



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

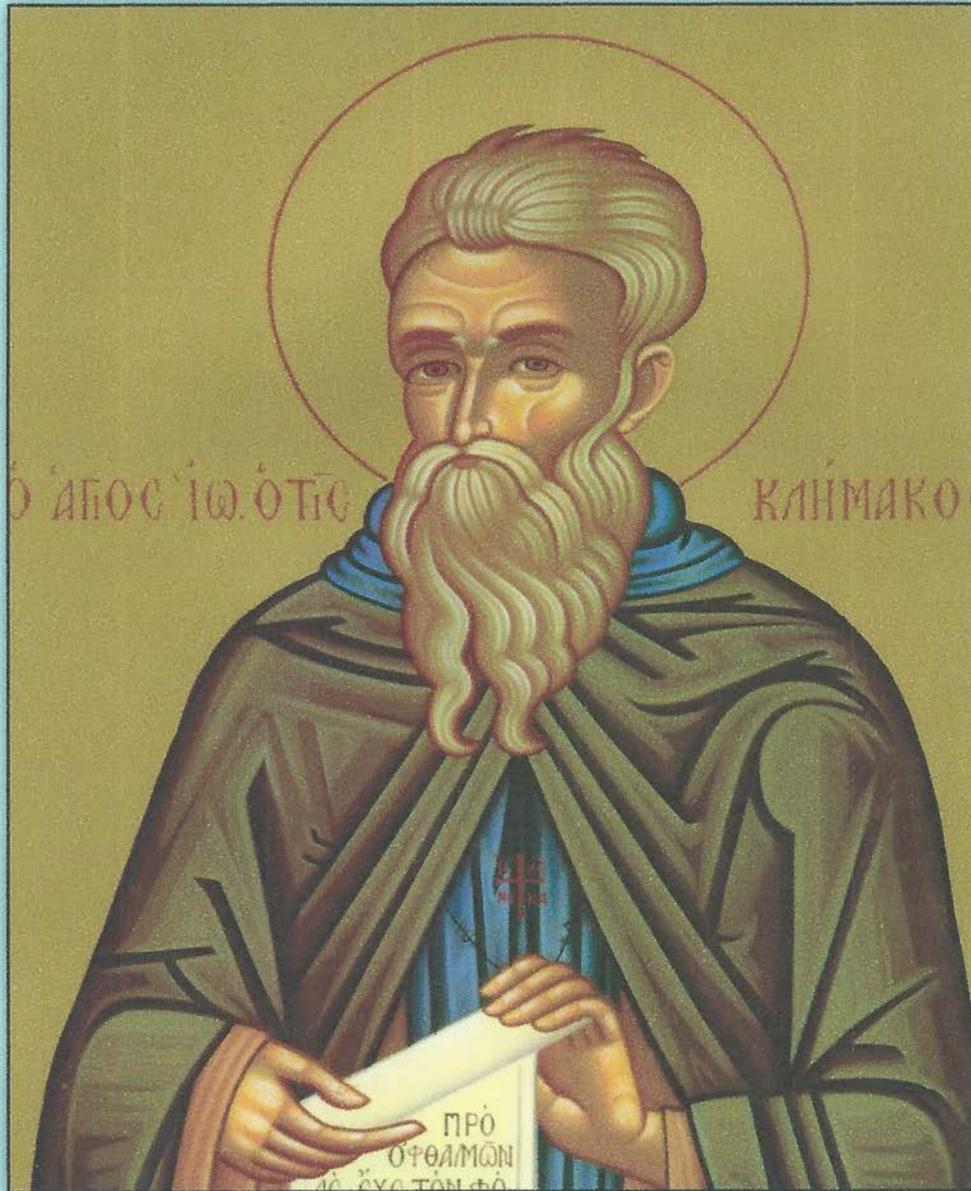
JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 30th , 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Saint John Climacus

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn N.Y. 11229-1206 Tel: (718) 339-0280

Web site: www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org E-mail: info@threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

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, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 6:13-20

