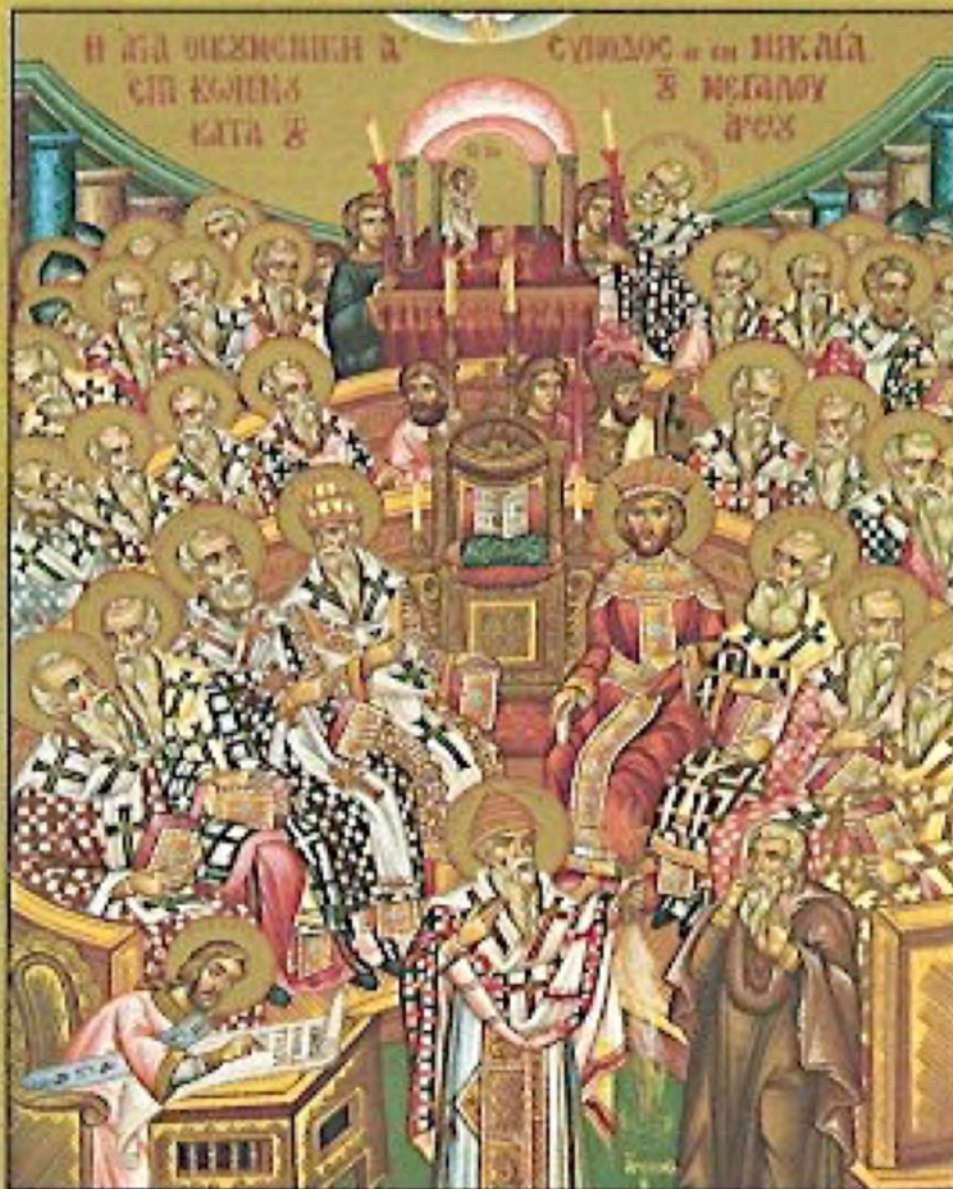


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 12th, 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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.

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.

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 20:16-18, 28-36 Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ. Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν. Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἐφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδεν γάρ, εἰ δυνατόν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἐφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ θεοῦ, ἣν περιποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. Ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα, τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. Διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. Καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. Ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσοῦ ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα. Αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσιν μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπηρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. Πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν, ὅτι οὕτως κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεῦειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπεν, Μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. Καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεὶς τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ, σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.

Fathers of the 1st Council

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."

Fathers of the 1st Council

Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 17:1-13

ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐπῆρε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐλήλυθεν 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 δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωὴ, 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 ἣν 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 τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωκαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστίν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξηλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἔρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἔρωτῶ, 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 ἅγιε, 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.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK: Saturday	June 18th	Psychosabbaton . All Souls Liturgy	9:00 A.M.
Sunday	June 19th	Pentecost Sunday Liturgy	10:00 A.M.
Sunday	June 19th	Holy Spirit Kneeling Prayers	12:00 P.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Will be hosted by the Senior Club. Please join us for coffee and sweets.

FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE: will be part of the Divine Services of Today. Join us in celebrating our 'OLDE GLORY' which of late has been desecrated in abuse by some. It's a Grande - Olde Flag worthy of being proud of by all, here and abroad.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES: WILL HOLD THEIR SPRING SOCIAL DINNER TOMORROW MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 13TH, AT 7:00 P.M. at the Floridian Diner. MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSE and significant others are invited. Tickets are available at \$30.00 a person . Please call the Church OFFICE: (718) 339- 0280 / EFFIE. Every Lady should be a member, join us.

FINAL PSYCHO/SABBATON for this year is being observed Saturday, June 18th with Divine Liturgy commemorating our beloved faithful in repose at 9:30 A.M. Kollyva will be blessed and distributed to the faithful in attendance. REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE GONE INTO ETERNAL MEMORY. Commemoration sheets are included in the bulletin.

PENTECOST: The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the foundation day of the earthly church (CHUCH MILITANT) is invoked and intended for the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation for life, health, restored health, peace, joy, and salvation. Don't miss the opportunity for this 'blessing' most significant. Lord, fill us with the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

FATHER EUGENE'S ANNIVERSARY date : PENTECOST SUNDAY (June 19th) will complete the 50th, ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY of our beloved Pastor's service in the vineyard of the Lord. Each year on Pentecost Sunday it is another year of service to Jesus Christ and His BODY of FAITHFUL EIS. POLLA TA ETH! EIS POLLA TA ETH!

MS. MR. AND MRS CLUB : Coney Island Nite ~ Whitehall on June 21st, 7:00 P.M. Hot Dogs and much more beach treats.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB: will meet for festivities every Wednesday through June. They meet at 1:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL for refreshments and games. OPEN TO ALL! COME ON DOWN! Each Wednesday is an adventure.

GRECIAN FESTIVAL SUCCESS: How do we express our thanks to the myriad of volunteers from the Parish Council, Ladies Philoptochos, Boy Scout Troop, A H.E.P.A. Coney Island Chapter #200 , Daughters Of Penelope Demetra Chapter #33, Senior Citizens and parishioners who helped make this 2016 Greek Fest a tremendous event. ----- Food (Gyros, Souvlakia, Chicken, Pork , Lamb , Salad, Pastitsio, Spanakopita, Mousaka, Fries) and much more satisfied every palate. ----- Pastries by the ladies, (Loukoumades, Kourambiedes, Ravani, Kulourakia,) were a delight for every sweet tooth. -----Live Music abounds each night as Greek folk dancing helped digest the delicacies step by step, OPA ! OPA! OPA! ----- Children's rides on East 17th Street and along Avenue 'P' made Coney Island alive in Midwood. Children's laughter rang out in joy and thrills. -----To George Plevritis and committee kudos and bravos to one and all. We acknowledge our sponsors who helped to underwrite much of our preparatory expenses. -----The National Herald Newspaper offered a generous review highlighting the 3 day events with photos.

RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER: hosted and served by the Muslim Turkish Community for their Greek neighbors at Three Hierarchs Church will take place on THURSDAY NIGHT: JUNE 23RD starting at 7:P.M. The event of outreach and fellowship is OPEN and FREE to all. Please reserve a seat for you and your friends as we break bread and share cultural traditions. Folk music (live) will be played for your enjoyment. RESERVE YOUR PLACE at the table (WHITEHALL) by calling EFFIE at 718-339-0280. Children are indeed welcomed. The event will conclude at 10:00 P.M.

THREE HIERARCHS U.P.K. OBSERVATION REPORT from the City of New York earned ABOVE AVERAGE RATING in overall score to program structure. Hence we have ONE of the BEST U.P.K. PROGRAMS IN THE city. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CAN BE ENROLLED? This program 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. DAILY --- is TUITION FREE. There is no COST to the parents. It is a service offered by the city department of education. SIGN UP NOW!

.NARTHEX RENOVATION COMMENCES: Please excuse our narthex conditions while we are under renovation and renewal of the area. With your support and assistance the finished product will be a pride to our church. Solicitation of donations for the NARTHEX will soon commence. Please consider a memorial tribute to your loved one, make a donation!

