



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

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THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 6th , 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt

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St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4. Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel. BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 9:11-14

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν. Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ. Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς δὲ παραγενόμενος ἀρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελειότερας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιήτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, οὐ ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι' αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ δὲ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος εἰσήλθεν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἅγια, αἰωνίαν λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἷμα ταύρων καὶ τράγων, καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλεως ῥαντίζουσα τοὺς κεκοινωμένους, ἀγιάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, πῶσω μᾶλλον τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἑαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἄμωμον τῷ θεῷ, καθαρῶς τὴν συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων, εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι;

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

The Gospel of Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Κατὰ Μάρκον 10.32-45

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς δώδεκα μαθητάς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἤρξατο αὐτοῖς λέγειν τὰ μέλλοντα αὐτῷ συμβαίνειν, ὅτι ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδοθήσεται τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσι καὶ γραμματεῦσι, καὶ κατακρινούσιν αὐτὸν θανάτῳ καὶ παραδώσουσιν αὐτὸν τοῖς ἔθνεσι, καὶ ἐμπαΐξουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ μαστιγώσουσιν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπτύσουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται. Καὶ προσπορεύονται αὐτῷ Ἰάκωβος καὶ Ἰωάννης υἱοὶ Ζεβεδαίου λέγοντες· διδάσκαλε, θέλομεν ἵνα ὁ ἐὰν αἰτήσωμεν ποιήσης ἡμῖν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί θέλετε ποιῆσαί με ὑμῖν; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς ἡμῖν ἵνα εἷς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου καὶ εἷς ἐξ ἐωνύμων σου καθίσωμεν ἐν τῇ δόξῃ σου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε. δύνασθε πιεῖν τὸ ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθῆναι; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δυνάμεθα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τὸ μὲν ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω πίεσθε, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθήσεσθε· τὸ δὲ καθῆναι ἐκ δεξιῶν μου καὶ ἐξ ἐωνύμων οὐκ ἔστιν ἐμὸν δοῦναι, ἀλλ' οἷς ἠτοίμασται. Καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ δέκα ἤρξαντο ἀγανακτεῖν περὶ Ἰακώβου καὶ Ἰωάννου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτοὺς λέγει αὐτοῖς· οἴδατε ὅτι οἱ δοκοῦντες ἄρχειν τῶν ἐθνῶν κατακυριεύουσιν αὐτῶν καὶ οἱ μεγάλοι αὐτῶν κατεξουσιάζουσιν αὐτῶν· οὐχ οὕτω δὲ ἔσται ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλη γενέσθαι μέγας ἐν ὑμῖν, ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος, καὶ ὃς ἐὰν θέλη ὑμῶν γενέσθαι πρῶτος, ἔσται πάντων δοῦλος· καὶ γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἦλθε διακονηθῆναι, ἀλλὰ διακονῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ λύτρον ἀντι πολλῶν.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

Sunday,	April 06th,	GENERAL CONFESSIONS in preparation for Holy Week	
Sunday,	April 06th,	Adult Baptisms	3:00 P.M.
Tuesday,	April 08th,	FR. EUGENE LECTURE, St. Paul Cathedral	7:00 P.M.
Wednesday	April 09th,	Pre—Sanctified Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
Saturday	April 12th,	Feast Liturgy of Saint Lazarus	9:30 A.M.
Sunday	April 13th,	PALM SUNDAY LITURGIES - Orthros	9:00 A.M.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP : is being hosted and served by the T.H.Y youngsters of the G.O.Y.A. (Greek Orthodox Youth of America). Our teenagers always set the finest example of church service!

TODAY: is the final day for **MEMORIAL COMMEMORATIONS** until after the Paschal period to **MAY 4th.** (the Sunday of the **MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**) Saint Mary Magdalene, St. Salome, and Saint Ioanna.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE of SERVICES: Has been mailed to all stewards (members) of the Parish. If you desire a copy of the sacred service schedule please see the Church Office secretary. Why not register with the Church so we can mail you all pertinent information. **Do it TODAY!**

TUESDAY: April 08th our beloved Pastor, Father Eugene will be the guest lecturer at the **CATHEDRAL of SAINT PAUL,** Garden City, Long Island for the annual Philoptochos Ladies Dinner, 7:00 P.M. The theme of the address is: **WHY LAZAROS, AND NOT ME?** (The mystery of the Resurrection). The event is open to the public, with dinner being served at 7:00 P.M.

PASCHA WISH LIST: As every year our Parish is in need of the following items for Holy Week services: (a) Altar wine (b) euchelaion oil (c) incense (d) new white sheets (e)volunteers to do a bit of decoration work in the church (upper and lower) palm weavers! Please see the **CLERGY** for any further direction. Please do not make purchases without clearance from the clergy since duplication may not be necessary!

PALM WEAVERS NEEDED: The ancient tradition of weaving the palm strands into beautiful crosses for distribution on **PALM SUNDAY** is an easily learned task and art form. Please volunteer and join us on **TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,** April 8th , 9th 10th from 12:00 – 3:00 P.M. You may come one day or more accordingly. Light refreshments will be served in Rose-hall during the work project. Usually five thousand (5,000) palm crosses are prepared for distribution on **PALM SUNDAY!**

SHUT IN COMMUNIONS: for the infirm and immobile will be distributed at home on Wednesday, April 9th, from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. upon request of the clergy. Please call (718) 339-0280 for confirmation of the appointment.

CONFESSIONS will be heard for **HOLY WEEK** by appointment only through the clergy on Tuesday , Wednesday, Thursday, April 8th,9th,10th. Willingly all will be accommodated by the schedule upon request.

IMMEDIATE NEED: The church is in need of A new veteran's American flag for the Plaza flagpole. Many have such flags presented at funerals, stored in a closet or drawer. Let's honor the memory of our military veterans by flying **THEIR FLAG OVER THEIR CHURCH.** Please see the clergy for proper disposition and hoisting the flag.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY each Sunday is collecting your donations for the **GOOD FRIDAY EPITAPHION 'FLOWERS'.** please support this effort each week as a commemoration of the death and burial of the **LORD.** The ladies will be standing by the clergy at the distribution of **ANTIDORON.** Be prepared to **GIVE.** **NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE!**

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 14TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM,** with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at **LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER** . The website address. **W.W.W.gaepis.org** (Click live audio)

MEMORIALS TODAY:

- + JOHN AND +KATHERINE CHRISTAKOS
- + AGAMEMNON AND + STELLA KYRIAKIDES
- + LEON and +PAULINE PAPPAS
- + CONSTANTINOS and + PARASKEVE DRIVAS



Wednesday, March 26, 2014 BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL-HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY
Chairman Fr. Eugene with ERIC ADAMS, Borough President, Consuls General, Honorees and COMMITTEE.



FR. EUGENE and JIMMY KOKOTAS
Supreme advisor to the Sons of Pericles



FR. EUGENE and DENNIS VOURDERIS
Deno's WONDER WHEEL Park-Coney Island



FR. EUGENE, JOANNA VASSILAS, ERIC ADAMS,
Parish Council President, Three Hierarchs Borough President



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' – Ἔτος ΙΘ'
Φλώρινα – ἀριθμ. φύλλου 863?

Κυριακὴ Ε' Νηστεϊῶν
6 Ἀπριλίου 2014 (2002)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ ὁσία Μαρία ἡ Αἴγυπτία

Μὲ τὰ φτερά τῆς φαντασίας, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἄς πετάξουμε μακριά. Ἄς πᾶμε στὸν ἔκτο αἰῶνα στὴν ἔρημο τοῦ Ἰορδάνου.

Ζοῦσε ἐκεῖ τότε ἓνας μοναχός, ὁ **ἄββᾶς Ζωσιμᾶς**. Ζοῦσε εἰρηνικὴ ζωὴ. Ἀλλὰ κάποτε παρουσιάστηκε ἓνας ἐπικίνδυνος ἐχθρός, ἡ ὑπερηφάνεια. Νόμισε, ὅτι δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλος καλύτερος ἀπ' αὐτόν... Ἀκούει ὅμως φωνὴ πού τοῦ λέει: Ψάξε!