Προκειμενον. Ἦχος βαρὺς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

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

Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἡ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσότερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδείξει τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παρὰ κλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρὸδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

Sunday of St. John Climacus

The Gospel of Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Κατὰ Μάρκον 9.17-31

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπος τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ λέγων, διδάσκαλε, ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σε, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπηρώτησε τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ· πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· παιδιόθεν. καὶ πολλάκις αὐτὸν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα, ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἴ τι δύνασαι, βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι, πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως κράζας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρῶν ἔλεγε· πιστεύω, κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος, ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων αὐτῷ· τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἐξέλθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράζαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράζαν αὐτὸν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κρατήσας αὐτόν τῆς χειρὸς ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτόν εἰς οἶκον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτων αὐτόν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελθεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν ἵνα τις γνῶ· ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: .

Tuesday, April 01st	AGIASMOS (HOLY WATER BLESSING)	11:00-11:30 A.M.
Wednesday April 02nd,	EVENING Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	6:00- 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday April 02nd,	Daughter of Penelope FREE POT LUCK DINNER	7:15- 8:30 P.M.
Friday April 02nd,	AKATHIST HYMN (Full Salutations)	7:00- 8:30 P.M.
Sunday April 06th,	Saint Mary of Egypt (General Confession)	11:30 A.M.

FINAL DAY FOR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATIONS BEFORE PASCHA!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted and served by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. Please join us in Whitehall.

TUESDAY: April 08th our beloved Pastor, Father Eugene will be the guest lecturer at the CATHEDRAL of SAINT PAUL, Garden City, Long Island for the annual Philoptochos Ladies Dinner, 7:00 P.M. The theme of the address is: "WHY LAZAROS, AND NOT ME???" The event is open to the public, with dinner being served at 8:00 P.M.

PASCHA WISH LIST: As every year our Parish is in need of the following items for Holy Week services:
(a) Altar wine (b) euchelaion oil (c) incense (d) new white sheets (e)volunteers to do a bit of decoration work in the church (upper and lower) palm weavers! Please see the CLERGY for any further direction. Please do not make purchases without clearance from the clergy since duplication may not be necessary!

PALM WEAVERS NEEDED: The ancient tradition of weaving the palm strands into beautiful crosses for distribution on PALM SUNDAY is an easily learned task and art form. Please volunteer and join us on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, April 8th , 9th 10th from 12:00 – 3:00 P.M. You may come one day or more accordingly. Light refreshments will be served in Rose-hall during the work project. Usually five thousand (5,000) palm crosses are prepared for distribution on PALM SUNDAY!

SHUT IN COMMUNIONS: for the infirm and immobile will be distributed at home on Wednesday, April 9th, from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. upon request of the clergy. Please call (718) 339-0280 for confirmation of the appointment.

CONFESSIONS will be heard for HOLY WEEK by appointment only through the clergy on Tuesday , Wednesday, Thursday, April 8th,9th,10th. Willingly all will be accommodated by the schedule upon request.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES are to be congratulated for a superb buffet pot luck LENTEN DINNER that was hosted FREE to the congregation after last week's EVENING PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY OF POPE SAINT GREGORY of ROME. We broke bread together at the last supper of the Lord with Holy Eucharist and then joined in fraternal fellowship in WHITEHALL to break bread together again as a family of faith! BRAVO LADIES! everything was a delicious delight to the palate.

TODAY: A bus will depart for the New York City FIFTH AVENUE GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE at 12:30 P.M. with a return to the church approximately at 5:00 P.M. Please reserve a seat FREE through the church office.

