



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – May 2013

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

There is an interesting Youtube video in which researchers give two Capuchin monkeys rewards for a simple task (handing the researcher a rock). At first, both monkeys willingly do the task for a cucumber slice. Then, the researcher continues to reward one monkey with a cucumber slice, but starts to reward the other monkey with a grape. The first monkey rattles the cage and throws the cucumber slices at the researcher! The video purports to show that Capuchin monkeys have a sense of fairness.

One sister remarked that if the monkeys really had a sense of fairness, the one who got the grapes would have given some to his neighbor who got only cucumber slices. That led us to think how much more often we say “That’s not fair!” when WE are the ones on the short end of the stick than when the other person is. In fact, half of the time we think we got the short end when we got the long end!

Thanks be to God that He does not treat us fairly. It is not fair that Christ died for us. It is not fair that we have been adopted by God through baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. But God is not fair. He is Love.

Those who have been perfected in His Love move past fairness to the justice of God. Elder Paisius said that if two people are sitting in a room with ten apricots and both take five, that is human justice; but if one gives most of the apricots to the other, that is Divine justice. If we follow Divine justice, we will probably be long on cucumber slices and short on grapes, but we will be filled to overflowing with God. Not really a choice, is it?

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

WHAT’S COOKING?

Starting on Saturday May 18, the sisters will have a sweets booth at the Calistoga Farmer’s Market. For the first few weeks, we’ll be there every other week. Then, we’ll be there weekly. We will be selling marmalades, granola, pastries, and cookies. Please come by and say hi!



ZOO UPDATE – Another Guest



Poofy and an admirer

This month’s “zoo guest” is Poofy, who brought her human companion, Laura, for a stay at the monastery recently. We were a little concerned about what our cat population might think of Poofy – not so much for the sake of the cats, but for Poofy’s sake, considering that she is smaller than all our cats except for Ashley (and for Ashley, size has never been a problem. She’s like Queen Victoria – pint-sized but every inch the empress). As expected, Ashley ignored the canine nuisance. Balou, after a few expressions of feline outrage, actually touched noses with Poofy!

Philly SHOULD have had the easiest time because he grew up with dogs, but his memories seem to have faded. The ever-friendly Poofy decided to make friends with Philly. Philly took one look, fled into the garden, and gingerly raised his eyes just above the level of the foliage to see if the fearsome creature had left. Poor Poofy was mystified. One last thing - don’t mention this to Philly. He’ll deny the whole thing!

APRIL FRIENDS MEETING



*Pay attention, Class.
There will be a quiz!*

At our Sunday April 14 Friends Meeting, Nicolas Custer, helped by several members of the St. Seraphim choir, presented “A Musical Journey through Lent.” As one might suspect from the name, this “journey” was more music than lecture. Since it is not really possible to recap the presentation, we will have to content ourselves with a couple of main points and a story he told that illustrates both points. First, no matter where we are in Lent, the themes of repentance and forgiveness are present. Second, the Resurrection illumines with its own joy the sorrow and penitence of Lent.

The story is about an old Russian woman. She was waiting in a long line for confession. Finally her turn came. Using two canes to walk, she hobbled to the priest and told him that she would soon die, but that God could never forgive her. She explained that she had worked in the concentration camps and had treated the prisoners very badly – going so far as to throw the bones of the dead to her dogs. When she repeated that God could never forgive her, the priest said, “Let’s start a step back and ask the forgiveness of the people here.” So, the woman repeated what she had told the priest, telling the people that it was their parents, grandparents, and priests whom she had treated this way. Then, everyone in the church knelt down and said, “God forgive you, Mother. Forgive us.” The priest gave her absolution. She came back the next day for Liturgy, received communion, and died that very day. Word got around and thousands of people came to her funeral.

If we journey through Lent with a tenth of such repentance and forgiveness, we will know the joy of the Resurrection in the profoundest way.



ANOTHER EVENTFUL MONTH!

Life here is never dull. The pictures below catalog some of this month's happenings.



We had the great blessing of being able to venerate the Kursk Root Icon at St. Simeon Church. Special thanks to Fr. Nicholas Olhovskoy and Fr. Alexander Krassovskoy, who made time in their busy schedule to bring the icon “up North”



The ladies from St. Athanasius Church, Sacramento, came for a retreat and work party. Pictured above are just a few of our enthusiastic helpers. Our garden is very happy now (not to mention our chief gardener!)



Fr. Aris & Pres. Valerie Metrakos & over 20 parishioners from Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, came for a retreat. One complaint – why can't Mother Melania give a retreat without mentioning chocolate chip cookies!



CHALICE WINE UPDATE

Sales of our California Kagor are off to a great start. From a first run of 209 cases, we've already sold more than 30 cases! In addition, the first run of our traditional blend chalice wine will be bottled this July. For further information, please see www.calistogaorthodoxwine.com.



Heave ho!



To whomever invented the hand truck – a big thank you!

May 2013 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 5:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00pm Matins of Holy Thursday (both at Monastery)	2 9:00am Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) 6:00pm Matins (at St Simeon Parish) 12 Passion Gospels	3 8:00am Royal Hours (at Monastery) 3:00pm Vespers (at Monastery) Taking out the Shroud 6:00pm Matins w Lamentations (at St Simeon Parish)	4 9:00am Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) 10:00pm Reading of the Acts (at Monastery) 11:30pm Midnight Office (at Monastery) 12:00am Paschal Liturgy (at Monastery)
5 11:30am Agape Vespers (at Macedonian Park)	6 9:40am Paschal Matins/ Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)	7 6:00am Paschal Matins/ Liturgy (at Monastery)	8	9	10	11 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
12 9:40am Hours/ Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) Thomas Sunday 4:00pm FRIENDS MEETING (at Monastery)	13 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	14 6:00am Hours/ Liturgy (at Monastery) Radonitsa	15	16	17	18 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
19 9:40am Hours/ Liturgy (at Monastery) Myrrh Bearing Women	20 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	21 6:00am Hours/ Liturgy (at Monastery) Ss. Constantine & Helen	22	23	24	25 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
26 9:40am Hours/ Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) Sunday of the Paralytic	27	28 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	29 6:00am Hours/ Liturgy (at Monastery) Midfeast of Pentecost	30	31	Notes:

Announcing
THE MAY 2013 MEETING
of the
FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

Sunday May 12, 2013

**THE PLACE OF DOUBT IN
THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN**

Presented by

Archimandrite Irenei (Steenberg)

Dean of Monastic Life, Western American Diocese (ROCOR)

DIRECTOR -

*Ss. Cyril and Athanasius Institute for Orthodox Studies,
San Francisco, CA*



4:00 PM – Presentation

5:00 PM – Vespers

6:00 PM – Potluck

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

June 16 (**NOT** JUNE 9) – Robin Joy Wellman, State Park Interpreter, will give us an update on events concerning Fort Ross.

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