Στὸ μοναστήρι πού ζοῦσε ὑπῆρχαν ἅγιες ψυχές. Εἶχαν δὲ τὴ συνήθεια, κάθε χρόνο τὴν Καθαρὰ Δευτέρα μὲ τὴν εὐχὴ τοῦ ἡγουμένου νὰ φεύγουν γιὰ τὴν **ἔρημο** κ' ἐκεῖ νὰ μένουν μέχρι τὴν παραμονὴ τῆς Κυριακῆς τῶν Βαΐων. Τότε πλέον γύριζαν, ἐξαῦλωμένοι· διότι πρέπει νὰ ξέρετε, ὅτι ἡ ἀφρόκρεμα τοῦ χριστιανισμοῦ εἶνε ὁ μοναχισμός. Ἄλλος γύριζε ἀπὸ κάποια σπηλιά, ἄλλος ἀπὸ κάποιους καλαμῶνες, ἄλλος... Καὶ ὅλοι μαζεύονταν στὴ μονὴ καὶ ἔψαλλαν τὸ *«Σήμερον ἡ χάρις τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος ἡμᾶς συνήγαγε...»* (Ἐβ. Ααζ, ὅση).

Ἐφυγε λοιπὸν καὶ ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς τὴν Καθαρὰ Δευτέρα. Προχωρεῖ μέσα στὴν ἔρημο. Μετὰ τὸ μεσημέρι ὁ ἥλιος ἄρχισε νὰ γέρνει πρὸς τὴ δύση. Σὲ λίγο οἱ τελευταῖες του ἀκτίνες χρύσωσαν τὴν ἄμμο. Τὸ δειλινὸ διακρίνει μιὰ σκιά μὲς' στὸ μισοσκόταδο. Φοβήθηκε, μήπως εἶνε ὀπτασία δαιμόνων. Ἐκανε τὸ σταυρό του, γιὰ νὰ φύγῃ, μὰ τίποτα. Ἡ σκιά διακρινόταν ἀκίνητη. Πηγαίνει νὰ τὴν πλησιάσῃ, ἀλλὰ ἡ σκιά φεύγει. Τρέχει ξοπίσω τῆς, ἀλλὰ τρέχει καὶ ἡ σκιά. Κάποια στιγμή ἡ σκιά σταματᾷ κι ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα τῆς βγαίνουν λόγια ἀνθρώπινα: «Μὴ μὲ πλησιάσῃς· εἶμαι γυμνή. Σὲ παρακαλῶ, ρίξε μου τὸ ῥάσο σου γιὰ νὰ σκεπαστῶ». Τῆς ρίχνει τὸ ῥάσο καὶ σκεπάζει τὸ σκελετωμένο τῆς κορμί. Τὸ σκέλεθρο αὐτό, πού ζήτησε τὸ ῥάσο, ἦταν ἡ **ὁσία Μαρία ἡ Αἴγυπτία**.

Σὲ λίγο ἡ ὁσία κλίνει τὰ γόνατα νὰ προσευ-

χηθῇ καὶ ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς τὴν εἶδε *«ὕψωθεισαν ὡς ἓνα πῆχυν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς καὶ τῷ ἀέρι κρεμαμένην καὶ οὕτω προσεύχεσθαι»*. Κύριε, ἐλέησον· ἡ Μαρία αἰωρεῖται, πετάει πάνω ἀπ' τὴ γῆ! Σὲ λίγο ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς τὴν ἀκούει, νὰ τοῦ **διηγηθῆται τὴ ζωὴ τῆς**. Μπροστά του περνᾷ μιὰ κινηματογραφικὴ ταινία, πού ὅλες οἱ εἰκόνες τῆς ἔχουν θέμα τὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ τὴ θεία χάρι.

Ἦταν μικρὸ κοριτσάκι 12 ἐτῶν στὴν Αἴγυπτο, στὴν πόλι πού γέννησε πόρνες ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀγγέλους. Ἐκεῖ κυλίστηκε κ' ἐκεῖνη **στὸ βόρβορο τῆς ἀνηθικότητος**. Ἐγινε γνωστὴ στοὺς κύκλους τῆς ἁμαρτίας, στὰ πορνεῖα. Ἐκεῖ ὅμως ὑπάρχουν καὶ ψυχές διαμάντια· μὴ σὰς φανῇ παράξενο. Διότι ὅπως ἀπὸ τὸ κάρβουνο γίνεται τὸ διαμάντι, ἔτσι ἀπὸ μιὰ πόρνη μπορεῖ νὰ βγῆ μιὰ νύμφη Χριστοῦ.