TODAY GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE: will be on FIFTH AVENUE (60TH Street to 80th Street) New York City starting at 1:30 P.M. It will be televised on New York Network W.P.I.X. Channel (LIVE). Buses will depart from Three Hierarchs Church at 12:30 P.M. for the parade route with a return trip at 4:00 P.M. If you wish to be on one of the buses (FREE RESERVED SEATING) please communicate with the Church Office TODAY! The PRESIDENTIAL GUARD ELITE 'EVZONES' from the Greek Republic will open the parade with GRAND MARSHALL US SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER (our neighborhood friend) leading the contingents from over 150 Hellenic groups in Metropolitan New York. BE THERE! BE PROUD! However, you must wear blue and white colors of ethnic identity.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY each Sunday is collecting your donations for the GOOD FRIDAY EPITAPHION 'FLOWERS'. please support this effort each week as a commemoration of the death and burial of the LORD. The ladies will be standing by the clergy at the distribution of ANTIDORON. Be prepared to GIVE. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE!

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 14TH 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: + JOHN AND +KATHERINE CHRISTAKOS
+ AGAMEMNON AND + STELLA KYRIAKIDES



After 450 years of Ottoman Turkish oppression and discrimination freedom and liberty at last!





The Hellenic spirit of independence from ancient roots, heralds the new dawn of patriotic fervor and Orthodox Christian religious survival!





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Α'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1841

Κυριακὴ Δ' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 9,17-31)
30 Μαρτίου 2014

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἄς προσέξουμε τὰ παιδιά!

«Πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Παιδιόθεν» (Μάρκ. 9,21)

Ολοένα καὶ πλησιάζουμε στὴ μεγάλη ἐορτὴ τοῦ Πάσχα. Ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ ἐορτάσουμε τὴν Ἀνάστασι, χρειάζεται ψυχικὴ **προετοιμασία**. Καὶ αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς προσπαθεῖ ἡ ἅγια μας Ἐκκλησία τὴν περίοδο τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς μὲ τίς πυκνότερες ἀκολουθίες, τοὺς ωραίους ὕμνους καὶ τὰ τροπάρια. Τὴν Τετάρτη πού μᾶς ἔρχεται εἶνε ἡ ἀκολουθία τοῦ Μεγάλου Κανόνος καὶ θ' ἀκούσουμε· «*Ψυχὴ μου ψυχὴ μου, ἀνάστα, τί καθεύδεις; τὸ τέλος ἐγγίζει καὶ μέλλεις θορυβεῖσθαι...*». Καὶ ἡ σημερινὴ Κυριακὴ, ἡ Τετάρτη τῶν Νηστειῶν, εἶνε μία προετοιμασία γιὰ τὸ μεγάλο γεγονός.

Ἀκούσατε τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Μάρκος μᾶς διηγεῖται ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ ἀναρίθμητα θαύματα, πού ἔκανε κάνει καὶ θὰ κάνῃ ὁ Κύριός μας. Τὸ **θαῦμα** αὐτὸ ἀποδεικνύει, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀρχαγγέλων, ὁ νικητὴς τῶν δαιμόνων, ὁ πραγματικὸς φίλος κάθε ἀνθρώπου πού βασανίζεται.

Τὸ ἱστορικὸ τοῦ θαύματος εἶνε γνωστό, δὲν θὰ τὸ διηγηθῶ λεπτομερῶς. Σύντομα λέω μόνο, ὅτι ἓνα παιδί ἀρρώστησε. Μακάρι νὰ ἦταν ἄρρωστο· αὐτὸ ἀπ' τὸ ὁποῖο ἔπασχε ἦταν χειρότερο ἀπὸ ἀρρώστια· τὸ παιδί ἦταν δαιμονόπληκτο. Ὁ σατανᾶς, πού εἶνε μιὰ πραγματικότης κι ἄς μὴ τὸ πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, μπῆκε μέσα του σὰν ἀγκάθι, ρίζωσε καὶ τὸ τυραννοῦσε. Ἔπεφτε στὸ νερό, στὴ φωτιά, ἀπὸ γκρεμούς, ἀφριζε, ἔτριζε τὰ δόντια, τοῦ ἔδεσε τὴ γλῶσσα νὰ μὴ μιλάῃ, τοῦ ἔφραξε τ' αὐτιά νὰ μὴν ἀκούῃ· ἦταν **ἓνα τρισάθλιο ὄν**. Τό ἔβλεπε ὁ πατέρας καὶ καιγόταν. Τὸ πῆγε σὲ πολλούς· κανεὶς δὲν μπόρεσε νὰ τὸ θεραπεύσῃ. Μόνο ὁ Χριστὸς τὸ θεράπευσε· πῶς; μόνο μὲ τὸν παντοδύναμο λόγο του. Μὲ ὅση εὐκολία ὁ γιατρὸς βγάζει τὸ σάπιο δόντι πού πονάει, μὲ ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερη ὁ Χριστὸς ἔβγαλε μέσα ἀπ' τὸ παιδί τὸ πονηρὸ πνεῦμα. Τὸ παιδί ἐλευθερώθηκε, ἔγινε καλά,

μιλοῦσε, ἄκουγε. Χαρὰ στὸν πατέρα! Κι ὁ πατέρας ἔπεσε στὰ πόδια καὶ εὐχαριστοῦσε τὸ Χριστό. Αὐτὸ μὲ συντομία εἶνε τὸ θαῦμα.

Ὅποιος τὸ διαβάσει ὅμως καὶ προσέξῃ τὸ διάλογο μεταξὺ Χριστοῦ καὶ πατέρα, θὰ τοῦ γεννηθῇ μιὰ ἀπορία. Ἐμεῖς ξέρουμε καὶ πιστεύουμε ἀκραδάντως ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε Θεὸς καὶ ὡς Θεὸς εἶνε παντογνώστης, τὰ ξέρει ὅλα· δὲν ὑπάρχει λεπτομέρεια τῆς ζωῆς μας πού νὰ μὴν τοῦ εἶνε γνωστή. Ἦξερε λοιπὸν τὸν πατέρα, ἤξερε καὶ τὰ μυστικὰ τῆς ζωῆς τοῦ παιδιοῦ καλύτερα ἀπ' αὐτόν. Συνεπῶς ἤξερε καὶ πότε τὸ δαιμόνιο μπῆκε στὸ παιδί. Ἄφοῦ λοιπὸν ἤξερε, **γιατί ρωτᾷ** «Πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ;», ἀπὸ πότε τοῦ συνέβη αὐτό; (Μάρκ. 9,21). Ἄγνοοῦσε ὁ Χριστὸς; Ὁχι. Γιατί τότε ρώτησε;

Ἐρώτησε, γιὰ νὰ δώσῃ ἀφορμὴ στὸν πατέρα ν' ἀπαντήσῃ. Καὶ μὲ τὴν ἀπάντησι πού ἔδωσε, τὸ «*Παιδιόθεν*» πού εἶπε, ὅτι τὸ κακὸ ἦταν ἀπ' τὰ μικρά του χρόνια, θέλησε ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ παρατηρήσῃ - **νὰ ἐλέγξῃ τὸν πατέρα γιὰ ἀμέλεια**· διότι καὶ αὐτὸς ἦταν ὑπεύθυνος γιὰ τὸ κατάντημα τοῦ παιδιοῦ· ἔδειξε ἀδιαφορία, δὲν φρόντισε. Στὴν ἀρχή, πού ἡ «φωτιά» ἦταν μικρὴ, δὲν τὴ ἔσβησε· ἄφησε καὶ φούντωσε, κι ὅταν πιά τὸ κακὸ ρίζωσε, τότε ἔτρεξε καὶ ἔπεσε στὰ πόδια τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἄλλ' αὐτὴ ἡ ἐρώτησι τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἡ ἀπάντησι τοῦ πατέρα εἶνε ἔλεγχος γιὰ τοὺς περισσοτέρους γονεῖς· πού θὰ ἔπρεπε σήμερα νὰ ἔνε ὅλοι στὴν ἐκκλησία, ν' ἀκούσουν τὸ εὐαγγέλιο αὐτό· εἶνε ἓνας **ἐλεγχος τῶν γονέων**.

Ὡ πατεράδες καὶ μανάδες μὲ μικρὰ παιδιά· τὰ καμαρώνετε, τὰ λέτε ἀγγελουδία. Εἶνε ἄραγε; Μακάρι νὰ ἦταν. Τὰ παιδιά, πού ἀγαπᾶτε καὶ θουσιάζετε γι' αὐτά, μὴ λησμονεῖτε ὅτι εἶνε παιδιά τοῦ Ἀδάμ καὶ τῆς Εὕας, ἔχουν μέσα τους διάφορες **κακίες καὶ ἐλαττώματα**.

● Βλέπετε αὐτὸ τὸ ἀγγελουδί κι ἄμα δὲν γίνῃ τὸ θέλημά του, γίνεται μέσα στὸ σπίτι τύ-

ραννος· ἂν δὲν γίνῃ τὸ θέλημά του, πεισμώνει, πέφτει κάτω χτυπιέται κι ἀφρίζει σὰν τὸ δαιμονισμένο τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Εἶνε μικρὸ δαιμόνιο τὸ **πεῖσμα**; Νὰ σκεφτῆς, μάνα, πολὺ καλὰ· ἀλλοῖμόνο ἂν αὐτὸ τὸ πεῖσμα αὔριο μεγαλώση.

● Βλέπεις ἐσὺ ἢ ἄλλη μάνα τὸ παιδί, ποὺ δὲν τολμάει νὰ τὸ πειράξῃ ἄλλο παιδί, ἀλλὰ μὲ τὴν παραμικρὴ ἀφορμὴ θυμώνει, ὀρμάει, ἀρπάζει πέτρες ἢ ὅ,τι ἄλλο βρῆ γιὰ νὰ χτυπήσῃ τὸ ἀδελφάκι του; Ἔχει τὸ δαιμόνιο τῆς ἔριδος, τῆς **φιλονικίας**. Εἶνε μικρὸ τὸ δαιμόνιο αὐτό;

● Βλέπεις τὸ ἄλλο ἀγγελούδι σου, ποὺ τὸ λὲς «χρυσὸ μου», καὶ μόλις δώση κανεὶς στὸ ἄλλο παιδί μιὰ κούκλα ἢ κάτι ἄλλο, κιτρινίζει σὰ λεμόνι. Τί ἔχει μέσα του; Ἔχει τὸ σοβαρὸ ἐλάττωμα ποὺ λέγεται **φθόνος**. Εἶνε μικρὸ τὸ ἐλάττωμα αὐτό, νὰ φθονῆ τὸ ἀδελφάκι του γιατί τὸ χάιδεψαν ἢ τοῦ ἴδωσαν ἓνα παιχνιδάκι;

● Βλέπεις ἐσὺ μάνα τὸ ἄλλο ἀγγελούδι σου νὰ ἔχη μιὰ μανία καταστροφῆς· ὅ,τι βρῆ μπροστά του τὸ σπάζει, βασανίζει ζῶα, σκοτώνει πουλιά, περιπαίζει τοὺς γέροντες. Ἔχει τὸ δαιμόνιο τῆς **κακίας** καὶ **μοχθηρίας**· οἱ ψυχολόγοι λένε ὅτι, ἂν δὲν τὸ προσέξῃς θὰ γίνῃ σαδιστής, νὰ χαίρεται ὅταν σφάζει τὸν ἄλλο.

Τὰ παιδιὰ εἶνε μῆλα ὥραϊα ἀπ' ἔξω, ἀλλὰ μέσα ἔχουν σκουλήκι, ἔχουν μέσα τὸ κακό. **Τί πρέπει νὰ γίνῃ**; Πρέπει νὰ τὰ προσέξουμε ὅσο εἶνε μικρὰ καὶ τὸ κακό σὲ μικρὴ ἔκτασι.

