



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – October 2012

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Recently, one of the sisters was recounting a story about our cockatiel Morris, who died a while back. When the birds were still in the leaky aviary, the sister who takes care of the birds went in and heard a very distressed Morris. Try as she might, she could not see him. Finally, she found him in one of the buckets used for catching leaks. He had flown in, but could not get back out. The sister gently released him from his predicament, but he was very scared and therefore not overly appreciative of being rescued. As the sister remarked later, "He didn't seem very grateful!"

Sometimes we're on one side of this story and sometimes the other. Like Morris, we easily get into innocent-looking situations, only to find that we can't get back out. Scared and confused, we strike out, even at those who are trying to help. Other times, we fancy ourselves as rescuers and are surprised and offended when the other person "nips."

So, the next time we are trying to fish a friend out of the bucket, let's not be too hard on them if they nip a bit – that bucket can be a scary place! And if we get stuck in the bucket ourselves, it's good to remember that the hand reaching down is trying to help. Either way, God is in charge, and He'll effect the rescue if we just let Him!

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

GLENDI!



Ready to go!

On the weekend of Sept. 15 and 16, the sisters were invited to participate in St. Seraphim Church of Santa Rosa's Glendi Festival. In addition to our bookstore table, we had a storytelling booth, where we read books from our *Good Neighbors* and *Old Testament Stories for Children* series. We are very grateful to Fr. Lawrence and Glendi staff and to all our friends – old and new – who supported us.



Story time!



ZOO UPDATE



Hey, what's over there!

Our cats have been complaining that they are getting short shrift in our newsletters. So, we thought we had better rectify the omission. Balou is an indoor cat, but he feels obliged to give his servant an occasional outside stroll. Philly continues his mission of removing all 'stickers' from our grounds by storing them in his coat. And Ashley? Well, she is still doing her best to run the universe!



Can we be done now?



I don't know why I tolerate humans!

SEPTEMBER FRIENDS MEETING

At our Sunday, September 9th Friends meeting, Fr. Constantine Efstathiou shared reflections on 46 years in the priesthood. Most of what he said focused on the importance of Christian community. He spoke of how there is only one priesthood - that of Christ - but that He in His love for us shares that priesthood not just with the sacramental priesthood, but with all believers. Then, he spoke of the various people who have particularly expressed that priesthood in his life - bishops, priests, parishioners, and - certainly not least - his wife. Later, one of the attendees remarked that this really spoke to her about the importance of actively remembering our mentors. When we go through disappointments, it helps to remember the people that nurtured us in godliness.



Fr. Constantine



Listening

Father also quoted a verse from Holy Monday that impacted him greatly while still in seminary - "Behold, O my soul, the Master has confided to Thee a talent; receive the favor with fear, lend to Him Who gave; distribute to the poor, and acquire for thyself thy Lord as thy Friend." He realized from this that Christ is calling each one of us to make Him our friend by loving those in need. And while we fall down a lot, Christ is the one faithful Friend who will love and strengthen and forgive us and help us to fulfill the priesthood that He has given us all.



SILENT AUCTION & ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE UPDATE

The sisters are enormously appreciative of everyone who attended and assisted with the Silent Auction & Benefit for St. Nicholas House on Sunday, September 23rd. The event took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on Brotherhood Way in San Francisco, and Fr. Aris Metrakos kept the crowd amused and entertained as Master of Ceremonies. Wonderful musicians from Holy Virgin Cathedral (SF), Old Holy Virgin Cathedral (SF), Holy Trinity (SF), All Saints (Rohnert Park), Sts. Peter and Paul (Santa Rosa), St. Seraphim (Santa Rosa), and All Saints of Russia (Burlingame) provided a delightful variety of sacred, folk and classical music throughout the evening. The event raised \$4,400 towards replacing the roof on St. Nicholas House. With the \$10,000 the sisters already have in the bank, this puts us well in sight of our fund-raising goal of \$17,000!



Food,



food,



and more food!



*Fr. Aris – MC
extraordinaire*



*A budding young
storekeeper*



*Checking out the
silent auction items*

To reach that final goal of \$17,000 *and* put us well on the road towards the next stage of the renovation project, two anonymous donors have stepped forward to offer a combined matching-fund gift of \$6,000. Starting October 1, 2012, any donation the sisters deposit will be matched dollar-for-dollar, until a total of \$12,000 is in the bank! This will enable Holy Assumption to pay for the roof, renovate the nearby shed as a workspace, and begin the process of making St. Nicholas House handicap accessible. In advance, we thank you for your generosity, and may this work be to the glory of God!



A little Beethoven



St. Seraphim singers



Byzantine chanters



Slavonic chorus



*Man of many
talents!*

*The Greek folk
singing was so good
that we forgot to
take a picture!*

October 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 5:00pm Vespers/Matins (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	2 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>Sts Cyprian and Justina</u>	3	4	5	6 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
7 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) 3:00pm Calistoga Orthodox Wines Fundraiser (at St Simeon Church)	8	9	10	11 5:00pm Vespers/Matins (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	12 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>St Symeon the New Theologian</u>	13 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Church)
14 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Church) <u>Protection of the Mother of God (Old Style)</u> 4:00 PM FRIENDS MEETING (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	15	16	17 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	18 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>Apostle and Evangelist Luke</u>	19	20 5:00pm Vigil (at Holy Assumption Monastery)
21 9:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Church)
28 10:00am Divine Liturgy (at Macedonian Park)	29 5:00pm Vespers/Matins (at Holy Assumption Monastery)	30 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy (at Holy Assumption Monastery) <u>Sts Zenobius and Zenobia</u>	31	Notes:		

Announcing
THE OCTOBER 2012 MEETING
of the
FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

Sunday October 14, 2012

**THREE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
PRIESTS FROM LATVIA:**

*An Oral History with Archpriests Nikolajs Vieglaiss and
George Benigsen, along with excerpts from Archpriest
Alexei Yonov's "Reflections of a Missionary"*

Presented by

Deacon John Dibs

St. Timothy Church, Fairfield, CA



4:00 PM – Presentation

5:00 PM – Vespers

6:00 PM – Potluck

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

November 11 – *Elena Gutteridge: Monastery and Church Life in Russia – recollections of an American pilgrim*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (707) 942-6244
or EMAIL sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com