



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – August 2012

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com/>



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

When our new storage shed was in its beginning stages, I happened to walk by while Michael was working on the floor. A few hours later, I walked by again. At first glance, it seemed that the shed was in basically the same state. A second glance, however, showed that the floor was layered, and I was now looking at the finished floor.

This brought to mind how often people say “Why do I struggle and struggle against my sins and yet seem to get nowhere?” Probably, we often are not struggling as hard as we think we are. However, something else is likely at play here. If we want a strong building, it needs a strong foundation and floor. The foundation of the Christian life is humility, but for that foundation to be firm, we need to tear apart the foundation of pride that we have spent our whole lives shoring up. Otherwise, we tend to end up with a rather impressive-looking structure that falls apart every time the earth shakes underneath us a little.

Unfortunately for our comfort zones, the only way most of us acquire humility is by falling apart a lot! So, as we struggle to build the houses of our souls and keep watching them fall down, let us be more compassionate to those in the same spot. And let's not lose heart about our own state. Christ is the Master Builder, and He knows exactly what we need to build the house that is pleasing to Him.

with love in Christ,
*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE



Pixley & Oscar – Best of friends!

We are happy to report that our conures Oscar and Pixley – after months of being distant acquaintances – are now CLOSE acquaintances! In the evening, we often find them sitting close together. Also, they had a visit from Baby the parakeet a week or so ago. Baby lives in the cell of one of the sisters, but when she was out of town, Baby decided to take a vacation and visit Oscar and Pixley. They all seemed to enjoy the visit, but Baby seems to be happy to be back in his usual home.

The “baby” koi are doing well. They have all gotten big enough to be outside their cage, but we left it in the pond as a good place to hide behind. To our amusement, two of the babies found a hole in the cage and have made their way back to “home, sweet home.”

Petie is well and continues coming up with new phrases. One of the more amusing we've heard lately was “Where have YOU been?” We're just waiting for him to add something such as “It's past your bedtime!”

JULY FRIENDS MEETING

On July 8, Roberta Sardell spoke about her mission trip to the Turkana people of Kenya to help train catechists. Roberta started with some background info. Fr. Martin Ritzi met Salawi, the shaman of a Turkana tribe of northern Kenya. When Fr. Martin asked Salawi if he could come talk to them about his God, Salawi said yes definitely because God had already told him that Fr Martin was coming! Salawi soon said that he would like to become a Christian because he could see the goodness of the religion. So, he and over a hundred people were baptized, and they are expecting over 400 baptisms this coming year. Quite wonderfully, on each of Fr. Martin's three visits to the area, there was a flash flood. In this drought-ridden area, the people perceive this as a great blessing. A main motif that stood out in Roberta's talk was the contrast between how the missionaries lived in their short-term mission there (rather spartan to Americans, but luxurious by Turkana standards) and how the student catechists lived. For example, she showed a picture of her bed [which was covered with mosquito netting and in a double room (which she had to herself because there weren't a lot of missionaries there)] and the 'bed' of one of the students, which was basically just a place to lie down outside. The catechists also had to endure very rough conditions to come there - they rode up to 3 hours standing up in vehicles on very bumpy roads. One of the priests, who had been on 7 mission trips in the past 6 years said that these were the poorest but most spiritual people he'd ever ministered to. And that pretty much sums things up. These people don't have much of the things of this world - so, they are filled instead with the joy and love of Christ. It's a much better bargain than most of us make!!!



Roberta with Turkana craftwork



Attentive listeners



Potluck



FLOATING AWAY!

On July 4, the sisters put up a root beer float stand in our driveway. We were very pleased with the responses. Some old friends came by to support us. Many new friends came by and remarked that they didn't know that we were even here or that the monastery was open to visitors. It is always a delight to show our beautiful monastery to new friends. They remind us of what we should never forget - this is a very different place and a great gift of God to us who live here.



Ready for business



Our first customers



ICE CREAM SOCIAL



On Saturday, July 14, we held an ice cream social as our first fund-raising event for the roof of St. Nicholas House. We had a rather small turnout, but the generosity of those who were there gave us a few hundred dollars towards St. Nicholas House's new roof. Special thanks to Clover Stornetta Farms (for all the ice cream!) and Oliver's for a gift certificate.

August 2012 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com;

website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Church)
5 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Church) 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	6 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Transfiguration</u> (New Style)	7	8	9	10	11 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
12 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	13	14 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	15 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Dormition</u> ALTAR FEAST	16 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	17 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Lamentations for the Theotokos</u>	18 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Church)
19 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Church) <u>Transfiguration</u> (Old Style)	20	21	22 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	23 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Leave-taking of Dormition</u>	24	25 10:00 am Liturgy at Fort Ross <u>200 year Jubilee</u> 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
26 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	27 3:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Church)	28 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Church) <u>Dormition</u> (Old Style) <i>Slavonic Liturgy</i> 5:00pm Readers Vigil (at Monastery)	29 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</u>	30	31	Notes

UPCOMING FRIENDS' MEETINGS

BECAUSE OF OUR ALTAR FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS,
THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST FRIENDS' MEETING

SEPT. 9 – Fr. Constantine Efstathiu will speak on a topic yet to be determined

MONASTERY ROOF FUNDRAISER

Silent Auction & Benefit for Holy Assumption Monastery

Date: Sunday, Sept. 23

**Location: Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church**

999 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 584-4747

4:00 pm Vespers
4:30 pm Silent Auction Opens
5:00 pm Monastery Presentation
7:00 pm Auction Closes
No entrance fee or cover charge

For more information, contact Fr. Aris at Holy Trinity Church, or Mother Melania at Holy Assumption Monastery



Silent auction items to include hand-painted icons, original works of art, Napa Valley wines, and monastery crafts.

