

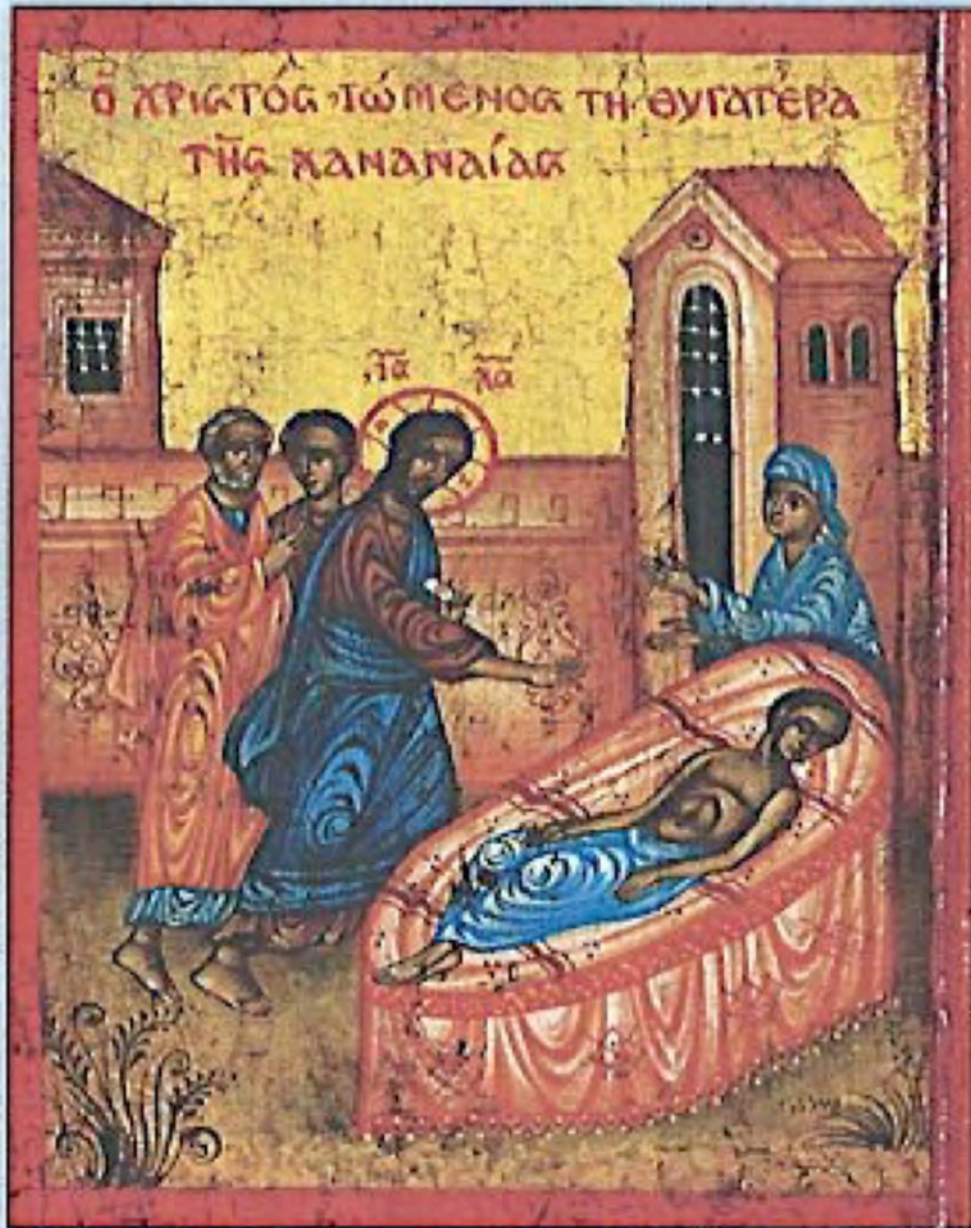


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN February 14th , 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE



Icon of Healing the Canaanite Woman's Daughter

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280
Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org E-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.

Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

BRETHREN, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:16-18, 7:1

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ δ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Ἀδελφοί, ὑμεῖς ἐστε ναὸς Θεοῦ ζῶντος, καθὼς εἶπεν ὁ θεός ὅτι Ἐνοικήσω ἐν αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἐμπεριπατήσω· καὶ ἔσομαι αὐτῶν θεός, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔσονται μοι λαός. Διὸ, Ἐξέλθετε ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν καὶ ἀφορίσθητε, λέγει κύριος, καὶ ἀκαθάρτου μὴ ἄπτεσθε· κἀγὼ εἰσδέξομαι ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσομαι ὑμῖν εἰς πατέρα, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἔσεσθέ μοι εἰς υἱοὺς καὶ θυγατέρας, λέγει κύριος παντοκράτωρ. Ταύτας οὖν ἔχοντες τὰς ἐπαγγελίας, ἀγαπητοί, καθαρίσωμεν ἑαυτοὺς ἀπὸ παντὸς μολυσμοῦ σαρκὸς καὶ πνεύματος, ἐπιτελοῦντες ἀγιωσύνην ἐν φόβῳ θεοῦ.

Sunday of the Canaanite

The Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sunday of the Canaanite

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 15:21-28

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐξελθὼν ἐκεῖθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη Τύρου καὶ Σιδῶνος. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ Χαναναία ἀπὸ τῶν ὀρίων ἐκείνων ἐξελθοῦσα ἐκραύγαζεν αὐτῷ λέγουσα· ἐλέησόν με, Κύριε, υἱὲ Δαυΐδ· ἡ θυγάτηρ μου κακῶς δαιμονίζεται. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῇ λόγον. καὶ προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἠρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες· ἀπόλυσον αὐτήν, ὅτι κράζει ὀπισθεν ἡμῶν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν· οὐκ ἀπεστάλην εἰ μὴ εἰς τὰ πρόβατα τὰ ἀπολωλότα οἴκου Ἰσραὴλ. ἡ δὲ ἐλθοῦσα προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ λέγουσα· Κύριε, βοήθει μοι. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν· οὐκ ἔστι καλὸν λαβεῖν τὸν ἄρτον τῶν τέκνων καὶ βαλεῖν τοῖς κυναρίοις. ἡ δὲ εἶπε· ναί, Κύριε· καὶ γὰρ τὰ κυνάρια ἐσθίει ἀπὸ τῶν ψυχίων τῶν πιπτόντων ἀπὸ τῆς τραπέζης τῶν κυρίων αὐτῶν. τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῇ· ὦ γύναι, μεγάλη σου ἡ πίστις! γεννηθήτω σοι ὡς θέλεις. καὶ ἰάθη ἡ θυγάτηρ αὐτῆς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted in blessed memory of + GALATEA APHRODITE MASTRANTONAKIS by her daughter Marea.

MR. MRS.MS. CLUB: Regular scheduled meeting for February 16th, at 7:00 P.M. The group meets every 3rd TUESDAY EVENING of the MONTH at 7:00 P.M. Wonderful activities, prizes, dinners and parties are scheduled. Consider joining us! For further information call Sylvia Vellios.

THE PASTOR wishes to acknowledge the overwhelming thoughtfulness of the RUSSIAN COMMUNITY who graciously offered him a gift on the occasion of the 50. Golden Anniversary of his ORDINATION to HOLY ORDERS. We embrace them all:

M N O G A Y A - L E T A :

Giorgi, Teinuraz, Tatyana, Tatyana, Olga, Lyudmila, Tetyana & Olga , Teadozia, Floryna, Elena& Lyudmila, Tatyana, Irina, Nadezhda & Alexander, Boris, Vasiliy, Sophia @, Alla, Michael, Larisa & Irina, Maria & Alexander , Dina

