



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – November 2016

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

A certain woman used to ask her foreign friends what they liked best about the United States. She was surprised – and disheartened – that our freedoms came a very distant second to our material prosperity. The results of her unofficial little poll really shouldn't surprise us, though. When you have as much “stuff” around you as we do, it's hard not to get consumed by it. We can only be avid consumers for so long before we become “consumees!” Think, for example, about the ever escalating definitions of “necessary.” How many of us can still imagine living without an air conditioner, a microwave, a cell phone ...? So, we buy the latest “necessity,” then we work longer hours so that we can AFFORD the latest “necessity,” then someone invents a time-saving device that becomes a new “necessity,” *ad nauseum*. If we ourselves continually get sucked into this lethal vortex, is it surprising that newcomers do, too?

Such unabashed consumerism is clearly a dead end, but would our lives be substantially better if we focused not on material prosperity, but on our freedoms? Tragically, the things now done in our culture in the name of personal freedom include legally carrying fully automatic weapons, disregarding marriage vows, redefining marriage, and killing our unborn children.

How did we get so crazy? Somewhere along the way, in our pursuit of freedom and happiness, we have forgotten to pursue God and the good of our neighbor. Freedoms untempered by love, obedience, and humility become bondage to our own inflamed egos and desires.

In a few short decades, our country has become barely recognizable. We are in scary, uncharted waters, and there is not much that any of us can do to help guide our country back from the brink. In the end, only God can do that. Yet we must not despair, and we must not fail to do the little that we can. God calls us to be fellow laborers with Him, and we dare not neglect His call. First and foremost, we must pray with love for each other and hope in God. And we must repent wholeheartedly for the many times that we have treated God's world and our brothers and sisters as things and not as cherished gifts and loved ones. If we are willing to repent and to love each other as God calls us to love, perhaps decades from now, the newly arrived foreigner, when asked what he admires most about this country, will answer “her goodness and love.” May it be!

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania

and the community

of Holy Assumption Monastery

ZOO UPDATE – Koi



Who's directing traffic?

It's been a long time since we've updated you about our koi. That's partly because everything is going okay (thank God!) and partly because our newspaper staff lacks the journalistic skill to portray the koi as the engaging creatures that they are. Still, it at least lies within our power to assure you that they remain great favorites with the school children, who are always looking to give them extra food. Speaking of which, as the weather gets colder, the koi – being poikilothermic (10 bonus points if you can define this word without going to Google!) – need to eat less and less. So, next time you come to feed the koi, check with the sisters to make sure the koi aren't on a fast!

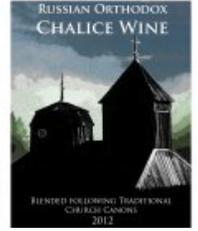


Fish? What's fish?

CALISTOGA ORTHODOX WINES - Reorganization



As many of you know, Fr. Joakim had to step away from his role in COW for personal reasons, leaving the running of COW in the hands of the sisters. We are enjoying learning more about the ins and outs of the wine business. It is such a fascinating combination of business, science, and art.



We do have some 2014 Kagor and Standard Chalice Wines left to purchase from two excellent vintages. So, stock up before the 2015 vintages are released. To order, please email orders@calistogaorthodoxwine.com or call 707-942-6244. And stay tuned for updates on the 2015 and 2016 vintages!



IRRIGATION UPDATE

We were SO hoping to tell you that our irrigation system is all finished. We can't quite say that, but we ARE pleased to say we've made a lot of progress. Now that the tank is finished, our friend Jack McMahon and his employees are working on getting everything connected. They have already laid the pipes connecting the tank to the pump and are in the process of checking out the old irrigation system to see what is still functional and what needs to be replaced. It's looking hopeful. So, stay tuned till next month!



Laying the pipe



All finished with this part!



A VISIT TO WHISPERING PINES SCHOOL

In mid-October, the sisters accepted a long-standing invitation to visit Whispering Pines School (WPS) in Plymouth, CA. WPS is a Christian school, offering instruction from TK (transitional kindergarten) to 8th grade. We buy our honey from WPS' honey operation, which is one of their main forms of support. We were very impressed with the wonderful atmosphere of the school and greatly touched by the gracious welcome of principal Wilson Barros (lovingly referred to by the children as Mr. Wilson), the staff, the teachers, and the students. For more information, check out their website – <http://whisperingpinesschool.com/>



Mr. Wilson and the sisters



A school with a SERIOUS campus!



Can you find all three nuns?



The honey operation



HAVE BOOKSTORE, WILL TRAVEL

On the first weekend of October, the sisters were invited to bring our bookstore to Holy Cross Church, Sacramento. Many thanks to Fr. Ian and all the organizers and parishioners for their gracious welcome and help.



No, I'm not suggesting that you buy the olive oil. What makes you think that?



I'll trade guard dog services for a bit of honey!



What more can I say?

November 2016 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6		1	2	3	4	5 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
6 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	7	8 6:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	9 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>St. Nectarios of Aegina</u>	10	11 6-8 pm PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP (at Monastery)	12 9am-3pm PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP (at Monastery) 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
13 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) 12:30-2:30 pm PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP (at Monastery)	14	15 6:00pm Vigil (at Monastery) NATIVITY FAST BEGINS	16 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Apostle & Evangelist Matthew</u>	17	18	19 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
20 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vigil (both at Monastery)	21 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</u>	22	23 6:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	24 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Great Martyrs Katherine & Mercurius</u> Liturgy followed by a molieben of Thanksgiving	25	26 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
27 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish)	28 OLD CALENDAR NATIVITY FAST BEGINS	29 6:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	30 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Apostle Andrew the First-Called</u>	NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.		

**Friday-Sunday Nov 11-13 – Permaculture Workshop
led by Luke Currier**

Please see enclosed flyer for details

Holy Assumption Monastery

Permaculture Workshop

Friday Nov. 11—Sunday Nov. 13



This event will be a combination of lectures and hands-on learning about suburban applications of permaculture.

Friday 11/11- An Introduction to Permaculture (6 PM - 8 PM)

Saturday 11/12- Permaculture Principles, Practice, & Design (9 AM - 3 PM)

Sunday 11/13- Permaculture & Orthodox Christianity (12:30 PM - 2:30 PM, following Divine Liturgy & Coffee Hour)

Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour will take place at St. Symeon Orthodox Church, followed by the Sunday session at the Monastery.

Please feel welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

For more information please contact Holy Assumption Monastery at 707-942-6244 or sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com

1519 Washington St, Calistoga CA 94515

(Optional suggested donation \$40)

The presenter, Luke Currier, is a lifelong gardener with experience in orchard management, animal husbandry, landscaping, and sustainable forestry. He has a Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) through Midwest Permaculture. He is also a tonsured reader in the Orthodox Church. He is currently writing a book on the intersection of Permaculture and Orthodox Christianity. He holds a BA in Theology from St. Katherine College in San Marcos, CA, as well as an MA in Social Justice from Kilns College in Bend, OR.

Permaculture:

"Permaculture is a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted & thoughtful observation rather than protracted & thoughtless labour; of looking at plants & animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single-product system." - Bill Mollison (the founder of permaculture)