A ticket-auction will also offer attendees the chance to win select items without placing bids.

Monastery bookstore items available for purchase



Music provided throughout the event by local Orthodox singers and instrumentalists.

Refreshments will be offered in abundance!

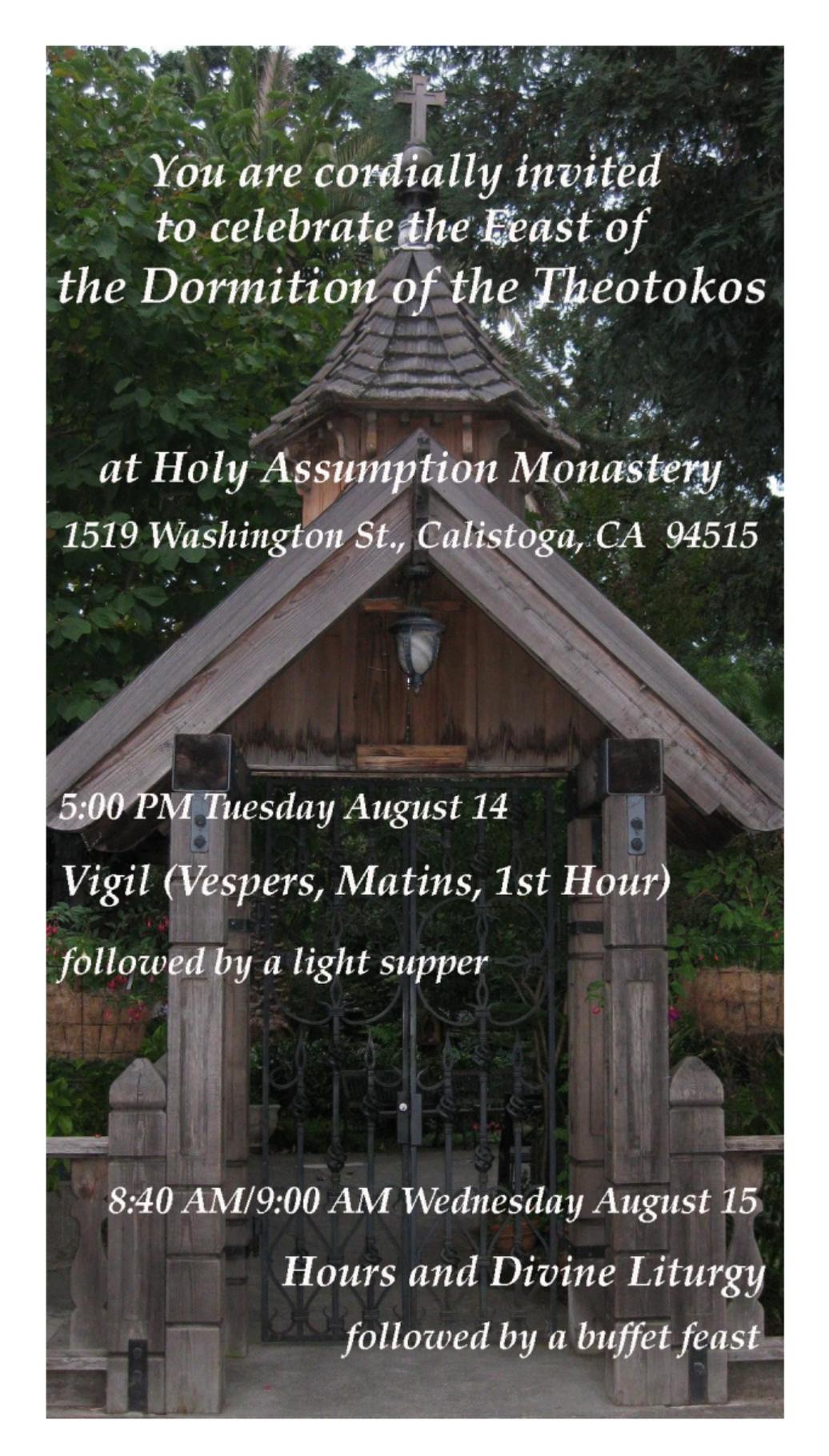
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE
REPLACEMENT OF THE
ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE ROOF
at HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

We warmly invite you to
join us for an evening of
fellowship, food and
music!

Holy Assumption Monastery

Ph (707) 942-6244
1519 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

WWW.HOLYASSUMPTIONMONASTERY.COM



*You are cordially invited
to celebrate the Feast of
the Dormition of the Theotokos*

at Holy Assumption Monastery

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

5:00 PM Tuesday August 14

Vigil (Vespers, Matins, 1st Hour)

followed by a light supper

8:40 AM/9:00 AM Wednesday August 15

Hours and Divine Liturgy

followed by a buffet feast