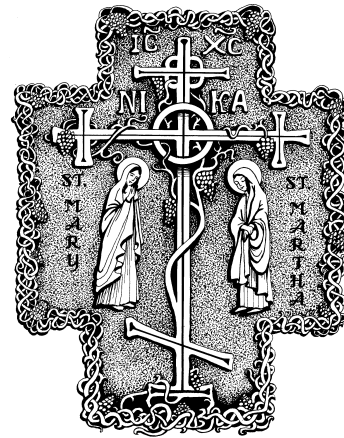


Saints Mary and Martha
Orthodox Monastery
Report to the
Diocesan Assembly, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia



Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. — (Matthew 6:31-33)

More than ever, this past year has taught us that, if a woman (or a man) is called to the monastic life, they should follow God's direction in their youth and grow old living the monastic life. They should not come to monasticism in their old age when it is most difficult to change. Another major obstacle for women (or men) to heed God's calling them to monasticism is our culture which is narcissistic in the extreme, constantly telling us that we owe it to ourselves to be happy by having/being/doing whatever we want, forget God, and live with unbridled passions. Our having faith in God and believing and living with the knowledge that He will take care of us no matter where He leads us is paramount.

Although there are two of us again, the pace of our monastic life continues unabated. God always provides us with what is needed to fulfill His will. Visitors come and go, individuals and groups have retreats and/or help us with the many chores, monthly Saturday Liturgies are served, our sixteenth Pilgrimage was on April 13th, Clergy Wives Retreat was well attended, candle making remains our primary source of income, the Knitters' Retreat was few in number, a new page — "List of Women Saints" — was added to our web site, prayer is perpetual, and Christ remains the center of our lives.

The building is dried in, i.e., windows are in, brickwork is done, downspouts are installed, and the stairway to the second floor is finished. The framing of the walls and the ribs for the barrel ceiling in the chapel have been completed. Pictures have been posted to the "Building Plans" page of our web site: <http://www.saintsmaryandmarthaorthodoxmonastery.org>

GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL.