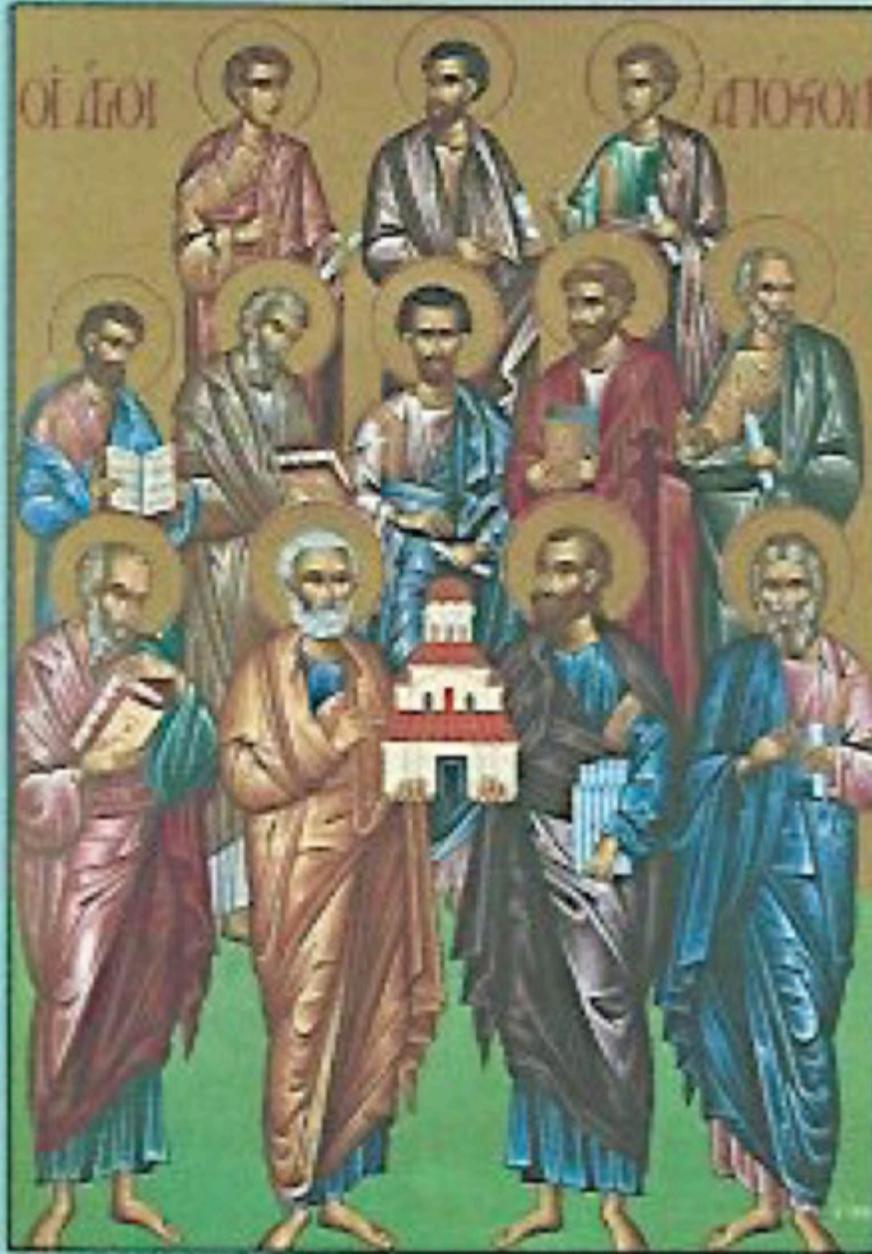




THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 30th, 2019
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES



Synaxis of the Apostles — June 30th

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.
Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγούνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 4:9-16 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν ὡς ἐπιθανάτιους· ὅτι θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ ἀγγέλοις, καὶ ἰ ἀνθρώποις. Ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ Χριστόν, ὑμεῖς δὲ φρόνιμοι ἐν Χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς ἀσθενεῖς, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἰσχυροί· ὑμεῖς ἔνδοξοι, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. Ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι ὥρας καὶ πεινώμεν, καὶ διψῶμεν, καὶ γυμνητεύομεν, καὶ ἰ κολαφιζόμεθα, καὶ ἰ ἀστατοῦμεν, καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν· λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν· διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα· βλασφημούμενοι παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων περίφημα ἔως ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω ταῦτα, ἀλλ' ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ νουθετῶ. Ἐὰν γὰρ μυρίουσ παιδαγωγοὺς ἔχητε ἐν Χριστῷ, ἀλλ' οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς ἐγέννησα. Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε.

The Gospel According to Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8

At that time, when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean. and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:36, 10:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἰδὼν δὲ τοὺς ὄχλους ἐσπλαγχνίσθη περὶ αὐτῶν, ὅτι ἦσαν ἐκλελυμένοι καὶ ἐρριμμένοι ὡς πρόβατα μὴ ἔχοντα ποιμένα. τότε λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· ὁ μὲν θερῖσμός πολὺς, οἱ δὲ ἐργάται ὀλίγοι. δεῆθητε οὖν τοῦ κυρίου τοῦ θερῖσμου ὅπως ἐκβάλλῃ ἐργάτας εἰς τὸν θερῖσμον αὐτοῦ. Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τοὺς δώδεκα μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων ὥστε ἐκβάλλειν αὐτὰ καὶ θεραπεύειν πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν. Τῶν δὲ δώδεκα ἀποστόλων τὰ ὀνόματά εἰσι ταῦτα· πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος καὶ Ἀνδρέας ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ, Ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ ἰωάννης ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ, Φίλιππος καὶ Βαρθολομαῖος, Θωμᾶς καὶ Ματθαῖος ὁ τελώνης, ἰάκωβος ὁ τοῦ Ἀλφαίου καὶ Λεββαῖος ὁ ἐπικληθεὶς Θαδδαῖος, Σίμων ὁ Κανανίτης καὶ ἰούδας ὁ ἰσκαριώτης ὁ καὶ παραδοὺς αὐτόν. Τούτους τοὺς δώδεκα ἀπέστειλεν ὁ ἰησοῦς παραγγείλας αὐτοῖς λέγων· εἰς ὁδὸν ἐθνῶν μὴ ἀπέλθητε καὶ εἰς πόλιν Σαμαρειτῶν μὴ εἰσέλθητε· πορεύεσθε δὲ μᾶλλον πρὸς τὰ πρόβατα τὰ ἀπολωλότα οἴκου ἰσραὴλ. πορευόμενοι δὲ κηρύσσετε λέγοντες ὅτι ἤγγικεν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν. ἀσθενοῦντας θεραπεύετε, λεπροὺς καθαρίζετε, νεκροὺς ἐγείρετε, δαιμόνια ἐκβάλλετε· δωρεὰν ἐλάβετε, δωρεὰν δότε.

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR: Today is being hosted by the PARISH COUNCIL in WHITEHALL. Please join us for refreshments.

HOLY WATER BLESSING for a new month is scheduled tomorrow:

MONDAY JULY 1st: 11:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Going on vacation?

take a bottle of HOLY WATER to bless your vacation spot and to carry in your 'glove – compartment' for protection on the road! DO IT! IT WORKS MIRACLES!

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: in honor of Holy Apostles on the feast day by Mrs. Effie Pappas for her son Apostolos! CHRONIA POLLA !

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION: at Three Hierarchs was highlighted with tributes to our Pastor, Father Eugene from the Greek, Russian and Ukrainian faith communities. On that special PENTECOST SUNDAY (Fathers' Day) our Divine Liturgy was graced with the presence and con-celebration of Rev. Fr. PAUL PATITSAS of the ARCHDIOCESE of NEW ZEALAND. Father Paul inspired the congregation with his homily on the spiritual life of ORTHODOXY just 'above' ANTARCTICA – as close to the 'South – Pole' as possible. Father Paul was a celebrant at the Descent of the HOLY SPIRIT _ Kneeling Service which followed the Divine Liturgy.

THANK YOU for the FATHER'S DAY REMEMBERANCE to: IRINA, NADEJDA and ALEXANDER, SOPHIA, LYUDMILA, GEORGIY, TEIMURAZ, KETIE, GIORGI, ZAZA, LARISA and IRINA, YEKATERINA and VIJAY, LEVAN, LARISA and VASILY, TEODOZIA FLORYNA, NEONYLA, NATALIYA and EDWARD, NATALIYA, BORIS, DINA, TEYANA, and VASILY, OLGA and PETER, NUBZARI, MARIAM, DONANNA, NINA, TATYANA, MARK, SOTIRIOS WAEL, FR. VASYL, DINA, EVA and so many others who made the day memorable. WE SALUTE ALL THE FATHERS OF THE PARISH ON THEIR SPECIAL DAY.... which is 'every day!'

U.P.K. PROGRAM celebrated the 'graduation' of THREE full classes of students who are promoted to PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN under the Department of Education of N.Y.C. Well done to our administration, staff and faculty who brought us a stellar report from the D.O.E. 2018 – 2019 academic year.

ARTOKLASIES are anticipated for the Feasts of Holy Apostles and Saints Peter and Paul. Please contact the Church Office to indicate your participation in offering the bread, wine and olive oil for the service.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: July 4th, THURSDAY and JULY 5th, FRIDAY the church business office will be closed. Emergency calls are referred to 718-646-2032. ONLY EMERGENCIES) please oblige.

UP-COMING SERVICES:

Divine Liturgy of Holy Apostles at Three Hierarchs

Today Sunday, June 30th 10:30 A.M.

Chronia Polla to all celebrating their patron saint day.

Peter, Paul, Paulina, Apostolos, Petros

GENERAL ASSEMBLY for the Spring of 2019 is being convened Today:

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH at 12 Noon. Registered members may participate and dialogue

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20TH 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: + ALEXANDRA and + APOSTOLOS PAUL PAPOUTSAKIS

"From the day that your father left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets." Jeremiah 7:25



LIGHT YOUR PROPHETIC FIREWORK

The refrain often heard is "GOD BLESS AMERICA", be it a sports event, an academic exercise or a patriotic observance. We "belt" out the words boldly witnessing the confession that indeed, God is on our side. The side of right not might. Founding fathers all, Washington, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson were inspired colonial prophets in their appointed time as hope to the myriads of immigrants across the globe. Those souls venturing the journey across a desert of sea, sojourned hopeful and good willed to their personal vocation not to solely survive, but more so to thrive in the newness of life.

Scriptural and political prophets are imbued with zeal, fervor, determination and positive resolve, to succeed where others fantasize, to accomplish where others anticipate, and to fill their cup with gladness. Neither hesitation nor reservation halted our founding fathers response to the celestial calling: DO THE WILL OF GOD. Our mutual pilgrim immigrant ancestors from remote and forgotten places bequeathed a harvest of social justice, moral, ethical and spiritual issues as a legacy to us. Confronted, with items deemed trite, unfathomable, or indeterminable by human resource, you and I are called to imitate our ancestry proclaiming with unity in diversity, IN GOD WE TRUST.

The appeal to modern day prophetic voice is to consider the calamities that confront us daily and intimately. Violent tragedy, injustice, and discrimination envelope us. The spirit urges us to prayer and action. Be silent, listen and hear the call of God to become prophets in our own home. Let the spirit respond to the voice of conscience. Through prayer and reflection seek to do and say what is right and just. Be accountable to discern our MAKER'S WILL and relay that message to kin and friend alike. Rise up from the slumber of complacency and lethargy to safeguard what YOU value in life. With less opportunity and access our ancestors met the challenge. Model yourself in the image of our pioneer immigrants to do no less! May God bless the Republic, Constitution and Flag we inherited and cherish ever more.

Happy and Inspired Independence Day!

V. Rev. Fr. Eugene N. Pappas
R.C.A. President



Thine alabaster cities gleam

Undimmed by human tears!

O Beautiful

For heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!



O Beautiful

For heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!



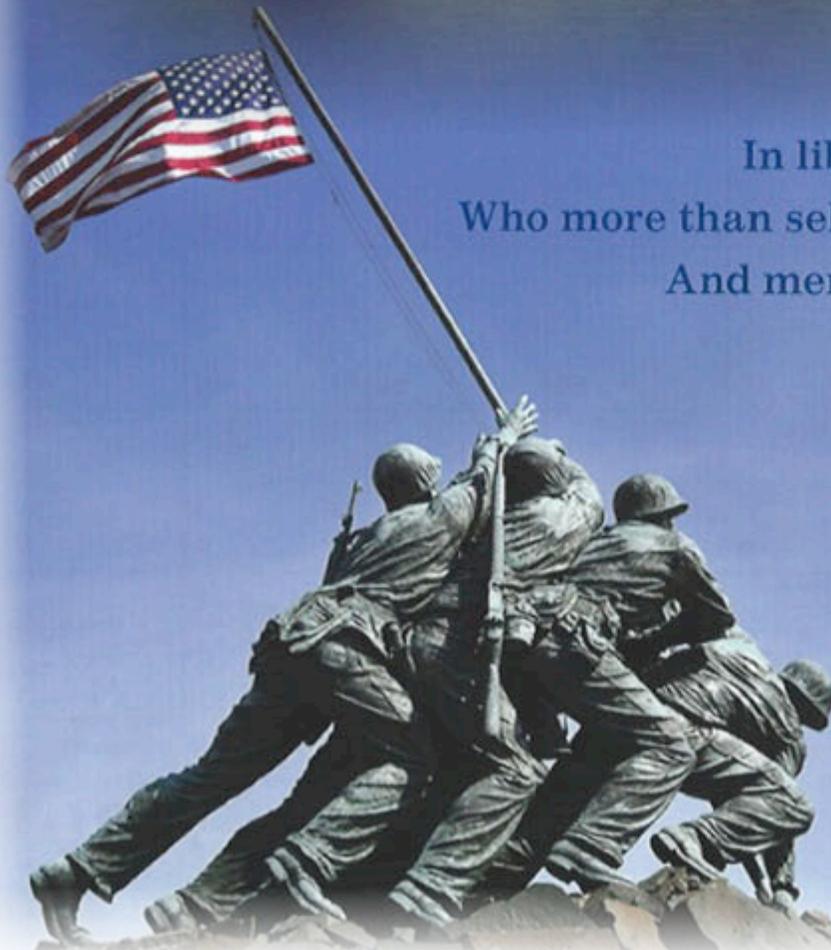
O Beautiful

For heroes proved

In liberating strife.

Who more than self their country loved

And mercy more than life!



Thine alabaster cities gleam

Undimmed by human tears!





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανναβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28510 - imaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2201	Τῶν Δώδεκα Ἀποστόλων Κυριακὴ 30 Ἰουνίου 2019 πρωί	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
---	--	---

Ἄνᾳγκη παρηγορίας

«Ἰδὼν ὁ Παῦλος τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς εὐχαριστήσας τῷ Θεῷ ἔλαβε θάρσος» (Πράξ. 28,15)

Νὰ πῶ, ἀγαπητοί μου, τί αἰσθάνομαι τὴν ὥρα αὐτῆ; **Αἰσθάνομαι κάτι ἀπὸ ἐκεῖνο πού αἰσθανόταν ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος**, ὁ ὁποῖος ἐορτάζει σήμερα μαζί με τοὺς ἄλλους ἁγίους Ἀποστόλους. Προλαμβάνω τὴν παρεξήγησι:

—Μὰ τολμᾶς, θὰ πῆτε, νὰ συγκρίνης τὸν ἐαυτό σου με τὸν Παῦλο, πού ὅπως λέει ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος **εἶνε ἀσύγκριτος**:

Ἔτσι βέβαια. Τί εἶμαι ἐγώ, τί εἶμαστε ὅλοι ἐμεῖς! ἔρπετα μπροστὰ στὸν ἀετό· νὰ μᾶς στύψης ὅλους, δὲν κάνεις οὔτε τὸ νυχάκι τοῦ Παύλου. Ἐν τούτοις ὁ ἴδιος μᾶς λέει: **«Μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε καθὼς καὶ γὰρ Χριστοῦ»** (Κ' Κορ. 11,1). Εἶμαστέ ὑποχρεωμένοι νὰ τὸν μιμηθοῦμε· εἶνε τὸ πρότυπο γιὰ κάθε ποιμένα· εἶνε τὸ πρότυπο ἀκόμα καὶ γιὰ τὸν πιὸ ἁμαρτωλό. Γιατί καὶ ὁ Παῦλος ἦταν ἁμαρτωλός, βλάσφημος καὶ διώκτης τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅπως ξέρουμε, καὶ γι' αὐτὸ εἶπε: **«Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἁμαρτωλοὺς σῶσαι, ὧν πρῶτός εἰμι ἐγώ»** (Κ' Τιμ. 1,5).

Ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Παύλου, με τὶς πτώσεις καὶ τ' ἁμαρτήματά του ἀλλὰ καὶ με τὶς νίκες καὶ τοὺς θριάμβους του, εἶνε μία μεγάλη παρηγορία γιὰ κάθε Χριστιανό. Κάποιοι ζητοῦν θαύματα, ἀλλὰ καὶ μόνο ὁ Παῦλος εἶνε **ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα τῆς πίστεώς μας**.

Θέλετε νὰ δῆτε τὸν Παῦλο; Ἀνοίξετε τὸ βιβλίο **Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων**, βιβλίο ἱστορικὸ τὸ ὁποῖο, ἐν ἀντιθέσει με τὰ ἄλλα, πού εἶνε ἱστορίες ἐρίδων, πολέμων, ὕλης, σαρκός, αἵματος, ἱστορία τοῦ Ἀδάμ, τοῦ παλαιοῦ ἀνθρώπου, αὐτὸ εἶνε ἡ ἱστορία τοῦ Πνεύματος, ἱστορία τοῦ νέου Ἀδάμ. Δὲν ψάλλει μιὰ ἐριδα, σὰν ἐκείνην τοῦ Ἀχιλλέως στὴν ἀρχὴ τῆς Ἰλιάδος τοῦ Ὅμηρου. Ἐδῶ ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Λουκᾶς ψάλλει τὸ ἔργο τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ· πῶς ἕνας διώκτης ἐγίνε κορυφαῖος ἀπόστολος, πῶς ἕνα σκοτάδι ἐγίνε φῶς, πῶς ἀνθρωποὶ πού ζοῦσαν σὰν τετράποδα ἐγίναν ἄγγελοι.

Ψάλε μας, Λουκᾶ, τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Παύλου

—γιατί τὸ μεγαλύτερο μέρος τῶν Πράξεων ὀμιλεῖ γι' αὐτόν. Μακάρι νὰ μπορούσαμε νὰ προβάλουμε τὴ ζωὴ του σὲ μιὰ ταινία με τίτλο «Ὁ Παῦλος». Ἄπ' ὅλη τὴ ζωὴ τοῦ Παύλου θὰ σᾶς παρουσιάσω τώρα μόνο **ἕνα στιγμιότυπο**.

Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ἀγαπητοί μου, καταδιώκεται ἀπὸ τοὺς συμπατριῶτες του Ἰουδαίους καὶ τέλος **συλλαμβάνεται στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα**. Παρὰ λίγο θὰ τὸν εἶχαν θανατώσει ἐπὶ τόπου. Σώθηκε με δραστικὴ ἐπέμβασι τοῦ φρουράρχου, μεταφέρθηκε ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ με ἰσχυρὴ συνοδεία ἵππέων καὶ πεζῶν στὴν Καισάρεια καὶ παραδόθηκε στὸ ῥωμαϊκὸ στρατόπεδο (βλ. Πράξ. κεφ. 23). Κ' ἐπειδὴ ἐβλεπε τοὺς σκοποὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων θεώρησε τὸν ἐαυτό του ἀσφαλέστερο ἂν βρισκεται στὰ χέρια τῶν Ῥωμαίων, καὶ τότε εἶπε: **«Καίσαρα ἐπικαλοῦμαι»** (βλ. 25,1), **ζητῶ νὰ δικάσῃ μπροστὰ στὸν αὐτοκράτορα**. Αὐτὸ ἦταν δικαίωμα κάθε Ῥωμαίου πολίτου.

Ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ πάη κανεὶς τότε ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀσία στὴ Ῥώμη ὑπῆρχαν δύο δρόμοι: ὁ χειρσαῖος, πού διέσχιζε τὴν Ἑλλάδα κι ἀπὸ τὴν Καβάλα ἔφθανε στὸ Δυρράχιο (ἡ περίφημη Ἐγνατία ὁδός), καὶ ὁ θαλάσσιος, πού διὰ τοῦ Κρητικοῦ πελάγους καὶ τῆς Μεσογείου ἔφθανε στὴν Ἰταλία. Ἡ Ῥωμαϊκὴ ἐξουσία προτίμησε τὸν θαλάσσιο καὶ ξεκίνησαν τὸ ταξίδι. Ὁ Παῦλος εἶδε γιὰ μιὰ ἀκόμη φορὰ τὶς ἀκτὲς τῆς Κύπρου. Ἐφθασαν στὰ Μύρα, ὅπου ἄλλαξαν πλοῖο, κατόπιν στὴν Κνίδο, καὶ μετὰ λόγῳ καιροῦ κατέβηκαν νοτιώτερα καὶ ἐπλεαν κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν Κρήτη μέχρι τὸ σημεῖο πού λεγόταν Καλοὶ λιμένες. Ὁ Παῦλος εἶχε τὴ γνώμη νὰ μείνουν ἐκεῖ, ἀλλ' αὐτοὶ σήκωσαν ἄγκυρα καὶ βγήκαν στὸ πέλαγος. Τότε ὁμως φύσηξε τυφωνικός ἀνεμος, ὁ λεγόμενος Εὐροκλύδων, κ' ἔπεσαν σὲ μεγάλη τρικυμία. Ἐπὶ 14 ἡμέρες οὔτε ἥλιο οὔτε ἄστρα ἔβλεπαν· πάλευαν με τὰ κύματα καὶ τὸ πλοῖο ἀχρηστεύθηκε. Παρὰ τὸ **ναυάγιο**, τελι-

κά σώθηκαν. Πώς; Ανάμεσά τους ήταν ένας Παῦλος! (πολλές φορές ταξιδιώτες σώζονται γιατί μαζί τους ταξιδεύει και κάποιος άγιος άνθρωπος· δὲν ἐπεκτείνουμαι ἐδῶ ἐπ’ αὐτοῦ).

Οἱ ναυαγοὶ βγήκαν ὄλοι γεροὶ **στὸ νησί Μελίτη**, στὴ Μάλτα δηλαδή, ὅπου τὸ πλοῖο ἐξώκειλε (βλ. Πρξ 28). Οἱ κάτοικοι, μολονότι ἀπολίτιστοι, τοὺς φιλοξένησαν. Ὁ Παῦλος δὲν παρέλειψε κ’ ἐκεῖ τὸ εὐεργετικό του ἔργο. Θεράπευσε καὶ δίδαξε. Τὸ ναυαγίό του ἔγινε σωτηρία γιὰ τὸ νησί· οἱ κάτοικοι τῆς Μάλτας πίστεψαν στὸ Χριστό, καὶ τιμοῦν κάθε χρόνο τὴν 10η Φεβρουαρίου, ἡμέρα τοῦ ναυαγίου.

Μετὰ ἀπὸ τρεῖς μῆνες, τὴν ἀνοιξὶ μὲ τὰ χελιδόνια, οἱ ναυαγοὶ ἔφυγαν μὲ ἄλλο πλοῖο καὶ ἔφτασαν στὶς Συκακοῦσες. Πέρασαν τὰ στενὰ τῆς Μεσσηνίας, τὸν δίαυλο - πορθμὸ πού χωρίζει τὴ Σικελία ἀπὸ τὴν Ἰταλικὴ χερσόνησο (ἐκεῖ πού ἡ ἀρχαία μυθολογία τοποθετοῦσε τὶς Συμπληγάδες Πέτρες καὶ τὰ δύο θηρία Σκύλλα καὶ Χάρυβδι), ἔφθασαν στὸ Ῥήγιο κι ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ στοὺς Ποτιόλους, ἐπίγειο τῆς πρωτεύουσας τοῦ τότε κόσμου. Ἐκεῖ ὁ Παῦλος βρῆκε Χριστιανούς καὶ παρηγορήθηκε. Μετὰ ἀπὸ μία ἐβδομάδα, προχώρησε πρὸς τὴ Ῥώμη διὰ τῆς Ἀππίας ὁδοῦ. Ἡ ὁδὸς αὐτὴ ἦταν στρωμένη μὲ τετραγωνικοὺς λίθους, γιὰ νὰ περνοῦν οἱ ἄμαξες, καὶ δεξιὰ καὶ ἀριστερὰ ὑπῆρχαν χάνια, ξενοδοχεῖα. Σὲ κάποιον σημεῖο ὑπῆρχε τελεωνεῖο, ὁ Φόρος τοῦ Ἀππίου· ἐκεῖ τοῦ ἔκαναν ἐλεγχό, δὲν βρῆκαν τίποτε νὰ τὸν φορολογήσουν καὶ τὸν ἄφησαν νὰ περάσῃ. Πρὶν ἀπὸ τὴ Ῥώμη ἦταν ἡ τοποθεσία **Τρεῖς Ταβέρνες**, δηλαδή χάνια. Ἐκεῖ συνέβη τὸ στιγμιότυπο.

Ἐφτασε στοὺς Χριστιανούς τῆς Ῥώμης ἡ εἶδησι ὅτι ἔρχεται ὁ Παῦλος! Ξεκίνησαν λοιπὸν μὲ τὰ πόδια, βγήκαν σὲ ἀρκετὴ ἀπόστασι ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴν πόλι καὶ τὸν προῦπάντησαν στὶς **Τρεῖς Ταβέρνες**. **Ποῦ τὸν ἤξεραν;** (ἀφοῦ ὁ Παῦλος δὲν εἶχε ἐπισκεφθῆ ὡς τότε ἄλλη φορὰ τὴ Ῥώμη).

Ἦταν γνωστὸς ἀπὸ τὴν **Ἐπιστολὴ πρὸς Ῥωμαίους**, πού εἶχε στείλει. Εἶνε μία ἀπὸ τὶς 14 ἐπιστολές του, κατ’ ἐμὲ ἡ σπουδαιότερη, πού μπορεῖ νὰ χαρακτηρισθῆ ὡς τὸ «εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Παύλου». Ἀποτελεῖται ἀπὸ 16 κεφάλαια. Ἐκεῖ μέσα βλέπεις τὶς θεμελιώδεις ἀλήθειες τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, πού εἶνε δόγμα (κεφ. 1ο-12ο) καὶ ἠθική (κεφ. 13ο - 16ο). Μερικοὶ στὴν ἐποχὴ μας ζητοῦν νὰ χωρίσουν αὐτὰ τὰ δύο· ἀλλὰ ὅπως στὸν ἀργαλειὸ τὸ στημόνι δὲν χωρίζεται ἀπὸ τὸ ὑφάδι ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ δύο μαζί κάνουν τὸ ὕφασμα, ἔτσι καὶ στὸν Χριστιανισμὸ δόγμα καὶ ἠθική, πίστι καὶ ἔργα, κάνουν τὴν ἀραχνούφαντη στολὴ τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας. «Ὅσοι εἰς Χριστὸν ἐ-

βαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε» (Γαλ. 3,27 βλ. & Ρωμ. 13,14). Χωρὶς αὐτὴν θὰ εἶσαι γυμνὸς καὶ ὁ Κύριος θὰ σοῦ πῆ· «Ἐταῖρε, πὼς εἰσῆλθες ὧδε μὴ ἔχων ἐνδυμα γάμου;» (Ματθ. 22,12). Χριστιανισμὸς ἴσον «πίστις δι’ ἀγάπης ἐνεργοῦμένη» (Γαλ. 5,6).

Κάποιοι θέλησαν σὲ καταστατικούς νόμους νὰ διακρίνουν διατάξεις καὶ ἱεροὺς κανόνες σὲ δογματικούς καὶ σὲ ἠθικούς, καὶ τοὺς μὲν νὰ καλύψουν μὲ κύρος, τοὺς δὲ ν’ ἀφήσουν ἀκάλυπτους. Ἡ μοντέρνα ἠθικὴ βλέπετε κρατᾶ μόνο τὸ «**Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους»** (βλ. 13,31), κι ἀφήνει τὰ ἄλλα. Naί, τὸ «**Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους»** εἶνε ἡ κορυφή, ἀλλὰ κορυφὴ χωρὶς βάσι δὲν ὑπάρχει· ὑπάρχει ἡ κορυφὴ, διότι ὑπάρχει ὁ λόκλιπτος ὄγκος βουνοῦ· καὶ ὑπάρχει τὸ «**Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους»**, διότι ὑπάρχουν τὰ δόγματα. Ἄν ἀφαιρέσης τὰ δόγματα, τὸ «**Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους»** θὰ καταντήσῃ σεξουαλικὸ ζήτημα. **Ὅχι! τὸ δόγμα ἀπὸ τὴν ἠθικὴ δὲν χωρίζεται** εἶνε σὰν νὰ κόβης τὴ μισὴ πρὸς Ῥωμαίους ἐπιστολή. Θὰ κρατήσουμε τὴν Ὁρθοδοξία.

Ἄς γυρίσουμε ὁμως στὸ στιγμιότυπο τῆς συναντήσεως. Ὡ καὶ **νὰ ὑπῆρχε φωτογραφικός φακὸς ν’ ἀπαθανάτισῃ τὴ σκηνή!** Μόλις εἶδαν τὸν Παῦλο, θὰ ἔπασαν στὰ γόνατα, θὰ ἐκλαιγαν, θὰ φιλοῦσαν τὰ χέρια, τὰ πόδια, τὰ ἄκρα τῶν ἐνδυμάτων του. Τὸν ἐνιωθαν παραπάνω ἀπὸ συγγενὴ καὶ οἰκεῖο τους. Ὁ κόσμος σήμερα δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ νιώσῃ τὴν ἀγάπῃ ἐκείνῃ τῆς πρώτης χριστιανικῆς ἐποχῆς...

Καὶ ὁ Παῦλος; Τί γράφει ὁ Λουκάς στὶς Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων; Ὅταν τοὺς εἶδε, ἄντρες - γυναῖκες - παιδιὰ, νὰ κλαῖνε ἀπὸ ἀγάπῃ καὶ χαρὰ, «**εὐχαριστήσας τῷ Θεῷ ἔλαβε θάρρος»**, **εὐχαρίστησε τὸ Θεὸ καὶ πῆρε θάρρος** (Πρξ 28,15). Μετὰ ἀπὸ τόσες δύσκολες ἡμέρες καὶ νύχτες (ἀγωνία, διωγμὸ, φυλακὴ, δίκες, ταξίδι, ναυαγιο, πείνα, δίψα, τλαιπωρία), ἀνθρώπινο ἦταν νὰ εἶχε ὑποστῆ κι αὐτὸς κάποιον κλονισμό, μιὰ στιγμιαία ἀπογοιήτεσι. Καὶ τώρα, ὅταν εἶδε τοὺς Χριστιανούς, πῆρε θάρρος. Ποιός; Ὁ Παῦλος. Τί σημαίνει αὐτό, ἀγαπητοί μου;

Εἶσαι ἄνθρωπος, ἀδελφέ μου; Καὶ Παῦλος καὶ Πέτρος νὰ ’σαι, ἐφ’ ὅσον ζῆς στὸν κόσμο αὐτόν, **ἔχεις ἀνάγκη παρηγορίας**. Ὅχι μόνο ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό, ἀπὸ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀπὸ ἀνθρώπινη συμπαράστασι. Ἀλλοίμονο ἂν στὰ σπίτια μέσα δὲν ὑπάρχουν οἱ παρήγοροι ἄγγελοι. Ἐχει ἀνάγκη ὁ ἄντρας ἀπὸ τὴ γυναῖκα, ἡ γυναῖκα ἀπὸ τὸν ἄντρα, οἱ Χριστιανοὶ ὁ ἕνας ἀπὸ τὸν ἄλλο. Εἶνε πολὺ διδακτικὸ καὶ παρήγορο τὸ στιγμιότυπο αὐτό.

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

Α' μέρος ἡμερολογητοπονητῆς ἐκδόσεως βραβειῆς ἑκδόσεως, ἡ ὁποία ἔρρη στὸν ἄθροισμα τῆς 60. 2. Παρῆς 44 ἡμερῶν τῆς Κυριακῆς 20-8-1968 το βραβῆν πὲ ὄλοο πῆλο. Καταραφῆ, Βαθρῆσις καὶ ἀντήρησις 18-5-2019.

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: \$300 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 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 2019 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

Prove Your Faith by Your Trust

'Look at the birds of the air,' says Jesus. What a splendid example for our faith to follow! If God's providence bestows an unfailing supply of food on the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap, we ought to realize that the reason for people's supply running short is human greed. The fruits of the earth were given to feed all without distinction and nobody can claim any particular rights. Instead, we have lost the sense of the communion of goods, rushing to turn these goods into private property. The birds do not know famine because they do not claim anything specially for themselves and neither do they have any envy of others. Consider the lilies of the field: not even Solomon in all his glory was

arrayed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass which is alive today and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe one of you! Listen to these stupendous and uplifting words. With this parable of flowers and grass the Lord urges us to hope that God will also be merciful to us. Nothing is more persuasive than a glance at unthinking creatures who have received such beautiful dress from Providence. Surely we should be all the more ready to believe that human beings, if they entrust themselves completely to God and free themselves of all their worries, will not lack anything.

St. Ambrose of Milan

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.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org