



JUBILEE 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 26 st , 2014  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of Saint Demetrios Great Martyr -- October 26th*

## St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 2:1-10

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 63.11,1

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.

TIMOTHY, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

## Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 2:1-10

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 63.11,1

Εὐφρανθήσεται δίκαιος ἐν Κυρίῳ. Στίχ. Εἰσάκουσον, ὁ Θεός, τῆς φωνῆς μου.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, ἐνδυναμοῦ ἐν τῇ χάριτι τῇ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Καὶ ἃ ἤκουσας παρ' ἐμοῦ διὰ πολλῶν μαρτύρων, ταῦτα παράθου πιστοῖς ἀνθρώποις, οἵτινες ἱκανοὶ ἔσονται καὶ ἑτέρους διδάξαι. Σὺ οὖν κακοπάθησον ὡς καλὸς στρατιώτης Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Οὐδεὶς στρατευόμενος ἐμπλέκεται ταῖς τοῦ βίου πραγματείαις, ἵνα τῷ στρατολογήσαντι ἀρέσῃ. Ἐὰν δὲ καὶ ἀθλήῃ τις, οὐ στεφανοῦται ἐὰν μὴ νομίμως ἀθλήσῃ. Τὸν κοπιῶντα γεωργὸν δεῖ πρῶτον τῶν καρπῶν μεταλαμβάνειν. Νόει ἃ λέγω· δόξη γάρ σοι ὁ κύριος σύνεσιν ἐν πᾶσιν. Μνημόνευε Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐγγεγεμένον ἐκ νεκρῶν, ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ, κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου· ἐν ᾧ κακοπαθῶ μέχρι δεσμῶν, ὡς κακοῦργος· ἀλλ' ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ οὐ δέδεται. Διὰ τοῦτο πάντα ὑπομένω διὰ τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς, ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ σωτηρίας τύχωσιν τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, μετὰ δόξης αἰωνίου.

## 6th Sunday of Luke

### The Gospel of Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

## 6th Sunday of Luke

### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8.26-39

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντι τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν, ἦτις ἐστὶν ἀντίπερα τῆς Γαλιλαίας. ἐξελθόντι δὲ αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ὑπήντησεν αὐτῷ ἀνὴρ τις ἐκ τῆς πόλεως, ὃς εἶχε δαιμόνια ἐκ χρόνων ἱκανῶν, καὶ ἱμάτιον οὐκ ἐνεδιδύσκετο καὶ ἐν οἰκίᾳ οὐκ ἔμενεν, ἀλλ' ἐν τοῖς μνήμασιν. ἰδὼν δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἀνακράξας προσέειπεν αὐτῷ καὶ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ εἶπε· τί ἐμοὶ καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ, υἱὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου; δέομαί σου, μὴ με βασανίσῃς. παρήγγειλε γὰρ τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ ἐξελθεῖν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. πολλοῖς γὰρ χρόνοις συνηρπάκει αὐτόν, καὶ ἐδεσμεῖτο ἀλύσει καὶ πέδαις φυλασσόμενος, καὶ διαρρήσων τὰ δεσμὰ ἠλαύνετο ὑπὸ τοῦ δαίμονος εἰς τὰς ἐρήμους. ἐπηρώτησε δὲ αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· τί σοὶ ἐστὶν ὄνομα; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· λεγεών· ὅτι δαιμόνια πολλὰ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς αὐτόν· καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτόν ἵνα μὴ ἐπιτάξῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον ἀπελθεῖν. ἦν δὲ ἐκεῖ ἀγέλη χοίρων ἱκανῶν βοσκομένων ἐν τῷ ὄρει· καὶ παρεκάλουν αὐτόν ἵνα ἐπιτρέψῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς ἐκεῖνους εἰσελθεῖν· καὶ ἐπέτρεψεν αὐτοῖς. ἐξελθόντα δὲ τὰ δαιμόνια ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἰσῆλθον εἰς τοὺς χοίρους, καὶ ὤρμησεν ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημοῦ εἰς τὴν λίμνην καὶ ἀπεπνίγη. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ βόσκοντες τὸ γεγενημένον ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν καὶ εἰς τοὺς ἀγρούς. ἐξῆλθον δὲ ἰδεῖν τὸ γεγονός, καὶ ἦλθον πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ εὖρον καθήμενον τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἀφ' οὗ τὰ δαιμόνια ἐξεληλύθει, ἱματισμένον καὶ σωφρονούντα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ ἰδόντες πῶς ἐσώθη ὁ δαιμονισθεὶς, καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν ἵνα τὸ πληθὸς τῆς περιχώρου τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν ἀπελθεῖν ἀπ' αὐτῶν, ὅτι φόβος μεγάλος συνείχοντο. αὐτὸς δὲ ἐμβὰς εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ὑπέστρεψεν. ἐδέετο δὲ αὐτοῦ ὁ ἀνὴρ, ἀφ' οὗ ἐξεληλύθει τὰ δαιμόνια, εἶναι σὺν αὐτῷ· ἀπέλυσε δὲ αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· ὑπόστρεφε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου καὶ διηγοῦ ὅσα ἐποίησέ σοι ὁ Θεός. καὶ ἀπῆλθε καθ' ὅλην τὴν πόλιν κηρύσσων ὅσα ἐποίησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς.

**WOW !** Did you take a look .... Many thanks to MR. PETER MOSKOVITIS who took upon himself the re-graveling, painting and clean up of the entire CHURCH PARKING LOT. Not only was there/ extensive labor involved with outside workers, but the total expense came out from his own pocket. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO LOVE THE BEAUTY OF HIS HOUSE! Thank you MR. MOSKOVITIS, and God bless your efforts of agape to THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH.

**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.

CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT: We submit ourselves to your generosity and love for your home parish of the THREE HIERARCHS to make an offering in any amount for the completion of our renovation plans. Please take a 'peek' today and witness the beautiful transformation.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

|           |          |       |  |                         |
|-----------|----------|-------|--|-------------------------|
| Sunday,   | October  | 26th, | Saint Demetrios Feast Day Liturgy  | 10:30 P.M.              |
| Sunday,   | October  | 26th, | National Observance 'OXI DAY'  | 12:00 P.M.              |
| Friday,   | October  | 31st, | Vesper of Saints Anargyroi<br>(COSMAS and DAMIAN) N.Y.C.<br>1547 Saint Nicholas Avenue | 7:00 P.M.<br>11:00 A.M. |
| Saturday, | November | 01st, | AGIASMOS (Blessing of Holy Water)  |                         |
| Sunday,   | November | 02nd, | Transferred FEAST of HOLY ANARGYROI  | 10:30 A.M.              |

CHURCHING TODAY: We are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church the new born daughter 'EMERSON JAMES' of Nicole and Marc Nickley. NA SAS ZESE ! GOD GRANT HER LIFE AND HEALTH on this her 40th day.

TODAY: Students from the Greek school will present an ethnic observance and celebration of OXI-DAY at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We salute the youngsters and their teachers MRS. ZOE ANASTASAKOS and MRS MARIA HALKIAS for their diligence in performance. The congregation is requested to join in the singing of the Greek National Anthem with the children at the finale. ZHTO H ELLADA! ZHTO O LAOS! ZHTO H ELEUTHERIA!

TODAY: THE DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE: Demetra Chapter #33 will host their ANNUAL LUNCHEON at 1:00 PM in ROSEHALL . A donation of \$20.00 ( TWENTY DOLLARS) will host you with a delicious ROAST CHICKEN DINNER, oven brown potatoes , Greek salad, wine, soda, Greek pastries and coffee. Join us for a fellowship of breaking bread. Raffles and prizes will be available to all.

'GREEK FILM FESTIVAL which commenced Wednesday October 22nd, through Friday, October 31st, at Theaters in Manhattan and Astoria. Two major events will be held:  
1; Film History Museum in Astoria – Wednesday, October 22  
2: Ziegfield Theater ( Broadway ) NYC Thursday, October 23  
Festival flyer is enclosed in bulletin: See you at the movies.

MARIO FRANGOULIS CONCERT: hosted by COSMOS F.M. (W.N.Y.E.) RADIO 91.5 FM) titled LIFE IS LOVE will be presented Sunday, November 02nd, at 5:00 P.M. at BMCC TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER at 199 Chambers Street, New York City. For ticket information please call: 718-204-8900 or 212 – 220 – 1460. e mail : [cosmosfm@gaepis.org](mailto:cosmosfm@gaepis.org) Reserve your seats NOW!

COSMOS FM GALA DINNER DANCE: will be hosted at Terrace on the Park Caterers in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens on Saturday evening November 1st at 7:00 P.M. The annual event highlighting the Phidippides Award to an outstanding Hellene. This year's recipient honoree is the world famous tenor singer and personality MARIO FRANGOULIS.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS' one and all groups hosted under the roof of Three Hierarchs Church are requested and URGED to have representation at the 2015 FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 29th, at 7.00 P.M. FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN, MR. GEORGE PLEVITIS will preside at the session. It is imperative the EVERY club fraternity, society and organization head be present for information and direction. Mr. Plevritis is accessible at [GPlevritis@aol.com](mailto:GPlevritis@aol.com) or call 917-541- 7034.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 15<sup>TH</sup> 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: + ROSALINE CATZELIS  
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + MARY & MICHAEL BOUZAKIS

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2014 PHIDIPIDES  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
IN CONCERT



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## ΑΓΑΠΗ ΕΙΝ'Η ΖΩΗ LIFE IS LOVE

The Poetry of Nikos Gatsos



PRESENTED BY  
HELLENIC PUBLIC RADIO COSMOS FM 91.5

**SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER, 5:00PM**

Tickets: **BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center**  
199 Chambers Street, New York, NY  
VIP, \$150, \$100, \$75, \$40

For Tickets & Information:  
Call: 718-204-8900 (Cosmos FM) or 212-220-1460 (Box Office)  
Email: [cosmosfm@gaepis.org](mailto:cosmosfm@gaepis.org)  
Online: [www.cosmosfm.org](http://www.cosmosfm.org) (PayPal) or [tickets.tribecapac.org](http://tickets.tribecapac.org)

All Proceeds To Benefit HPR - Cosmos FM 91.5

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Online: [www.cosmosfm.org](http://www.cosmosfm.org) (PayPal) or [tickets.tribecapac.org](http://tickets.tribecapac.org)

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# Daughters of Penelope

## Demetra Chapter #33



### Luncheon

*Sunday, October 26th, 2014*

*1:00 P.M. after Divine Liturgy*

Three Hierarchs Church  
WhiteHall  
1724 Avenue P  
Brooklyn, New York

#### MENU

Roast Chicken with Roast  
Potatoes, Salad,  
Wine & Soda  
Coffee and Greek Pastries

**Raffles!**

**WINNER!  
!!!**



All proceeds will  
benefit the Daughters  
of Penelope Projects

\$20.00 donation

For Information Please Call  
Marie Paizis:  
(718)-338-1446



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΑ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1112<sup>ς</sup>

Τοῦ ἁγίου Δημητρίου τοῦ μυροβλήτου  
Κυριακὴ 26 Ὀκτωβρίου 2014 (2004)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὔγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τί δίδασκε ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος

Ὅπως, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὸν οὐρανὸ ὑπάρχουν ἄστρα, ποὺ καθένα διαλαλεῖ τὴ δόξα τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ, ἔτσι καὶ στὴ γῆ ὑπάρχουν κάποια ἄλλα ἀνώτερα ἄστρα, ποὺ λάμπουν στὸ σκοτάδι τοῦ κόσμου καὶ δοξάζουν τὸν οὐράνιο Πατέρα· εἶνε **οἱ ἅγιοι**. Κι ὅπως τὰ φυσικὰ ἄστρα δὲν εἶνε ὅμοια, ἀλλὰ διαφέρουν ὡς πρὸς τὴ λάμψη, τὸ χρῶμα, τὸ μέγεθος, τὴν τροχιά, ἔτσι καὶ οἱ ἅγιοι· ἄλλος εἶνε ἄνδρας, ἄλλος παιδί, ἄλλη γυναίκα· ἄλλος εἶνε μάρτυρας, ἄλλος ὄσιος, ἄλλος ὁμολογητῆς· ἄλλος εἶνε ἱερεὺς, ἄλλος ἀρχιερεὺς· ἄλλος εἶνε γεωργός, ἄλλος δάσκαλος, ἄλλος ἀξιωματικὸς κ.λπ.. Καὶ ὅπως στὸν οὐρανὸ ὑπάρχουν ἄστρα πρώτου μεγέθους, ἔτσι καὶ στὴν Ἐκκλησία ὑπάρχουν ἅγιοι ποὺ διακρίνονται. Λάμπουν μὲ τὸν βίον, μὲ τὴ διδασκαλία, μὲ τὰ θαύματα, μὲ τὸ μαρτυρικὸ τέλος, μὲ ὅλη τὴ ζωὴ τους.

Ἐνα ἀπὸ τὰ ἄστρα αὐτὰ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, ἅγιος μέγας καὶ ξακουστός, εἶνε ὁ **ἅγιος Δημήτριος** ποὺ ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα.

\*\*\*

Γεννήθηκε στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη τὸ 3ο αἰῶνα ἀπὸ ἐνδοξη οἰκογένεια. Ἀπὸ μικρὸς διακρινόταν γιὰ τὴν εὐφυΐα καὶ τὴν κλίσι στὰ γράμματα. Ὄταν μεγάλωσε κατετάγη στὸ στρατό, καὶ λόγω τῆς ἀνδρείας του προαγόταν ἀπὸ βαθμὸ σὲ βαθμὸ· ἔφθασε νὰ γίνῃ **χιλίας**, βαθμὸς ποὺ ἀντιστοιχεῖ μὲ τὸ σημερινὸ στρατηγὸ.

Παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα ὅμως ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος διακρινόταν γιὰ τὴν πίστι του. Πίστευε στὸ Χριστό· καὶ δὲν τὸ ἔκρυβε, τὸ κήρυττε παντοῦ, στὸ στρατόπεδο, σὲ δρόμους, σὲ πλατεῖες. Ὅπου στεκόταν **δίδασκε** τὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἰδιαίτερος θέλω νὰ σᾶς τονίσω, ὅτι δίδασκε **ὅλα τὰ ἄρθρα τῆς πίστεώς μας**.

● Δίδασκε, ὅτι **ὑπάρχει Θεός**. Τὰ ἄστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ, ὁ ἥλιος, τὸ φεγγάρι, τὰ ποτάμια, τὰ δέντρα, τὰ φυτὰ, τὰ ἄνθη, τὰ πουλιά, τὰ ζῶα, ὅλα ἀποδεικνύουν ὅτι τὰ ἔπλασε ὁ Δημιουργός.

● Δίδασκε, ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε τριουπόστατος· Πατήρ, Υἱὸς καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα. **Ἁγία Τριάς**, ἐλέησον τὸν κόσμον σου.

● Δίδασκε ἀκόμα, ὅτι ἀπ' ὅλα τὰ δημιουργήματα τοῦ Θεοῦ τὸ πιὸ ὑπέροχο πάνω στὴ γῆ εἶνε ὁ **ἄνθρωπος**· καὶ ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος λίγο διαφέρει ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀγγέλους. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε διπλός· εἶνε καὶ ὕλη καὶ πνεῦμα. Ὑλὴ εἶνε τὸ σῶμα, ποὺ φθείρεται καὶ διαλύεται καὶ γίνε-ται *«σκωλήκων βρῶμα καὶ δυσωδία»* (νεκρ. ἀκολ.)· πνεῦμα εἶνε ἡ ψυχὴ ἢ ἀθάνατη.

● Δίδασκε ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος, ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔπεσε ἀπὸ τὸ ὕψος του, ξέφυγε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀποστολή του, ἀμάρτησε· καὶ ἦταν ἡ **πτῶσι** του τόσο μεγάλη, ὥστε οὔτε ἀγγελος οὔτε ἀρχάγγελος οὔτε ἄλλη δύναμις ἦταν δυνατόν νὰ τὸν σώσει. Γι' αὐτὸ ἔγινε τὸ μεγάλο θαῦμα· ὁ Θεός, τὸ δεύτερο πρόσωπο τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, κατέβηκε ἀπὸ τὰ οὐράνια ἐδῶ κάτω στὴ γῆ, φόρεσε ἀνθρώπινη σάρκα ἀπὸ τὰ πάνα-γνα αἵματα τῆς Παρθένου, περπάτησε ἀνά-μεσά μας, δίδαξε τρία χρόνια, ἔκανε θαύματα, σταυρώθηκε, ἀναστήθηκε, καὶ ἀνελήφθη στοὺς οὐρανοὺς.

● Δίδασκε ἀκόμα ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος, ὅτι θὰ ῥθῃ μιὰ μέρα, ποὺ πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα στὰ μνήματα θ' ἀκουστῆ φωνὴ ἀρχαγγέλου· Νεκροί, ἀνα-στηθῆτε! καὶ ὅλοι **οἱ νεκροὶ θ' ἀναστηθοῦν**.

● Δίδασκε ἀκόμα, ὅτι θὰ γίνῃ παγκόσμιος **κρίσις καὶ ἀνταπόδοσις**.

● Δίδασκε, ὅτι ὑπάρχει **κόλασις** γιὰ τοὺς ἀμαρτωλοὺς ποὺ δὲν μετανόησαν. Διότι ὅπως ἔλεγε ἔπειτα ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος, «ὁ Θεὸς δὲν θὰ μᾶς δικάσῃ γιὰτὶ ἀμαρτάνουμε· τὸ ἀμαρτάνειν εἶνε ἀνθρώπινο. Θὰ μᾶς δικάσῃ γιὰτὶ δὲν μετανουῶμε». Ἡ κόλασις εἶνε γιὰ ἐκεί-νους ποὺ δὲν εἶπαν ποτέ ἕνα *«Κύριε, ἐλέη-σον»*, ἕνα *«Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου»* (Λουκ. 23,42).

● Δίδασκε ἀκόμα –γιὰ νὰ τελειώσω–, ὅτι ὑπάρχει **παράδεισος** γιὰ τοὺς ἐκλεκτοὺς.

Αὐτὰ δίδασκε ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος. Ἄλλὰ ἡ ἐποχή του ἦταν ἐποχή διωγμῶν ἐναντίον τῆς πίστεώς μας. Καὶ ἀπὸ τοὺς πρῶτους ποὺ συνελήφθησαν, ἦταν ἐκεῖνος. Ὁμολόγησε τὴν πίστι του καὶ τὸν ἔρριξαν μέσα στὶς φυλακὲς τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης. Καὶ ἀφοῦ μὲ τὴν προσευχή του ἐνίσχυσε τὸ μαθητὴ του Νέστορα νὰ νικήσῃ τὸ γίγαντα Λυαῖο καὶ νὰ μαρτυρήσῃ γιὰ τὸ Χριστό, **μαρτύρησε** τέλος καὶ ὁ ἴδιος· μὲ λόγους τρύπησαν τὴν πλευρά του καὶ ἔτσι παρέδωσε τὸ πνεῦμα.

Αὐτὴ εἶνε μὲ λίγα λόγια μιὰ σκιαγραφία τοῦ βίου, τοῦ μαρτυρίου καὶ τῆς διδασκαλίας τοῦ ἁγίου Δημητρίου.

\* \* \*

Στὸν περίφημο ναὸ τοῦ Ἁγίου Δημητρίου στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη ὁ ἅγιος δὲν εἰκονίζεται ὡς ἀξιωματικός· σ' ἓνα ὠραῖο ψηφιδωτὸ εἰκονίζεται ὡς **διδάσκαλος**, ἀνάμεσα σὲ παιδιὰ ποὺ δίδασκε. Εἶνε μία ὄψις τῆς ζωῆς τοῦ ἁγίου Δημητρίου ποὺ λίγο τὴν ἔχουμε προσέξει.

Ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος δίδασκε μικροὺς καὶ μεγάλους, καὶ ἀποτελεῖ γιὰ μᾶς **παράδειγμα**. Ὅπως δηλαδὴ ἐκεῖνος προσπαθοῦσε νὰ φέρῃ ὅλους κοντὰ στὸ Θεό, ἔτσι κ' ἐμεῖς πρέπει νὰ ἀγαποῦμε τὴ διδασκαλία καὶ νὰ προσπαθοῦμε νὰ τὴν διαδίδουμε. Μὴν τὰ περιμένουμε ὅλα ἀπὸ τοὺς διδασκάλους καὶ τοὺς κήρυκες. Ὡς ἓνα βαθμὸ καὶ μὲ κάποιες προϋποθέσεις ὅλοι πρέπει νὰ κατηχοῦμε καὶ νὰ διδάσκουμε.