EMMAUS LECTURE SERIES: ADULT EDUCATION – continues on Thursday February 25, at 7:00 P.M at Saint Nektarios Church (67th Street and Fourth Avenue – Brooklyn) 718-748-7667 Guest Lecturer is Russian Orthodox Priest FR. KRAWCZUK with the subject ORTHODOX FUNERAL RITE and TRADITION. The series is OPEN FREE to all with a coffee and sweets reception at 8:00 P.M. Come and Learn

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: The GENERAL PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING is scheduled for MONDAY-FEBRUARY 22nd. at 7:00 P.M. Isn't about time YOU joined the philanthropic arm of your parish church. Share the joy of philanthropy! It will open a vista of blessings for you and those you love. The Basilopita was a success benefitting the Academy.

THREE HIERARCHS PATRONAL OBSERVANCE: was a major success for 3 days, (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 29, 30, 31st.) His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios graced our GREAT VESPER as the celebrant with local Greek, Russian, Ukrainian and Georgian clergy. One priest came from as far as Alaska! Many thanks are extended to the following organizations who each hosted a coffee and sweets reception each day. THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, THE DEMETRA DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE and the GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A. One of the highlights of the weekend was the HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARD PRESENTATION TO Professor Lou Urenick, Ph. D. OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY for his historical tomes THE GREAT FIRE (an account with historical verification of the first genocide of the 20th century – the destruction of the City of SMYRNA! His Eminence was also honored on the occasion of his birthday with a festive cake from the community. The CONSULS GENERAL of Greece and Cyprus also attended with commentaries. Andrew Gounardes on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams presented Father Eugene with a COMMENDATION CITATION for his 50th, Jubilee Anniversary of Ordination which occurred at Three Hierarchs on January 30th, 1966.



JOIN THE SENIORS Wednesday February 17th. Happy Chinese New Year 4713 year of the MONKEY Lucky sign is 'FIRE'. BINGO , Fortune cookies, cake , coffee. 1:00 P.M.



Wednesday February 24th, PIZZA PARTY. If you look Italian you get two slices! UNA FACIA --- UNA RACIA B I N G O Espresso, Cappuccino, Caf  Nero , Italian biscotti! 1:00 P.M.



PSYCHOSABBATA (Saturday of All Souls) Three Saturdays March 05th, 12th and 19th- 9:00 – 11:00 A.M

BOY SCOUT TROOP PASTA LUNCHEON – Sunday MARCH 13th, (support the troop) 12:00P.M.
LENT COMMENCES (TESSARRAKOSTI) – Monday MARCH 14th



A.H.E.P.A. Chapter #200 Coney Island Hosts FREE the SARAKOSTINANO DINNER, (LENTEN FOODS ONLY) Monday March 14th **FREEEVERYONE IS INVITED** Congratulations and best wishes Jimmy Kokotas ,President.

HELLENIC RELIEF EFFORT: A GRECIAN NIGHT out hosted by the Hellenic Relief Foundation a service preserving dignity in crisis, will be held as a DINNER-DANCE, ART AUCTION, COMEDY PRESENTATION and LIVE GREEK BAND for DANCING PLEASURE at Archangel Michael Church, in Port Washington, Long Island SATURDAY EVENING 7:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 27TH, Please refer to the flyer for all details.

MELKITE RITE GREEK CATHOLIC LECTURE: Fr. Eugene will be the guest lecturer on Friday, February 19th, at 8:00 P.M. at the CHURCH of the VIRGIN MARY with the theme DIVINE ACCOMODATION highlighting the sacred role of the Virgin Mother Mary. A FREE Arabic dinner will be hosted at 7:00 P.M by the Lebanese and Syria Christians. ALL ARE WELCOME!

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 16TH 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: + ANA BRINN KALLININKOS + GALATEA APHRODITE MASTRANTONAKIS

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Saturday February 27th, 2016 | 7:30pm

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

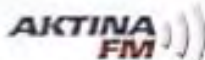
Community Center Gymnasium 100 Fairway Dr, Port Washington, NY

For information call (516) 410-9234 or (347) 201-1821. To reserve your table or make a reservation please email scavounis70@yahoo.com. PLEASE RSVP by February 12.

*Net proceeds will be used towards purchasing food items for the underprivileged in Greece.
For more information please visit us at www.hellenicrelief.org*

Donation \$100

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GreekNews





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Κ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 941²

Κυριακὴ τῆς Χαναναίας (Ματθ. 15,21-28)
14 Φεβρουαρίου 2016 (2003)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἐπιμονὴ στὴν προσευχὴ

«Ἀπόλυσον αὐτήν, ὅτι κράζει ὀπισθεν ἡμῶν» (Ματθ. 15,23)

Ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἔχει μιὰ ἀδυναμία· θέλει νὰ τὸν ἐπαινοῦν καὶ νὰ τὸν κολακεύουν. Αὐτὸ ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ τὴν κούνια καὶ φθάνει ὡς τὰ γηρατειά. Τὸ παιδί στὸ σπίτι θέλει χᾶδι καὶ **ἐπαινο** περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὸ νὰ τοῦ δώσῃ μιὰ σακκούλα καραμέλλες. Ὁ μαθητὴς στὸ σχολεῖο χαίρεται ὅταν ὁ δάσκαλος τὸν ἐπαινῇ. Ὁ στρατιώτης στὸ στρατὸ φιλοτιμεῖται ὅταν ὁ ἀξιωματικὸς τὸν ἐπαινῇ. Ὁ ὑπάλληλος περιμένει τὸν ἐπαινο τῶν προϊσταμένων του. Καὶ ὁ νέος καὶ ὁ γέρος, ὅλοι θέλουν ἐπαινο. Ζοῦμε μέσα στὸν ἐπαινο.

Ἄλλ' ἂν πάρουμε ζυγαριὰ καὶ ζυγίσουμε τοὺς ἐπαίνους τοῦ κόσμου, τί ἀξία ἔχουν; Πολλοὶ ἀπ' αὐτοὺς μοιάζουν μὲ κίβδηλα νομίσματα. Εἶνε ἐπιπόλαιες κρίσεις ἀνθρώπων ποὺ λίγο μᾶς γνωρίζουν. Εἶνε προϊόντα ἄθλια μιᾶς αἰσχροῦς βιομηχανίας ποὺ λέγεται **κολακεία**. Πόσοι ἀπὸ τοὺς ἐπαίνους δὲν ἔγιναν παγίδες, πρὸ παντὸς γιὰ τοὺς νέους; Συχνὰ ἡ διαφθορά, ἰδίως τῶν νεανίδων, ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ ἓνα κοπιμέντο, ἀπὸ ἓναν ἐπαινο· καὶ σιγὰ - σιγὰ, ἂν δὲν καταλάβουν τὸν κίνδυνο, πέφτουν στὴν καταστροφή. Πόσοι δὲν ἔπαθαν ἐκεῖνο ποὺ λέει ὁ Αἴσωπος· ἡ ἄλεπού, λέει, εἶδε τὸν κόρακα πάνω στὸ δέντρο νὰ κρατᾷ στὸ ράμφος του ἓνα κομμάτι κρέας. Πῶς νὰ τοῦ τὸ πάρῃ; Ἄρχισε νὰ τὸν κολακεύῃ, ὅτι ἔχει «ὠραία φωνή». Ἔτσι ὁ ἀνόητος ἀνοίξε τὸ στόμα νὰ «τραγουδήσῃ», καὶ τὸ κρέας ἔπεσε...

Ἄλλ' ἐὰν οἱ ἐπαινοὶ τοῦ κόσμου εἶνε χωρὶς ἀξία ἢ γίνωνται καὶ παγίδες, ὑπάρχουν ὅμως ἄλλοι ἐπαινοὶ ποὺ ἀξίζουν καὶ πρέπει νὰ τοὺς προσέξουμε. Εἶνε οἱ ἐπαινοὶ τιμίων ἀνθρώπων, ποὺ δὲν κολακεύουν. Εἶνε ὁ ἐπαινος τῆς συνειδήσεως, ποὺ δὲν λέει ψέματα. Εἶνε ὁ ἐπαινος τῶν ἁγίων καὶ τῶν ἀγγέλων. Εἶνε πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα ὁ **ἐπαινος τοῦ Θεοῦ**. Ὁ ὁ ἐπαινος τοῦ Θεοῦ! Ἄς μ' ἐπαινέσῃ ὁ Θεός, κι ἄς μὲ κατη-

γορῇ ὅλος ὁ κόσμος. Καὶ ἂν μ' ἐπαινῇ ὅλος ὁ κόσμος ἀλλὰ μὲ κατηγορήσῃ ὁ Θεός, καμμιά ἀξία δὲν ἔχω. Ἄν σ' ἐπαινέσῃ ὁ Θεός, παράδεισο ἔχεις· ἂν σὲ κατηγορήσῃ ὁ Θεός, κόλασι ἔχεις. Τί νὰ τοὺς κᾶνης τοὺς ἐπαίνους τοῦ ματαίου τούτου κόσμου; Τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ ἐπαινος ἀξίζει.

Ἐναν τέτοιο ἐπαινο ἔχει τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Σήμερα ὁ **Κύριός μας ἐπαινεῖ**. Ποῖόν ἐπαινεῖ; βασιλιά; στρατηγό; σοφό; ἐπιστήμονα; Ὅχι. Ἐπαινεῖ **μιὰ γυναῖκα**. Ποιά γυναῖκα; Τῆ Χαναναία, ποὺ ἔπεσε μπροστὰ στὰ πόδια του καὶ ζητοῦσε τὴ θεραπεία τῆς θυγατέρας της. Μὰ γιὰ νὰ τὴν ἐπαινῇ ὁ Χριστός, σημαίνει ὅτι αὐτὴ **εἶχε ἀξία**. Καὶ πράγματι ἡ γυναῖκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἦταν διαμάντι. Ἦταν ἀξία ἐπαίνου. Τί εἶδε ὄραγε ὁ Χριστὸς στὴ Χαναναία καὶ εἶλκυσε τὸ θαυμασμό του;

● Τὸ πρῶτο ποὺ εἶδε ἦταν ἡ **πίστι** της. Τί ἦταν ἡ Χαναναία; Εἰδωλολάτρισσα. Ἡ χώρα της, ἡ Χαναάν, ἦταν χώρα αἰσχροῦς εἰδωλολατρίας, μὲ μάγους καὶ μάγισσες. Δὲν ἐζήσε αὐτὴ στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, δὲν εἶχε ἀκούσει τὸ Χριστό, δὲν εἶδε τὰ θαύματά του. Καὶ ὅμως, μόλις τῆς εἶπαν ὅτι αὐτὸς ποὺ περνᾷ εἶνε ὁ Χριστός, μιὰ ἐσωτερικὴ πεποίθησι τὴν ἔκανε νὰ πῇ· Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ Λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου, αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ μοναδικὸς γιατρὸς καὶ γιὰ τὴ θυγατέρα μου!... Ἀμέσως ἔπεσε μπροστὰ στὰ πόδια του. Κι ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ἐκεῖνη ἔσβησαν μέσα στὴν καρδιά της ὅλοι οἱ ψεύτικοι θεοί· ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ἐκεῖνη προσκολλήθηκε στὸ Χριστό. Αὐτὴ τὴν πίστι βράβευσε ὁ Χριστός.

Γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα· **Ἐμεῖς ἔχουμε αὐτὴ τὴν πίστι**; Ὅταν ἀρρωστήσουμε ποὺ τρέχουμε; Πολλοί, λεγόμενοι Χριστιανοί, τρέχουν σὲ μάγους. Ἀκόμη καὶ σήμερα, στὸν αἰῶνα αὐ-

τόν. Καί ὄχι μόνο στὰ χωριά ἀλλὰ καί στὰ μεγάλα κέντρα. Ὅργιάζει ἢ μαγεία καί ξαφρίζει πορτοφόλια... Θὰ πῆ κανεῖς· Κ' οἱ παπᾶδες ζητάνε τυχερά. Δὲν τὸ ἐγκρίνω. Θέλω ὁ παπᾶς νὰ εἶνε στὸ ὕψος του καί τὰ μυστήρια νὰ τελοῦνται δωρεάν. Δὲν τὸ ἐγκρίνω λοιπὸν αὐτό. Ἀλλὰ δὲν ἐγκρίνω καί τὸ ἄλλο· ὅταν ὁ παπᾶς ζητήσῃ κάτι, τὸν περνοῦν «γενεές δεκατέσσερις»· στοὺς μάγους ὁμοῦς ἀδειάζουν τὰ πορτοφόλια χωρὶς διαμαρτυρία. Λὲς καί δὲν ὑπάρχει Χριστός, λὲς καί δὲν ὑπάρχει Ἐκκλησία, λὲς καί δὲν ὑπάρχουν μυστήρια, λὲς καί δὲν κάνει θαύματα ἡ πίστι μας.

Βλέπετε λοιπὸν τί πίστι εἶχε ἡ Χαναναία, ἐν συγκρίσει μὲ τοὺς σημερινούς Χριστιανούς;

● Ἐπαίνεσε ὁ Χριστὸς τὴ Χαναναία γιὰ τὴν πίστι της. Ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐπαίνεσε καί γιὰ τὴν **ταπεινώσι** της. Τῆς λέει· «Δὲν εἶνε σωστό, τὸ ψωμί ποὺ προορίζεται γιὰ τὰ παιδιά νὰ τὸ ρίξω στὰ σκυλιά» (Ματθ. 15,26). «Παιδιά» ἐννοοῦσε τοὺς Ἰουδαίους, καί «σκυλιά» τοὺς εἰδωλολάτρεις ποὺ ζοῦσαν μιὰ ἀκάθαρτη καί αἰσχρὴ ζωὴ. Ἡ Χαναναία ἄκουσε αὐτὸ τὸ λόγο, καί δὲν τὸ πῆρε ὡς προσβολὴ τοῦ γένους καί τῆς φυλῆς της· πῆρε τὴ λέξι «σκυλί», ποὺ θεωρεῖται ὑβριστικὴ –ἐδῶ εἶνε τὸ μεγαλεῖο της–, καί τὴν ἔκανε ὄπλο, καί μ' αὐτὴν πολέμησε – ποιόν; Τὸ Χριστό· καί τὸν ἐνίκησε. Ὡ θαῦμα! νίκησε τὸν Ἀήττητο. «Ναί, Κύριε», λέει(ἐβ'15,27)· ἂν ἄλλοι εἶνε παιδιά σου, ἐγὼ εἶμαι σκυλάκι σου. Δώσε τὸ ψωμί στὰ παιδιά σου· ἐγὼ θὰ περιμένω νὰ πάρω τὰ ψίχουλα. Ἐνα ψίχουλο, Χριστέ μου, φτάνει γιὰ μένα...

