

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

# *THE OCTOBER GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. BARBARA MONASTERY*

*Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*4:00pm Presentation:*

*ORTHODOXY AND ASCETICISM--  
WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?*

*Speaker: Kevin Allen  
of Ancient Faith Radio*

*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,

A few days ago, our builder for the chapel, Anderson Construction, Inc., completed the work for which the company was officially contracted and for which we have funding. What has been built has been done with consummate care and is beautiful beyond anything we had imagined. But, for now, construction of the chapel must stop, while we work at raising more funds. We had hoped to complete all of Phase I of the construction, which calls for the shell to be sealed against the weather. However, at this point, only the windows in the dome have been installed. So, when the winter rains come—and, unlike last year, the weatherman tells us to expect them in this part of California—the spaces left for doors and the remaining windows will likely have to be “boarded up” to protect the interior.

We are not allowing ourselves to be disappointed by this state of affairs. After all, we have *something* of a chapel—something quite wonderful—where a year ago there was nothing but an empty space. Moreover, we have the architectural plans and know what remains for us to do to make them a reality—namely, turn to fundraising. The temptation facing us is to balk at the reality of what the Lord is asking of us, when in fact we have no right to be anything but thankful for all that He is doing!

A few months ago, our friend Zak Landrum gave us a little book by Henri Nouwen (the Roman Catholic priest, who probably would have become Orthodox had he lived a little longer) entitled *The Spirituality of Fundraising*. It has proved to be a great help to keep us from succumbing to this temptation. Because, yes, we are tempted to think of fundraising as an unpleasant but necessary activity and to say to ourselves things like *I didn't sign up for monastic life to devote myself to fundraising*.

Father Nouwen writes that “From the perspective of the Gospel. . . fundraising is a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. . . It is precisely the opposite of begging. . . Rather, we are declaring. . . : We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you . . . in this work to which God has called us.”

He goes on to say that “fundraising is good for our spiritual life” and “as ministry, involves a real conversion,” where ‘conversion’ is understood to mean for both the fundraiser and the donor “to be clothed in our right mind, to come to ourselves the way the younger son did when he was starving far from his true home.” To elaborate on this, he quotes St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

In a word, this little book has changed the way we view the task before us. It’s not too much to say it has changed us. Any of you who have occasion to work at raising funds to support good works do well to read this short text, *The Spirituality of Fundraising*.

Mother Victoria  
and the Community  
of St. Barbara Monastery

## ***STUDENTS VISIT FROM CAL-POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO***

On Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett of Cal-Poly in San Luis Obispo brought a group of students from his religious studies classes to the monastery to attend a Divine Liturgy. As Stephen explained to us, his aim was to introduce his students to a form of Christian worship unfamiliar to them; and, indeed, for all of the students who came this was a first experience of



Eastern Orthodox worship. Father John Beal, a priest of the Orthodox Church in America, drove up from Los Angeles to celebrate the Liturgy and delivered a wonderful, instructive homily—geared towards the students, but spiritually nourishing for all his listeners—on the basic message of the Gospel. Other visitors also attended, including a special guest: Sister Sebastiani of the Monastery of Remetz in Romania, who has been visiting various Orthodox monasteries in the

Western United States for the past couple of months. Following the Liturgy, there was time to tour the monastery grounds and to sit down together to a luncheon replete with discussion of various topics regarding Orthodox Christianity. We look forward to welcoming Stephen back to St. Barbara Monastery in the Spring, when we have asked him to give a talk at one of the “Friends” gatherings.

## ***GARRETT GISH, OUR SUMMER APPRENTICE***

In a few days, we will be saying ‘goodbye’—a temporary one, we trust—to Garrett Gish, a member of St. Athanasius Church in Goleta who has been Mitchell Denny’s apprentice in the wood shop for most of the summer. He has been helping out mostly with the casket making. Garrett is on his way to entering a program at Santa Barbara City College for certification as an EMT in preparation for a career in fire fighting. We wish him well in his studies and new career.



## ***ALEKSANDAR ADZIC: PHOTOGRAPHER EXTRAORDINAIRE***

Our good friend Aleksandar Adzic of St. Herman Church in Oxnard recently did us the favor of taking a fine photograph of our icon of St. Barbara, the one which normally hangs on the iconostas in our chapel. We needed the photograph for the purpose of producing a print suitable for mounting. Aleksandar has helped us in many ways over the years, including doing some filming for us. He is located in Ventura, is available to do photography for special events like weddings as far away as L.A., and can be reached at 805-205-5447. His photography work enables him to continue his education in film production.



## ***GREEK FESTIVAL, ST. ANDREW'S, RIVERSIDE***

Once again this year, St. Barbara Monastery had a booth at the Greek Festival held by St. Andrew Church, Riverside. From Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, through Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, despite the 100+ degree heat, the Festival was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd. We sold significant quantities of our lavender and honey products, while answering numerous questions about the Orthodox Church and Orthodox monasticism. Pictured at right are Mother Paraskeva and Mother Olga helping customers.



## ***GOOD HELP***

Who says you can't find good help any more! The monastery cats apparently overheard us discussing our difficulties getting the office work done. At newsletter time, Punkin (left) and Blackberry (right) were ready and w-a-i-t-i-n-g. . . and w-a-i-t-i-n-g. . . . to help out. (However, Trixie, wise cat that she is, disappeared.)

