

Saints Mary and Martha
Orthodox Monastery
Report to the
Diocesan Assembly, 2016
Wilmington, North Carolina



The the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

— *Philippians 4:7 (KJV)*

It is difficult to believe that twenty years have passed since we moved onto this property near Wagener, South Carolina. As always, God is very good and, no matter what, is always with us and truly in control. Ceaselessly He blesses us as He helps us to live our faith day by day as monastics. When various trials assail us, we remind ourselves that, with His help, we are working out our salvation. Currently, we have a woman trying to discern her monastic vocation with us. We are totally convinced that Christ will grow this monastery in His way and in His time.

In keeping with our policy of remaining debt free by paying for each stage of construction as we go, we were able to hire the framers to finish framing in this section of the building, add railing to the stairs leading to the sunroom, have that railing and the exterior stairwell railing to the second floor sanded and painted, and install vents and crawl space doors. Also, four of six stained glass windows in the chapel have been paid for and are in the process of being made. It will take \$500,000 to build the second third to the point where the first third is currently. It is our sure hope that we will hand down this monastery to the next generation of women monastics and that they will continue to build upon what God has allowed us to begin.

Last July we had a display table at the All American Council in Atlanta, Georgia. Fourteen matushki attended the Clergy Wives Retreat in September. At the end of October, Mother Thecla attended the Synaxis of Monastic Superiors at Saint John of Shanghai Monastery in Manton, California. Saint Joseph's Candle Shop continues to be our primary source of income. Both groups and individuals help us with many tasks required to keep our monastery grounds looking good. We owe them much gratitude. We had to struggle with some health issues this past year, but, thanks be to God, healing is progressing. Our monastic life continues unabated and with renewed fervor. Christ is very breathe itself.

Please let parishioners and others know that the Diocese of the South has three monasteries and encourage them to visit and support them.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers for we cherish them.