

THE REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S MONASTERY, HIRAM, OHIO

TO THE 48th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Overland Park, Kansas October 5th - 7th, 2009

This year marks the 28th anniversary of St. John's Monastery as a monastic community. The community is made up of Archimandrite Alexander (Cutler), who has lived at the monastery for 28 years; Monk Daniel (Kidd), who has lived at the monastery for 27 years. Fr. Alexander is Abbot. Fr. Daniel is the treasurer. Fr. Peter Pawlack is the acting secretary and is canonically attached to St. John's Monastery. This year St. John's is celebrating its 27th anniversary as a monastery. The annual pilgrimage will celebrate this event.

A number of expenditures this year were incurred from the following projects:

1. The last two windows were installed to complete the upgrading of all the windows in the monastery. Due to the severe winter weather in January and February, major leaking still remained a problem in one of the cells on the 2nd floor and the guest room below it. This spring the roof above this area was reconfigured to prevent future water damage. That cell, the last to receive the upgraded window, needed to have drywall and plaster work done to repair the wall and the ceiling. The window well also had to be reconstructed before the new window could be installed.
2. In the basement the main electric panel from the 1960's was replaced and rewired to code.
3. The monastery on grounds sewage system needed repairs and upgrading to be up to code.
4. The manual water pump was repaired in order to give the monastery a back up water supply in the event of loss of electricity—which occurs regularly. (The monastery has an electric pump to supply water from its own well.)
5. The main riding mower needed extensive repair.
6. A metal hood was installed over the stove in the candle factory with an exhaust system in case of a heating pot, wax fire in the melting room.

In the main church the iconostas was decorated with floral appliques and gold leafing and gold painting. The main shrines were also decorated with gold leafing and gold painting. The 5 reliquary boxes were upgraded and made more secure. This completes the main church decoration planned for the Monastery's 25th Anniversary. In the cemetery chapel side doors were added to the iconostas. As money allows, we hope to properly frame all the major, hand painted, icons in the main church and put a new roof on the chapel in the woods.

In the guest house a new and larger refrigerator replaced the one that had been in service there for 20 years. Ceiling fan/light fixtures were installed in the guest bedrooms on the first floor.

A donation of a laser printer was given to the monastery for the office. The abbot was given a complete set of red, embroidered vestments from Russia.

Our monastery continues to support itself by selling beeswax candies, incense, charcoal and sacramental wine to parishes. As a service to local clergy and parishes our monastery sells, at reasonable prices, liturgical and religious items imported from Russia, Greece, and Romania. We carry both embroidered Russian and Greek style vestments, as well as stichars or podrizniki. We are also supported by donations.

Pilgrims and guests are welcome to visit the monastery and store. We welcome youth groups and church groups for tours and retreats. Since our community works in order to support the monastery, prior arrangements to visit or shop should be made ahead of time by phone. Reservations for the guest house need to be made well in advance. There are days and periods of time during the year when the monastery is closed to visitors.

Fr. Alexander continues to serve as confessor for the nuns at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, as well as for local clergy and faithful.