



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – September 2017

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Many of you are probably familiar with Joni Eareckson Tada, a well-known Evangelical Christian. Now 67 years old, she became quadriplegic fifty years ago, at the age of 17, through a diving accident. Eventually, she became an accomplished artist by teaching herself to paint with a paintbrush held in her mouth. She also became a greatly respected and loved advocate for the disabled. About fifteen years ago, her already great afflictions increased dramatically when she started suffering excruciating pain due to a weakened spinal column from sitting for so many years. She does not consider herself a hero, but as a very real and vulnerable human being who wakes up every morning knowing how desperately she needs Christ to help her through her days.

The point of the above paragraph is simply to give the context for a remarkable quote from this woman whose entire life is a testament to the power of God to bring good out of the worst circumstances:

God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

God grant that we may, at least in some small degree, exemplify this truth in our own lives.

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE – Simba, the Agricultural Engineer



Simba doing quality control

For some time now, we have been repairing our irrigation system and also making it capable of running on water from our koi pond. Much to our joy (and relief!) the system is now functional (although it needs some fine-tuning and also needs to be extended to cover more of the monastery). However, Simba is not nearly as happy as we are. He had quite taken to this project, especially the digging of ditches for the irrigation pipe. With the irrigation system so near completion, Simba started to consider trying his hand (or paw) at construction work, only to discover that the deck roof and the bookstore are finished! Not to worry, Simba! We haven't even STARTED St. Nicholas House!

SPEAKING OF THE BOOKSTORE (and the deck roof)



Pretty as a picture!

We are delighted to report that our bookstore (now officially named *Monastery Books and Gifts*) is open! While we don't expect to outsell *Barnes and Noble* any time soon, we were very cheered by our grand opening (August 16). Twenty or thirty people came by – some tourists and some of our stalwart friends. As the days have gone by, more people are becoming aware of our little store, and we have high hopes for the future. Come by and see what we've got!



What ARE we going to do with the tree?

If completing the bookstore weren't enough to celebrate, we had the added joy of seeing the deck roof completed in time for our Dormition celebration. We are deeply grateful to George Kulya, his brothers Anatoliy and Fedor, Sergei Moroz, Tony Tousley, and Luke Lindeman for making this possible. But special thanks go to Anatoliy, for the many hours he put in to make sure that the structure was finished on time. May God richly bless all our wonderful friends!



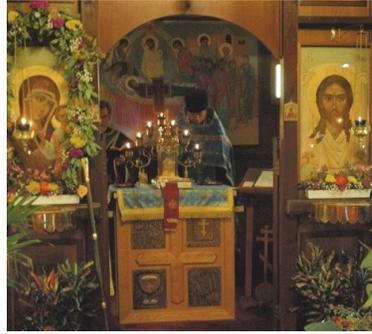
*Our beautiful new deck roof
(the part without the tree!)*

DORMITION 2017

Glory be to God for a magnificent feast of the Dormition. This year, for the first time, we had the honor and joy of having His Grace, Bishop DANIEL, with us for both vigil and Divine Liturgy. Serving vigil with His Grace were Father Vladimir Morozov (interim priest, St. Sergious of Radonezh, San Francisco – ROCOR) and Deacon Nicholas Carr (St. Seraphim, Santa Rosa - OCA). Also joining us at vigil were about 30 pilgrims. The next morning around 150 pilgrims joined us for the hierarchical Liturgy. Serving with Bishop DANIEL were Father Vladimir Morozov, Father Lawrence Margitich (St. Seraphim), Father Andrew Smith (Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Menlo Park - OCA), Father Kirill Sokolov (Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco – OCA), Deacon Jeremiah Crawford (St. Seraphim), and Subdeacon John Gainer (Elevation of the Holy Cross, Sacramento - OCA). As always, Father Stephan Meholick (St. Nicholas, San Anselmo - OCA), several of his parishioners, and a few other friends swelled the ranks of our little choir. Our thanks to all who served, sang, brought food, and otherwise participated in honoring our holy Lady the Theotokos. May we see you all and many more friends next year!



The sisters greet Bishop DANIEL as he enters the church



The royal doors



His Grace, Bishop DANIEL speaks a few words after vigil



Bishop DANIEL, Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Fr. Kyrill Sokolov



Cross procession



Bell ringers



HERE AND THERE

Return of the heron!



*Watch out for the koi!
I'm back!!*

Trip to Bodega Bay



Where's the car?!

The trouble with trees ...



Can we repair this with wood glue?



*No, it's not a tree frog,
but it sure looks like one!*

A NOTE CONCERNING DONATIONS TO ST. SIMEON CHURCH

In that St. Simeon is in a time of transition, please make all checks payable to “**WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE**”, and write on the Memo line “**CALISTOGA CHURCH**” for the time being.

September 2017 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
<i>Due to major repairs at St. Simeon Church, all services are at the Monastery until further notice.</i>					1	2 5pm Vigil
3 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	4	5	6	7 6pm Vigil	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Nativity of the Theotokos</u>	9 5pm Vigil
10 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	11	12	13 6pm Vigil	14 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Elevation of the Holy Cross</u>	15	16 5pm Vigil
17 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	18	19 6pm Vigil	20 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Great Martyr Eustathius</u>	21	22	23 5pm Vigil
24 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	25 6pm Vigil	26 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Apostle & Evangelist John</u>	27	28	29	30 5pm Vigil

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday November 4

Incarnating Christ in the Midst of Our World

led by **Abbot Tryphon** of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA