



## Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – June 2020

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

Phone: 707-942-6244; Email: [sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com)

Website: [www.holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com)



Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

My family were card players, particularly whist (the precursor of bridge). When we would finish a hand, some of us would start talking about what we should have done differently, whether we should have bid a different suit, how many points we would have gotten if we had known what the other person had ... It wouldn't take long before my father would say, "no post-mortems!" (which, when I tried to repeat, usually came out "no mortem posts"). Then we would smile and start the next hand. I'm not sure why my father was averse to post-mortems in cards. Probably, he just wanted to get on to the next hand, and he knew that we were mostly talking just to talk. Yet, surely, good card players actually do need to engage in serious post-mortems to improve their game.

So, here we are in the midst of race riots and a pandemic, and I'm talking about card games?! Well, yes and no. I'm really talking about the post-mortems that many of us are engaging in right now, with the tone ranging from grief-stricken to stunned to panicked to outraged. We DO need to engage in post-mortems. Major cities are in flames. The shutdowns have caused major economic harm. The virus is still a threat. We HAVE to look at what we've done well and poorly so that we can do better. But that is all the more reason for each of us to ask ourselves, "How helpful have MY post-mortem pronouncements been and what's behind them? Am I talking to hear myself talk? To mask my fear by words? To have the pleasure of feeling right? To criticize leaders I despise?" If we haven't engaged in any of these, we are either saints or well on our way to becoming saints!

The depth of our problems is also all the more reason to ask, "What can I do that actually WILL help?" Most of us can't do much on a state or national level, but we can ALL do things on a local level. Bake cookies for your local police (the vast majority of whom are GOOD cops), firemen, or health care workers. Work with your local food bank. Reach out a hand in love and compassion to somebody you disagree with. The possibilities are endless, and there is some unique way that EACH OF US can contribute to the healing of our nation. So, no need to despair. After all, God used the greatest of evils (the murder of the God-Man) to produce the greatest of goods (the salvation of the world). Surely, He is capable of bringing great good from THESE great evils and – amazingly – even allow us to participate. So, let's get busy!

with love in Christ,  
*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

### ZOO UPDATE – Little Critters

Just because they're smaller than a thumbnail doesn't mean the ladybugs aren't important members of our community!



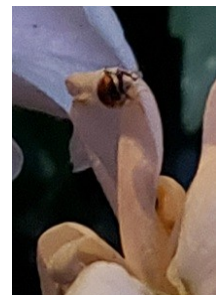
*Let us out!!!*



*Here's a good spot ...*



*and another good spot*



*Ah, freedom!*

## ***LIFE IN THE PANDEMIC***

Glory to God for the easing up of quarantine that has allowed us to welcome parishioners again for Divine Liturgy! Of course, with social distancing and masks, it's not quite the same as it used to be. Still, it's definitely a step in the right direction, and we are deeply grateful to be together with at least some of our extended family again. Hopefully, we'll be seeing more and more of you soon!

*Taking Mother's Day to the Mothers while still under quarantine*



*And we thought WE were bringing the ray of sunshine!*



*Stop gardening for a minute and let us wish you Happy Mother's Day!*



*We can wish Happy Mother's Day, to the Dads, too!*

*Leave-taking of Pascha with Fr. Constantine Efstathiou – the first day parishioners were able to join us for Liturgy!*



*Ah, it's nice to have life back to normal!*



*Well, almost!*



*But it's okay.*



*We're just grateful to have our parish back!*

*Ascension with Fr. Nicholas Carr – we DID have some parishioners here, honest!*



*Have mask, will travel.*



*No matter what's going on, Christ HAS ascended in glory!*



*If table lifting were an Olympic sport, we'd be all set!*



*Like I said, there WERE parishioners here, honest!*



## ***JUNE CALENDAR – somewhat tentative, but not a COMPLETE mystery!***

- Sunday Hours/Divine Liturgy – 9:40 AM/10:00 AM EXCEPT FOR PENTECOST. All Divine Liturgies are open to the parish, but with continued social distancing, masks, etc. Sadly, parishioners cannot yet join us for meals.
- Saturday June 6 (Soul Saturday) Hours/Divine Liturgy – 8:40 AM/9:00 AM
- Sunday June 7 (Pentecost) Hours/Divine Liturgy – 8:40 AM/9:00 AM; 1:00-2:30 PM – **“COVID-19 and the Value of Life”** Zoom talk by V. Rev. Fr. Spyridon Jajeh, Clinical Pharmacist, Director of Hospital Pharmacy, and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- Saturday June 27 – Zoom talk by Robin Wellman about St. Peter the Aleut (details to come)
- Monday June 29 (Sts. Peter and Paul) – Hours/Divine Liturgy – 8:40 AM/9:00 AM TENTATIVE