



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Years ago, I used to take the bus for a trip that involved a one-hour wait at a transfer station. The transfer station had a gazebo where we could stay out of the weather while waiting for the next bus. When I was tired of reading or working on my computer, I would sit and look around. In the rafters of the gazebo there were always a few drab, non-descript little brown birds. At least, that's what I originally thought. Once I actually started paying attention to them, though, I saw that these little birds aren't drab and non-descript at all. They're all exquisitely beautiful in their own way.

I just couldn't see their beauty because I'd never truly looked at them. And I'd never truly looked because I'd never bothered to wonder at the everyday miracles of God's creation. Thus, I had never before opened myself up to love these exquisite little gifts of God.

It makes me wonder. How much less have I opened myself to see and love the people I encounter, especially when their own exquisite beauty is hidden beneath traits I don't find beautiful at all?

I am still not very good at seeing beauty in people when it's cloaked by faults and foibles (in my opinion, at least!). But I can take a lesson from what I routinely do now when I see a little brown bird - look intently till I see its own special beauty. Then I smile and sometimes even remember to thank God for this everyday, yet unique, gift He has given me and His world.

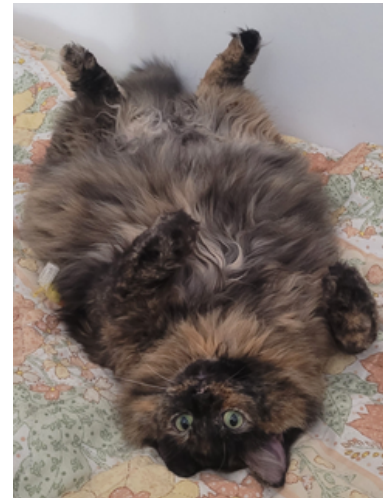
with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Goolya the Brave

Goolya has been mostly an indoor kitty. In recent months, she has been spending more time outside and learning to explore.

A little while ago, she decided to explore her way into St Nicholas House. This isn't all the easy to do because we do our best to keep St Nicholas House cat-free. Terrible, we know!! But we do have friends with cat allergies, and we need at least one space where they don't have to worry about cat dander.

However, Goolya made her escape to St Nicholas House one day without anybody realizing it until she started meowing loudly in the hallway till one of the sisters came out and escorted her back to her quarters. We're not sure if she was repentant or just ready for lunch. But certainly, she couldn't have been scared. Not Goolya the Brave!!



Yes, I'm a brave explorer, but there's no place like home!

JUNE CALENDAR

Sundays, 10am Divine Liturgy (Sunday June 23 still tentative)

Ascension, 9am Divine Liturgy, Thursday, June 13

1519 Washington St., Calistoga, CA 94515

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

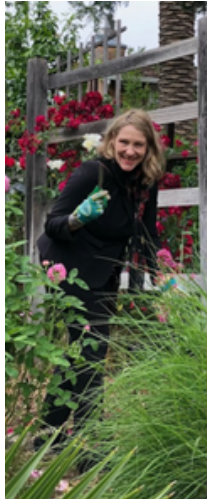
Website: www.holyassumptionmonastery.com

HERE & THERE

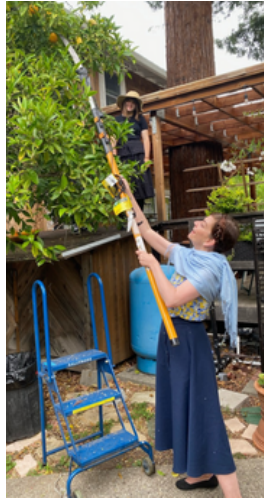
Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco
Ladies Work Party - May 18



We're ready to work!



It's all in the wrist!



Elbows help, too!

Holy Dormition Church, Santa Rosa
Celtic Festival - May 23



Ready to go!



Still ready to go!

Nativity of Christ Church, Novato
Marin Greek Festival - May 25-26



Hey, look! A customer!



An exponential growth curve!

BOOK UPDATES

Quiz Yourself on the Book of 1 Chronicles is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of June for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



I'm still working on various programs for illustrating my picture books. I'm never going to win any awards, but I think I'm close to "good enough to start with." Hopefully, I'll have something for you to look at sooner rather than later!

Also, please check out the June issue of Mother Melania's Monthly Missives, which focuses on Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Mr Tod."

Classic Kids' Books *The Tale of Mr Tod*

Mr Tod is not nice at all! Neither is Tommy Brock. When Mr Benjamin Bouncer is babysitting Benjamin and Flopsy Bunny's six little babies, Tommy waits for Mr Benjamin to fall asleep, then kidnaps the babies, intending to eat them.



When Flopsy and Benjamin return, Benjamin immediately goes hunting for his babies and is soon joined by cousin Peter Rabbit. They track Tommy and the babies to one of Mr Tod's houses. Fortunately for the baby rabbits, Mr Tod and Tommy Brock are NOT friends, and Mr Tod did NOT invite Tommy to his house. So, Tommy Brock doesn't have time quite yet to eat the bunnies!

Do Benjamin and Peter manage to rescue the babies? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *The Tale of Mr Tod*, click [here](#).