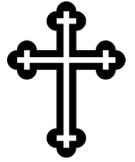




HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

A boy would come home from school and say to his mom, "Joe is best in math. Lisa is best in reading. Tom is the best soccer player. But how about ME? What am I best in?" Then, one day his teacher mentioned what a great musician he was. That made him happy - for a little while. But of course, the day came when he met a better musician. And then he had to find another identity - one that was more capable of surviving the knocks of daily life.

We in our country are in an identity crisis. Who are we individually? Are we defined by our jobs? Our education? Our talents and avocations? Or are we defined by our race? Our gender? Our sexual orientation? These options are often presented as binary choices. But surely, ALL these things have something to do with who we are and who we allow ourselves to become.

And who are we as a country? One nation under God? Mankind's last best hope? Or are we splintered groups hopelessly at war with one another? An irredeemably racist country? I am unabashedly patriotic and I think this a wonderful country, but of course we are far from perfect, and our first and last and only hope is Christ, and we forget that to our peril.

How are we Christians to understand this moment? Christ says, "To him who overcomes ... I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it" (Rev. 2:17). While our circumstances and genetics undeniably mold us, who we ARE is who we are in Christ, and that remains a mystery known only to God and to us.

On the other hand, our identity is inextricably tied up in others. This is revealed in the doctrine of the Trinity - all Three Persons are identical except for Who They are in relationship to Each Other. So, we each become who we ARE in Christ as we love God and as we love and forgive those around us. And who ARE these people? They are broken people just like us. But also just like us, they are mysteries whom we will never fully know and yet with whom we are inextricably bound.

So, here we are in our national identity crisis. As we find our own identities by loving God and neighbor, may God grant healing to us, our neighbors, and our country!

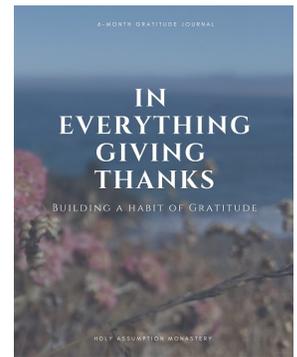
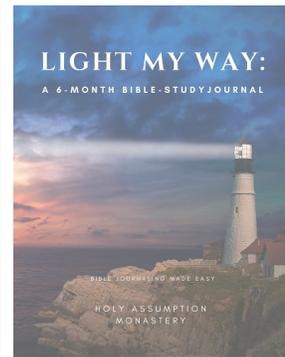
with love in Christ,

Mother Melania and the sisters

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

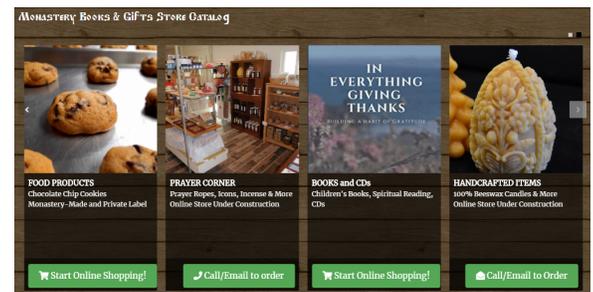
Our second journal should be available for sale shortly! *Light My Way: A 6-month Bible Study Journal* is designed for people doing a read-through-the-Bible plan, following their church's lectionary, etc. So, the journal simply provides basic questions on the meaning of the text and how it applies to our lives.

And don't forget our first journal, *In Everything Giving Thanks: Building a Habit of Gratitude*



Please click on the titles or the cover pictures to download abbreviated pdf versions of the books. If you like what you see, please consider buying several copies for Christmas gifts. Many thanks!

And please check out our newly updated [online bookstore site!](#)



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THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM FIRE



When we came home to an intact monastery after being evacuated, we held an Akathist of Thanksgiving to God for His mercy. But we wanted to do more. So, we asked Fr Lawrence Margitich (our confessor) if he could come to do a molieben . He suggested, however, that we celebrate the Eucharist (which, of course, means "Thanksgiving") instead. So, we had the double blessing of celebrating the Eucharist and doing so with Fr. Lawrence. As long as we are on the topic of Thanksgiving, we are certainly deeply grateful to God for the gift of such a good confessor. Thank You, Lord, for Your mercies!

AROUND THE MONASTERY

Harvest decorations



Pumpkin carving with power tools!

Hauling pond water overflow to rain barrels



That's a lot of water to haul!



Good thing we have wagons!



Final destination!

ZOO UPDATE - BUBBLES

It's been brought to our attention that we haven't mentioned Bubbles the parakeet in a long time. Actually, we may never have mentioned Bubbles by that name. You would have known her as "Crackle," of Snap, Crackle, and Pop. After Snap and Pop died, it seemed best for Crackle to get a new name. You'll have to ask the bird caretakers how they settled on that particular name, though. Bubbles is well advanced in years for a parakeet, but she remains her chirpy self (literally and figuratively) and we hope she chirps away for years to come!

Bubbles - beautiful even when molting!



CALENDAR

SUNDAYS - Hours/Divine Liturgy at 9:40AM/10:00AM

SATURDAY NOV 21 (Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple), TENTATIVE Hours/Divine Liturgy at 8:40AM/9:00AM

ZOOM RETREATS

SATURDAY NOV 14, 10:00AM-12:00PM - Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, *Ss. Martin & Philip and the Nativity Fast*

SATURDAY DEC 12, 10:00AM-12:00PM - Bishop DANIEL, *Walking to Bethlehem*



Join the Sisters of Holy Assumption Monastery on
Tuesday, December 1st, 2020
as we participate in **#GivingTuesday**.

All donations made to the monastery on this day will go
towards the New St. Nicholas House Fund.

Rebuilding this house is essential for the monastery
to continue to work and grow

We hope to raise \$20,000

before the end of the calendar year, which will bring our funding to
\$250,000, a quarter of our total goal!

Plan now to donate towards St. Nicholas House
on Giving Tuesday 2020, December 1st.
Checks may be mailed in advance (memo: #GivingTuesday)
to 1519 Washington St, Calistoga, CA 94515,
or donations made online all day on December 1st.
www.holyassumptionmonastery.com/support