



Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – June 2018

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

The past few months have seen several heart-rending and shocking stories about children who suffered years of abuse. Some cases have “happy” endings (e.g. the Turpin family and the Allen/Rogers family), in which the children are finally removed from their abusive parents with the hope that their wounds (physical, psychological and spiritual) will heal over time. In at least one case, that of the Hart family, the story ended tragically with the death of the entire family.

On hearing such stories, we ask ourselves, “How could this go on for so long without somebody realizing it?” or, even sadder, “People were sounding the alarm on this for years. Why was nothing ever done?” An obvious part of the answer is simply this – healthy neighborhoods and extended families are gravely endangered species, and government agencies make very poor substitutes for these vital parts of society. It wasn’t all that long ago that we really KNEW our neighbors and knew pretty much what was going on in their lives. And there WAS a time that families still lived close to each other and the elders were able to step in before bad situations became desperate. So, no, we can’t blame it on the system. We CAN blame it on society, but we must remember that WE are the society. WE are the problem, and WE must be the solution.

Of course, we’re not going to bring back stable neighborhoods and families any time soon, but we all CAN take steps in that direction. Introduce yourself to a neighbor you don’t know. Host a block party. Call your family members and ask how they’re doing (and LISTEN to the reply). Your life will be enriched and you will have played your own role, however small, in keeping another tragedy from happening.

with love in Christ,

Mother Melania

and the community

of Holy Assumption Monastery

ZOO UPDATE: Bird Escape Artists

A few weeks ago, one of the sisters was walking past the aviary in the early morning and – to her shock – saw ChaCha sitting in the gazebo, chattering away happily. Thanks be to God, ChaCha, being super friendly, easily allowed herself to be taken back in.



But the question remained – how had ChaCha gotten out? Had somebody forgotten to close the door? Had ChaCha learned to pick locks? Had she bribed the guards? After a little detective work, we discovered that ChaCha (no doubt aided and abetted by Pixley, who nonetheless had not ventured out) had managed to chew a hole in a concealed spot on the top of the aviary. So, after quickly repairing the hole, one of the sisters put up a barrier to keep ChaCha safely inside her aviary. That is, until ChaCha figures out another angle and outwits us yet again!

*If you fed me better,
I wouldn't try to escape.*

Visit from Mekane Selam Medhane Alem Cathedral, Oakland

On Saturday May 5, we were blessed to host a large group of youth and their leaders from the Ethiopian Cathedral in Oakland. It was a wonderful experience (not least the wonderful Ethiopian food that they prepared) and we are looking forward to a long relationship – and particularly the next visit!



You can cook for us anytime!



Sunrise makes a command appearance.



Did we mention that this was a LARGE youth group?



It's Church Festival Season Again

It's Church festival season again, and the bookstore sisters are busy! As always, we are thankful to the host parishes for their gracious hospitality and to all the friends and customers who support us. Many thanks!

Ascension of our Lord Church, Oakland (May 18-20)



A great location and a great neighbor (Daniel of Not-of-This-World Bookstore)



I want to dance, too!



Do you have any other cards?

Nativity of Christ Church, Novato (May 25-27)



Did we forget anything?



Honey? Sweet!



It's always good to see friends!

St. Anna Church, Roseville (May 25-27)



When are we starting?



WHEN are we starting?!



We've started!

June 2018 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Repairs are in process at St. Simeon Church. Please check our answering machine and website for updates.</i>					1	2 5pm Vigil
3 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	4	5	6	7 6pm Vigil	8 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>St. John of Kronstadt</u>	9 5pm Vigil
10 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	11 6pm Vigil	12 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ven. Onuphrius the Great & Ven. Peter of Mt. Athos</u>	13	14	15	16 5pm Vigil
17 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	18 6pm Vigil	19 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Apostle Jude & Ven. Paisius the Great</u>	20	21	22	23 5pm Vigil
24 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy	25	26	27	28 6pm Vigil	29 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>	30 5pm Vigil

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday July 7 Retreat

Orthodox Christianity and American Constitutional Ideals:

A One-Day Retreat to Reflect on the Relationship of Orthodoxy & American Citizenship

led by Fr. Philip Tolbert, of Holy Dormition Church, Santa Rosa, CA

see enclosed poster for details

Summer Retreat—Saturday July 7, 2018

Orthodox Christianity and American Constitutional Ideals

A One Day Retreat to Reflect on the Relationship of Orthodoxy & American Citizenship

Conducted by the V. Rev. Philip Tolbert

Orthodox people today are confronted with a bewildering social and political milieu every time we step outside our homes. Is it possible to be both fully Orthodox and fully American?

Can an Orthodox person participate fully and with a clear conscience in the American political process?

How should we respond to the wide array of ideas and behaviors that are often glaringly at odds with Orthodox moral teaching?

These and similar questions are on the minds of many Orthodox people today. At this retreat, we plan to make a beginning of addressing such questions and in the process discover our proper voice as Orthodox Americans in the 21st Century.



9:00 AM - Session 1



10:30 AM - Session 2



12:15 PM - Akathist

1 pm - Lunch



2:00 PM - Session 3



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No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

Father Philip Tolbert is an archpriest in the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada & Australia (Bulgarian Patriarchate) and is the National Director of the Bulgarian Orthodox Youth Apostolate (Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries). He is attached to Holy Dormition Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, CA.