● Κάποιος ὀνομαστός πνευματικὸς πατέρας, γιὰ νὰ διδάξῃ τὰ παιδιὰ του ὅτι πρέπει ἀπὸ μικροὶ νὰ φροντίζουν, γιατί τὰ πολυχρόνια πάθη εἶνε δυσίατα ἂν ὄχι ἀθεράπευτα, τοὺς πῆγε μιὰ μέρα στὸ περιβόλι, ὅπου ὑπῆρχαν διάφορα δέντρα. Βλέπετε, λέει, αὐτὸ τὸ μικρὸ θάμνο; ξερριζώστε τον. Τὸν ξερριζώσαν μὲ εὐκολία. Βλέπετε ἐκεῖνο τὸ δεντράκι; ξερριζώστε το. Τὸ ξερριζώσαν. Βλέπετε τὴ λεμονιά; ξερριζώστε την. Ἐδῶ δυσκολεύτηκαν λίγο. Βλέπετε τὴν ἀμυγδαλιά; γιὰ προσπαθήστε. Προσπάθησαν ὅλοι μαζί, μὰ δὲν μπόρεσαν· εἶχε τίς ρίζες βαθειά. Καταλάβετε τί θέλω νὰ σᾶς πῶ; Τὰ ἐλαττώματα στὴν ἀρχὴ εἶνε σὰν τὰ μικρὰ δεντράκια· εὐκόλα τὰ ξερριζώνεις· ἂν ἀφήσῃς ὅμως τὸ κακό καὶ μεγαλώσῃ μαζί μὲ τὴν ἡλικία, τότε γίνεται γέρικο πλατάνι, καὶ δὲν ξερριζώνεται. Γι' αὐτὸ ἀπαιτεῖται **προσοχὴ ἀπὸ τὴ μικρὴ ἡλικία**. Θὰ ἴθελαι νὰ ἴχα μπροστά μου ὅλους τοὺς γονεῖς, νὰ κρούσω τὸν κώδωνα καὶ νὰ τοὺς φωνάξω· Προσοχή! ὄχι στὰ πορτοφόλια, ὄχι στὰ κτήματα, ὄχι στὶς δουλειές, ἀλλὰ στὰ παιδιὰ. Προσοχὴ στὶς **συναναστροφές** μὲ φίλους καὶ φιλενάδες· μιὰ κακὴ συναναστροφή μπορεῖ νὰ καταστρέψῃ τὸ παιδί. Τὸ εἶπε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο, τὸ εἶπαν

οἱ ἀρχαῖοι, τὸ εἶπε κι ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος· «**Φθείρουσιν ἡθὴ χρηστὰ ὀμιλία κακαί**», καταστρέφουν τὸν ἄνθρωπο οἱ κακὲς παρέες (Α' Κορ. 15,33).

Προσοχὴ ἀκόμη στὰ **ἀναγνώσματα** (βιβλία, περιοδικὰ, μυθιστορήματα)· ἓνα βιβλίον κακὸ εἶνε φαρμάκι, θανατώνει. Προσοχὴ στὶς **ταινίες** - τὰ θεάματα· ἀπὸ ἑκεῖ βγαίνουν ἐγκληματίες. Προσοχὴ στὶς **ἐκδρομές**· μπορεῖ ἀπὸ μιὰ ἐκδρομὴ τὸ παιδί νὰ γυρίσῃ ῥάκος. Προσοχὴ μέρα - νύχτα.

● Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὴν προσοχὴ τί ἄλλο χρειάζεται; Κάτι ποὺ τὸ λησμόνησαν οἱ γονεῖς· **τιμωρία**. Naί· ἀλλοίμονο ἂν δὲν τιμωρῆς τὸ παιδί. Χαρὰ στὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴ μάνα ποὺ ἔχει τὸ κουράγιο νὰ τιμωρῆ· ὅταν πεθάνουν, τὸ παιδί θὰ θυμᾶται ὄχι τὰ χὰδια ἀλλὰ τίς τιμωρίες τους. Βλαστημάει τὸ παιδί μπροστά σου, λέει αἰσχρά, κ' ἐσὺ γελάς; Φωτιά σ' ἐσένα, φωτιά καὶ σ' αὐτό.

