate, how we travel, how we learn, what we learn, our attitudes, our values, even how and what we think. . . and the list goes on.

We Orthodox Christians take great comfort in the often repeated statement that, while everything else may change, our Orthodox Faith has not changed since the day the Church was founded. What was delivered once and for all to the Apostles is the same Orthodox Christianity that we have today.

But what do we—or should we--mean when we say this? Some people imagine it means, for example, that the Divine Liturgy always looked like it does today or that the Church of the first century used the same service books that we have today. Father Alexander Schmemmann liked to startle his listeners by saying: “The Church changes in order to remain the same”--thus calling attention to the things that, indeed, do and must change for the Church to continue her essential work of bringing the Gospel to all people. So, exactly what are the things that do change? Well, the calendar, for one. As a certain priest put it: “The Church is in business to produce saints.” New persons become saints and the days of their commemoration are duly entered into the liturgical calendar. Services are written for these new saints—new ‘theme songs’ or troparia, new stichera, new akathists and new canons, etc. New liturgical music is composed. (Have you heard the new, unmistakably American melody for the Resurrection troparion, *Christ is risen?*) New traditions—note the lower case “t”—develop. Issues new to human life and thought are addressed and our bishops produce teachings concerning them—like cloning and stem cell research. And, yes, modern inventions are embraced: our churches have sound systems and fire alarms and web pages.

So, what is it that never changes? The Tradition—now with an upper case “T”—handed down from the Apostles until now in an unbroken stream. Nations may emerge and disappear, human society may change radically—and change again, asteroids may collide with planet earth and change it forever! Who knows what the future may bring? But the Truth revealed once and for all and preached continuously ever since will never change one iota: “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Abbess Victoria
and the community
of St. Barbara Monastery

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Work continues on our new chapel, but we will soon have to stop and devote our attention to further fund raising. Meanwhile, our contractor, Anderson Construction, Inc., of Camarillo, and our project manager Mitchell Denny are pleased with the attention to detail and the fine construction accomplished thus far. The chapel may be progressing slowly, but everything is being done carefully and well; and we have no deadline, after all. We are grateful that our contractor is able and willing to adjust his timetable to the monastery's possibilities.

LAVENDER SEASON

Lavender season is here. Both of our lavender fields are now in bloom and we have already harvested a fair amount to be sold as bundles, some fresh and some dried. The dried florets are also used to fill sachets and eye pillows. The remainder will be left in the fields until the blooms begin to dry naturally for another month or so—the point at which we will harvest the lavender intended for distillation as lavender oil. Our first season for production of oil was last summer, when we processed some 400 pounds of lavender. The oil that resulted was of the best quality. In addition to the oil, the distillation process provides lavender hydrosol as a byproduct, which we have begun to bottle and market principally for use as a facial mist.

CAMARILLO GREEK FESTIVAL

Once again this year on June 20-22, St. Barbara Monastery brought its bookstore to the Greek Festival sponsored by St. Demetrios Church in Camarillo. We thank Father Gary Kyriakou (pictured at right blessing our booth) and the Festival Committee for its gracious invitation to us to participate in this popular event. At the same time that we raised some funds for our chapel construction, we were thus able to bring Orthodox books and other items including our monastery's products—especially lavender and lavender oil—to the attention of a wider public.



WORK PARTY AT THE MONASTERY

On Saturday, June 14th, some thirty volunteers showed up for the work day announced in last month's newsletter. An enormous amount of work was duly accomplished, everything from major refurbishing of the house porches, to tree work in the creek area, weeding in the lavender fields, and labeling of honey jars and hundreds of envelopes for future mailing. We heartily thank all who participated! There were inquiries concerning the possibility of future work parties; and we assure you we will be announcing further such events in the months ahead. There is plenty more to do!



HOLY RESURRECTION MONASTERY



On June 6th, the community of St. Barbara Monastery visited Hieromonk Dionisie and Hierodeacon Neonic at the newly founded Monastery of the Holy Resurrection outside Temecula, California. The monastery is under the omophorion of Archbishop Nathaniel, who heads the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America. It is located on 20 acres of agricultural land planted with established avocado, citrus and other fruit trees and includes a farmhouse as well as a number of outbuildings. One of the outbuildings close to the house is already being transformed into a sizeable chapel. The projected remodel of another will turn it into cells for additional monks. And still another has become the residence of a flock of ducks and several goats, soon to be joined by additional livestock.

May the Lord bless this newly founded monastery! And may it in turn be the source of many blessings upon the Orthodox faithful of Southern California!

DIVINE LITURGY AT THE MONASTERY

A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Monastery on Sunday, July 6th, at 10:00 AM, preceded by Matins at 8:30 AM. The celebrant will be the Very Rev. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Church in Riverside. Fr. Josiah together with the members of the Teen SOYO of St. Andrew Church will be visiting for the weekend as part of their annual summer retreat.