Καί γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα· **Ἐχομε ἐμεῖς τέτοια ταπεινώσι;** Δεχόμεστε παρατηρήσεις καί ἐλέγχους; Οἱ περισσότεροί εἶστε οἰκογενειάρχες καί ἔχετε σπίτια. Τολμᾷ σήμερα ὁ ἄντρας νὰ κἀνῃ παρατήρησι στὴ γυναῖκα; Καί τολμᾷ ἡ γυναῖκα νὰ κἀνῃ παρατήρησι στὸν ἄντρα; Ἐτσι τὸ ἀντρόγυνο ζῆ μέσα σὲ μιὰ κολακεία, ὄχι στὴν ἀλήθεια. Ποῦ εἶνε ἡ ταπεινώσι; Μᾶς ἔφαγε ὁ ἐγωισμὸς καί ἡ ὑπερηφάνεια, ποῦ εἶνε τὸ χειρότερο ἀμάρτημα, μεγαλύτερο κι ἀπὸ τὴν πορνεία κι ἀπὸ τὴ μοιχεία κι ἀπὸ ὅλα. Αὐτὴ γκρέμισε τὸν ἑωσφόρο καί τὸν ἔκανε διάβολο. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλὸς λέει· Ὅταν βλέπω ἄντρα ὑπερήφανο ἢ γυναῖκα ὑπερήφανη, μοῦ φαίνεται πὼς βλέπω τὸ διάβολο· κι ὅταν βλέπω ταπεινὸ ἄνθρωπο, μοῦ φαίνεται ὡς ἄγγελος... Τέτοια ταπεινώσι εἶχε ἡ Χαναναία. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁ Χριστὸς τὴν ἐπαίνεσε· «Ὡ γυναί, μεγάλη σου ἡ πίστις!» (ἐβ' 15,28) καί μεγάλη σου ἡ ταπεινώσις.

● Ἀλλὰ ἡ γυναῖκα αὐτὴ εἶνε ἀξιοθαύμαστη

καί γιὰ κάποια ἄλλη μεγάλη ἀρετὴ. Ποιά; Ἐπεσε στὰ πόδια καί παρακαλοῦσε· «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» (ἐβ' 15,25). Καμμιά σημασία ὁ Χριστὸς! «Κύριε, ἐλέησον»· καμμιά ἀπάντησις! Μὰ δὲν ἀκούγε ὁ Χριστὸς; Ἄν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐφτείαζε μηχανήματα κι ἀκούη μακριά, τὸ αὐτὶ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀκούει ὅλες τὶς φωνές καί ὅλους τοὺς ψιθύρους. Καί ὁμοῦ καμμιά σημασία! Τί ἔκανε τότε αὐτὴ; Ὁ ἕνας εὐαγγελιστὴς λέει ὅτι ἔκραζε «ἐμπροσθεν» (βλ. Ματθ. 7,25), ὁ ἄλλος λέει ὅτι ἔκραζε «ὀπισθεν» (Ματθ. 15,23). Ἐχετε δεῖ σκυλιά ποὺ τριγυρίζουν τὸ ἀφεντικὸ τους πότε μπροστὰ καί πότε πίσω, ὥσπου νὰ τοὺς δώσῃ κάτι; Ἐτσι κι αὐτὴ. Μιὰ πίσω, μιὰ μπροστὰ, δὲν κουράστηκε, ἕως ὅτου ἀνάγκασε τὸ Χριστὸ ν' ἀνοίξῃ τὸ στόμα του καί νὰ μιλήσῃ. **Ἡ Χαναναία ἐπιμένει.** Ἐπιμένει ὄχι σὲ κάτι κακὸ, ὄχι στὴν ἀτιμία, ὄχι στὸ ἐγκλημα· ἐπιμένει **στὸ καλὸ.** Εἶνε ἀρετὴ, παρ' ὅλα τὰ ἐμπόδια, **νὰ ἐπιμένῃς στὸ καλὸ.** Αὐτὸς ποὺ ἐπιμένει νικᾷ.

