

From the Heights: Monastic Musings from the Mountains

Newsletter of the Holy Monastery of Our Lady and Saint Laurence

August, 2023: Assumptiontide

Volume X, Issue 2

The Glory of Our Lady Mary

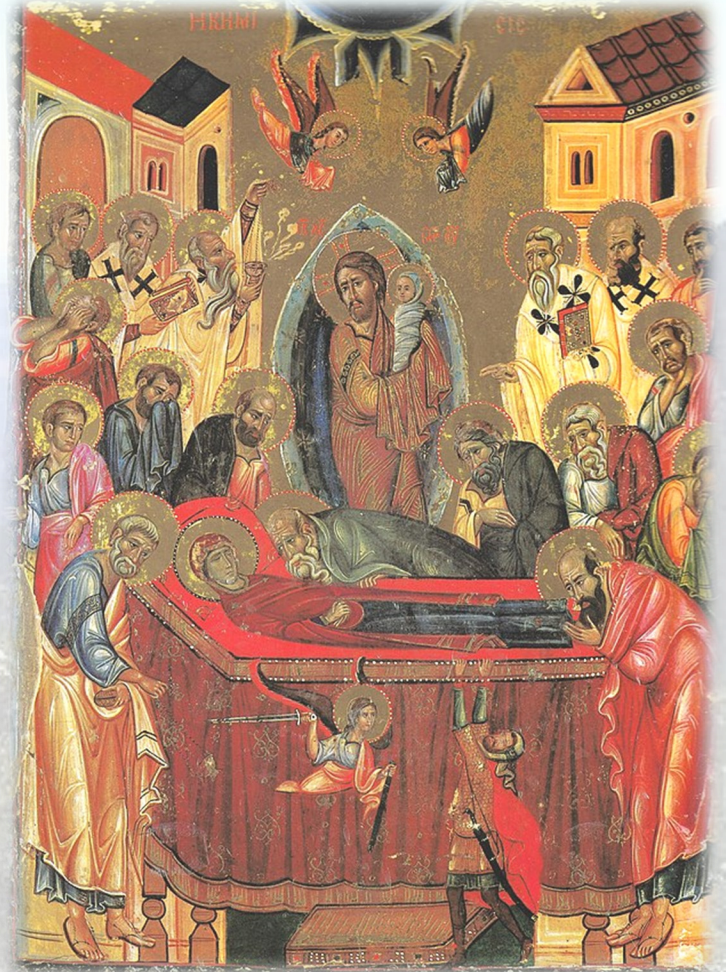
The end of the earthly life of the Most Holy Mother of God was the beginning of Her greatness. **“Being adorned with Divine glory,”**¹ She stands and will stand, both in the day of the Last judgment and in the future age, at the right hand of the throne of Her Son. She reigns with Him and has boldness towards Him as His Mother according to the flesh, and as one in spirit with Him, as one who performed the will of God and instructed others.² Merciful and full of love, She manifests Her love towards Her Son and God in love for the human race. She intercedes for it before the Merciful One, and, going about the earth, She helps men.

— St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco,

On the Orthodox Veneration of the Mother of God

¹Irmos of the Canon of the Dormition

² cf. Matt. 5:19



Mary is taken up into heaven, the Angels rejoice, they praise and bless the Lord. Rejoice and be glad all you with righteous heart, for today the Virgin Mary reigns with Christ for evermore. Who is she who comes like the rising dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army prepared for battle? Rejoice and be glad all you with righteous heart, for today the Virgin Mary reigns with Christ for evermore.

— Offertory Anthem

[Setting by Giovanni Luigi da Palestrina](#)

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Benedictine Wisdom — From the Ladyminster Customary, Article XX

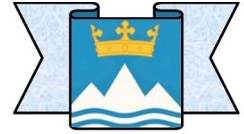
We do not labor for our own personal satisfaction or enrichment, but to avoid idleness, to supply our common needs, and to enable almsgiving.

Undertaken in this spirit, work is consecrated as charity, and becomes a life-giving partnership with God in creation, rather than drudgery or a burden.

We do not own our work – much less should we allow it to own us. Rather, we perform it as an offering to God and to our brothers, for so long as the Abbot deems it appropriate for us and for the Monastery.

When performed for God, and out of love for the brethren, all labor is equal in honor and importance regardless of its prestige or financial recompense.





News and Events

April 29—June 2: Abbot Theodore was on sabbatical. He used most of this time to visit four monasteries to observe their customs and to talk with their abbots and novice-masters about contemporary circumstances and concerns in screening, accepting, and working with applicants to monastic life. He began with the brotherhood of the Orthodox Benedictine Abbey of the Assumption in Eisbergen, Germany (ROCOR) where the monks joyously and graciously welcomed him as a brother Benedictine. He also visited the 900-year old Stift Heiligenkreuz, a Roman Catholic Cistercian (a branch of Benedictine monasticism) Abbey in Austria, where he was very kindly received and invited to share in the life of the community to the extent possible, given that they are not Orthodox. After returning to the U.S. to spend some time with family, Father visited Westminster Abbey, a Roman Catholic Benedictine Abbey in British Columbia, Canada, and also made two trips to spend time at All-merciful Savior Russian Orthodox Monastery on Vashon Island in his native Washington State. As always, it was a joy to be with Abbot Tryphon and the brotherhood, which is doing quite well.

July 7—9: The monastery welcomed the annual Oblate Retreat for a time of worship and fellowship and, as always, an opportunity to participate in the rhythm of monastic life. We were blessed to welcome 13 oblates and to receive the oblations of two novices in conjunction with our celebration of the Solemnity of Our Holy Father Benedict, Patriarch of Western Monasticism.

In association with St. Athanasius College and with the assistance of the Rev. Adam Roberts, Dean, we were blessed to welcome three summer interns to the monastery to learn about monastic life, assist with various kinds of work, and experience an opportunity for prayer and reflection. In June, we welcomed Mr. Julian Roberts from St. Paul's, Katy, TX and Mr. Champlain Janz, from St. Augustine's, Denver and St. Constantine College, Houston. Mr. Janz continued through July, joined by Mr. Magnus Blanke. All these young men contributed greatly to our life and worship, and we wish them well as they continue on with their vocations in the world.

July 24—28: Abbot Theodore attended the 100th Antiochian Archdiocesan Convention in sweltering Phoenix, AZ (117°F!!!). In addition to seeing and listening to His Beatitude Patriarch John X and our new Metropolitan, Saba, Father participated in the meeting of the Western Rite Vicariate, presided over by Bishop John, who also spoke kindly of the monastery in his Report to the convention on behalf of the Western Rite Vicariate.

A Summer Photo Gallery



Oblations of Brs. Theophany and Droston



Dom Philip, Abbot Theodore, & Abbot Thomas in the Winter Chapel at Assumption Abbey, Eisbergen.



The Abbey Church (Left) and The Refectory (Right) at Heiligenkreuz Monastery in Austria.

Our friend Elias Haswanter relaxes with Father Abbot at a Coffee House in Vienna. Elias is a doctoral student at the University of Vienna, doing a doctoral thesis on Western Orthodoxy. He spent time at Ladyminster and other American Western Rite churches in America last summer. He was very helpful with arranging Father's time in Germany and Austria and showing him around beautiful Vienna.



Abbot Theodore with Abbot Tryphon and the brotherhood of All-merciful Savior Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

The 2023 Oblate Retreat with Monks & Interns

