



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 9th, 2019  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



*Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea*

Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Daniel 3.26,27**

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Gospel According to John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. "I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

**"Εκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 17:1-13 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐπῆρε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐγήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δέ ἐστιν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωή, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφανέρωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τηρήκασι. νῦν ἐγνώκαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστίν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἐγνώσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξῆλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἐρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σὰ ἐστί καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμὰ, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσὶ, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἄγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφὴ πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR: Today is being hosted by the HOLY ORDER in WHITEHALL. Please join us for refreshments and review the bronze plates of inscribed names of membership and memoriam.

ARTOKLSIA TODAY in honor of Saint Kalliope on the feast day by Mr. Jimmy Kokotas for his wife Kalliope! Chronia Polla !

A.H.E.P.A. Brothers will host and serve a B.B.Q. on the PLAZA OPEN TO ALL FREE TOMORROW MONDAY - JUNE 10TH. AT 6:30 P.M. Shall we reserve your seat? First come – first served! It's good and plenty and your seat is waiting!

SENIOR CLUB: will honor all the men in their club on Wednesday, June 12 as a PRE-Fathers' Day Observance. Good luck to all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, nephews, brothers and sons!

PSYCHOSABBATON: The final commemoration of the Annual Saturday of All Souls is scheduled for THIS COMING SATURDAY – June 15th. 9:00 – 11 A.M. Enclosed with this Sunday Bulletin is the form for names to be commemorated in solemn prayer in memoriam. Please fill out the listing and return it for proper dispensation at the altar. Remember those who came before you and gave you spiritual formation. May their memory be eternal!  
ZOE SE SAS !

PENTECOST SUNDAY is observed next SUNDAY JUNE 16th. This is the 50th day after Pascha and heralds the descent of the HOLY SPIRIT filled with GRACE ! This is the day we kneel in grateful anticipation of redemption and salvation. THIS IS OUR SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE and YOU should not miss this indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Open yourself and welcome in the Spirit Divine. Special Grace is imparted. Be there!

PHLOPTOCHOS LADIES: The Society's newly elected executive officers and governing board will take the Archdiocesan OATH of Office at the Divine Liturgy June 16th. We wish all the ladies every blessing to minister to the Lord's needy. AXIES! BRAVA to all the ladies.

The ladies will host their Annual Spring SOCIAL DINNER on Monday evening, June 17th, at PERRY'S RESTAURANT on Nostrand Avenue at 7:00 P.M. ALL members are cordially invited to reserve their seat and table through the Church office 718-339 0280 or by telephone to ELEFThERIA XENAKIS immediate Past President: 718 336 5127. It's a grand fun filled evening. JOIN US!

EPITAPHIA FLOWERS from the Paschal celebration are collected and presented for distribution to the faithful on ASCENSION THURSDAY (JUNE 6TH) AND ON SUNDAY – JUNE 9TH. These blessed flowers may be placed in your home shrine, in your automobile glove – compartment, or placed at the cemetery gravesite of your faithfully departed.

UP-COMING DATES NOT TO FORGET: NOT TO BE MISSED –  
ENTHRONMENT SERVICE of the new ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS of AMERICA  
at the HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL in MANHATTAN on Saturday – June 22nd, at  
11:00-12:30 P.M. The faithful are invited to attend.

ARCH-EPISCOPAL LITURGY of the newly enthroned Archbishop Elpidophoros on the following day, SUNDAY JUNE 23RD., AT THE ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL. THE FAITHFUL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

PSYCHOSABBATON: Saturday of ALL SOULS JUNE 15th, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. This is the final PSYCHOSABBATON for the year. Have you commemorated your faithfully departed...?

PENTECOST SUNDAY is JUNE 16th. Receive the GRACE of the HOLY SPIRIT.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTE: There are no memorials permitted on PENTECOST SUNDAY.

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20<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 :** + PRAVDINA ( NINA ) SHVETSOVA + PAULINE PANAGOS  
+ XENOPHON RAPTIS + HOLY ORDER

**MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION ON JUNE 23RD:** + AMALIA GEORGIA ANTOKAS + FR. JAMES TAVLARIDES  
+ PRESVYTERA CATHERINE TAVLARIDES



## Three Hierarchs Parish June Newsletter 2019



Dear Senior Club Members,

Summer is upon us. Everyone is looking forward to a wonderful vacation period of fun and relaxation. Enjoy it all. This month we will only have 3 Wednesday afternoon meetings so don't miss an opportunity to share fellowship.

June 05th,

We are observing the 75th Anniversary of "D" DAY ( the invasion of Normandy , France. ) which heralded the beginning of the END of WW2. It is going to be a patriotic victory celebration.  
BIG BAND MUSIC  
FLAG WAVING JITTERBUGGING!  
BINGO  
Coffee, sweets and treats  
We will get a report on the Grecian Festival.



June 12th,

Pre-FATHER'S DAY observance and celebration honoring all the men in our senior club.  
FATHER'S DAY CARDS for the men!  
A bit of ouzo to get through the afternoon without a 'nap'.....  
Bingo  
Coffee, sweets and treats



June 19th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to MARY JANNACE who has reached the tenderness of her youthful years ! Only the ORACLE of DELPHI knows the real truth of how YOUNG she is.....# ? Mary's family is presenting the cake 'loaded' with candles. Let's help her blow them out.  
BINGO  
Coffee and sweets and treats



We wish you all a fabulous summer rest ! Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday , September 18th. Mark your calendar. Some suggested trips by BUS will have to wait until early FALL.

Love, A G A P E  
Hellen Pavlides



DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 of the Daughters of Penelope shared good food and fellowship at the SECRET SISTERS DINNER held at PERRY'S RESTAURANT. New Officers were elected this week: EFFIE GALIATSATOS PRESIDENT, EFFIE PAPPAS, VICE-PRESIDENT, ARGYRI APOSOLOU, RECORDING SECRETARY, NIKI APERGIS, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, FAY LAMBRAKOS TREASURER, GEORGIA STAMOS, MARSHAL, FOTINI DANIL, PRIESTESS. Good luck to all the ladies in their philanthropic efforts.



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυνακκία Τερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850 28510 – [info@kyriako.gr](mailto:info@kyriako.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2196	Κυρ. Πατ. Α' Οἶκ. Συνόδ. (Πράξ. 20,16-18,28-36) 9 Ἰουνίου 2019	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Συμφέρει ἢ ἐλεημοσύνη!

«*Μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*» (Πράξ. 20,35)

**Σ**τὴ Μίλητο, ἀγαπητοί μου, γνωστὴ πόλι τῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας, ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος καλεῖ σὲ **ιερατικὸ συνέδριον** –ὅπως θὰ τὸ λέγαμε σήμερα– τοὺς κληρικούς τῆς περιοχῆς τῆς Ἐφέσου. Καὶ ὅλοι οἱ κληρικοί, «*οἱ πρεσβύτεροι τῆς ἐκκλησίας*» ποὺ λέει σήμερα τὸ ἀποστολικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα (Πράξ. 20,17), σπεύδουν νὰ βρεθοῦν κοντά του.

Κατὰ τὸ παρελθὸν ὁ Παῦλος εἶχε μείνει στὴν Ἐφεσο ἀρκετὸ διάστημα καὶ εἶχε ἐργασθῆ ἐκεῖ ἐντατικά. Ὅλος ὁ κληρὸς ἦταν δικὰ του πνευματικὰ ἀναστήματα, συνδεόταν λοιπὸν στενά μὲ τὸν καθένα τους. Αὐτὴ τὴ φορά ὁμως δὲν θέλει νὰ καθυστερήσῃ στὴν Ἀσία, γιὰ τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς νὰ βρισκεται στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα. Παραπλέει λοιπὸν τὴν Ἐφεσο καὶ τοὺς καλεῖ στὴ Μίλητο.

Τοὺς ἔχει ἤδη τώρα μπροστά του καὶ ἀτενίζει τὶς ἱερὲς μορφές τους· βλέπει τοὺς ἀξιωματικούς αὐτοὺς τῆς στρατιᾶς τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἡ συνάντησις αὐτὴ ἔχει κάτι τὸ ἰδιαίτερο· **τοὺς βλέπει καὶ τὸν βλέπουν γιὰ τελευταία φορά.** Τοὺς τὸ λέει καὶ ὅλοι, ὅπως εἶνε ἐπόμενο, αἰσθάνονται μεγάλη θλίψι, συγκλονίζονται προαισθανόμενοι τὴν ὀρφάνια τους.

Μὲ τὸ πνευματικὸ ὁμως χάρισμα τῆς προοράσεως, ποὺ εἶνε προικισμένος, βλέπει καὶ τί θὰ συμβῆ στὸ μέλλον. **Προβλέπει, τί λυσσώδεις μάχες πρόκειται νὰ δώσῃ ἡ Ἐκκλησία,** τὸ μικρὸ αὐτὸ στράτευμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐναντίον τῶν σκοτεινῶν δυνάμεων. «*Λύκοι βαρεῖς*», λέει (ἔλ. 20,29), θὰ πέσουν ἐπάνω στὸ ποίμνιο, στὶς τάξεις τῆς, μὲ σκοπὸ νὰ «*θύσουν καὶ ἀπολέσουν*» (ἠβλ. 1, 10,10). Θὰ ἔρθουν στιγμὲς κρίσιμες γιὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησία. Καὶ οἱ ἱερεῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, πολὺ περισσότερο οἱ ἐπίσκοποι, πρέπει νὰ βρίσκονται **πάνοπλοι στὶς θέσεις τους,** γιὰ νὰ ὁδηγήσουν ὡς ἀξιωματικοὶ τοὺς πιστοὺς τοῦ Χριστοῦ σὲ αἱματηρὲς ἀλλὰ νικηφόρες μάχες κατὰ τοῦ ἐωσφόρου.

Πάνοπλοι λοιπὸν. Καὶ **ποιὰ εἶνε τὰ ὄπλα καὶ τὰ ἐφόδια** ἐνὸς ἐπισκόπου, ἐνὸς ἱερέως, ἐνὸς διδασκάλου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας; Ὁ πιὸ κατάλληλος καὶ ἀρμόδιος νὰ τὰ ὑποδείξῃ εἶνε μόνον ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὁ μέγας αὐτὸς στρατηγὸς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ποὺ ἔλαβε μέρος σὲ τόσες μάχες κατὰ τοῦ «*κοσμοκράτορος*» (ἔφ. 6,12) καὶ βγήκε νικητῆς. Καὶ τὰ ὑποδεικνύει τώρα στὴν ὑπέροχη ὁμιλία ποὺ κάνει στοὺς συγκεντρωμένους κληρικούς τῆς Ἐφέσου.

Τὴν **ὁμιλία αὐτὴ** μακάρι νὰ τὴ μελετοῦν, εἰ δυνατόν κάθε μέρα, ὅλοι ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ἡ θεία χάρις τοὺς ἔταξε στὴν ὑπηρεσία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Τὸ περιεχόμενό της δὲν εἶνε ἀπλῶς μιὰ θεωρητικὴ ἔκθεσι κάποιου, ποὺ καταστρώνει σχέδια μακριὰ ἀπ' τὴν πραγματικότητα καὶ ποὺ ποτὲ δὲν ἐπιχείρησε νὰ τὰ ἐφαρμόσῃ στὴν πράξι. Ἀντιθέτως· **εἶνε ἡ διατύπωσι τῆς πείρας** κάποιου, ποὺ ἐζήσῃ τὴν πραγματικότητα· ἀντίκρουσε τὸν *ἄρυσμένο λέοντα* (ἠβλ. 1 Πέτρ. 5,8), ἄκουσε τὶς ὠρυγές, τὰ οὐρλιάσματά του, πάλεψε μαζί του καὶ τὸν νίκησε. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ **ἀπόστολος Παῦλος!** Αὐτὸς λοιπὸν μιλάει τώρα ἀπὸ τὴν πείρα του στοὺς κληρικούς, κι αὐτοὶ τὸν ἀκοῦνε μὲ ὄλη τους τὴν προσοχή.

Ἡ πείρα τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, φωτισμένη ἀπὸ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο, τὸν ἔχει διδάξει, ὅτι **τὰ ἀπαραίτητα ὄπλα** κάθε πνευματικοῦ ἡγέτου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας **εἶνε τὰ ἐξῆς.**

✓ **ἡ βαθεῖα ταπεινοφροσύνη** – «*δουλεύων τῷ Κυρίῳ*», λέει στὴν ὁμιλία του, «*μετὰ πάσης ταπεινοφροσύνης καὶ πολλῶν δακρύων*» (Πράξ. 20,19)

✓ **ἡ ὑπομονή** – «*καὶ πειρασμῶν τῶν συμβάντων μοι ἐν ταῖς ἐπιβουλαῖς τῶν Ἰουδαίων*» (ἔλ.) ὑπέμεινε πειρασμούς, σκευωρίες καὶ θλίψεις ἐκ μέρους τῶν ἐχθρῶν τοῦ Χριστοῦ·

✓ **ἡ ἀνδρεία** στὸ κήρυγμα, τὸ νὰ κηρύττῃ δηλαδὴ ἄφοβα τὸ Χριστό, χωρὶς νὰ ὑπολογίζῃ συνέπειες, καὶ ἀπερίμητα, χωρὶς νὰ ἀλλοιώνῃ καὶ νὰ προσαρμόζῃ τὰ λόγια του κατὰ

τὴν ἀρέσκεια τῶν κρατούντων — δίδαξε, ὅπως λέει ἐδῶ, «*δημοσίᾳ καὶ κατ' οἴκους, διαμαρτυρούμενος Ἰουδαίους τε καὶ Ἑλλήσι τὴν εἰς τὸν Θεὸν μετάνοιαν καὶ πίστιν τὴν εἰς τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν*» (ἐ.ἀ. 20,20-21)

✓ ἡ ἀγάπη, πού βεβαιώνεται μὲ θυσίες — καὶ ὁ Παῦλος τοὺς ὑπενθυμίζει, ὅτι ἐπὶ μία «*τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον*» (ἐ.ἀ. 20,31)

✓ ἡ ἀκτημοσύνη — «*ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα*», λέει (ἐ.ἀ. 20,33)

✓ καὶ τέλος ἡ ἐλεημοσύνη — «*μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*» (ἐ.ἀ. 20,35).

Αὐτὰ εἶνε ἡ πανοπλία, τὰ κυριώτερα ὄπλα, τοῦ Παύλου· καὶ αὐτὰ πρέπει νὰ εἶνε ἡ πανοπλία κάθε κληρικοῦ, ἂν θέλῃ στὸ πρόσωπό του νὰ νικήσῃ καὶ νὰ θριαμβεύσῃ ὁ Χριστός.

Τώρα, ἂν μὲν εἶχα μπροστά μου μόνο κληρικούς ἢ ἂν ἀπύθυνα τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ μόνο σὲ ἐργάτες ἐν γένει τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ προσθέσω καὶ ἄλλα πολλά· ἐπειδὴ ὅμως τὸ σύντομο τοῦτο κήρυγμα ἀπευθύνεται καὶ πρὸς λαϊκοὺς, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, κρίνω καλὸ νὰ παρακαλέσω ὅλους, κληρικούς καὶ λαϊκοὺς, νὰ προσέξουμε τὸ τελευταῖο ὄπλο πού ὑποδεικνύει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, τὴν ἐλεημοσύνη. Ἄξιζει μάλιστα νὰ ὑπογραμμίσουμε ὅτι ὁ ἀπόστολος ὑπενθυμίζει τὴν προτροπὴ αὐτὴ ὡς λόγον τοῦ ἰδίου τοῦ Κυρίου, καὶ διασώζει ἐδῶ ἀκριβῶς τὸ σχετικὸ ῥητό.

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«*Μακάριοι οἱ ἐλεήμονες*», εἶπε ὁ Χριστός (Μπ. 57). «*Μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*», προσθέτει καὶ ὁ μέγας ἀπόστολος τοῦ Παύλου (Ἠρ. 20,35). Καὶ ἔχει τὸ θάρρος νὰ τὸ λέῃ πρὸς ὅλους, γιατί **πρῶτος αὐτὸς τὸ ἐφήρμοσε**. Δὲν ἀκούσατε τί εἶπε ἐδῶ; ἐργαζόταν, λέει, τὴ νύχτα μὲ τὰ ἴδια του τὰ χέρια, γιὰ νὰ βγάλῃ τὸ ψωμί του, ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ νὰ καλύπτῃ ἀνάγκες ἐκείνων πού ὑπηρετοῦσαν κοντὰ του, γιὰ νὰ μπορῇ νὰ βοηθῇ ἀσθενεστέρους, φτωχοὺς ἀδελφοὺς τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἔτσι ἐλεοῦσε ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, καὶ ἐπικαλεῖται μάρτυρες τοὺς κληρικούς του· «*Αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὐσι μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπῆρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. Πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὕτω κοπιώντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων*» (ἐ.ἀ. 20,35). Τί λέτε τώρα, ἀδελφοί μου; ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε ἄραγε σὲ θέσι νὰ ἐπαναλάβουμε τὰ μεγάλα αὐτὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀποστόλου;

Προτρέπει ὁ Παῦλος νὰ μνημονεύουμε αὐτὰ πού εἶπε ὁ Κύριος, «*Μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*» (ἐ.ἀ.), ὅτι δηλαδὴ εἶνε καλύτερα νὰ δίνῃ κανεὶς παρὰ νὰ παίρνῃ. Σύμ-

φωνα μὲ τὰ λόγια αὐτά, συμφέρε νὰ ἐλεῆς. Αὐτὸ βέβαια ἰσχύει ἂν κάποιος πιστεῦῃ· γιατί ἂν δὲν πιστεῦῃ, ἀλλάζουσι τὰ κριτήρια.

**Οἱ περισσότεροι ἀπὸ μᾶς**, πού ἐνεργοῦμε μὲ κοσμικὰ κριτήρια, ἐξετάζοντες τὸν ἑαυτό μας ὑπὸ τὸ φῶς τῶν λόγων αὐτῶν τοῦ Κυρίου, βλέπουμε ὅτι ζοῦμε μὲ ἀσπλαχνία καὶ ἀδιαφορία γιὰ τὸν πλησίον, καὶ ἀκούγοντας τὸ ῥητὸ αὐτὸ θὰ πρέπει νὰ σκεπάσουμε ἀπὸ ντροπὴ τὸ πρόσωπό μας. Γιατί —ποιὸς δὲν τὸ βλέπει;— ὡς πρόγραμμα στὴ ζωὴ μας δὲν ἔχουμε τὸ «*Μακάριόν ἐστι διδόναι μᾶλλον ἢ λαμβάνειν*» (προτιμότερο νὰ δίνῃς ἐλεημοσύνη παρὰ νὰ παίρνῃς), ἀλλὰ τὸ ἀντίθετο, «*μακάριον μᾶλλον λαμβάνειν ἢ διδόναι*»· πρόγραμμά μας εἶνε τὸ «*μακάριοι οἱ κατέχοντες*», ἢ ὅπως λένε οἱ πολλοὶ «*ἄρπαξε νὰ φᾶς καὶ κλέψε νὰ ἴχης*». Ζητᾶμε νὰ τὰ κρατήσουμε **ὅλα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό μας** καὶ νὰ μὴν ἀφήσουμε τίποτα γιὰ τοὺς ἄλλους.

Ἄλλ' ἀκριβῶς γιὰ τὴν αἰτία αὐτὴ ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα κατήντησε μιὰ «*ἀγέλη λύκων*», πού ὁ ἕνας προσπαθεῖ νὰ φάῃ τὸν ἄλλο. Δὲν βλέπετε; «*Ὅλα τὰ κράτη*, καὶ πρὸ παντὸς τὰ ἰσχυρότερα, ζητοῦν ν' ἄρπάξουν ἀπὸ τὰ ἄλλα, τὰ ἀνίσχυρα κράτη, ὅ,τι ἔχουν καὶ δὲν ἔχουν, αὐτὰ ὅμως νὰ μὴ δώσουν ἀπολύτως τίποτα, οὔτε μιὰ λουρίδα γῆς, οὔτε ἕνα τόννο πετρελαίου. Τὰ μεγάλα κράτη δὲν ἐλεοῦν τὰ μικρά, ἀλλὰ σὰν λύκοι ζητοῦν νὰ τὰ καταβροχθίσουν. Τὸ ἴδιο ἐφαρμόζουν καὶ οἱ πλοῦσιοι ἀπέναντι στοὺς φτωχοὺς καὶ ἀδυνάτους· συγκεντρώνουν στὰ χρηματοκιβώτιά τους καθημερινῶς ἑκατομμύρια χρήματα καὶ πλοῦτη, σ' αὐτὸν ὅμως πού πάσχει δὲν δίνουν οὔτε μιὰ δραχμὴ.

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Ὁ Χριστέ μου! Ὁ λόγος σου «*Μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*» ἔχει περιφρονηθῆ, ἔχει ξεχασθῆ, ἔχει ἐξαφανισθῆ ἀπὸ τὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Γῆς. Ὅπου κι ἂν σταθοῦμε ἀκοῦμε ἄλλα λόγια κι ὅπου κι ἂν στρέψουμε τὸ βλέμμα, ἀντικρύζουμε τὸ διαβολικὸ σύνθημα «*Ἄρπαξε νὰ φᾶς καὶ κλέψε νὰ ἴχης*». Ἀλλὰ καὶ γι' αὐτὸ **ὁ κόσμος κατήντησε ἕνα φοβερὸ θηριοτροφεῖο**.

Ἔσταυρωμένε Θεέ τῆς ἀγάπης! Πόσο θὰ διαρκέσῃ ἀκόμη αὐτὴ ἡ σκληροκαρδία; Συντόμεισε τὰ χρόνια αὐτὰ τῆς βαρβαρότητας. Καὶ δώσε μας **νὰ κατανοήσουμε** ὅλοι, κληρικοὶ καὶ λαϊκοί, ἔθνη καὶ ἄτομα, **νὰ νιώσουμε** καὶ **νὰ ἐφαρμόσουμε** στὴν καθημερινή μας ζωὴ τίς θεῖες ἐντολές σου «*Μακάριοι οἱ ἐλεήμονες*» καὶ «*Μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν*».

(f) *ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυοῦστίνος*

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**

*Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life*

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is "faith apart from works dead?" When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: "If you do not believe, neither shall you understand." But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder." What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and

granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life. It is the mother and nurse of eternal life, being in its power and nature pregnant with those things that cause life and lead to life.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

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