Ἐνα **ἰνδικὸ παραμῦθι** λέει, ὅτι κάποτε ἕνας ναύτης ταξίδευε. Ἦταν στὸ ἄκρο τοῦ πλοίου, κρατοῦσε στὰ χέρια του ἕνα δαχτυλίδι καί τὸ ἔπαιζε στὰ δάχτυλά του. Σὲ μιὰ στιγμὴ ὁμοῦ τὸ δαχτυλίδι τοῦ φεύγει καί πέφτει στὴ θάλασσα. Δὲν ἀπελπίστηκε. Τί ἔκανε; Πῆρε ἕνα κουβᾶ κι ἄρχισε νὰ ...ἀδειάζῃ τὴ θάλασσα! Τότε, λέει, ἄκουσε τὴ θάλασσα· –Τί κάνεις ἐκεῖ; –Ἄχ, ἄτιμη θάλασσα, λέει, μοῦ ἔκλεψες τὸ δαχτυλίδι μου. Θὰ σὲ ἀδειάσω νὰ τὸ πάρω!... Ὅταν τ' ἄκουσε ἡ θάλασσα, φοβήθηκε. –Ἐσὺ, λέει, ἔχεις κακὸ σκοπὸ· πάρε τὸ δαχτυλίδι σου, γιὰτὶ σὲ βλέπω ὅτι εἶσαι ἐπίμονος...

Ἀκοῦτε **ἐπιμονή;** Ἐτσι κ' ἐμεῖς. Ἐπιμονὴ στὸ καλὸ, καί θὰ νικήσουμε.

Ἀγαπητοί μου! Ἄν κάτι ποὺ ζητοῦμε εἶνε σύμφωνο μὲ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ, τότε νὰ τὸ ζητοῦμε ὅπως ἡ Χαναναία. Μὴ μοιάσουμε ὡς κάτι ἀλητόπαιδα, ποὺ χτυποῦν στὰ σπίτια τὸ κουδούνι μιὰ φορὰ καί μετὰ φεύγουν· φεύγουν, γιὰτὶ θέλουν νὰ πειράξουν. Ὅχι λοιπὸν μιὰ φορὰ, ἀλλὰ συνεχῶς, μέχρι ν' ἀνοίξῃ ἡ πόρτα τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἡλεκτρικὸ κουδούνι γιὰ μᾶς εἶνε ἡ προσευχὴ, τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον». Ἄς ἐπιμένουμε· Κύριε ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καί πάντων τῶν ἁγίων ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Ἄμα αὐτὸ τὸ λέμε μὲ ἐπιμονή, τότε καί τὰ πιὸ μεγάλα καί θαυμαστά πράγματα θὰ γίνουν, καί θ' ἀκούσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς· «Μεγάλῃ σου ἡ πίστις! γεννηθῆτω ὡς θέλεις» (ἐβ' 15,28).

(†) **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 2016 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 Canaanite Woman

See at any rate how worthy this woman is of every benefit. For she dared not even come to Jerusalem, fearing, and accounting herself unworthy. For were it not for this, she would have come there, as is evident both from her present earnestness, and from her coming out of her own coasts.

The evangelist speaks against the woman, that he may show forth her marvelous act, and celebrate her praise the more. For when you hear of a Canaanite woman, you should call to mind those wicked nations, who overset from their foundations the very laws of nature. And being reminded of these, consider also the power of Christ's coming. For they who were cast out, that they might not pervert any Jews, these appeared so much better disposed than the Jews, as even to come out of their coasts, and approach Christ; while those were driving Him away, even on His coming to them.

Having then come unto Him, she says nothing

else, but "have mercy on me," and by her cry brings about them many spectators. For indeed it was a pitiful spectacle to see a woman crying aloud in so great affliction, and that woman a mother, and entreating for a daughter, and for a daughter in such evil case: she not even venturing to bring into the Master's sight her that was possessed, but leaving her to lie at home, and herself making the request.

Do you see how this woman too contributed not a little to the healing of her daughter? For to this purpose neither did Christ say, "let your little daughter be made whole," but, "great is your faith, be it unto you even as you will" so teach you that the words were not used at random, nor were they flattering words, but great was the power of her faith.

St. John Chrysostom

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