

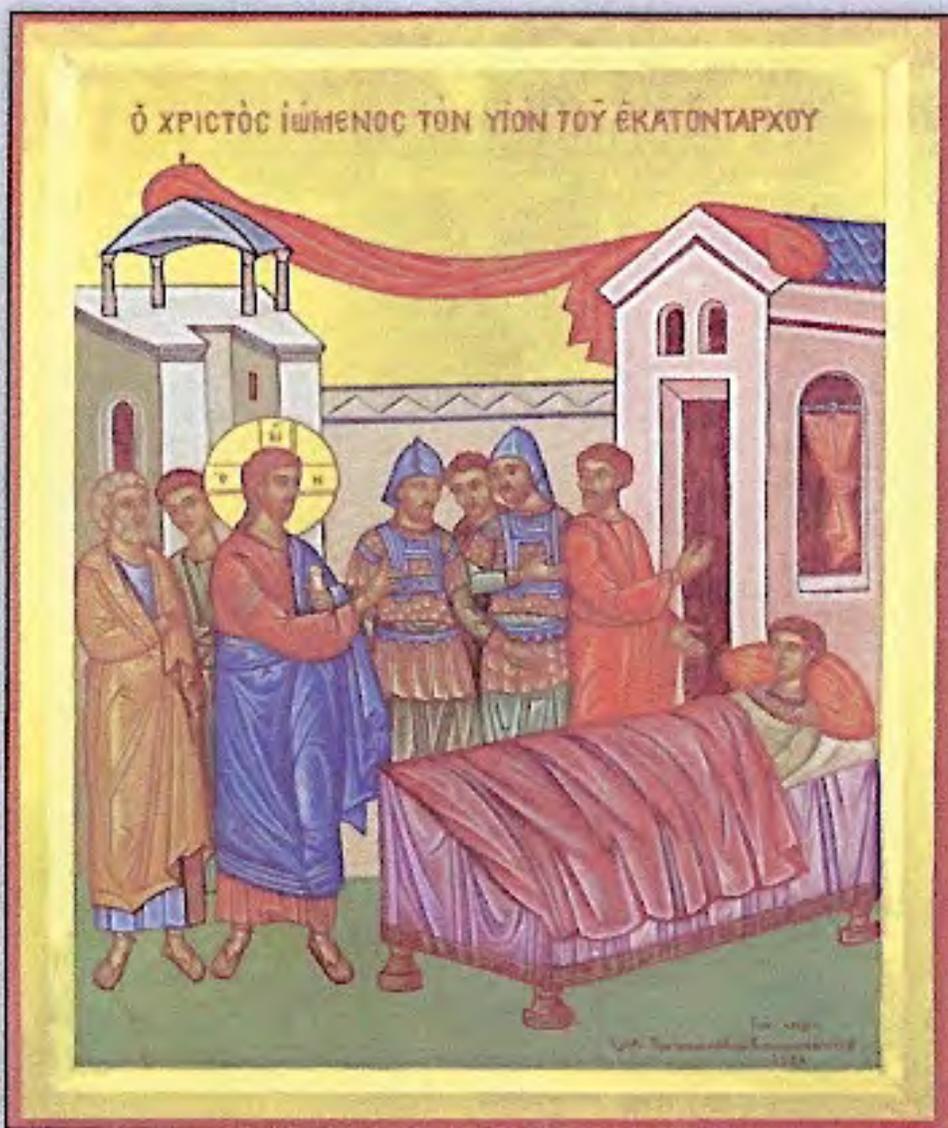


JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 6th. 2014
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FOURTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Christ Healing the Centurion's Servant

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St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:18-23

Prokeimenon. Mode 3. Psalm 46.6,1 Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

BRETHREN, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 6:18-23

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος γ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 46.6,1

Ψάλατε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε. Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας.

Ἀδελφοί, ἐλευθερωθέντες δὲ ἀπὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ἐδουλώθητε τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ. Ἀνθρώπινον λέγω διὰ τὴν ἀσθένειαν τῆς σαρκὸς ὑμῶν· ὥσπερ γὰρ παρεστήσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν δοῦλα τῇ ἀκαθαρσίᾳ καὶ τῇ ἀνομίᾳ εἰς τὴν ἀνομίαν, οὕτως νῦν παραστήσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν δοῦλα τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ εἰς ἁγιασμόν. Ὅτε γὰρ δοῦλοι ἦτε τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ἐλεύθεροι ἦτε τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ. Τίνα οὖν καρπὸν εἶχετε τότε ἐφ' οἷς νῦν ἐπαισχύνεσθε; Τὸ γὰρ τέλος ἐκείνων θάνατος. Νυνὶ δὲ ἐλευθερωθέντες ἀπὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας, δουλωθέντες δὲ τῷ θεῷ, ἔχετε τὸν καρπὸν ὑμῶν εἰς ἁγιασμόν, τὸ δὲ τέλος ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Τὰ γὰρ ὀψώνια τῆς ἁμαρτίας

θάνατος, τὸ δὲ χάρισμα τοῦ θεοῦ ζωὴ αἰώνιος ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν.