Πρῶτος καὶ καλύτερος δάσκαλος, ἀνώτερος ἀπ' ὅλους τοὺς δασκάλους – ποιὸς εἶνε; **Ἡ μάνα**. Ἡ μάνα εἶνε δασκάλα. Μὴν τὰ περιμένετε ὅλα ἀπὸ τοὺς δασκάλους καὶ καθηγητὰς. Κοπιάζουν, μοχθοῦν ἀπὸ τὴν πλευρά τους· ἀλλὰ ἐσὺ ἢ μάνα, μαζί μὲ τὸ γάλα ποὺ θηλάζεις τὸ παιδί σου, δῶσε του καὶ μιὰ ἀνατροφή χριστιανική, μάθε τὸ νὰ πιστεῦῃ στὸ Χριστό.

Ἐγὼ ἐξομολογοῦμαι ἐνώπιόν σας. Ἐὰν κάτι εἶμαι, τὸ ὀφείλω στὴ **γιαγιά** μου. Μιὰ ἁγία γιαγιά, ἀγράμματη, μ' ἔπαιρνε μικρὸ παιδί, μὲ γονάτιζε μπροστὰ στὴν εἰκόνα καὶ μ' ἔμαθε νὰ προσεύχωμαι. Πάντοτε τὴ θυμᾶμαι. Κι ὅταν μιὰ φορὰ εἶπα κάποιο ψέμα, μοῦ ῥριξε πιπέρι μέσ' στὸ στόμα. Τέτοιες γιαγιάδες πρέπει νὰ ἔχῃ ὁ τόπος μας. Ὅσο ἀξίζει μιὰ γιαγιά, ὅσο ἀξίζει μιὰ μάνα, δὲν ἀξίζουν ἑκατὸ δασκάλοι καὶ καθηγηταί.

Ἄλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ **ὁ πατέρας** νὰ διδάσκῃς τὸ παιδί. Εἶνε ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ σπουδαιότερα καθήκοντά σου. Μὴν κάθεσαι στὰ καφενεῖα καὶ τὶς ταβέρνες καὶ τὰ ἄλλα κέντρα τοῦ διαβόλου. Νὰ

μένῃς στὸ σπίτι, νὰ διαθέτῃς χρόνο καὶ νὰ νοθετῆς τὰ παιδιά σου. Νὰ μεταδίδῃς γνώσεις, νὰ καλλιεργῆς ἦθος καὶ εὐγένεια, νὰ τοὺς φέρῃς διδάγματα ἀπὸ τὴν ἱστορία. Μάθε τα ν' ἀγαποῦν τὴν πατρίδα καὶ τὴν οἰκογένεια. Μάθε τα πρὸ παντὸς νὰ σέβωνται καὶ νὰ λατρεύουν τὸ Θεό, νὰ 'νε ριζωμένα στὴν Ὁρθοδοξία τὴν πίστι τῶν πατέρων μας.

Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια οἱ πρόγονοί μας εἶχαν ὠραῖες συνήθειες· πῆγε ἓνας ξένος περιηγητῆς στὸν Πόντο – στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία καὶ τὰ διηγεῖται. Θαύμασε τὸ **λαό μας**. Σχολεῖα δὲν εἶχαν, πανεπιστήμια δὲν εἶχαν, δρόμους δὲν εἶχαν· βαρβαρότης καὶ ἀπαισιότης, σφαγὲς καὶ αἰχμαλωσίες καὶ ἀτιμώσεις τοὺς συνέθλιβαν· ἀλλὰ μέσα του αὐτὸς ὁ λαὸς εἶχε κάτι ἄλλο. Τί εἶδε ὁ Γάλλος αὐτὸς περιηγητῆς; Βράδιασε, λέει, σ' ἓνα χωριὸ τοῦ Πόντου, ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴν Τραπεζοῦντα, κι αὐτὸς πῆγε στὸ σπίτι ποὺ θὰ τὸν φιλοξενοῦσαν. Μπαίνοντας τί νὰ δῆ· φτωχὸ τὸ σπίτι, καρέκλες δὲν εἶχαν, ἔπιπλα δὲν εἶχαν, εἶχαν ὅμως πίστι στὸ Θεό. Ἄναψε τὴν καντήλα ἢ γυναίκα, καὶ τὰ ἔξι - ἑφτά παιδάκια σὰν πουλάκια γονάτισαν μπροστὰ στὴν εἰκόνα· ὁ πιὸ μικρὸς εἶπε τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», ὁ ἄλλος εἶπε τὸ «Πάτερ ἡμῶν», ὁ ἄλλος εἶπε τὸ «Πιστεύω», ὁ ἄλλος εἶπε τὸ «Ἀσπυλε» τῆς Παναγίας. Ὅλοι μαζί ἔκαναν τὴν προσευχή τους...

Δεῖξτε μου σήμερα μιὰ οἰκογένεια ποὺ τὸ κάνει αὐτό. Οὔτε τοῦ παπᾶ ἢ οἰκογένεια δὲν τὸ κάνει.

Λοιπὸν ἐσεῖς νὰ μιμηθῆτε τὸν ἅγιο στὴ διδασκαλία. **Ὁ δάσκαλος** στὸ σχολεῖο, **ὁ καθηγητῆς** στὸ γυμνάσιο καὶ στὸ λύκειο, ὁ καθένας στὸν κύκλο του. Καὶ προπαντὸς **ὁ παπᾶς!** Τὰ εἶπα, τὰ φώναξα, μὰ οἱ παπαῖδες δὲν μ' ἀκοῦνε. Ἐχω παράπονο καὶ θὰ φύγω νὰ πάω στὸ Ἅγιον Ὄρος. Εἶπα στοὺς παπαῖδες, νὰ πηγαίνουν ἀπὸ σπίτι σὲ σπίτι νὰ διδάσκουν τὸ Χριστό· δὲν τὸ κάνει κανεὶς. Ἄν ἀφαιρέσω λίγους, ποὺ εἶνε εὐλαβεῖς καὶ πιστοί, οἱ ἄλλοι δὲν δείχνουν κανένα ἐνδιαφέρον. Ἀπὸ σπίτι σὲ σπίτι τρέχουν μόνο οἱ χιλιασταί, ἐνῶ ὁ παπᾶς ἀδιαφορεῖ καὶ δὲν ἐνδιαφέρεται νὰ διδάξῃ καὶ νὰ κατηχήσῃ.

Σήμερα ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος μὲ τὸ παράδειγμα του μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει ἓνα καθῆκον ποὺ ἔχουμε ξεχάσει. **Μὴν ἀμελήσουμε ἄλλο**. Ἡ ὑπόθεσις εἶνε σοβαρὴ καὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα ἐπείγει.

Αὐτὰ εἶχα νὰ πῶ στὴν ἀγάπη σας· καὶ παρακαλῶ τὸ Θεό, διὰ πρεσβειῶν τοῦ ἁγίου Δημητρίου, νὰ εἶνε πάντα μαζί σας· 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**

### *The Saints*

If it is true that the saints become genuinely the members of Christ who is God of all, and if, as we said, they have as their duty remaining attached and united to His body so that He may be their head and they - all the saints from the beginning of the world until the Last Day - may be His members, and the many become one body of Christ, as it were a single man, then it follows that some, for example, fulfill the role of His hands, working even now to accomplish His all-holy will, making worthy the unworthy and preserving them for Him. Others are the shoulders, the bearing the burdens of others, or even carrying lost sheep whom they find wandering in the crags and wild places abandoned by God. These, too, accomplish His will. Others fulfill the role of the breast, pouring out God's righteousness to those who hunger and thirst for it, providing them with the bread that nourishes the powers of heaven. Others still

are the belly. They embrace everyone with love. They carry the Spirit of salvation in their bowels and possess the capacity to bear His ineffable and hidden mysteries. Others, again, take the function of the thighs since they carry in themselves the fecundity of the concepts adequate to God of mystical theology. They engender the Spirit of Wisdom upon the earth, i.e., the fruit of the Spirit and His seed in the hearts of men, through the word of their teaching. Finally, there are those who act as the legs and feet. These last reveal courage and endurance in temptations, after the manner of Job, and their stability in the good is in no way shaken or weakened, but instead they bear up under the burden of the Spirit's gifts.

*St. Symeon the New Theologian*

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