



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Recently, some of us nuns had to pull our DMV records. When I was younger, I had one serious accident, but my record had been clean since then. So, that accident is now expunged from my record. I was at fault, and having the incident expunged doesn't mean it never happened. Yet it is heartening that I can go forward with a clean slate even though my slate hasn't ALWAYS been clean.

This got me thinking about how generous I have or haven't been in giving clean slates to people who have changed their ways. Sad to say, my problem is that I'm slow to believe that they HAVE changed their ways. After all, you either have an incident on your driving record or not. It's a lot harder, though, to tell if a comment was meant to harm or just felt that way.

I suspect I'll always be tempted to take certain comments the wrong way. That is not a reason to despair, though. Rather, it is all the more reason for me to give people a clean slate AND to give them the benefit of the doubt that they are trying to keep it that way. Who knows? They may even be willing to do the same for me!!

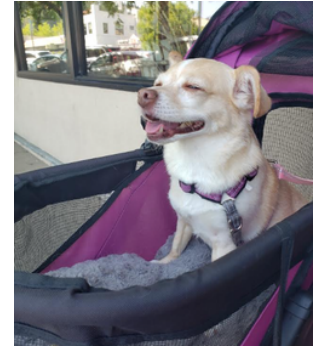
with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania & the sisters

## ZOO UPDATE - GUEST CRITTERS

You've seen Pearl in these pages before. Now meet Rosie, who has been gracing us with her presence lately!



*If I have to wear a collar,  
make it a JEWELLED collar!*



*Life is good!*

Okay, so Atticus and Betsy didn't visit us, but Mother Melania DID visit them at St Peter Monastery Work Camp June 23-28. (<https://www.stpetersmonastery.com/camps>)



*Atticus - It's been a lonely day.  
Only about 60 campers to pet me!!*

## JULY CALENDAR

Sundays - 9:40 am Hours and 10 am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

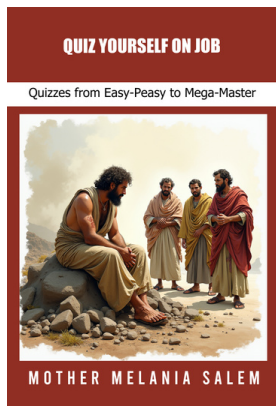
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## Mother Melania's Book Update

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Job is still in process, but should soon be available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of July for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



Quizzes from Easy-Peasy to Mega-Master



Check out the July edition of Mother Melania's Monthly Missive.

### Classic Kids' Tales:

#### How the First Letter Was Written

Misunderstandings have been with us forever - at least since caveman times!! When caveman Tegumai breaks his spear, his daughter Taffy attempts to send a pictogram message back to her mother via a stranger. Unfortunately, her birch-bark drawing spirals into hilarious chaos. Mistaken for a call to war, her innocent sketch brings the whole tribe running! This charming story blends humor, heart, and the dawn of writing in a Neolithic world. Join Taffy's misadventure and discover how a child's creativity changed communication forever—perfect for readers who love wit and wonder!

For a free copy of *How the First Letter Was Written*, click [here](#).

## Many years, Archbishop BENJAMIN!

With Archbishop BENJAMIN retiring on July 15, we want to take this opportunity to thank him for his deep dedication to and love for all his flock over the years. He has been our chief shepherd for the entire time we've been here in Calistoga, and we are grateful to God for him. Many years, Vladyka!



In the early years



Our Chief Shepherd



His Eminence and a nun or two!



We couldn't resist!



### Liturgical Life



Fr Stephen Howell -  
Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ecumenical Council



Fr Nicholas Carr -  
Pentecost



Fr Michael Vladimirov  
- Leavetaking of  
Pentecost