HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I learned a new word recently, affordance: *a **quality of an object, or an environment, which allows an individual to perform an action.*** For example, a knob affords twisting, while a cord affords pulling.

Then, Lent would be an affordance that allows fasting, almsgiving, and prayer (or at least makes them easier to remember!). So what? Well, fasting is an affordance that allows me to say no to my gluttony and my self-absorption in general. Almsgiving is an affordance that allows me to say yes to love of neighbor. Prayer is an affordance that allows me to say yes to God. And each of these practices gives depths to the other two.

Lots of affordances here! Let's afford ourselves of these opportunities and see what happens!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania and the sisters

CALENDAR

After years of having a priest nearly every Sunday, we no longer have that blessing. So, in order to receive the Eucharist regularly, but also maintain regular Sunday service, we have developed the following schedule:

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month:
Liturgy or Typika at the monastery, 10am

2nd &4th Sundays of the month:
Liturgy at monastery if there's a priest, 10am
Otherwise, we will attend a local church.

Please check our website for specifics.

Many thanks to the priests who graciously serve here as they are able. God bless them richly!

ZOO UPDATE: Petie & Sunrise - Learning to Get Along?

Not friends yet, but considering it!

Birds of a feather do not always flock together, as we found when we adopted Sunrise, our second African Gray parrot, in 2015. The two birds look similar, but they have very different personalities:

Petie is fearful and slow to trust, but fiercely loyal once he forms bonds, Sunrise is happy-go-lucky and confident, but does not problem-solve or vocalize with words as much as Petie. They mixed about as well as oil and water, and after several nasty fights over food, we developed a system to keep them separated 24/7. It was far from an ideal situation, but Sunrise desperately needed a home. So, we did what we could to keep both birds safe and healthy.

A few weeks ago, both birds seemed especially frustrated with long days inside the aviary. The sisters who look after them were getting frustrated with the constant effort to keep them off each other's cages (trying to steal each other's food). Finally, a suggestion from a retired special-ed teacher inspired us to try something radical: eliminate any opportunity for them to fight for food inside the aviary, and then let them loose with each other. This would be their chance to learn how to live together.

We watched them very closely the first week, waiting to hear sounds of a fight or to find an injured bird (Petie!) in a corner. But to our delight, they are doing great! Although we never find them right next to each other, we do see them in the same area: sitting on favorite perches or tearing up cardboard on the floor. No fights so far, and both birds seem more relaxed and cooperative. There's never a guarantee that they will continue to get along, but this feels like a big step in a healthy direction. Way to go, Sunrise and Petie!

ZOOM RETREATS

March 11 - Archbishop DANIEL, Crucified with Christ: The Cross in the Christian Life

NO APRIL ZOOM RETREAT

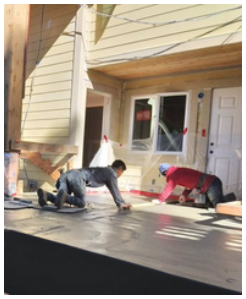
1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515
Phone: (707) 942-6244; Email: sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com
Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

ST NICHOLAS HOUSE PICTORIAL UPDATE

Well, MOSTLY pictorial. We do want to remind you that we will be having another matching grant campaign at Pascha. More information coming soon!

Concrete Pouring

Cool machines!



Great results!

Back Steps

Missing a step or two - Story of my life!

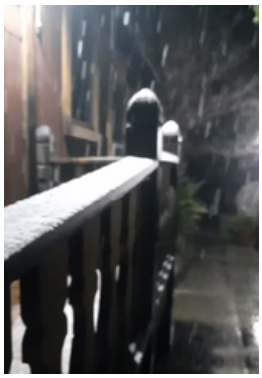
Further along, but messier - Also the story of my life!

Painting

Really shaping up!

Can we move in now?

SNOW IN CALISTOGA!

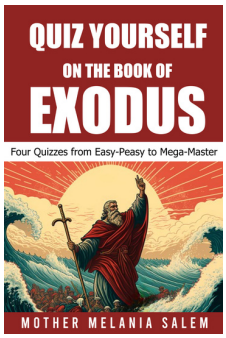


What can we say?

Except "Yay!"

BOOK UPDATES

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Exodus is now available as a $0.99 Kindle book here. Please buy one and leave a review. Many thanks!



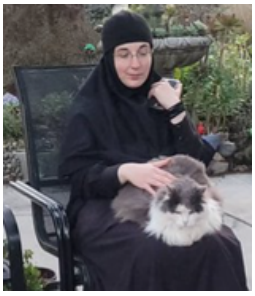
Once I have finished the Torah (the 5 books of Moses), I plan to make the 5 books available in one paperback. I have strong hopes of being done with the books of the Torah by June (I didn't say which year, though!)

Currently, I am working on *Quiz Yourself on the Book of Leviticus.* The challenge here, strangely enough, is the Easy-Peasy Quiz. How do I find ANY easy questions about Leviticus?! Hopefully, I'll have this out soon, and you can let me know!

And check out the March issue of Mother Melania's Monthly Missives. This month's focus in Beatrix Potter's *Tailor of Gloucester.* It's great for vocabulary. I had to look up 2 words in the first paragraph!

ST. ATHANASIUS WORK PARTY, FEB 11

Who's giving instructions?



Philly, of course

Start them young!

And keep going!