



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – October 2015

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As this is being written, the Valley Fire, which has so ravaged Lake County, is approximately 97% contained. The Napa County Fairgrounds, which had been its own little town of about 1,000 evacuees, is “back to normal” again, as its temporary inhabitants have returned to their homes or at least to shelters nearer their homes. The damage assessment is still going on, but already this fire is the third most destructive in California history in terms of property loss. The effects of this fire will be seen for years to come in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

The huge scale of this disaster brings to mind the phrase "A Severe Mercy" (the title of a book by Sheldon Vanauken, about the loss of his wife to cancer and his eventual acceptance of this tragedy as a "severe mercy" from God). The "severe" side of the Valley Fire is obvious. At least four people have died. Thousands of people were swept from their homes. Over a thousand structures were destroyed. Many animals were lost.

The "mercy" side is less obvious - at least, less obvious to those who were not at the Fairgrounds (or, no doubt, other shelters) during the days following the outbreak of the fire. There we saw the mercy of God poured out through the many volunteers who seemed to rival the evacuees in number, the mountains of donated clothes and food, the evacuees comforting each other in their grief, the tender care for people's pets ... And, last but certainly not least, we saw many people stop to take time to pray and thank God in the midst of the great uncertainty of their lives.

We have become an insanely busy people who seldom find time for God or each other in the rush of daily life. But when tragedy strikes we remember that we cannot exist without the God Who made us and sent His Son to save us and without the love and help of our families, friends, and neighbors. May God grant us to remember this truth not only until our friends are safe in their homes again, but throughout our lives until we are all safe in our eternal homes in His heavenly kingdom.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*



*Petie eats an almond:
I'll endure anything if
properly bribed*

ZOO UPDATE – Greys Everywhere

For about a week in mid-September, our African Grey population was up to three, with our friend Rachelle's African Grey, Pearl, joining the “guys” - Petie and Sunrise. They all were talking up a storm and teaching each other their favorite words and phrases. So, even though Pearl went home, her voice didn't! Now, half of the time, the undiscerning amongst us can't tell which bird is saying what!



*Sunrise: about the grape
you promised me ...?*

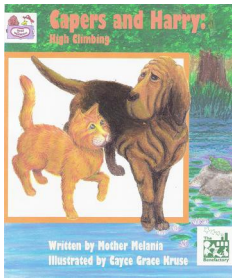
As you can see (perhaps!) in the above picture, Sunrise is still in his own cage. We hope to introduce Sunrise into Petie's aviary soon. Of course, WE know that Petie needs a friend, but it remains to be seen if HE knows it! So, stay tuned!



Pearl: Yes, of course, it's my idea to wear this. It's the latest fashion!

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Wondering what you might give your loved ones for Christmas? Please consider buying something from our bookstore and gift shop. We have children's books, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, honey, tea, lavender products, religious items, and more! Check out our bookstore online (go to holyassumptionmonastery.com, click on the bookstore tab) or, better yet, stop by the monastery to see a wide variety of items. Shop early for best selection! Limited quantities on hand!



Children's Books



Honey



Tea and Teaware



Air Freshener

Also, coming soon (we hope!): 3-Day Pascha Series book set and two new Old Testament Series books!



HAVE BOOKSTORE WILL TRAVEL

Every year, we are blessed with more opportunities to take our bookstore to different churches' festivals. At times, it presents quite a logistical challenge. Last month, the sisters had to figure out how to be in three places at once – St. Seraphim Church's Glendi in Santa Rosa (Sep 19-20), St. Demetrios Church's Greek Festival (Sep 18-20), and at home holding down the fort! We're not complaining – it's a wonderful difficulty to have! Stay tuned for next month's newsletter, when we let you know how we managed THREE festivals plus the home front!



What did we forget THIS time?

This was our SIXTH year at Glendi! In addition to bringing our bookstore, we have the great blessing of helping out in the children's area. It's always a question as to who's having more fun – the children or the nuns!



Yes, we're paying attention. HONEST!

This was our FIRST year at St. Demetrios Church. We are very grateful to the members of St. Demetrios, who went out of their way to be kind and helpful. We wish they could have done something about the hot weather, though. Maybe next year!



What do you mean, we didn't bring the air conditioner?



EVERYONE loves the mynah hat!



Did we bring enough honey?

October 2015 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
			30 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	1 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Protection of the Theotokos</u>	2	3 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
4 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	5	6	7	8	9 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	10 RETREAT 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ven. Ambrose of Optina</u> Retreat Sessions starting at 11am (see flyer for details) (at Monastery) 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
11 Greeting the Archbishop 9:30am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00am (at St Simeon Parish) PARISH FEAST DAY FRIENDS POTLUCK NEXT WEEK	12	13 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	14 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) TENTATIVE <u>Ven. Paraskeva</u>	15	16	17 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
18 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) 4 pm Vespers, followed by FRIENDS POTLUCK (at Monastery)	19	20	21	22	23 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	24 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Soul Saturday</u> 5:00pm Reader's Vigil (all at Monastery)
25 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	26 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	27 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) TENTATIVE <u>Martyr Nestor</u>	28	29	30	31 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)

October 10 Retreat

with Fr. Theodor Svane



“The Orthodox Church in Norway”

*Her saints, history and
current situation*

October 10, 2015



Hours/Liturgy 8:40 AM

Followed by a snack



1st session— 11:00 AM
to 12:30 PM (with a
short break)



Lunch 12:30 PM to
1:30 PM



2nd session - 1:30 PM
to 3:00 PM



HOLY ASSUMPTION
MONASTERY

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No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited