



JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY
THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 28th, 2014
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Jesus Calling the Disciples

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people. Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:1-10

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος βαρὺς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει. Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες δὲ καὶ παρακαλοῦμεν μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ δεῖξασθαι ὑμᾶς - λέγει γάρ, Καίρῳ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου, καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ, νῦν καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτος, ἰδοὺ, νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας - μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπὴν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία· ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν ὄπλων τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς· ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι, καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι· ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ζῶμεν· ὡς παιδευόμενοι, καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι· ὡς λυπούμενοι, αἶι δὲ χαίροντες· ὡς πτωχοί, πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες· ὡς μὴδὲν ἔχοντες, καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

1st Sunday of Luke

The Gospel of Luke 5:1-11

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

1st Sunday of Luke

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 5.1-11

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, καὶ εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἀλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους. ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγνυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἐτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντος συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρω τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέειπε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἀνὴρ ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρα τῶν ἰχθύων ἢ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἱ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμονι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔση ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

OFFICE RENOVATIONS COMMENCE: After early 60 years of use and occasional disregard, the business office and the pastoral study are being brought into the TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY with a total renovation of up to date equipment, machines, furniture and modern out-fitting. The cost of the project is estimated at \$55,000. (FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) and will surely be an asset to the good functioning of our beloved PARISH.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the 'marathon' efforts on behalf of this project by our Parish Council PRESIDENT MRS. JOANNA VASSILAS, and COUNCIL support, our 'in-house' ARCHITECT MR. HARRY ORTHOS and CONTRACTOR – LUIS PINTO , special thanks to our 'in house electrician' and VICE PRESIDENT , MR. JOHN EVGENIS for his professional services.

A major benefactor for the project is MRS. NICOLITA THEOPHILUS who at the Feast of the Assumption (AUGUST 15th) submitted a personal donation of \$25,000. (TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) towards the campaign. We are indeed grateful and need more support however much you may be able to offer. NO OFFERING IS REFUSED, HOW ABOUT YOU?

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

Wednesday , October 1st,	Blessing of Holy Water (AGIASMOS)	11:00 A.M.
Saturday, October 4th	PRAYER and HEALING SESSION	6:00 P.M.
	at the Church of the Virgin Mary – Park Slope	
Saturday, October 4th	PAN – EASTERN PRAYER SERVICE	7:00 P.M.
	(FOR THE SALVATION OF MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIANS)	
	Virgin Mary Melkite Church 216 – Eighth Avenue and 2nd Street – Fellowship Reception will follow : Open to All.	8:00 P.M.
Sunday, October 5th	Honoring Saint Romanos (CHOIR SUNDAY)	12:00 P.M.
	Artoklasia in thanksgiving for our parish choir and organist.	

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted today by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. Join us after Liturgy for coffee and sweets in WHITEHALL.

CHURCHING TODAY: We are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church the new born second daughter 'AVE MARIA' of Avram and Morella RUSSO. NA SAS ZESE ! God grant her many years of life, health and happiness.
C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saint Nicholas National Shrine at World Trade Center 'ground blessing ceremony' Saturday, October 18th, at 12:00 noon. OPEN TO ALL THE PUBLIC !

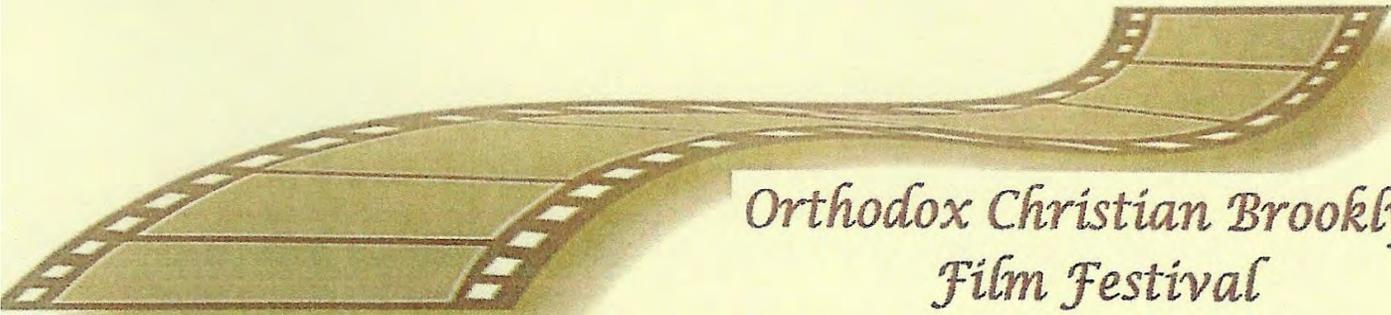
YOU MAY WISH TO HOST A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ONE SUNDAY IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED, OR FOR MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE OF A LOVED ONE. For a donation of (\$125. dollars) coffee, cookies, set up of tables, serving and clean up will be done by the church with proper recognition of the donor. We need donor volunteers. How about you?

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY: will commence the monthly meetings TOMORROW, September 29th, at 7:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. It's the prerogative and privilege of EVERY LADY in the Parish to register with the PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY (FRIENDS of the POOR) and volunteer for philanthropy and outreach to those in need. The Philoptochos is the 'right' and 'left' hands of the PRIEST who is the HEAD of the PARISH function and mission. JOIN TODAY! visit the church office after liturgy and submit your name, address and telephone number.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: PARISH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24th 8:00 P.M. in ROSEHALL. THIS IS OUR '85' ANNIVERSARY YEAR. HELP US CELEBRATE.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 15TH 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)

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + DEMETRIOS ZAVOS



Orthodox Christian Brooklyn Film Festival

*Movies Begin at 7PM
Followed by Refreshments and Discussion*

*Sponsored by the Emmaus Lecture Series
(Syndesmos of Eastern Orthodox Priests of Brook-*

God's Not Dead

*"College philosophy professor Mr. Radisson's curriculum is challenged by his new student, Josh, who believes God exists." 113min.
Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 64 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 718-909-6900, www.stconstantinecathedral.com
Thursday—October 16th 2014*

The Question of Origins

*"During the past century, much of the world has accepted the theory of Evolution as fact. Yet the molecules-to-man theory has no direct evidence to support it at all. Origins provides overwhelming evidence in favor of Creation." 61:12min
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 8401 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11209 718-836-3510, www.holycrossbrooklyn.com
Thursday—November 13th 2014*

Mt. Athos: A Visit To The Holy Mountain

*"60 Minutes" gets extremely rare access to the monasteries at Mount Athos, perhaps one of the most sacred places in Christianity" 30min
Kimisis Tis Theotokou 224 18th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215 718-788-0152 www.kimisisbrooklyn.ny.goarchg
Thursday - December 11th 2014*

The Island-(OCTPOB) Part 1

*"Russian film about a fictional 20th century Eastern Orthodox monk. The film closed the 2006 Venice Film Festival, proved to be a moderate box-office success and won both the Nika Award and the Golden Eagle Award as the Best Russian film of 2006." 60min. (English Subtitles)
St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral 355 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217 (718) 855-6225 info@stnicholascathedral.org
Thursday—January 22, 2015*

The Island-(OCTPOB) Part 2

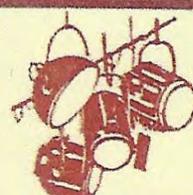
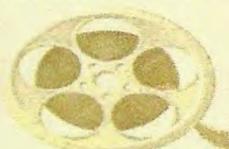
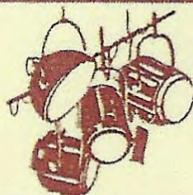
*60min (English Subtitles)
Three Hierarchs Church 1724 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY 11229 718-339-0280 www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org
Thursday—February 12, 2015*

The God's Must be Crazy

*"A Kalahari bushman is as surprised as the rest of his tribe when a Coke bottle, thrown from a passing plane, lands in the middle of their village. This "gift from the gods" proves to be a mixed blessing" 109min.
St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, 192 81st St., Brooklyn, NY 11209 (718)-238-8008 www.smaoc@earthlink.net
Thursday—March 19, 2015*

When The Game Stands Tall

*"Brings to life the incredible winning streak of the De La Salle High School football team, but when real-life adversity leaves the team reeling, the Spartans must decide if the sacrifice, commitment, and teamwork they have always trusted in can rebuild what is now disintegrating around them."
New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia Church, 8645 18th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11214(718) 234-3448, www.brooklyn-church.org
Thursday—April 23, 2015*



Please join
Catholic and Orthodox clergy and faithful
as we celebrate

SOLEMN VESPERS

*In solidarity with all Christians
suffering persecution in the
Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria*

*Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 7 p.m.
The Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi*

Virgin Mary Melkite Greek Catholic Church
216 8th Avenue (at the corner of 2nd Street)
Brooklyn, New York 11215

For more information, please email
Father Joseph Zwosta at fatherzwosta@gmail.com
or call Father Antoine Rizk at (718) 788-5454



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΖ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 729²

Κυριακὴ Α' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 5,1-11)
28 Σεπτεμβρίου 2014 (2000)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ;

«...Ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον» (Λουκ. 5,5)

Ἀκούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιον εὐαγγέλιον. Ἄλλὰ δὲν φτάνει μόνο νὰ τὸ ἀκοῦμε. Ὅπως τὸ χρυσάφι δὲν εἶνε πάνω στὴ φλούδα τῆς γῆς, ὥστε νὰ τὸ μαζεύουμε μὲ εὐκολία, ἀλλὰ εἶνε κρυμμένο καὶ πρέπει νὰ σκάσουμε γιὰ νὰ τὸ βροῦμε, ἔτσι καὶ μέσα στὸ Εὐαγγέλιον εἶνε **κρυμμένος θησαυρός**. Ἄς δοῦμε τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιον, γιὰ νὰ ἐκτιμήσουμε τὸν πνευματικὸ θησαυρὸ πὺ εἶνε κρυμμένος μέσα στὴν σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ.

* * *

Δύο φορές πῆγαν νὰ ψαρέψουν οἱ μαθηταὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Τὴ μιὰ φορὰ κοπίασαν ὅλη νύκτα καὶ δὲν ἔπιασαν οὔτε λέπι, γιὰτὶ ἀπουσίαζε ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ ὁ Χριστός. Τὴ δεύτερη φορὰ, ὅταν πῆγαν κατόπιν ἐντολῆς καὶ εὐλογίας του νὰ ψαρέψουν, τὰ δίχτυα γέμισαν ἀπὸ ψάρια.

Τί διδάσκει αὐτό, ἀγαπητοί μου; Ὅτι ἡ ἐργασία ἔχει ἀξία, ἀλλὰ μέχρι ἐνός σημείου. Διότι παραπάνω ἀπὸ τὴν ἐργασία **ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ**. Ὅ,τι νὰ κάνη, πρέπει ν' ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό, ν' ἀρχίζει καὶ νὰ τελειώνη μὲ τὸν τίμιον σταυρό.

—Καλά, θὰ ρωτήσετε, καὶ **πότε ἔχουμε** τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ;

Ἄνοιξε τὴν ἅγια Γραφή, τὴν Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη στὸ **Δευτερονόμιον, στὸ κεφάλαιο 28**, κ' ἐκεῖ θὰ δῆτε, πότε ἕνας ἄνθρωπος ἔχει τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Τὰ λέει καθαρὰ ὁ Μωυσῆς.

Λαέ, λέει, ἐὰν ἀκούσης τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐλεύθερος εἶσαι. Ἡ πίστις δὲν εἶνε ὀλοκληρωτικὸ καθεστῶς. Δύο αὐτάκια ἔχεις· μὲ τὸ ἕνα αὐτὶ μπορεῖς ν' ἀκούσης τὸ διάβολο, καὶ μὲ τὸ ἄλλο τὸ Θεό. Εἶσαι ἐλεύθερος. «Ἐάν», λέει, «ἀκοῇ ἀκούσης τῆς φωνῆς Κυρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ σου, φυλάσσειν καὶ ποιεῖν πάσας τὰς ἐν-

τολάς ταύτας, ἃς ἐγὼ ἐντέλλομαί σοι σήμερον...» (Δευτ. 28,1)· ἐὰν δηλαδὴ ἐκτελέσης τίς ἐντολές μου, τίς δέκα ἐντολές, τότε, ὅποιος καὶ νὰ ἴσαι, μαῦρος ἄσπρος κόκκινος, ὅποιων χρωμάτων καὶ ἀποχρώσεων, **ἐὰν μὲ ἀκούσης, τότε εὐλογία!** Εὐλογία στὶς πόλεις, εὐλογία στὰ χωριά, εὐλογία στὰ δέντρα, εὐλογία στὰ ζῶα, εὐλογία στ' ἀμπέλια, εὐλογία στοὺς ἐλαιῶνες, εὐλογία στὶς θάλασσες, εὐλογία στὰ πλοῖα, εὐλογία στοὺς στρατῶνες, εὐλογία στὰ παιδιὰ σας, εὐλογία στὸ ἔθνος. Τὰ σύνορά σας, λέει, δὲν θὰ τὰ φυλᾶνε στρατιῶτες· θὰ τὰ φυλᾶνε ἄγγελοι καὶ ἀρχάγγελοι. Καὶ ὅποιος τολμήσῃ νὰ περάσῃ τὰ σύνορά σας, ἀλλοίμονό του. Ἄπὸ ἕνα δρόμο θὰ περάσουν οἱ ἐχθροὶ σας, ἀπὸ ἑπτὰ θὰ φεύγουν πανικόβλητοι.

Μὰ λέει καὶ κάτι ἄλλο τὸ 28ο κεφάλαιο τοῦ Δευτερονομίου· Ἐάν, λέει, δὲν μὲ ἀκούσης, τότε — τί θὰ συμβῆ; Τότε φεύγει ἡ λέξις «εὐλογία» (Δευτ. 28,2) καὶ **ἔρχεται μιὰ ἄλλη λέξις**. Τί λέξι εἶνε αὐτή! Ὡ Θεέ μου, δὲν τὴ λέει ἡ μάνα· καὶ ὅποια μάνα τὴ λέει, ἀλλοίμονο. Καὶ παπᾶς ἀκόμα δὲν κάνει νὰ τὴν πῆ. Μόνο μιὰ Σύνοδος μπορεῖ νὰ τὴν πῆ. Καὶ μόνο ὁ Θεὸς μπορεῖ νὰ τὴν πῆ.

Ἄπὸ τὸ ἕνα μέρος εὐλογία, κὶ ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο; «**Κατάρᾳ**» (ἐ.β. 28,15). **Κατάρᾳ** στὶς πόλεις καὶ στὰ χωριά. Κατάρᾳ στὰ δέντρα, κατάρᾳ στὰ καράβια, κατάρᾳ στοὺς στρατιῶτες, κατάρᾳ στὰ παιδιὰ, κατάρᾳ στὶς μανάδες, κατάρᾳ στοὺς βασιλιάδες, κατάρᾳ στοὺς ἐργάτες, κατάρᾳ στοὺς πλουσίους, κατάρᾳ παντοῦ.

Λοιπὸν, **διάλεξε καὶ πάρε**. Μπροστά σου εἶνε ἡ φωτιά καὶ τὸ νερό. Ὅπου θέλεις ἀπλώνεις τὸ χεράκι σου (βλ. Σ. Σαφ. 15,16)· ἐὰν τὸ βάλῃς στὸ νερό, θὰ δροσιστῆς, ἐὰν τὸ βάλῃς στὴ φωτιά,

θα καῖς. Μπροστά σου εἶνε ἡ εὐλογία καὶ ἡ κατάρα (Δευτ. 30: 9). Διάλεξε.

* * *

Καὶ γεννᾶται τώρα τὸ ἐρώτημα. Ἐμεῖς **ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ**; Εἴπαμε· γιὰ νὰ ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, πρέπει νὰ ἐκτελοῦμε τὶς ἐντολές του.

Ποιές εἶνε **οἱ ἐντολές** τοῦ Θεοῦ; Καὶ ἐκτελοῦμε ἐμεῖς τὶς ἐντολές τοῦ Θεοῦ; Ἀπὸ ποῦ ν' ἀρχίσουμε;

● Ἦταν κάποτε ἐποχή, ποὺ ὅλοι νήστευαν. (Θὰ γελάση κάποια κυρία τῆς ἀριστοκρατίας. Ἀλλὰ ἐμεῖς δὲν εἴμαστε μοντέρνοι· ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε στὶς παραδόσεις). Τότε νήστευαν. Τώρα πάει ἡ **νηστεία**. Προτοῦ νὰ γίνῃ ὁ τελευταῖος παγκόσμιος πόλεμος, ὅταν κατέβαιναν ἀπὸ τὰ διάφορα μέρη τῆς πατρίδος στὴν Ἀθήνα, πήγαιναν στὰ ἐστιατόρια καὶ Τετάρτη καὶ Παρασκευὴ δὲν εὔρισκαν νηστήσιμο φαγητὸ κ' ἔμεναν νηστικοί, γιὰ τὸ ἐστιατόρια δὲν εἶχαν τίποτε νηστήσιμο. Γι' αὐτὸ μᾶς τιμώρησε ὁ Θεός. Δὲν νηστεύαμε τότε Τετάρτη καὶ Παρασκευή; ἔ, μετὰ νηστέψαμε ὅλες τὶς ἡμέρες, καὶ τὸ Πάσχα ἀκόμη.

● Τὴ νηστεία, δὲν τὴν τηροῦμε. Τὸν **ἐκκλησιασμό**; Πρῶτα, ὅπως τώρα τρέχουν στὰ θεάματα, ἔτσι ἔτρεχαν οἱ ἄνθρωποι στὴν ἐκκλησία. Φτερά στὰ πόδια! Τώρα ἀπὸ τοὺς ἑκατὸ Χριστιανούς, δύο ἐκκλησιάζονται τακτικά, δύο μόνο δίνουν τὸ παρῶν. Οἱ ἄλλοι ἐνενηντακτῶ ποῦ βρίσκονται;

● Ἦταν κάποτε ἐποχὴ ποὺ δὲν ἔκαναν **ὄρκο**. Τὰ χέρια τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἔτρεμαν ὅταν πλησίαζαν στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο νὰ ὀρκιστοῦνε. Τώρα χιλιάδες χέρια παλαμίζουν τὰ ἅγια Εὐαγγέλια καὶ ψευδορκοῦν ἀπ' τὸ πρῶν μέχρι τὸ βράδι.

● Ἦταν κάποτε ἐποχὴ ποὺ τὰ ἀντρόγυνα ἦταν ἀχώριστα. Μόνο ὁ χάρος, μόνο τὸ φτυᾶρι τοῦ νεκροθάφτη, τὰ χώριζε. Τὸ **διαζύγιο** ἦταν ἄγνωστο. Τώρα, ἡ φάμπρικα τοῦ διαβόλου βγάζει κάθε χρόνο χιλιάδες διαζύγια.

● Ἦταν κάποτε ἐποχὴ, ποὺ ὅλη τὴν Ἑλλάδα νὰ γύριζες, δὲν ἄκουγες **βλαστήμια**. Νὰ βλαστημήσῃ Ἕλληνας; χίλια χέρια τὸν ἄρπαζαν καὶ τὸν ἔκαναν κομμάτια. Τώρα; Εὐτυχισμένοι ὅσοι δὲν θὰ ἔχουν αὐτιά ν' ἀκοῦνε τὶς βλαστήμιες ποὺ λέγονται. Ὅπου νὰ πατήσης, ὅλα τὰ μαγαρίσαμε μὲ τὶς βλαστήμιες.

● Ἦταν κάποτε ἐποχὴ, ποὺ οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶχαν σπλαχνικὴ καρδιά. Ὑπῆρχε **ἀγάπη**. Τώρα;...

Ἔστερα λοιπὸν ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτὰ **περιμένουμε εὐλογία**; Ἄς φτειάχνουμε δρόμους, ἄς κάνουμε ἀεροδρόμια, ἄς κατασκευάζουμε καράβια,

ἄς κάνουμε ὅ,τι θέλουμε. Ἄν δὲν ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, δὲν προοδεύουμε· ἄλλοῦ πέφτει περονόσπορος καὶ καταστρέφει τ' ἀμπέλια, ἄλλοῦ πέφτει δάκος καὶ καταστρέφει τὸν καρπὸ τῆς ἐλιάς, ἄλλοῦ τὰ πηγᾶδια γίνονται ἄλμυρά καὶ τὰ δέντρα ξεραίνονται, κι ἄλλοῦ ἡ γῆ σείεται. Γλέντα, λοιπὸν, ἐσύ. Τὴν ὥρα ποὺ γλεντᾶς, ἡ γῆ τῆς Ἑλλάδος σείεται. «Ὁ ἐπιβλέπων ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ ποιῶν αὐτὴν τρέμειν, ὁ ἀπτόμενος τῶν ὀρέων καὶ καπνίζονται» (Ψαλμ. 103:32).

* * *

Λοιπὸν, ἀδέλφια μου, δὲν εἶμαι προφήτης, οὔτε υἱὸς προφήτου. Μὲ συχωρᾶτε ποὺ σᾶς μίλησα λίγο αὐστηρά. Ὅμως **θέλω νὰ σᾶς εἰδοποιήσω** καὶ νὰ σᾶς πῶ·

Ἀκούσατε τί λέμε στὴ Δοξολογία: «**Παράτεινον τὸ ἔλεός σου...**» (Ψαλμ. 35:11). Ὅπως ἓνας ποὺ εἶνε χρεωμένος καὶ λέει, Δός μου παράτασι καὶ προθεσμία γιὰ νὰ σ' ἐξοφλήσω, ἔτσι ζητοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς παράτασι. **Μᾶς δίνει προθεσμία ὁ Θεὸς γιὰ νὰ μετανοήσουμε** καὶ νὰ ἐπιστρέψουμε κοντά του.

Ἐὰν ὁμως, ἀδελφοί μου, –νὰ τὸ θυμᾶστε– ἐὰν μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, ἀπὸ τὸν πατριάρχη μέχρι τὸν καλόγερο, ἀπὸ τὸ παλάτι μέχρι τὴν καλύβα κι ἀπὸ τὸν πλούσιο μέχρι τὸν φτωχὸ κι ἀπὸ τὸν πλέον σοφὸ μέχρι τὸν ἀγράμματο κι ἀπὸ τὸν ἀσπρομάλλη γέροντα μέχρι τὸ παιδί ποὺ βυζαίνει, ἐὰν δὲν μετανοήσουμε, ὦ τότε, ἀδέλφια μου! Θὰ δῆτε καμμιά μέρα τὴ θάλασσα νὰ φουσκώνῃ καὶ νὰ μᾶς σκεπάζῃ. Θὰ δῆτε τὴ γῆ νὰ σείεται, κι αὐτὲς οἱ πέτρες ποὺ πατοῦμε θὰ γίνουν φίδια νὰ μᾶς φᾶνε. **Ἐλεος, Θεέ μου, ἔλεος στὸν κόσμον, ἔλεος στὴν πατρίδα μας!**

Μετάνοια! Καὶ τότε, τότε εὐλογία στὶς πόλεις, εὐλογία στὰ χωριά, εὐλογία στὰ ἀγόρια σας καὶ στὰ κορίτσια σας, εὐλογία στὰ σχολεῖα μας... Εὐλογία στὴν πατρίδα, εὐλογία στὸν κόσμον ὁλόκληρο.

Ἀσφάλεια τῆς Ἑλλάδος δὲν εἶνε τὰ Ἑνωμένα Ἔθνη, δὲν εἶνε ἡ Εὐρώπη καὶ ἡ Ἀμερική. Μάθετέ το· **ἀσφάλειά μας εἶνε ὁ μέγας Θεός**. Καὶ ὅταν ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε μαζί μας, –ἐλάτε νὰ σᾶς ὑπογράψω συμβόλαιο– θὰ ἔχουμε ἀσφάλεια 100%. Ἄς ἔχουμε τὸ Θεὸ μαζί μας. Καὶ ὅταν ὅλοι τὸν ἀγαπήσουμε καὶ εἴμαστε κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν προστασία του, «**γνώτε ἔθνη καὶ ἠτᾶσθε, ... ὅτι μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός**» (Ἠσ. 33:10).

Αὐτῶ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων· ἀμήν.

(†) 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

How We Are Drawn to Christ

Truth says: "No man comes to me except the Father who has sent me draw him." If, therefore, no one comes unless drawn, all who in any manner whatsoever come, are drawn. Contemplation of the elements and the ordered beauty of everything which is in them leads to God. "For the visible things of Him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." The narrators of events draw; those "declaring the praises of the Lord, and His powers, and His wonders, which He has done" enflame the soul of him who hears. Fear draws, for "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Joy draws, because "I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We shall go into the house of the Lord." Desire draws, because "my soul longs and faints for the courts of the Lord." Delights draw, for "how sweet are the

words to my palate! More than honey and the honey-comb to my mouth." And who can perceive or relate through what longings the divine visitation leads the human soul to follow what it fled, to love what it hated, to hunger after what was distasteful; and suddenly, with wondrous change, what had been closed becomes open, what was burdensome is light, what was bitter is sweet, what was obscure is lightsome? "But all these things one and the same Spirit works, dividing to everyone according as he wills." "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Christ Jesus," that is, in the manifestation of His Son, who is in the glory of the Father.

St. Prosper of Aquitaine

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