Ἦταν τότε πάνω στὸ ἄνθος τῆς ἡλικίας τῆς. Μιὰ μέρα εἶδε ἓνα καίκι ἔτοιμο νὰ ξεκινήσῃ **γιὰ τοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους**. Πέρασε ἀπὸ τὸ μυαλό τῆς μιὰ ἀκόλαστη σκέψι· νὰ πάῃ στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους κ' ἐκεῖ νὰ δράσῃ στὴ ζωὴ τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Ἡ σκέψι γίνεται ἔργο. Μπαίνει στὸ πλοῖο μαζί μὲ μιὰ ομάδα ἀπὸ νέους πού πήγαιναν στὴν Παλαιστίνη, κρατώντας τους στὸ ταξίδι αἰσχρὴ συντροφιά.

Ὅταν ἦρθε στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα ξημέρωνε 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, ἡ **ἡμέρα τῆς Ὑψώσεως τοῦ τιμίου Σταυροῦ**. Φθάνει στὸ ναὸ καὶ μαζί μὲ ὄλο τὸν κόσμον ἔρχεται νὰ περάσῃ τὸ κατώφλι. Μὰ μιὰ ἀόρατη δύναμι τὴν ἐμποδίζει. Προσπαθεῖ πάλι, ἀλλὰ τοῦ κάκου.

Τραβήχτηκε σὲ μιὰ γωνία τῆς αὐλῆς κουρασμένη καὶ προσπαθοῦσε νὰ ἐξηγήσῃ τὸ γεγονός. Τότε συναισθάνθηκε, ὅτι *«ὁ βόρβορος τῶν ἔργων ἦν ὁ τὴν εἴσοδον κλείων»*. Τὸ πρῶτο σκίρτημα μιᾶς χαμένης ψυχῆς πού ξαναβρίσκει τὸ δρόμο τῆς σωτηρίας! Στρέφει τὰ ἀπελπισμένα μάτια τῆς σὲ μιὰ **εἰκόνα τῆς Παναγίας Παρθένου**. Συγκεντρώνεται σὲ μιὰ

θερμή προσευχή μετανοίας με δάκρυα. Σε λίγο δοκιμάζει πάλι να εισέλθει και –ὡ τί ῥίγος διατρέχει τὸ κορμί της!– εισέρχεται και ἀσπάζεται τὸν τίμιο σταυρό. Χωρίς να μιλήση μαζεύεται σὲ μιὰ γωνιά τοῦ ναοῦ. Ἐκεῖ μένει μέχρι τὰ μεσάνυχτα, μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὴν ἀκόλαστη συντροφιά. Βράδι στὸ ναό· μόνο τὰ καντηλάκια ρίχνουν τὸ ἤρεμο και γλυκό τους φῶς στὰ πρόσωπα τῶν ἁγίων και τῶν προσκυνητῶν. Ἐκεῖ ἡ Μαρία ἀκούει φωνὴ μυστική· «Ἐὰν δι-αβῆς τὸν Ἰορδάνην, θὰ εὔρης ἀνάπαυσιν». Ὡ τί γλυκὰ λόγια, τί πειθῶ ἔχουν και τί βάλασμα χύνουν στὸν πόνο της!

Σηκώνεται και τραβᾷ γιὰ τὸν Ἰορδάνη, ἐκεῖ ποῦ βαπτίσθηκε ὁ Χριστός. Ζητᾷ πνευματικὸ νὰ ἐξομολογηθῆ· και μετὰ, ἀποφασισμένη, περνᾷ τὸν ποταμὸ κι ἀνοίγεται **στὴν ἔρημο**.

Ποιός ἀπ' ἐδῶ και πέρα εἶνε ἰκανὸς νὰ διηγηθῆ τοὺς **πειρασμούς** της; Ὁ σατανᾶς πέρασε κι αὐτὸς στὴν ἔρημο, γιὰ νὰ τὴ βασανίσει ἀκόμη κ' ἐκεῖ. Γίνεται ζωγράφος. Πεινοῦσε ἡ Μαρία; Τῆς ζωγράφιζε φαγητὰ σὲ βασιλικὲς τράπεζες. Διψοῦσε; Παρουσιάζονταν κρασιά. Κρύωνε; Ἰδοὺ τὰ κρεβάτια και τὰ σκεπάσματα. Ὡ Μαρία –τῆς ἔλεγε–, κλαίει ὅλη ἡ Ἀλεξάνδρεια γιὰ σένα· οἱ φίλοι σ' ἀναζητοῦν... Μὲ ὅλα αὐτὰ προσπαθοῦσε νὰ τὴ ρίξει.