● Ἀλλὰ παραπάνω ἀπὸ τὴν προσοχὴ καὶ τὴν τιμωρία χρειάζεται καλὸ **παράδειγμα** ἀπὸ τὴ μάνα καὶ τὸν πατέρα. Τὸ παιδί δὲν προσέχει τὰ λόγια· προσέχει τὴ διαγωγή, τὴ ζωὴ. Μόνο γονεῖς ποὺ ζοῦν τὸ Χριστὸ μποροῦν νὰ φυτέψουν στὰ παιδιὰ χριστιανικὲς ἀρετὲς καὶ νὰ τὰ κάνουν παιδιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας.

● Εἶπα προσοχὴ, τιμωρία, παράδειγμα, μὰ κάτι λησμόνησα· παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτὰ, πατέρα - μάνα, στὰ γόνατα, στὴν **προσευχὴ!** νὰ παρακαλῆτε τὸ Θεὸ νὰ φωτίξῃ τὰ παιδιὰ σας· ἂν δὲν τὰ φωτίσῃ, δὲν θὰ γίνῃ τίποτα.

* * *

Δύσκολο πρᾶγμα ἡ ἀνατροφή καὶ ἀγωγή ἐνόου παιδιοῦ, σήμερα μάλιστα. Κι **ἂν οἱ γονεῖς ἀμελήσουν**, ἡ τιμωρία θὰ ἴνε μεγάλη. Ἐνας μελλοθάνατος κακοῦργος φώναζε στὴ μάνα του· Ἐσὺ φταῖς, γιατί ὅταν ἔκλεψα ἓνα ἀβγό δὲ μοῦ ἴσπασες τὸ χέρι, ἔτσι ἔφτασα νὰ γίνω ἐγκληματίας.

Ἄς προσέξουμε λοιπὸν ὅλοι. Νὰ στρέψουμε τὴν προσοχὴ στὸ παιδί. **Τὸ κράτος** - τὸ λέω μὲ λύπη - δὲν προσέχει. Κι ὄχι μόνο αὐτό· δυστυχῶς αὐτὸ εἶνε ὁ μεγαλύτερος διαφθορεὺς τῆς νεότητος. Μὲ πλῆθος τρόπους σπρώχνει στὴ διαφθορά. Γι' αὐτὸ εἶνε δύσκολη ἡ ἀγωγή.

Ἄν προσέξουμε, ἀπὸ αὐτὰ τὰ μικρὰ παιδιὰ θὰ βγῆ μιὰ νέα γενεά, χαρὰ τοῦ σπιτιοῦ, χαρὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων, χαρὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Ἄν τ' ἀφήσουμε χωρὶς φροντίδα, τότε κρίμα στὰ χρήματα, στὰ σπιτία, στὰ γεφύρια... ἅμα μεγαλώσουν, θὰ γίνουν φαῦλοι, διαρρηκτες, **ἐπικίνδυνοι ἄνθρωποι**, θὰ βάλουν φωτιά νὰ τὰ κάψουν ὅλα.

Νὰ προσέξουμε τὰ παιδιὰ! φωνάζει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο· γιὰ νὰ ἴχουμε τὴν **εὐλογία** τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ᾧ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων· 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

Counsel from Saint John Climacus

Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility. Repentance is constant distrust of bodily comfort. Repentance is self-condemning reflection, and carefree self-care. Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair. A penitent is an undisgraced convict. Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by the practice of good deeds contrary to the sins. Repentance is purification of conscience. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions. A penitent is the inflicter of his own punishments. Repentance is a mighty persecution of the stomach, and a striking of the soul into vigorous awareness.

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground coura-

geously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible.

Have all courage, and you will have God for your teacher in prayer. Just as it is impossible to learn to see by word of mouth because seeing depends on one's own natural sight, so it is impossible to realize the beauty of prayer from the teaching of others. Prayer has a Teacher all its own - God - who teaches man knowledge, and grants the prayer of him who prays, and blesses the years of the just.

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.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org