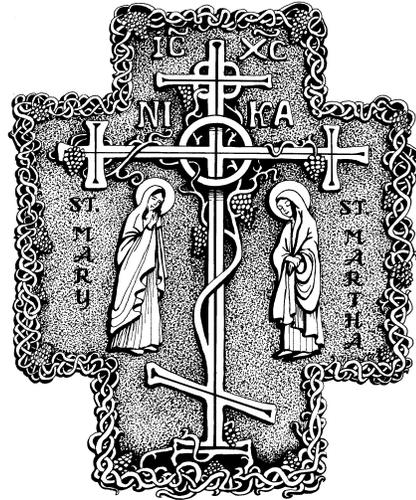


Saints Mary and Martha
Orthodox Monastery
Report to the
Diocesan Assembly, 2013
Jacksonville, Florida

*Glory to thy power,
O Lord!*



God is love and always merciful and good.

After more than seventeen years of scrimping and saving to build our monastery, we have finally begun. On December 28, 2012, we received Aiken Planning's approval of the architectural plans. Then on February 21, 2013, Aiken zoning awarded all three zoning variances that we requested. By March 6th our contractor had a building permit in hand. Due to the economy, only the first third of the building is being built. God willing, we will have a chapel in which to worship soon.

Saint Walburga's Warehouse is finished and is full of items for the chapel and other parts of the new building.

The Clergy Wives' Retreat was well attended in September. While our 14th Pilgrimage in May was a slightly smaller crowd than the year before, it was all the two of us could handle.

On February 22, our beloved sister in Christ, Mother Lyubov reposed in our Lord. While we continue to miss her and all that she brought to this monastery, we know that she touched our lives and many others around her. Mother Lyubov's death and burial provides an anchor for this monastery as she continues to glorify God and to intercede for us and those who request our prayers. May her memory be eternal!

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. -- Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)