Μὰ ἐκεῖνη «ἤλπικεν ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον τοῦ οὐρανοῦ και τῆς γῆς» και παρακαλοῦσε τὸ Θεὸ νὰ τὴ δυναμώση. **Πάλεψε** στήθος με στήθος. Τέλος **νίκησε**.

Μέχρι ἐδῶ ἔφθασε τὴ διήγησί της ἡ Μαρία και μετὰ σταμάτησε λέγοντας· «Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ βίος μου, ἀββᾶ Ζωσιμᾶ. Μὴ μ' ἀναγκάζεις νὰ πῶ ἄλλα, γιὰτι θὰ μολύνω τὸν ἀέρα. Μιὰ χάρι μόνο σοῦ ζητῶ· τοῦ χρόνου τὴ Μεγάλῃ Πέμπτῃ νὰ φέρῃς τὸν Κύριο **νὰ μεταλάβω**».

Ὁ καιρὸς πέρασε. Τὸν ἄλλο χρόνο ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς ἤρθε. Ἄλλὰ ἦταν ἀδύνατο νὰ περάσῃ τὸ ποτάμι· εἶχε μεγάλη κατεβασία. Περιμένει. Ὁ ἥλιος γέρνει νὰ δύσῃ. Τὴ νύχτα βγήκε τὸ φεγγάρι κι ὁ Ἰορδάνης κυλοῦσε σὰν ἀσημένια κορδέλλα. Σε λίγο νά, τὴ βλέπει νὰ ῥχεται· τὴ βλέπει «*περιπατοῦσαν ἐπὶ τῶν ὑδάτων και πρὸς ἐκεῖνον βαδίζουσαν*». **Δὲν πατάει στὸ χῶμα**, ἀλλὰ πετάει και φθάνει. Ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς ἔντρομος βλέπει τὸ θέαμα και γονατίζει.

–Ζωσιμᾶ, σήκω. Φέρνεις τὸν Κύριο. Σήκω ἐπάνω, πὲς τὸ «*Πάτερ ἡμῶν*» και τὸ «*Πιστεύω*», γιὰ νὰ λάβω τὸ τίμιο σῶμα και αἷμα.

Ἄφοῦ **κοινώνησε**, εὐχαρίστησε τὸν Ζωσιμᾶ και τὸν παρακάλεσε νὰ ῥθῆ και τοῦ χρόνου.

Ἐκεῖνος ἤρθε και γιὰ τρίτη φορά. Ἄλλὰ τὴ

βρῆκε νεκρὴ και πάνω στὴν ἄμμο ἦταν γραμμένα τὰ ἐξῆς λόγια· «*Θάψον, ἀββᾶ Ζωσιμᾶ, ἐν τούτῳ τῷ τόπῳ τῆς ταπεινῆς Μαρίας τὸ λείψανον· ἀπόδος τὸν χοῦν τῷ χοί, ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ διὰ παντὸς πρὸς τὸν Κύριον προσευχόμενος*».

Πῶς τώρα νὰ τὴ θάψῃ; Ἐμφανίζεται ἓνα λιοντάρι. Μὲ τὸ σημεῖο τοῦ σταυροῦ γίνεται ἡμερο και σκάβουν μαζί τὸ λάκκο, ὅπου ἔθαψαν τὴν ὄσια.

Αὐτὸς εἶνε, ἀδελφοί μου, ὁ βίος τῆς «*Μαρίας τῆς Αἰγυπτίας τῆς ἀπὸ ἐταιρίδων, ὁσίως ἀσκησάσης κατὰ τὴν ἔρημον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου*». Ὅταν διαβάζω τοὺς βίους τῶν ἁγίων σκέπτομαι τὴν κατάστασί μας και λέω· **Και σήμερα πρέπει νὰ ζήσῃ ἡ πίστι τῶν ὀρθοδόξων, ὅπως τότε**.