4th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

4th Sunday of Matthew

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8.5-13

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσελθόντι δὲ αὐτῷ εἰς Καπερναοὺμ προσῆλθεν αὐτῷ ἑκατόνταρχος παρακαλῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ὁ παῖς μου βέβληται ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ παραλυτικός, δεινῶς βασανιζόμενος. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἐγὼ ἐλθὼν θεραπεύσω αὐτόν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ἔφη· Κύριε, οὐκ εἰμι ἰκανὸς ἵνα μου ὑπὸ τὴν στέγην εἰσέλθῃς· ἀλλὰ μόνον εἰπέ λόγῳ, καὶ ἰαθήσεται ὁ παῖς μου. καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ ἄνθρωπός εἰμι ὑπὸ ἐξουσίαν, ἔχων ὑπ' ἐμαυτὸν στρατιώτας, καὶ λέγω τούτῳ, πορεύθητι, καὶ πορεύεται, καὶ ἄλλῳ, ἔρχου, καὶ ἔρχεται, καὶ τῷ δούλῳ μου, ποίησον τοῦτο, καὶ ποιῶ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐθαύμασε καὶ εἶπε τοῖς ἀκολουθοῦσιν· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐδὲ ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ τοσαύτην πίστιν εὔρον. λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι πολλοὶ ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν καὶ δυσμῶν ἥξουσι καὶ ἀνακλιθήσονται μετὰ Ἀβραάμ καὶ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν, οἱ δὲ υἱοὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἐκβληθήσονται εἰς τὸ σκότος τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ ἑκατοντάρχῳ· ὕπαγε, καὶ ὡς ἐπίστευσας γεννηθήτω σοι. καὶ ἰάθη ὁ παῖς αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐκείνῃ.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP : Coffee fellowship today is being offered by the Parish Council. Please join us for refreshments after Divine Liturgy. YOU MAY WISH TO HOST A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ONE SUNDAY OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS 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 for the months of JULY and AUGUST. How about you?

CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS: for the Greek Orthodox Church of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA is being convened from Sunday, July - 6th, through Thursday July 10th . Father Eugene will be representing our Parish at the Philadelphia Convocation OF NATIONAL PARISHES AND INSTITUTIONS.

PHILADELPHIA CONGRESS: The Pastor, Fr. Eugene will be out of the Office from Monday through Thursday July 7, 8,9, 10th, while attending the Clergy Laity National Assembly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the official representative of the Three Hierarchs Parish. Ladies from the Philoptochos Society will also be representing the community of faithful. This is the highest Legislative body for the Orthodox Christian Church in the U.S.A.

KEEP IT A SECRET! A special celebration will be held on Sunday, July 20th, directly after the Divine Liturgy. YES! You ARE invited to be there! HUSH.... it is still a secret.

BOY SCOUT CAMP: Our Parish Troop #531 'THE GOLDEN GREEKS' will depart for their two week camping experience in nature from JULY 19th, through August 02nd. What a superb adventure for young boys 12 through 18 years of age to live in God's nature and develop their strengths and combat their weaknesses. THIS IS CHARACTER BUILDING AT ITS BEST! Scoutmaster Dean Veroutis and other adult male advisors will escort the young lads on their 'odyssey' in the wooded wilderness. Is your child a part of our scouting program? SIGN UP TODAY! YOUR SON IS WORTHY.

SUMMER SCHEDULE: Please be advised that starting Tuesday, July 1st, 2014 through Monday, September 8th, 2014 the Church COMMUNITY BUILDING complex will not be available after 4:00 P.M. If you would like to have a meeting in July or August please notify the Church Office at least a s week before the scheduled meeting for permission and coordination, by calling at (718) 339-0280 Monday - Friday 11A.M. to 4 P.M. The complex will be open ONLY from 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. after a prior request . There are absolutely no exceptions to this protocol. STAFF and CUSTODIAL HELP members will NOT BE ON DUTY UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED.

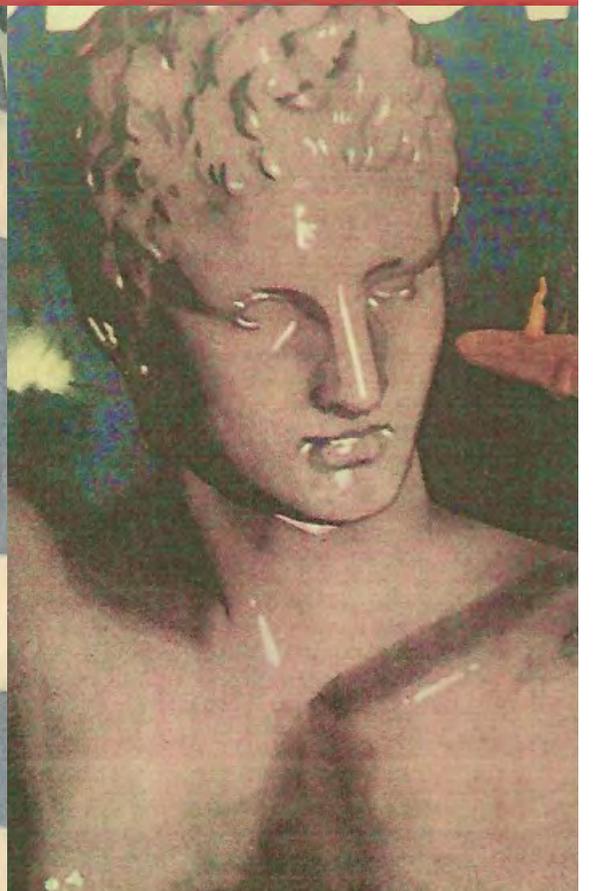
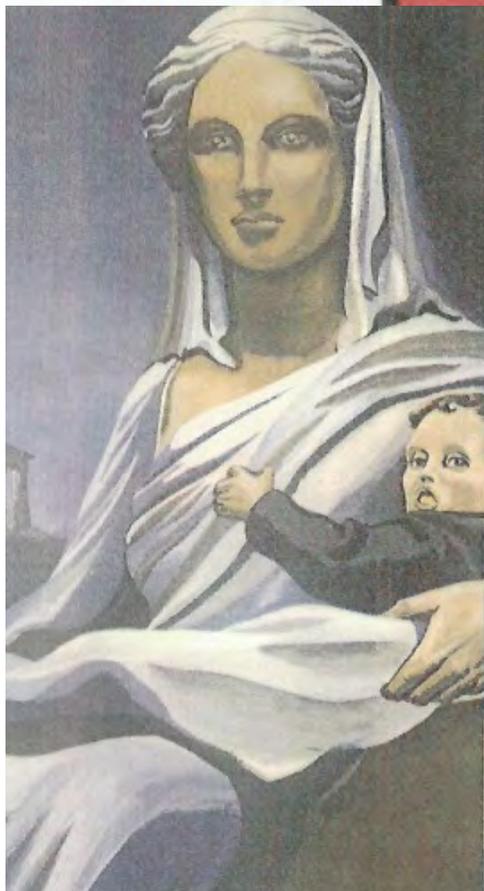
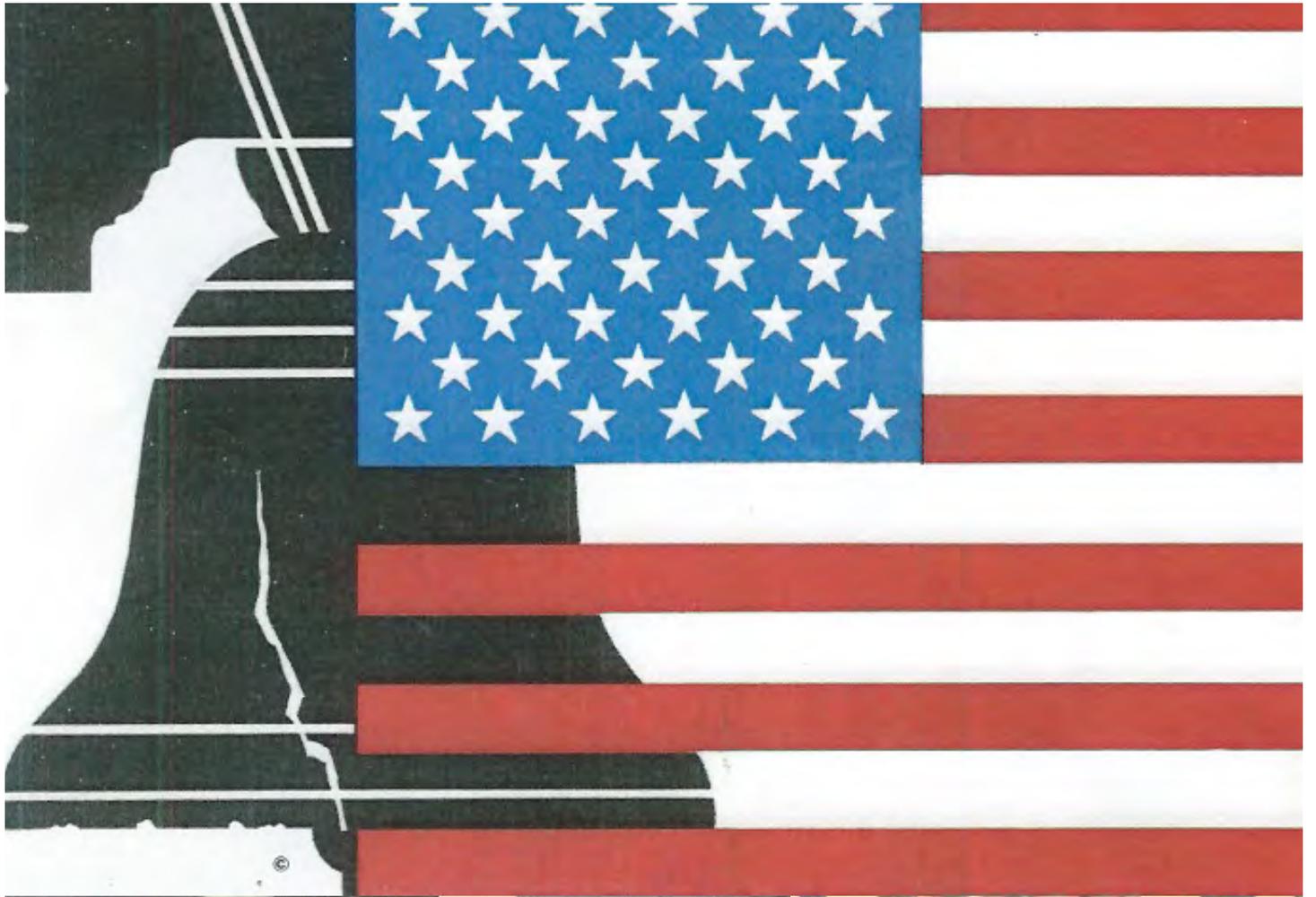
85th, ANNIVERSARY CHURCH JOURNAL: has commenced requesting ads of thanksgiving , memorial tribute, congratulations of business and commercial advertisements. A direct mailing is going out to the community , however AD FORMS are available upon request in the Church Office. This historical volume of commentary is archived at the Church for future generations.... include your family name and salutation.

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)

MEMORIALS TODAY: + EFROCINI (FROSO) MULLADY
+ DEMETRIOS ZAVOS

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + KONSTANTINA KATSIHTIS





POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

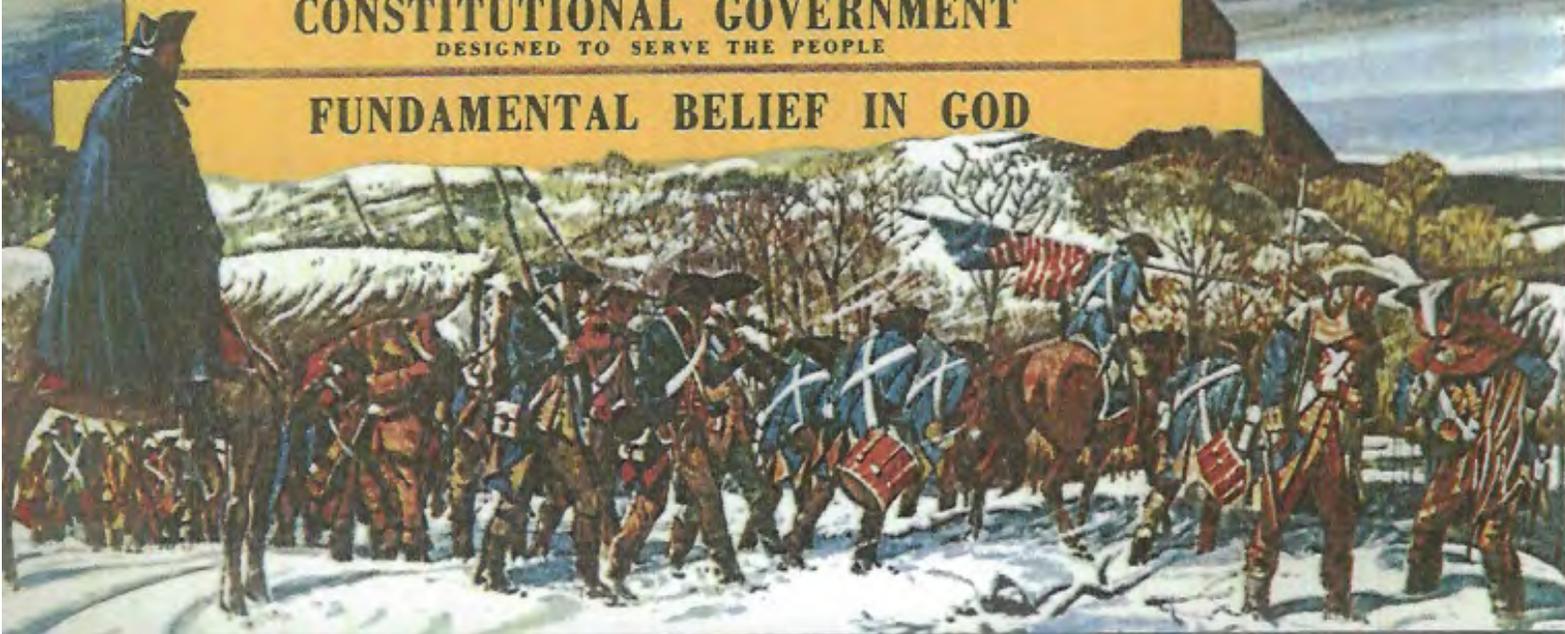
WHICH PROTECT THE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL

- ★ RIGHT TO WORSHIP GOD IN ONE'S OWN WAY.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND PRESS.
- ★ RIGHT TO PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE
- ★ RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.
- ★ RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN OUR HOMES.
- ★ RIGHT OF HABEAS CORPUS—NO EXCESSIVE BAIL.
- ★ RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY—INNOCENT UNTIL PROVED GUILTY.
- ★ RIGHT TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY AT HOME AND ABROAD.
- ★ RIGHT TO OWN PRIVATE PROPERTY.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREE ELECTIONS AND PERSONAL SECRET BALLOT.
- ★ RIGHT TO WORK IN CALLINGS AND LOCALITIES OF OUR CHOICE.
- ★ RIGHT TO BARGAIN WITH OUR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.
- ★ RIGHT TO GO INTO BUSINESS, COMPETE, MAKE A PROFIT.
- ★ RIGHT TO BARGAIN FOR GOODS AND SERVICES IN A FREE MARKET.
- ★ RIGHT TO CONTRACT ABOUT OUR AFFAIRS.
- ★ RIGHT TO THE SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT AS A PROTECTOR AND REFEREE.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND CONTROL.

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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

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| Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΘ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 881 ² | Κυριακὴ Δ' Ματθαίου (Μαθ. 8,5-13) 6 Ιουλίου 2014 (2002) | Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης |
|--|--|---|

Ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ὑπόδειγμα πίστεως

«Μόνον εἶπε λόγῳ, καὶ ἰαθήσεται ὁ παῖς μου» (Μαθ. 8,8)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἡ ἀγία μας Ἐκκλησία ὤρισε νὰ διαβάζεται ἀπὸ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Ματθαίου μία περικοπὴ, ποὺ ὀμιλεῖ γιὰ ἕναν **ἄνθρωπο πίστεως**. Πόσο ἀξίζει ἕνας τέτοιος ἄνθρωπος!

Αὐτὸς ἦταν **ἑκατόνταρχος**, δηλαδὴ ἀξιωματικός. Ἀξιωματικός ὄχι ἐνὸς μικροῦ κράτους ἀλλὰ τῆς πανισχύρου Ῥωμαϊκῆς αυτοκρατορίας, ποὺ ἀπλωνόταν πρὸς Βορρᾶν, Νότον, Ἀνατολὰς καὶ Δυσμάς τῆς αυτοκρατορίας, ποὺ πρωτεύουσα εἶχε τὴ Ῥώμη καὶ οἱ λεγεῶνες τῆς ἦταν ὁ φόβος καὶ ὁ τρόμος τῆς ἀνθρωπότητας. Ἐκπρόσωπος λοιπὸν τῆς Ῥωμαϊκῆς ἐξουσίας κάτω στὴν Ἁγία Γῆ ἦταν ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος αὐτός.

Ἀλλὰ ἦταν **εὐγενὴς ὑπαρξίς**. Δὲν ὑπερφανευόταν οὔτε γιὰ τὸ ἔθνος του, οὔτε γιὰ τὸ ἀξίωμά του, οὔτε γιὰ τίποτε ἄλλο. Καὶ τὸ ἀπέδειξε ὅτι ἦτο εὐγενὴς ὑπαρξίς. Πῶς;

Εἶχε στὸ σπίτι του ἕναν ὑπηρέτη, **ἕνα δοῦλο**. Καὶ παρ' ὅλο ποὺ οἱ δοῦλοι δὲν εἶχαν τότε καμμία ἀξία, ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ἔδειξε γι' αὐτὸν μεγάλο ἐνδιαφέρον. Ἀρρώστησε ὁ δοῦλος κ' ἔπεσε στὸ κρεβάτι. Ὁ κύριός του καὶ γιαιτροὺς κάλεσε, καὶ φάρμακα ἀγόρασε, καὶ κάθε ἄλλη περιποίησι τοῦ προσέφερε. Ἀλλ' αὐτὸς χειροτέρευε, κι ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ἦταν περίλυπος.

Ξαφνικὰ ἀκούει, ὅτι παρουσιάστηκε κάποιος ποὺ θεραπεύει καὶ τὶς πιὸ βαρεῖες ἀσθένειες, ποὺ ἀνασταίνει καὶ νεκρούς. Εἶνε ὁ **Ἰησοῦς Χριστός**. Τότε ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος εἶπε μέσα του· Αὐτός θὰ θεραπεύσῃ τὸ δοῦλο μου!

Πῆγε στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ **ταπεινώθηκε** μπροστά του. Δὲν ὑπολόγισε οὔτε τὸ ἀξίωμα οὔτε τὸ βαθμὸ του· δὲν τὸν ἐνδιέφερε τί θὰ πῆ ὁ κόσμος. Τοῦ μίλησε γιὰ τὸν ἀρρωστο δοῦλο του. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τοῦ λέει· «Θὰ ἔλθω ἐγὼ νὰ τὸν θεραπεύσω» **κε:11**. Μόλις ὅμως ἄκουσε

αὐτὸ τὸ λόγο ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος, εἶπε· Κύριε, δὲν εἶμαι ἀξίος νὰ μοῦ κάνῃς ἐπίσκεψι· πὲς μόνο ἕνα λόγο, καὶ ὁ δοῦλος μου θὰ γίνῃ καλά **κε:11**. Ἄν ἐγὼ δίνω διαταγὰς καὶ ἐκτελοῦνται, πὸς ὡ μᾶλλον ἐσύ; Ἐγὼ εἶμαι ἕνας μικρὸς ἀξιωματοῦχος, ἐξουσιάζω ἑκατὸ στρατιῶτες· ἐνῶ ἐσύ ἐξουσιάζεις τὸ σύμπαν ὀλόκληρο. Δῶσε λοιπὸν μιὰ διαταγή, καὶ ὁ δοῦλος μου θὰ γίνῃ καλά.

Καὶ θαύμασε, λέει, ὁ Χριστὸς τὴν **πίστι** του. Καὶ ἔδωσε διαταγή. Κι ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη ὁ δοῦλος θεραπεύθηκε.

Τί μεγάλα νοήματα ἔχει ἡ Ἐκκλησία! Σὺ, Κύριε, λέει, ἐξουσιάζεις τὰ σύμπαντα, ποὺ πειθαρχοῦν σ' ἐσένα ὅπως ὁ στρατιώτης.

Τώρα καὶ στὸ στρατὸ χαλάρωσε ἡ **πειθαρχία** ποὺ γνωρίσαμε ἐμεῖς ἄλλοτε. Ἀλλὰ τότε, στὴ Ῥωμαϊκὴ ἐποχὴ, εἶχαν σιδηρὰ πειθαρχία. Ὑπακούουν, λέει, σ' ἐμένα οἱ στρατιῶτες· ἀλλὰ σὺ, Κύριε, εἶσαι ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ ὁ Κύριος τοῦ παντός, σ' ἐσένα ὑπακούουν τὰ σύμπαντα. **Τὸν παραδέχεται, δηλαδὴ, ὄχι ὡς ἄνθρωπο ἀλλ' ὡς Θεό**· ἔβλεπε κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ ταπεινὸ σχῆμα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου νὰ κρύβεται τὸ μεγαλεῖο τῆς Θεότητος. Ἄν διατάζω ἐγὼ, λέει, διατάξεις κ' ἐσύ, Κύριε, ἀφοῦ εἶσαι Θεός.

● Καὶ πράγματι ὁ Κύριος ὅλα τὰ ἐξουσιάζει. Στέκουν μπροστά του τὰ σύμπαντα ὡς στρατιῶτες. Παράδειγμα ὁ **ἥλιος**. Τὸ σκεφτήκατε: Ποτέ στρατιώτης δὲν ἔδειξε τόση πειθαρχία ὅση ὁ ἥλιος. Εἶνε σὲ ἕνα σημεῖο, ποὺ τοῦ ὤρισε ὁ Μεγαλοδύναμος. Ἀνατέλλει στὴν ὥρα του, βασιλεύει στὴν ὥρα του, στρατιώτης πιστὸς στὰ διατάγματα τοῦ Κυρίου. Ὁ Φλαμμαριών, ὁ μεγάλος ἀστρονόμος, τὸ λέει αὐτὸ κάπου. Γιὰ φανταστήτε, νὰ διατάξῃ ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν ἥλιο νὰ φύγῃ ἀπὸ τὴ θέσι του καὶ ποὺ νὰ πάῃ; Πέρα, βαθεῖα μέσα στὸ ἄπειρο.

Ἄν ἀπομακρυνθῆ, θὰ τὸν δοῦμε σάν ἓνα ἀστεράκι. Καί τότε, ὦ τότε, δὲν θὰ μπορέση νὰ μᾶς θερμάνῃ· ἡ θερμοκρασία τῆς γῆς θὰ πέσῃ ἑκατὸ βαθμοὺς κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ μηδέν, ἡ ἐπιφάνειά της θὰ γίνῃ πάγος. Βόρειος Πόλος, καὶ ποιὸς τότε θὰ μπορέση νὰ ζήσῃ πάνω σ' αὐτήν; Θὰ πεθάνουμε ἀπὸ τὸ κρύο. Ἄν πάλι δώσῃ ἄλλη ἐντολή ὁ Θεὸς καὶ πῆ τὸ ἀντίθετο, νὰ φύγῃ ὁ ἥλιος ἀπὸ 'κεῖ ποὺ βρίσκεται καὶ τί νὰ κάνῃ; Νὰ πλησιάσῃ. Τότε θὰ τὸν δοῦμε δέκα καὶ ἑκατὸ φορές μεγαλύτερο, ἡ θερμοκρασία μας θὰ φτάσῃ σὲ μεγάλα ὕψη πάνω ἀπὸ τὸ μηδέν, καὶ ἡ γῆ θὰ γίνῃ ξηραῦλα, κάρβουνο.

● Ὡ Χριστέ! στρατιώτης σου ὁ ἥλιος, σὲ ὑπακούει. Καὶ μόνο ὁ ἥλιος; Καὶ ἡ γῆ εἶνε στρατιώτης. Ὁ κόκκος αὐτὸς τῆς ἄμμου—ἐν συγκρίσει μὲ τὸ ἄπειρο σύμπαν—κινεῖται. Αὐτὴ ἡ ὑδρόγειος σφαῖρα εἶνε ἓνα λεωφορεῖο, ποὺ τρέχει μὲ μεγάλη ταχύτητα. Καὶ τὸ λεωφορεῖο αὐτὸ μεταφέρει ὄχι 50 ἢ 60 ἐπιβάτες, ἀλλὰ—παρακαλῶ μετρήστε—5 δισεκατομμύρια ἀνθρώπους. Καὶ τρέχει, τρέχει μέσα στὸ ἄπειρο. Ποιὸς συγκρατεῖ τὴ γῆ; Ποιὰ τροχαία ρυθμίζει τὴν κίνησί της;

● Ἄλλο παράδειγμα πειθαρχίας ἡ **θάλασσα**. Ὑπακούει. Εἶνε κτίσμα, δὲν εἶνε Θεός. Οἱ ἀρχαῖοι πρόγονοί μας εἶχαν φθάσει σὲ μεγάλα ἐπιτεύγματα, ἀλλὰ στὸ θέμα τῆς θρησκείας εἶχαν πλάνη, ὅπως ἔλεγε καὶ ὁ Κολοκοτρώνης. Παιδιά, λέει, οἱ ἀρχαῖοι ἦταν σπουδαῖοι· ἐπιστῆμες εἶχανε, Παρθενῶνες χτίσανε, ἀλλὰ ζοῦσαν σάν τὰ ζῶα, λέει· πέτρες καὶ εἰδῶλα λάτρευαν, μεταξύ δὲ αὐτῶν καὶ τὴ θάλασσα. Ὅταν τὴ ἐβλεπαν ν' ἀφρίζῃ, θαύμαζαν. Ἐμεῖς—δόξα τῷ Θεῷ—ἔχουμε τὴν ἀληθινὴ θρησκεία· καὶ γνωρίζουμε, ὅτι καὶ ἡ θάλασσα ὑπακούει στὸ Θεό. Πῶς ὑπακούει; Πρῶτα—πρῶτα τὴν ἔχει περιορίσει ὁ Θεὸς σὲ ὠρισμένη ἔκταση. Ἀρχικὰ θάλασσα ἦταν ὅλη ἡ ὑδρόγειος. Καὶ εἶπε ὁ Θεὸς καὶ ἀπεχώρησε ἡ θάλασσα καὶ ἐμφανίσθηκε ἡ ξηρά, καὶ πάνω σ' αὐτὴν ἐμφανίσθησαν οἱ πηγές, οἱ ποταμοὶ καὶ οἱ λίμνες. Ἐπειτα, ὡς πρὸς τὴν ποσότητα τοῦ νεροῦ, ὑπάρχει μιὰ συμμετρία θαυμαστή. Ποιὰ συμμετρία; Τὸ νερὸ τῆς θαλάσσης ἐξατμίζεται συνεχῶς· ἀλλὰ ἐξατμίζεται μὲ μιὰ ἀναλογία θαυμαστή. Ἐὰν ἐξατμιζόταν περισσότερο τοῦ δέοντος, ἡ θάλασσα θὰ ἐξαντλεῖτο καὶ θὰ ξεραινόταν· ἐὰν ἐξατμιζόταν λιγώτερο τοῦ δέοντος, ἡ στάθμη της θὰ ἀνέβαινε ἐπικίνδυνα. Τώρα ὅμως ὅσο ἐξατμίζεται τόσο καὶ ἀναπληρώνεται μὲ τὴ βροχή, ποὺ δὲν εἶνε τίποτε ἄλλο παρὰ ἡ ἐξάτμισι τοῦ νεροῦ τῆς θα-

λάσσης. Μιὰ γυναίκα στὸ χωριό μου εἶχε βάλει τὸν τέντζερη πάνω στὴ φωτιά γεμάτο νερό, ἄρχισε νὰ φλυαρῆ καὶ ξεχάστηκε, καὶ τὸ νερὸ ἐξατμίσθηκε. Ἔτσι μπορούσε νὰ ἐξατμισθῆ καὶ ἡ θάλασσα, καὶ τότε θὰ φαινόταν ὁ πυθμένας. Ἐὰν πάλι ἡ ἐξάτμισι ἦταν μικρότερη, τότε θὰ ἐκαλύπτετο ὅλη ἡ γῆ ἀπὸ τὰ νερά καὶ θὰ εἶχαμε παγκόσμιο κατακλυσμό. Θαυμαστό ἐπίσης εἶνε, ὅτι μέσα στὴ θάλασσα ὁ Θεὸς ἔρριξε ἀλάτι. Ἄν δὲν ἔρριχνε τὸ ἀλάτι, θὰ βρωμοῦσε καὶ θὰ σάπιζε ὁ κόσμος. Καὶ ἄλλα ἀκόμη θαυμαστὰ ὑπάρχουν. Μὲ ἀξίωσε ὁ Θεός, ὡς νησιώτη, νὰ γράψω ἓνα βιβλίο μὲ τίτλο «Ἡ θάλασσα»—400 περίπου σελίδες εἶνε—, στὸ ὁποῖο περιγράφω τὰ θαυμάσια τῆς θαλάσσης. Φτάνει μόνο ἡ θάλασσα ν' ἀποδείξῃ, ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεός. Ὡ Θεέ μου, πόσο ἀσύνετοι εἴμαστε καὶ δὲν σκεπτόμαστε τὰ μεγάλεϊά σου, πόσο ἀχάριστοι καὶ ἀγνώμονες εἴμαστε καὶ δὲν νιώθουμε τίς εὐεργεσίες σου! Ὅμιλοῦμε περὶ πραγμάτων φυσικῶν, ἐνῶ πῖσω ἀπ' ὅλα στέκει ἡ πρόνοια τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ὅλα λοιπὸν ὑπακούουν στὸ Θεό, καὶ εἶχε δίκιο ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος. Ὑπακούει ὁ ἥλιος, ὑπακούει ἡ γῆ καὶ ἡ σελήνη καὶ τὰ ἄστρα, ὑπακούει ἡ θάλασσα καὶ τὰ νερά, τὰ πάντα ὑπακούουν· καὶ ὁ **μόνος ποὺ δὲν ὑπακούει εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος**. Τὸ σκουλήκι ὁ ἄνθρωπος πάει κόντρα μὲ τὸ Θεό. Αὐτὸς ἀποτελεῖ παραφωνία μέσα στὸ σύμπαν.

* * *

Αὐτὰ τὰ λίγα εἶχα, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ πῶ ἔξ ἀφορμῆς τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου, καὶ ὁ Θεὸς νὰ μᾶς δώσῃ δύναμι νὰ πειθαρχοῦμε στὸ θέλημά του τὸ ἅγιο. **Ὡ Θεέ μου!** σ' ἐσέ-να ὑπακούουν τὰ πάντα. Σὲ παρακαλοῦμε, **βοήθησέ μας νὰ ὑπακούσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς**, τὰ ἀτίθασα ὄντα.

Ἐάν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὑπακούσουμε στὸ Θεό, θὰ δοῦμε ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερα θαύματα καὶ ὡς ἄτομα καὶ ὡς ἔθνος. Τώρα μᾶς περιφρονοῦν καὶ μᾶς ἀπειλοῦν νὰ μᾶς θάψουν. Ἄλλ' ἐὰν μᾶς ἐλεήσῃ ὁ Θεός, **θὰ δοῦμε πάλι εὐλογίες** ὅπως καὶ παλαιότερα. Τὸ '12, ποὺ ὠρμήσαμε ὡς λέοντες καὶ φθάσαμε μέχρι τὴν Ἄγκυρα μὲ ἐπὶ κεφαλῆς ἠρωες (μὲ Πλαστήρα καὶ Κονδύλη καὶ Κουντουριώτη), τότε ἓνας Ἕλληνας πέθαινε, καὶ ὀκτῶ γεννιόντανε. Τώρα ἓνας πεθαίνει καὶ μισὸς γεννιέται... Μόνο ἂν ἐπιστρέψουμε στὶς ἀθάνατες ρίζες μας, ἐὰν πιστέψουμε ὅπως θέλει ὁ Θεός, τότε πάλι θὰ δοῦμε καλύτερες ἡμέρες, διὰ πρεσβειῶν πάντων τῶν ἁγίων· ἀμήν.

(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

Such Faith

The Savior had now set out upon His way to restore the sick man. But the centurion said trouble not yourself, but speak a word, and my child will be healed. Consider, then, that the elders of the Jews begged Jesus to go to the house of him who requested His aid, as not being able in any other way to raise him up who was lying ill, except by going to his side - whereas the other believed that he could do it even at a distance, and effect it by the inclination of His will.

He asked for the saving word, the loving assent, the all mighty utterance; and justly, therefore, did he win a sentence of surpassing worth; for Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, that not even in Israel have I found so great faith." The proof then, and demonstration, follows closely and immediately from what we have now said. Finally, He delivered that same hour from his sickness him who a little before had been the

prey of death; for He who willed the undoing of what had happened was God ...

The heathen were called and admitted, as having a heart better prepared for that faith in Him, which justly is required ... They went quickly to the faith, that is, they were not slow in accepting the commands of Christ, but very readily embraced the faith.

For that they were to be caught in Christ's net, He teaches you where He says by one of the holy prophets, "For this wait for me," says the Lord, "until the day of my rising up to bear witness, because my judgment is for the congregations of the heathen." For when Christ rose from the dead, He bestowed on those that were in error that judgment which is for their happiness and salvation.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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