

Summer 2021



2021 *Virtual* Pilgrimage

Dear Friends,

Isn't it ironic? During this year's Pilgrimage we will be shining our love and light on the most basic, natural, earthly elements but doing it in a very technically fueled, futuristic way. You are invited to attend the "**virtual**" Pilgrimage celebration with a very **real** message! (*All the technical details on how and where to join in are found on newskete.org*) The Pilgrimage itself celebrates the feast of Transfiguration which all three Synoptic Gospels recount. There, on a high mountain, Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, appear in a vision with Jesus bathed in divine light, witnessing that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. Since all creation was bathed in light in that same vision, tradition has understood this feast to also witness to the goodness of creation and that its ultimate destiny is to be taken up into communion with God.

As you may know, the focus of the New Skete mission has always been to witness to the goodness of creation-our history of work with dogs may immediately come to mind. However, as stewards of all creation, our work extends beyond animals to all ecological components. Regardless of religious affiliation, this is an extremely timely topic which affects us all.

At the Monk's monastery as well as the Nun's monastery, we do our best to raise conscious awareness on how to best help the future of our planet. Research and guidance from educated sources evolves into informed decisions. From the small, daily changes that turn into habits, to the not so tiny investments with long term lasting effects, we continue to cherish the Earth and do what we can to keep it healthy by recycling and composting, installing geo-thermal when feasible, exploring solar energy solutions via solar farm, repair equipment rather than replace, use biodegradable packing materials where we can and maintain trails to allow people to stay connected directly with nature.

This year we welcome honored, guest presenter, the Reverend Dr. John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who serves as a theological advisor to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He will expound on the Orthodox perspective on the environmental crisis- nature, earth, ecology and conservation, particularly as expressed by Patriarch Bartholomew, the "Green Patriarch". Orthodox and Non-Orthodox friends alike will become familiar with the extensive environmental advocacy work done by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew over many years and its relevancy to today.

Enclosed please find the event schedule* and information on how you can play a **very unique part** in the **2021Virtual Pilgrimage** by: requesting prayers, making a donation 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' of, friends and family. Please know we keep you in our thoughts and daily prayers. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity of prayers, kindness, and friendship! Your donation will be welcomed with appreciation and gratitude as it will support the continued mission of the Monks and Nuns of Skete.

May God's blessings be on all of you!

In Christ's love,

Brother Christopher
Prior, Monks of New Skete

Sister Cecelia
Prioress, Nuns of New Skete

* As of this printing.