



HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Let us call brother even those who hate us and forgive all by the Resurrection and so let us cry, Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life! (Paschal Stichera)

Every year, these verses from the end of the Paschal stichera strike me. Their beauty and hope stir in me a real desire to do exactly what they say – to forgive even those who hate me. But if anyone does hate me, they generally keep their distance. So, I’m left with the far more ordinary task of forgiving the daily frustrations caused by people who simply annoy me. And sadly, I can’t even manage that very consistently.

In fact, I sometimes think it might be easier to forgive people who truly hate me. I know I have no power to do that unless God grants it. But I still cling to the illusion that I do have the power to forgive decent people who are merely irritating. So I keep trying on my own strength and, sooner or later, fail again. Why? First, because I still imagine I can do it myself – which I clearly can’t. Second, because I expect them to “know better,” which really means I judge them for not acting on things I’ve decided they ought to know. And finally, because that judgment makes it hard for me to let God love and forgive them through me.

That teaches me something important: I am never neutral. I am always playing a role that either helps or harms the other person, no matter how innocent I look to myself. With that in mind, perhaps all of us – and especially any of you whom I have annoyed or hurt – can pray these life-giving words together this Paschal season and beyond, and discover with joy that they have real power.

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

with love in Christ,
Mother Melania & the sisters

ZOO UPDATE - Meet the Keets!

Our aviary has two new residents: Lulu and Figaro the parakeets. True, their names aren’t as dignified as Bloopie and Boatie, but we like them anyway!

The four of them share the same aviary. Well, Bloopie and Boatie think of it more as a hostile takeover. By and large, though, they have taken the situation with good (well, sort-of-good) grace.



One, two, three - TAKE-OFF!



It may not look it, but I'm bigger than they are!

AMERICAN ORTHODOX - Now Streaming

Our friend John Robert Hammond’s documentary “American Orthodox” (americanorthodoxfilm.com) is now streaming on *Logos Cinema*, a subscription-based Orthodox video streaming service. It’s a beautiful movie, and we highly recommend it.



MAY CALENDAR

Sundays May 10, 24, 31 - 10 am Divine Liturgy
Sundays May 3, 17 - 10 am Typika or Divine Liturgy
Thursday May 21 (Ascension) - 9 am Divine Liturgy

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MOTHER MELANIA'S BOOK UPDATE

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Isaiah is now available on Amazon as a Kindle book till the end of May for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



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

Classic Kids' Tales: *Sleeping Beauty*

Think you know the story of *Sleeping Beauty*? You probably don't know THIS version. If you want to find out what happens when the prince's mother turns out to be an ogress - a REAL one - join us!



For a free copy of *Sleeping Beauty*, click [here](#).

PASCHA 2026



12 Gospels Matins



Lamentation Matins



Paschal Vespers Liturgy



Fr Anthony and the sisters after the Paschal Liturgy



Agape Vespers Gospel Reading

HERE & THERE

Holy Trinity Cathedral Ladies' Work Party - Saturday April 25



Now the trick is to UNbend!



Finished working and still smiling!

Visit to Whispering Pines Christian School - Wednesday April 29

Several of the sisters visited Whispering Pines Christian School in Plymouth, CA, who are the producers of our honey. It's an amazing school, not least because of the loving leadership of Mr. Wilson Barros (Mr. Wilson to the kids - and to us!) We were shocked to find out it's been over 10 years since our last visit. But we plan never to make that mistake again! Thanks to Mr. Wilson, the teachers and the kids, for a beautiful day!



Students presenting us with thank-you cards. Just too sweet!



No need to say 'Smile!' The smiles were already there!