«Ἐὰν περάσῃς τὸν Ἰορδάνη, θὰ βρῆς ἀνάπαυσι». Πρέπει κ' ἐμεῖς **νὰ περάσουμε τὸν Ἰορδάνη**. Δὲν ἐννοῶ τὸν φυσικὸ Ἰορδάνη. Ἐννοῶ τὴ μετάνοια μετὰ δακρῶν· αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ ἄλλος Ἰορδάνης. Ἄς κλάψουμε, ἀδελφοί, τὰ ἁμαρτήματά μας· και τότε θὰ περάσουμε τὴ δεύτερη κολυμβήθρα, τὴν **ἐξομολόγησι**. Και νὰ τὴν περάσουμε, τώρα. Μὴν ἀναβάλλουμε. Τώρα ποῦ εἶσαι καλά, τώρα ποῦ ἔχεις τὰ χεράκια σου και μπορεῖς νὰ κάνῃς τὸ σταυρὸ σου, τώρα ποῦ ἔχεις γλῶσσα ποῦ δὲν μπερδεύει, τώρα ποῦ ἔχεις τὸ μυαλὸ και σκέπτεσαι, τώρα πάρε χαρτὶ και γράψε τὶς πτώσεις, και μετὰ πῆγαινε στὸν πνευματικὸ.

Ἐξέλεξα σήμερα αὐτὸ τὸ θέμα, πρῶτον διότι ἡ ὄσια Μαρία γιορτάζει. Δεύτερον, διότι ἐκεῖνη ἀκόμη και μέσα στὴν ἔρημο προσπάθησε και κοινώνησε τὸ σῶμα και τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐνῶ ἐμεῖς ἀμελοῦμε. Ἄλλὰ και γιὰ κάποιον ἄλλο λόγο. Ὅταν ὁ Ζωσιμᾶς τὴ βρῆκε, αὐτὴ ἦταν μιὰ σκελετωμένη γριά, πετσὶ και κόκκαλο. Και ὅμως ἡ γριά τοῦ φώναξε· «*Ῥίξε τὸ ρᾶσο σου*». **Νὰ σταματήσω; νὰ κατέβω ἀπὸ τὸ βῆμα; Κατάλαβες; Ἐκεῖνη με κορμί γερασμένο και φώναξε· «Ῥίξε τὸ ρᾶσο σου». Σήμερα; Βλέπεις τὶς λεγόμενες Χριστιανὲς κι ὅταν ἔρθῃ τὸ καλοκαίρι ξεγυμνώνονται. **Γυναίκα, τί κάνεις; Σκανδαλίζεις ἄλλους;** Βάζεις φωτιά στὰ στήθη ἀγνῶν παιδιῶν; Ἡ ὄσια Μαρία φωνάζει σ' ὅλους μας· **Ῥίξε ρᾶσο, ρίξε ροῦχο...** Ἐν ἡμέρα κρίσεως θὰ εἶνε κατήγορός μας.**

Ὡ Ζωσιμᾶ, **ξύπνα. Χρειάζεται τὸ ρᾶσο σου. Ῥίξ' το νὰ σκεπαστοῦν**. Ὡ, ποῦ εἶνε οἱ δεσποτάδες και οἱ παπᾶδες νὰ σὲ μιμηθοῦν; Ἀλλοίμονο ἂν ἀφήσουμε τὴν πατρίδα μας τὴν Ἑλλάδα νὰ γίνῃ Χόλλυγουντ!

(f) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$150 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2014 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

Pleadings of Saint Andrew of Crete

Brief is my lifetime and full of pain and wickedness, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of You. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

The opulent and righteous man, arrayed in royal dignity, crown and purple, abounding in wealth and cattle, was suddenly shorn of his riches, glory and kingdom and became a beggar.

If he who was righteous and blameless beyond all did not escape the snares and nets of the deceiver, what will you do, my soul, who are sin-loving and wretched, if something unexpected happens to you?

Boastful I am, and hard-hearted, all in vain and for nothing. Condemn me not with the Pharisee, but rather grant me the humility of the Publican, O only merciful and just Judge, and number me with him.

I have sinned, I know, O merciful Lord, and outraged the vessel of my flesh, but accept me

in penitence and recall me to awareness of You. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

I am become my own idol, and have injured my soul with passions, O merciful Lord, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of You. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

I have not listened to Your voice, I have disobeyed Your Scripture, O Lawgiver, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of You. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

Holy Mother Mary, pray to God for us.

(To St Mary of Egypt): Though dragged down to the depth of great offences, you were not held there. But with better thought: you returned by action to consummate virtue beyond all expectation, to the amazement of angel kind, O Mary.

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org