



# HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

There's always a ton of stuff to do around the monastery—especially before our Dormition Feast. One major project this year was building the deck extension of the gazebo (aka the aviary). Over a few weeks, we watched Michael and his family meticulously build the frame. I couldn't tell you exactly what they were doing, but every step was necessary to make the extension sturdy and long-lasting. Finally, it was time to lay the flooring, which went much faster than all that prep work.

Life is like that, isn't it? So much of the real work happens where no one sees it. It can feel endless, with little to show for it. That hidden labor can be discouraging. But if we keep going—laying the foundation of our Christian lives as carefully as we can (which includes repenting where we didn't build well and trying again)—we'll find ourselves standing on the firm, unshakeable foundation of Christ our Lord.

with love in Christ,  
Mother Melania & the sisters



From this ...



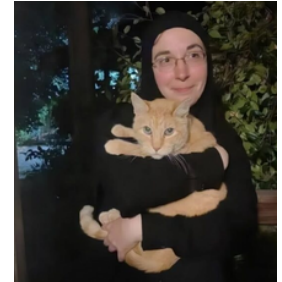
To THIS!

## ZOO UPDATE - OUTDOOR Kitties

After featuring our INDOOR kitties last month, we didn't expect our OUTDOOR kitties to take it lying down. We were wrong!



*NOTHING is worth  
losing sleep over!*



*Okay, maybe I DO need a  
hug to recover!*

## THE PICKETT FIRE

Thanks to all for your prayers and concerns over the Pickett Fire, which started a few miles north of us on August 21. It is still burning, but has cost no lives, nor even major structural damage as of this writing - glory be to God!

*(from CALFIRE's official site)*



*Thank you, firefighters! We are grateful!!*

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays Sep 7, 21, 28 - 10 am Divine Liturgy (all Sundays still tentative)

(We will be going to Holy Cross in Sacramento for their Feast Day on Sept 14)

Nativity of the Theotokos (Monday September 8) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

For other services, please see our website

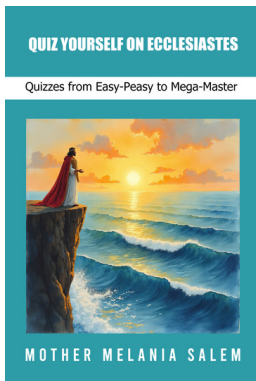
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## Mother Melania's Book Update

*Quiz Yourself on the Book of Ecclesiastes* is available on Amazon as a Kindle book through the end of September for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



Check out the September edition of [Mother Melania's Monthly Missive.](#)

## Classic Kids' Tales:

### The Crab That Played with the Sea

The creation of the world (Rudyard Kipling's world, anyway) was going just fine till Pau Amma the King Crab decided he didn't want to play the part given him by the Eldest Magician because he didn't want to obey Man.

So, Pau Amma goes off to do his own thing (almost always a terrible idea!) and ends up causing the sea to swell and flood the land. The Eldest Magician humbles him by making him an ordinary little crab. So, Pau Amma learned his lesson. Well, at least a little. To find out what THAT means, join us in reading this delightful tale!

For a free copy of *The Crab that Played with the Sea*, click [here.](#)

## DORMITION 2025

Every Dormition Feast is a wonderful blessing, but this year - with the presence of Metropolitan TIKHON, Archbishop BENJAMIN, Archbishop MELCHIZEDEK, Archbishop DANIEL, Bishop GERASIM, and Bishop VASILY (on the day before he was ordained as our bishop!) - there are simply no words! Thanks be to God!



*V Rev Alessandro Margheritino, Bishop VASILY, Mother Melania, Archbishop BENJAMIN, Metropolitan TIKHON, Bishop GERASIM, Archbishop DANIEL, Archbishop MELCHIZEDEK*

## ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

During the third week of August, the monastery hosted a cohort of iconography students studying under Ekaterina Daineko ([ikona-skiniya.com](http://ikona-skiniya.com)). The students all began online instruction during 2025 and met for the first time in person during this week-long intensive. The week's instruction focused on applying tonal layers in an icon, as well as pencil sketching, color sketching, formal composition and art analysis. Thanks to the newly-renovated St. Barbara House, the group had a place in which to work as well as sleep, although quarters were cozy! The students shared services and meals with the sisters, and the entire community enjoyed the week of fellowship. May such efforts continue to be blessed!



On a mission!



This is exhausting work!