



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this at St. John Monastery in Manton. We evacuated here Monday morning September 28 due to the Glass Fire. Last we heard, the firefighters have kept the fire out of Calistoga city limits, but we have friends who have already been greatly impacted.

I'm always at a loss what to write in times of disaster, when we have been spared but our friends have not. This time, though, I am reminded of the woman who was crying her eyes out in church when the priest came in and said, "What's wrong?" She replied, "I've been deserted by God!" When he asked her why she thought that, she said, "For three years now, nothing has gone wrong!"

That may seem a strange thing to say, but if you look at the lives of God's "favorites" - Joseph, David, Jeremiah, St. John the Baptist ... - it's clear that God's favor comes with trials.

Our trials have been minor so far. Yes, we were evacuated, but we have received a huge outpouring of love and support from our faithful friends, the brothers have welcomed us with open arms, and we sense that God is giving us an opportunity to delve farther into the life of the Spirit. So, we are deeply grateful.

But to those of you who have suffered much more serious trials, take heart! God has not forgotten you! You may not see now what good thing He is working, but certainly He IS working a good deed. So, may we all endure with grace the trials that come our way so that we too may be among God's "favorites"!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania and the sisters



Well, we have a good excuse for not knowing what our calendar looks like for October. But we hope to get home soon and welcome our friends back to Sunday morning Divine Liturgies!

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat. Nov 14, 10:00AM - 12:00 PM: Zoom talk with Fr. Anthony Roeber - Ss. Martin & Philip and the Nativity Fast

Sat. Dec 12, 10:00AM - 12:00 PM: Zoom talk with Bishop Daniel - Walking to Bethlehem

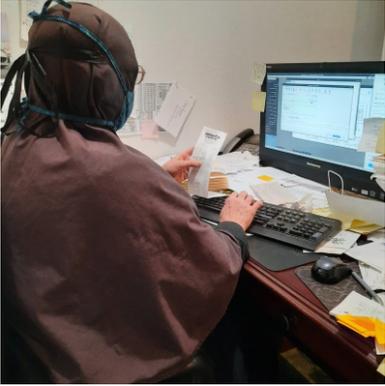
1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

LIFE GOES ON!

Evacuated or not, life goes on. So, we're grateful for the opportunity to help around St. John Monastery in various capacities, which has been enormously helpful in keeping an even keel.



Yes, monasteries have office work to do, too!



Hey! I've got five minutes before the NEXT batch of repairs!



Corn cob doing a mean hedgehog imitation



Well, this should get us through supper, anyway.



When we're done with this, we'll harvest the next batch.



Then we get to eat the fruits of our labors.

ZOO UPDATE

We're happy to report that we persuaded all the zoo to evacuate with us. Well, all except the fish, who are being looked after by North Bay Animal Service - God bless them! As for the birds and cats, they're not overjoyed, but they're pretty good troopers. They haven't warmed up to Zujsa, the St. John Monastery dog, though. That's too bad because we're thinking of kidnapping her when we go home!



Philly & Goolya: we may be cuddling, but we AREN'T friends!



This is our indoor aviary, but we do let our attendant share it.



Zujsa: WHY don't the cats and birds like me?!