U.P.K. REGISTRATION is NOW GOING ON at THREE HIERARCHS SCHOOL for children born in 2012. This is accredited U.P.K. of the Department of Education of the City of New York. IT IS TUITION FREE. All 4 year olds born in 2012 are eligible to attend full day classes from 8:00 A.M. to 3©) P.M. with snacks and Lunch provided by the CITY.....FREE. Call the administration at (347) 729 – 0446 Ms. Eugenia the Principal , or Ms. Georgia the Secretary for full details. Don't miss this opportunity to give your child a 'HEAD START' in formal education through UNIVERSAL PRE – KINDERGARTEN. **CALL NOW! GRADUATION JUNE 24TH ,2016 !**

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 + XENOPHON RAPTIS + PENELOPE KANTANAS + IOANNIS ZACHARIAS + NICHOLAS HATGIPETROS



Greek school Children students achieving high honors in scholarship and academia were presented at the promotion ceremonies on Sunday June 5th. Pictured with the Principal Fr. Eugene are two faculty members , Mrs Zoe Anastasakos and Mrs. Maria Halkias. A reception for the students was hosted by the P.T.A. President Michelle Lambrakis. Eis Anoteri !



Fr. Eugene was honored by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and President Rev. Fr. Chris Metropoulos of the Holy Cross Seminary for the 50th Golden Anniversary of his graduation and ordination. A golden pectoral cross and trophy was presented to the 5 honorees nationwide.





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΒ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1179'	Πατέρων Α' Οἰκ. Συνόδου (ἴω. 17,1-13) 12 Ἰουνίου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυπτῆς Ν. Καντιώτης
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Περὶ ἐνότητος

«Ἵνα ὦσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς» (ἴω. 17,11)

Ἡ σημερινὴ ἡμέρα, ἀναπηταί μου, ὀνομάζεται «**ἐβδόμη Κυριακὴ ἀπὸ τοῦ Πάσχα**». Τί σημαίνει **Κυριακή**; Ὅπως δηλώνει τὸ ὄνομα, ἀνήκει στὸν Κύριο ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ποὺ δημιούργησε καὶ συντηρεῖ καὶ προνοεῖ γιὰ ὅλα. Γι' αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ τιμοῦμε τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτή· νὰ ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε, νὰ δοξολογοῦμε, νὰ εὐχαριστοῦμε, καὶ νὰ παρακαλοῦμε τὸν Κύριο. Εἶνε ἀπαραίτητος ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός.

Ἀλλὰ ἡ σημερινὴ Κυριακὴ ὀνομάζεται εἰδικὰ **Κυριακὴ τῶν πατέρων**. Γιὰ ποῖο λόγο; Πατέρες λέγονται ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ νόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ ἔρχονται σὲ κανονικὸ ἐκκλησιαστικὸ γάμο καὶ φέρνουν στὸν κόσμον παιδιὰ. Παραπάνω ὁμῶς ἀπὸ τοὺς φυσικοὺς αὐτοὺς πατέρες εἶνε οἱ πνευματικοὶ πατέρες, δηλαδὴ οἱ διδάσκαλοι, οἱ καθηγηταί, οἱ θεολόγοι, οἱ ἱεροκήρυκες, καὶ προπαντὸς οἱ ἱερεῖς καὶ οἱ ἐπίσκοποι. Αὐτοὶ μὲ τὸ λόγο τους ἀναγεννοῦν ψυχές. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ γεννᾷ πνευματικὰ τέκνα, ποὺ ἔχουν πνευματικὸ πατέρα τὸν κήρυκα, τὸν κληρικό. Γι' αὐτὸ οἱ πνευματικοὶ πατέρες πρέπει νὰ τυγχάνουν τιμῆς καὶ σεβασμοῦ περισσότερο ἀπὸ τοὺς φυσικοὺς πατέρες.

Σήμερα συγκεκριμένα ἑορτάζουν οἱ **τριακόσιοι δεκαοκτὼ πατέρες** ποὺ συγκρότησαν τὸ 325 μ.Χ. τὴν Α' (πρώτη) Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδο στὴ Νίκαια τῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας. Τὴν ἐποχὴ ἐκείνη παρουσιάστηκε ἕνας λύκος φοβερός, ὁ **Ἀρειος**, ποὺ ἐδίδασκε ἀντίθετα ἀπ' ὅ, τι διδάσκει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας. Θεμελιώδης ἀλήθεια τῆς πίστεώς μας εἶνε, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε Θεός. Αὐτὸ τὸ ἠρνεῖτο ὁ Ἀρειος. Γι' αὐτὸ συνήλθαν ἐκεῖ ἐπὶ βασιλείας τοῦ Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου αἱ πατέρες. Νὰ τοὺς παρουσιάσουμε ἕναν - ἕνα; Θὰ ἦταν μακρὸς ὁ λόγος· μεταξὺ αὐτῶν ἦταν ὁ ἅγιος Νικόλαος, ὁ ἅγιος Σπυρίδων ὁ θαυματουργός, ὁ ἅγιος Ἀχίλλιος, ὁ ἅγιος Ἀλέξανδρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀλεξανδρεί-

ας... Ἀλλὰ μεγαλύτερος ἀπ' ὅλους ἦταν ὁ ἅγιος Ἀθανάσιος. Αὐτοὶ λοιπὸν, ἐν Πνεύματι ἁγίῳ, κατεδίκασαν τὴ διδασκαλίαν τοῦ Ἀρείου καὶ συνέταξαν τὸ Σύμβολο τῆς πίστεως, τὸ γνωστὸ μας «**Πιστεύω**», τὸ ὁποῖο ἀκούγεται κάθε φορὰ ποὺ γίνεται θεία λειτουργία.

Μετὰ ἀπὸ αὐτὰ ὅς ἐλθοῦμε τώρα νὰ ρίξουμε ἓνα βλέμμα στὸ εὐαγγέλιον ποὺ διαβάζεται σήμερα. Ὅχι ἓνα ἀλλὰ ἑκατὸ κηρύγματα νὰ κάνουμε, δὲν θὰ μπορέσουμε νὰ ἐξαντλήσουμε τὸ περιεχόμενό του. Ἡ περικοπὴ αὐτὴ περιέχει τὴ θαυμασιὰ **προσευχὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ**. Πότε τὴν ἔκανε ὁ Κύριος; Τὴν τελευταία νύχτα τῆς ἐπιγείου ζωῆς του, νύχτα ποτισμένη μὲ δάκρυα, τὴ νύχτα τῆς Μεγάλης Πέμπτης. Τότε ἐτέλεσε τὸ μυστήριον τῆς θείας εὐχαριστίας καὶ κάλεσε τοὺς μαθητάς νὰ κοινωνήσουν τὰ ἄχραντα μυστήρια. Μετὰ τοὺς ἀπηύθυνε μία μεγάλη σπουδαιότητὴ ὁμιλία. Καὶ τέλος τί ἔκανε; προσευχήθηκε. Πρωτοῦ ν' ἀναχωρήσῃ γιὰ τὸν κήπο τῆς Γεθσημανῆ, ὅπου θὰ τὸν συνελάμβαναν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι, ὁ Κύριος προσευχήθηκε στὸν αὐράνιον Πατέρα. Προσευχήθηκε πρῶτα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του, προσευχήθηκε ἔπειτα γιὰ τοὺς μαθητάς του καὶ τοὺς Χριστιανοὺς ὅλων τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀφήνουμε τὰ ἄλλα, γιὰ νὰ σταθοῦμε στὰ λόγια ποὺ εἶπε **γιὰ τοὺς μαθητάς του καὶ ὅλους τοὺς Χριστιανούς**:

Προέβλεπε ὁ Χριστὸς. Τί προέβλεπε; Προέβλεπε, ὅτι ὁ σατανᾶς θὰ πολεμήσῃ τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν ποὺ ἱδρυσε. Θὰ τὴν πολεμήσῃ μὲ λύσσα, μὲ ὅλα τὰ μέσα ποὺ διαθέτουν οἱ σκοτεινὲς δυνάμεις του. Τὸ δὲ ἰσχυρότερον μέσον ἢ ὄπλο, μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο θὰ προσπαθῇ νὰ διαλύσῃ τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν, εἶνε - ποιό; **Ἡ διαίρεσις**. Θὰ ἐνσπείρῃ ἑξάνια, θὰ ψυχράνῃ τὰς καρδίαις τῶν Χριστιανῶν, αἱ ὁποῖαι δὲν θ' ἀγαποῦν ὁ ἕνας τὸν ἄλλο, θὰ ἀλληλομισοῦνται καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλη-

σία θὰ διαιρεθῇ σὲ διάφορες πατριές καὶ κόμματα καὶ ὑποδιαιρέσεις. Αὐτὸ προέβλεπε ὁ Χριστὸς. Γι' αὐτὸ παρακαλεῖ τὸν οὐράνιο Πατέρα. Παρακαλεῖ γιὰ τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Σὲ παρακαλῶ, λέει, οὐράνιε Πατέρα, οἱ Χριστιανοὶ νὰ εἶνε ἓνα, ἐνωμένοι μὲ τὴ ρίζα καὶ μετὰ τὸν τοῦ ὅπως οἱ κληματόβεργες στὸ ἀμπέλι. Τὸ αἶτημα «ἵνα ὦσιν ἓν» τὸ ἐπαναλαμβάνει πέντε φορές (βλ. 17,12,21-23). Τόσο μεγάλη σπουδαιότητα ἀποδίδει ