



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – December 2017

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

In the aftermath of the terrible fires in our area, hundreds of signs proclaim “Thanks, first responders,” “Thank you, firefighters,” “Thanks, first responders, for saving our homes,” ... One variation, though, caught our eye – “Thank you, ALL responders.”

While the first responders richly deserve all the gratitude given them, this sign reminds us that the preservation and rebuilding of our communities involves not just the first responders, but a whole host of others – firefighters, police, paramedics, etc. who took over for those who were first on the scene; the community members who offered housing, food, and a shoulder to cry on; the PG&E crews; the insurance adjusters; the building contractors; etc. And this is just the beginning. Our business associates, friends and loved ones who suffered loss will be needing our support for years to come. So, as we are called on to be second, third, or fourth responders, may we “not grow weary in well-doing.” Rather, let’s patiently and joyfully help bear each other’s burdens. And let’s thank the many “responders” in our lives who have been there year in and year out as we struggle with the everyday annoyances and true catastrophes of lives. And, then, by God’s grace, we will not just recover, but grow stronger than ever.

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania

and the community

of Holy Assumption Monastery

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS MERCIES!

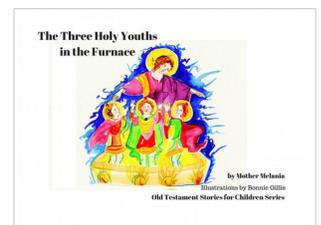
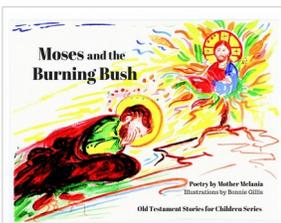
As we reported last month, the monastery escaped harm from the Tubbs Fire. What we didn’t mention was that Calistoga Orthodox Wines (COW), our joint venture with St. Simeon Parish, lost the entire 2017 vintage of Kagor in the fire. The grapes had been harvested and crushed at Tom Eddy Winery just the day before the fire started. The combination of the intense heat, mandatory evacuations, and extended power outages ruined all the wine in the outside vats, including our Kagor (roughly 900 gallons). Due to a mistake on our part in updating our policy, our insurance adjuster advised us that the company would probably deny our claim. So, we were waiting for official word before asking for help to tide us over some rough months.

To our great astonishment (and even greater gratitude), our adjuster has just informed us that we will be given a settlement large enough to pay COW’s current debts and provide a cushion for going forward. So, in a few short weeks, COW’s situation has gone from precarious to solid. We are very thankful to Adam, our adjuster, for his diligence and graciousness in finding a way to help us. And, of course, we are deeply grateful to God for His many mercies, undeserved as they are. May He grant the monastery and COW to glorify Him the rest of our days!



NEW CHILDREN’S BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

Moses and the Burning Bush and *The Three Holy Youths in the Furnace* are now available for sale through Amazon and here at the monastery. Bookstore discounts are also available. For more information, call us at 707-942-6244 or email us at sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com.



NOVEMBER RETREAT



Abbot Tryphon

On November 4 Abbot Tryphon spoke with us on *Incarnating Christ in the Midst of Our World*. Using a variety of anecdotes, Abbot Tryphon reminded us that we do not incarnate Christ in the world by convincing others of the rightness of our position, but by being who we really are in Christ and by loving each other humbly and sacrificially. For example, Father (who is a convert to Orthodoxy) told the story of being at Mount Athos and grumbling at the behavior of German tourists. Then, he clearly “heard” the Theotokos gently confront him with “You were a tourist at one time, too.” The next day he met a German tourist who only spoke German and English and who wanted to convert. Deeply repentant, Abbot Tryphon was able to help a man that just a day before he could only grumble against.

He then told the story of how he went from trying to figure out how to get his parents to convert to Orthodoxy to just praying to be the best son that he could be. From there, he watched God working in his parents’ lives until they did become Orthodox.

Father also spoke of how people are starving for God but don’t know it because a false god has been preached to them. Many of us were taught that when we sin God turns His back on us. The fact, though, is that when we sin, WE turn OUR backs on God. Yet He doesn’t respond by walking away, but by coming to us through His Incarnation and then repeatedly pursuing us as we continue to turn away from Him. We, in response to such love, need to turn back towards Him and then join Him in persistently loving the people whom He made. To the extent we do that, we will truly be incarnating Christ in this world.



Nobody has trouble staying awake when Abbot Tryphon gives a talk!



HERE & THERE

*Ss. Peter & Paul Church,
Santa Rosa – Christmas
Bazaar & Food Fest*

Thanksgiving at the Monastery

*A group from Church of the Redeemer (Palo Alto) came
for a work party (olive harvesting) and a short talk on
the Saturday after Thanksgiving*



Be right back!



*Where's the
turkey?*



Looking for me?



Expert olive harvesters!



*Thanks, everyone! How soon
can you come back?*



ZOO UPDATE – Dog Days & Bunny Business



*Daisy - the best dog in the
universe!*

When our friends Duncan and Rachelle went on holiday, their yellow lab Daisy honored us with her presence for a week. Daisy graciously walked several of the sisters every day and reminded us that few things are so important that they can’t be delayed for one minute in order to pet a dog. The latter truth, however, is one that the cats vehemently deny. So, please don’t mention it to them!



*We miss you,
Ricochet.*

We are sorry to report that Ricochet Rabbit is no longer with us – he was getting on in years for a bunny. Because bunnies are very social, it was hard for Chiquito to be alone. Between that and the onset of cold weather, we decided Chiquito needed an indoor hutch, where he could be warm and interact more with the sisters. He DID seem a bit skeptical of the new arrangements at first, but he has decided that being coddled a bit by nuns isn’t such a bad thing after all.



*Chiquito: I could get
used to this.*

December 2017 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

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

website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

NOTE – All services are at the Monastery until necessary repairs are completed at St. Simeon Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes.					1	2 5:00pm Vigil
3 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	4	5 6:00pm Vigil	6 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Nicholas of Myra</u>	7	8	9 5:00pm Vigil
10 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	11	12 6:00pm Vigil	13 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Herman of Alaska</u>	14	15	16 5:00pm Vigil
17 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	18	19 6:00pm Vigil	20 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. Ignatius the Godbearer</u>	21	22	23 5:00pm Vigil
24 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers 5:00pm Christmas Eve meal 9:30pm Vigil	25 12:00am Divine Liturgy <u>Nativity of our Lord</u>	26	27	28	29	30 5:00pm Vigil
31 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Vigil	1 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great/ Circumcision of our Lord					