



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

## JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

I was recently at Bank of America and saw a poster that said something like "In need of financial help? Erica has your back!" I'm not sure who Erica is – perhaps a cousin of Amazon's Alexa 😊. But whoever she (or it) is, I somehow doubt that she has our backs. Further, we're in a time when there is very little certainty that anybody has anybody else's back. That makes for a lot of angst.

Part of our problem is that we try to trust people with trust that only God is worthy of. Even a saint, who truly wills the best for us, can't always deliver on his godly desire. The rest of us are doing well if we consistently try our best to be there for our loved ones and repent when we fail. So, in the end, the only solid peace we can have is trusting that God indeed has our backs. This doesn't mean that God will protect us the way we wish that He would. But it does mean that we can count on Him to do what is truly good for us, even if, at times, that is painful. And when we know that, it just doesn't matter whether Erica has our back or not 😊.

with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania and the sisters

### ZOO UPDATE - Birds that start with 'C'

We are pleased to report that Pixley and Shannon have cemented their relationship and are fast friends (even if their friendship still includes a bit of bickering over food and status).

Also, space didn't permit us last month to introduce you to Cinnamon the cockatiel, whom we've been babysitting for about a month. He doesn't like people, but he is fast friends with the image of himself in his mirror. He also sings beautifully, and we've enjoyed having him here. He will be going home around July 4, but if he's up for a vacation again, we'd love to have him back!



*Now for my next song*



*Ready, steady ... POUNCE!*

## BIG NEWS ABOUT SAINT NICHOLAS HOUSE!



To our surprise and delight, demolition of the old St. Nicholas House is planned to begin in mid-July! If all goes well, the project should be complete in the summer of 2023. Although we are still in the process of securing a loan for the remainder of the building cost, we followed the advice of our contractor to take advantage of the current stabilization of material costs and begin work now. We will continue fundraising to cover the remaining cost and pay back the loan. Stay tuned for updates and info concerning construction progress and fundraisers! And thanks once again for all your love and support!

### CALENDAR

SUNDAYS - Divine Liturgy, 10AM  
for other services, please see our website

**THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM RETREATS IN JULY OR AUGUST**

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## JUNE ZOOM TALK

On Saturday, June 11, the Monastery community heard a retreat talk given by Fr Anthony Roeber that focused on the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul. Fr. Anthony began by explaining that the commemoration of the martyrdom of the two apostles is very ancient, with sources in both the East and West showing that this feast was universally commemorated in the undivided Church.

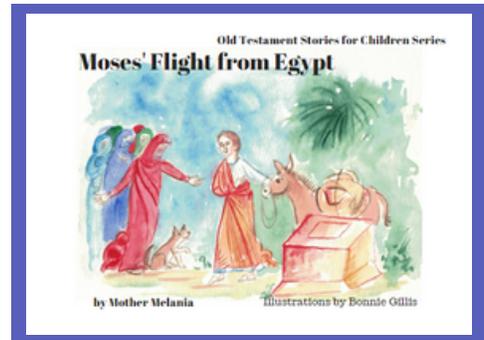


At the same time, it bears remembering that the fast that precedes the Feast of June 29, although referred to now as the “Apostles’ Fast,” really began as a post-Pentecost return to fasting after the fast-free days of the Paschal Season and the week following Pentecost. The identification of the fast with the Apostles only began to emerge considerably later in the Church’s history, and references to it can be found starting in the ninth century and beyond. Fr. Anthony also pointed out that in both the East and the West, the two apostles are always commemorated together, with St Peter always named first. The work of the two apostles in the ancient city of Antioch also explains why the two apostles are, to this day, honored as the patrons of the Patriarchate of Antioch. Although the Latin West in later medieval times tended to celebrate St Peter on the 29th with a separate commemoration of St Paul on June 30th, that practice has been abolished and both East and West celebrate the two apostles on the day that commemorates their martyrdoms, by oral tradition occurring in the city of Rome. The practice of naming St. Peter first reflects his being called before St Paul and St Peter having been the first to enter the tomb, as well as the Lord’s own command to Peter, that once he was restored to the company of the apostles after his denying Christ three times, he was to “strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32). In the questions that followed the reflections, some attention was drawn to the nature of St Peter’s “primacy” of preaching the Gospel on Pentecost, on his confession of his own need to see that the Gospel was to be preached to all people without regard to the observance of the Law; and that the gift of faith given to him by Christ’s Father is the foundation upon which the Church stands. Although the two apostles disagreed with one another for a time on the question of the observance of the Law by converts, their reconciliation is shown both by the ancient tradition of a joint commemoration of their martyrdom, and by the iconographic representation of the two embracing one another.

<https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/june112022honoringsaintspeterpaul>

## KIDS BOOK CORNER

As promised, we are continuing to reprint the original *Old Testament Stories for Children* books. *Moses' Flight from Egypt* should be available in paperback by mid-month. It is available NOW until July 31 at [bit.ly/MosesFlightBookFunnel](https://bit.ly/MosesFlightBookFunnel) as a free pdf download. Please check it out and leave a review. Thanks!



### A LOVELY VISIT

On Saturday June 18, we hosted members of St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church, Hayward, CA. After a tour, lunch, and a talk from Mother Melania, they did an amazing amount of cleanup around the monastery grounds. We are grateful for the time we spent together and hope to see them again soon!



Multi-tasking: eating lunch & listening to a talk at the same time

### MARCH FOR LIFE, SACRAMENTO

Several of the sisters were able to participate in the Walk for Life, Sacramento, on June 22. They were grateful for the opportunity and encouraged by the Orthodox believers present there, along with all others supporting life.



Sisters and some of the faithful together at the March