

**St. Michael's Skete
P. O. Box 38
Cañones , NM 87516
505-638-5690**

Report to the Diocesan Assembly, Miami, July 2007

St. Michael's Skete now has two professed monks, the Hieromonk John (Anderson) and Stavrophore monk Andrew, acting superior. We have one novice, Brother Vincent (Bell) from South Carolina. We have another seeker who desires to be clothed as soon as he is chrismated. He was a Roman Catholic seminarian until last spring, and he wants to be an Orthodox monk and member of this community. They are both excellent candidates and seem to be working out very well. Thank God.

We have a Cuban-American from Miami coming for an exploratory visit in August, and we are in constant contact with a graduate student in Florida who is seriously considering coming here.

In a word, "Things are looking up." May it be blessed.

The Hieromonk John, in addition to performing all priestly duties, is now the administrator of the Skete, as well as guestmaster, and novicemaster. Fr. Andrew functions as superior, and does most of the cooking, edits DOXA, handles the correspondence, and is the choir. We all do gardening, cleaning and so on. We have a full life.

We continue to serve daily Vespers, Matins, and the Hours. We have had to reduce the length of the daily services a bit in order to be able to have the Divine Liturgy at least three times a week, and very often, four or five times. Our services are served mostly in traditional English, but Spanish is used daily, and if Spanish-speaking guests are present, more Spanish is heard in our worship. From the beginning, St. Michael's Skete, which is in a Spanish-speaking area, has been to some degree a bi-lingual community. We have one woman from Cañones who has been chrismated, after faithfully attending church here for over ten years.

Our guest house across Cañones Creek is used regularly, especially during the summer. Guests come from near and far, and seem to really enjoy themselves. We constantly hear how delighted they are to find such a comfortable facility, how much they enjoy our services, and how wonderful it is to be in this relatively remote but quite beautiful canyon.

Weather-wise this has been a delightfully moist year, with over two feet of snow during the Christmas holidays, frequent rains in the spring, and even three rains during the driest month of the year, June. The summer rains have begun early.

Faithfully,
The Monk Andrew
Acting Superior