



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Often, when I'm talking to people who are having trouble in relationships, they'll say something like "Why does she always have to be right?" "Why does he always get his way?" "But if I do that, she'll get the upper hand," "Why does he get to do __?," etc.

After all these years of asking too many such questions, it has finally occurred to me to ask THESE questions – What game am I playing? What's the goal? Who are my opponents? The more I ask myself those questions, the more I realize that I play a lot of dumb games, and that they all share one or both of these goals – 1) make my life easier, 2) avoid having to look at my own failings. Unfortunately, that makes anyone who gets in the way of those goals my opponent at best and my enemy at worst.

There is only one 'game' worth playing, though, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind – and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27). The goal is for us all to attain the Kingdom of Heaven together. If that's the goal, my opponents/enemies can never be other humans, but rather the demons and my own sin.

So, the next time we find ourselves asking the above questions, what if we instead ask ourselves "How can I help heal my relationship with this person?" Yes, that sometimes will involve confronting the person, but first it will involve confronting myself about the dumb games I'm playing – and reminding myself that the 'game' I really need and want to win is the one that ends with us all together in the Kingdom of Heaven.

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania and the sisters

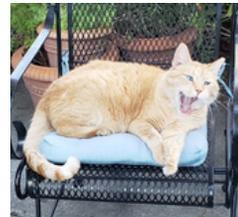
ZOO UPDATE - Rogues' Gallery



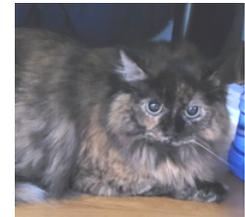
*Going for a walk is exhausting!
I need my rest!*



Don't let the cat out of the bag!



Did you hear me?!



Goolya's owl imitation

WORK PARTY

Nativity of Christ Church, Novato



Our pantry thanks you!!!



One more push!!!

GRAPE CRUSH - 2022



*Fr. Ninos Oshana and the sisters at
the blessing of the grapes.*



*We are grape-ful for
this year's harvest!*

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS - Divine Liturgy, 10AM

for other services, please see our website

ZOOM RETREATS

October 8 - John Burnett; What if We Could Live as Mother Gaurilia: The Africa Fund after 18 Years

November (date TBD) - tentative

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

SEPTEMBER ZOOM TALK

On Saturday, September 10, the monastery and friends gathered for a set of reflections related to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. This year, Fr. Anthony Roeber chose to use a section of the Eucharistic Prayer or anaphora of St. Basil the Great in which the history of salvation is related through the Nativity and then identifies the Christ as one who chose “to be born under the Law, that he might condemn sin in his flesh, that they who were dead in Adam might be made alive in him, thy Christ. And becoming a citizen of this world and giving commandments of salvation, he released us from the delusion of idols and brought us into a knowledge of thee, the true God and Father.”



Fr. Anthony Roeber

In reflecting on these words, Fr. Anthony pointed out that “knowledge” points to “right relationship” with God which means we need to be free of false notions of God so that we can conform ourselves to “commandments” that are really loving teachings that invite us to be made whole, capable of union with God. Fr. Anthony pointed out the Old Testament origins of the condemnation of idols, especially Zechariah 10: 2-4, about the people being like sheep “in trouble because there is no shepherd” that ties into Christ’s own identification of himself as the suffering servant Messiah of the poor. His reversal of the delusion of Genesis—the first humans’ decision to put their faith in the false teaching and false God of Satan makes us able as St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:18 of being part of the “image of the glory” of God grounded in the Cross and Resurrection. Being free from delusions about who God truly is and who we are, we can understand what Christ says in John 14:15—that if we love him, we should keep his commandments.

The reflections then turned to us in the “between time” after Cross and Resurrection but before the Second Coming. Fr. Anthony chose to point out the challenge of Colossians 1:24, where Paul writes of rejoicing in his own suffering “to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church.” Since Christ died once for all and cannot die again, nor is there anything lacking in that perfect sacrifice of the Cross. So, what St. Paul points to here is the mission of the members of the body of Christ who have to suffer in spreading the Gospel to all persons and peoples who have yet to be released from the delusion of idols that they can also live out the “commandments of salvation.” The Cross for us then may mean actual persecution, but perhaps more often being ignored or misunderstood so that the missionary task becomes long, wearisome, and sometimes apparently fruitless. That very Cross then guards us against falling into the delusion that our views of what God should be doing, and on what timetable, is what counts—rather than being patient in suffering, secure in the belief of his triumph over death. This is why we can pray with St. Basil’s anaphora that we call on God to be mindful “of those who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have enjoined us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them and of all thy people and upon them all pour out thy rich mercy, granting to all their petitions which are unto salvation.”

The discussion that followed led everyone back to the great mystery of the Cross and Resurrection and the deep presence of God in this world He loves at the same time that he has transcended the limits of time and space and already reigns victorious. If we are secure in that faith, then we too can hope to remain free from the “delusion of idols.”

<https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/september102022reflectionsonthecross>

ST NICHOLAS HOUSE UPDATE

Work continues apace on St. Nicholas House. As of this writing, the plumbing is nearly finished. The framing is scheduled to start next week and take roughly a month and a half to complete, if all goes well.

As we mentioned in last month’s newsletter, we will be doing one more fundraiser of this year. We’ll be sending out a brochure soon with more information. Many thanks for all your support!



Nice, but isn't it a bit short?



Well, that added some height, but it's not what we had in mind.



KIDS BOOK CORNER

Now that we have finished re-publishing our entire back catalog, we are working on several new series. If you are interested in staying up-to-date with our books, please click the link below to sign for Mother Melania’s Kids’ Books Newsletter. As a thank you for signing up, we’re including a pre-publication version of the first volume of Quiz Yourself on the Bible – Genesis. Click on the link below to sign up and receive your free quiz.



bit.ly/BibleQuizGenesis