



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – August 2016

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As many of you know, quiet little Calistoga was shaken up in mid-July when the alleged robbers of an armored truck in nearby Windsor were spotted in town. The first man was quickly apprehended, but the whole town was instructed to shelter in place for over four hours, until the second man was found.

Most of the sisters were home when this occurred, but three of us were out in Santa Rosa on errands and advised not to return until the situation was resolved. All of us were acutely aware of our own powerlessness. Those at home knew that our doors wouldn't stop determined men with guns, and we who were away knew there was nothing we could do for our sisters who were sheltering in place.

These four hours gave us a tiny glimpse of the lives of our brothers and sisters in strife-ravaged inner cities, war-torn countries, etc. where worse occurrences happen every day. How do they bear it? No doubt, some bear it better than others, and sadly, some are crushed under the burden. But out of the worst persecution comes story after story of persecuted Christians who have found peace in the midst of nightmarish circumstances and have freely forgiven those responsible. Deprived of the illusory peace that this world offers, they have found the unshakeable peace of God.

So, here we are in Calistoga, with life back to normal, while so many of our persecuted brethren likely will never experience "normal" again. Certainly, we must pray that peace return to their ravaged lands. But let us not forget the lesson that they so eloquently teach us – that the only peace worth having is the one that even death can't take away.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE – Goodbye to Rocky

In late July, we had to say goodbye to sweet little Rocky, our geriatric hospice cat, who finally came to the end of his days. It's hard to believe that we only had him for just a bit more than a year – in that short time, he stole all the hearts of everybody he encountered (except perhaps the other cats!)

Rocky, no doubt, would have liked us to thank Jameson Animal Rescue Ranch, Wine Country Animal Lovers and our magnificent veterinarian Dr. Franquelyn for all they did for him and continue to do for the rest of our zoo. Thank you on behalf of Rocky and all the critters at Holy Assumption Monastery!



*Rocky -
the sweetest of cats!*

CASKETS

For several years now, our community has been finishing and selling caskets. It is a way to support ourselves, but far more importantly, doing this has privileged us to be part of people's lives in their last days. It is a sacred task that we are blessed to be involved in.



ST. ANNA CHURCH WORK PARTY

On Saturday July 16, the sisters were blessed by the company and gardening talents of some parishioners from St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville. Everyone pitched in to spruce up our grounds, including some of the youngest (and best!) helpers we've ever had. Later, we enjoyed a pizza lunch while listening to Sister Pearl read "Mimi the Mynah" to the children. After lunch, Mother Melania offered a few words to the adults on finding God's will in our lives. Thank you, St. Anna's, for a lovely day!



We're ready for our next job!



Can I put this on my resume?



Who enjoys picture books more - the kids or the adults?



Oops! I think I just lost half of my audience!



SPEAKING OF WORK PARTIES

Thanks to our dear friend Elena Gutteridge, who is always willing to lend the sisters a hand and can also be quite a work party unto herself!



Four thousand apples down - four to go!!



Do you think this would work better if we took the potting mix out of the bag?



I LOVE working at the monastery!

August 2016 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 7:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	6 8:40am Hours/Divine Liturgy <u>TRANSFIGURATION</u> 5:00pm Vigil (both at Monastery)
7 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	8 7:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	9 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>St. Herman of Alaska</u>	10	11	12	13 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
14 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St. Simeon Parish) 5:00pm Vigil followed by Lenten meal (at Monastery)	15 9:00am Meeting of the Bishop/ Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>DORMITION</u> (Monastery's Altar Feast)	16 7:00pm Lamentations Vigil (at Monastery)	17 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>3rd Day of Dormition</u>	18 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)	19 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>TRANSFIGURATION</u> (Old Style)	20 5:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)
21 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery)	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:00pm Vigil (at St Simeon Parish)
28 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at St Simeon Parish) <u>DORMITION</u> (Old Style) 7:00pm Vigil (at Monastery)	29 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy (at Monastery) <u>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</u>	30	31	<p>WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US for our Dormition Celebration!</p> <p>Please see the invitation included with this newsletter.</p>		

SAVE THE DATE:

**Friday/Saturday Nov 11-12 – Permaculture Workshop
led by Luke Carrier**