

Saints Mary and Martha
Orthodox Monastery
Report to the
Diocesan Assembly, 2011
Seattle, Washington

God is love.
If I have not love,
I am nothing.



For those of us in the Diocese of the South, the most significant event was the repose of our beloved Archbishop Dmitri. May his memory be eternal!

It doesn't seem possible that God has blessed our being here for sixteen years already. Each year seems very similar, but different, as we know God does not like sameness. Prayer, hospitality, candle making, and other works steadily continue.

Last year at Clergy Wives Retreat, all of us were graced with Metropolitan Jonah's brief visit on his way to visit the Aiken (now Augusta) mission. We hosted our fourth annual Knitters' Retreat in February and several day retreats for different women's groups. Fifty-three people attended our twelfth annual Pilgrimage on May 7th, the Saturday before the Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women. Although we no longer have youth retreats in June, there were many guests during that month and throughout the summer.

The highlight of this past year took place in our little chapel. Sister Lyubov took the Little Schema Habit on June 16th and became Mother Lyubov. Thanks be to God.

The Building Fund continues to grow, even in these financially disturbing times. As always we strive to discern God's will for our lives so that we will know when He wants to begin building the monastery building.

Candle sales continue to provide us with our "bread and butter." The candles that we make are 100% beeswax with 100% cotton wicks. Pictures and prices of our candles can be found on our web site <http://www.saintsmaryandmarthaorthodoxmonastery.org>. We still publish and mail our quarterly newsletter, *One Thing Needful*. If you want to receive a copy simply provide us with your name and mailing address, or, if you prefer, you can read it on our web site.

As always, you may write, telephone, or email us with your prayer requests.

Please continue to pray for us and that God will add to our number.