



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – September 2018

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

We wish to express our deepest thanks for all your help for Michael and Angie. For an encouraging update, please see the next page. Here, though, we want to address a couple of questions that we've been asked. First, why did we choose to help Michael and Angie when there are so many people who have been devastated by the fires in Santa Rosa? Second, are they getting all the government assistance that they are eligible for?

To the first question, the simple answer is Michael and Angie are our friends. We asked you to help them because we know, love and trust them. A longer answer comes from the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man was not condemned for failing to go through the world alleviating poverty. He was condemned for walking over the man on his doorstep. Had he taken the time to know Lazarus, he would have realized what an extraordinary man God had placed on his doorstep. So, God put Michael and Angie on our doorstep and we got to know them, and we discovered what wonderful people THEY are.

As for government subsidies, a lot of people fall through the cracks for one reason or another. If we don't help them, who will? But the bigger question is why do we cede to the government the primary role in helping those in need, while we take at most a secondary role? Ironically, the deeply Christian roots of our society are part of the answer. Assistance for the poor is a given. Somehow, though, this truth got morphed into "the government should help the poor." But isn't it the duty, glory, and joy of the Church to help the poor, who are specially cared for and beloved of God? Yes, we should wisely utilize governmental aid, but that is no substitute for loving the people God places in our lives. When we ignore the poor among us, we lose the opportunity to gain the richness of their friendship and God's blessing on our life.

The blessings we have gotten from knowing Michael and Angie are much greater than we could ever give them. We are grateful to them for their example of love and goodness under great hardship. We are grateful to all who reached out to help them – many of whom are modern-day versions of the widow with the two mites. We are grateful to God for His love and care for us all. May we all grow further together in the love of Christ!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania
and the community
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

ZOO UPDATE: more special guests

Not to be outdone by a mere cat (cover your ears Cookie, Philly, Balou, and Simba!), Petie arranged a visit from his former servants, Eric & Natalie Molfino, along with their children, Samuel and Christina. The Molfinos, who live in Washington, were traveling in the area. So, having received Petie's summons, they came for a brief visit before they had to catch their plane home. Petie expressed his pleasure by letting Eric pet him before giving a "where have you been for the last ten years?" bite. We didn't get any pictures of that tender moment, but we did get some pictures of Samuel and Christina with the well-mannered Sunrise who saves HIS bites (nibbles, really) for his caretaker's toes. Anyway, it was great to finally meet Eric and family, and we're all looking forward to the next time they can visit.



Sunrise is in there somewhere, we promise!



Look, Ma, one hand!

DORMITION 2018

Preparations



Have broom, will travel.



It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it!



When I'm done, can I take a dip in the koi pond?



I'm exhausted from all my hard work!

Dormition Vigil



His Eminence enters the church.



His Eminence & the faithful



Three of our stalwarts ☺



A light repast

Dormition Liturgy & Feast



The blessing of the Lord!



Fr. Stephan Meholic & the beautiful choir



Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos!



The Cross procession



Festal meal & fellowship

3rd Day of Dormition



Fr. Vladimir Morozov



Let us sing unto the Lord!



A somewhat smaller attendance than on the Feast proper!



Fr. Vladimir, Mat. Maria, & Bulya

UPDATE ON MICHAEL & ANGELA

Again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous response to Michael and Angela Koerber's plight. The benefit concert was an utter joy – a lovely combination of Larry, Kai, and Sanna's incredible music, Michael's stunning pictures (he sold eleven!!!), and a down-home atmosphere (complete with an uncooperative mike and a guest appearance by Waffles the cat). Between the benefit concert and the GoFundMe campaign, well over \$15,000 was raised. Currently, Michael and Angela are house-sitting for a former landlord while they check out different properties for their suitability as art studios. A friend of the monastery repaired a 2003 SUV, which has given them the ability to travel as needed. Another friend is creating a web page for Michael's art. Last but not least, a gallery owner or two have expressed interest in showing Michael's work. So, things are looking up indeed!



Great art ...



Great band ...



Great cat ...



Great artist, great lady, great guitarist ... & a nun

September 2018 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
						1 5:00pm Vigil
2 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	3	4	5	6	7 6:00pm Vigil	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Nativity of the Theotokos</u> 5:00pm Vigil
9 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	10	11	12	13 6:00pm Vigil	14 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Exaltation of the Cross</u>	15 5:00pm Vigil
16 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	17	18	19 6:00pm Vigil	20 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Great Martyr Eustathius</u>	21	22 5:00pm Vigil
23 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	24 6:00pm Vigil	25 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ven. Sergius of Radonezh</u>	26	27	28	29 5:00pm Vigil
30 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy						

NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last minute changes and updates on repairs at St. Simeon Parish.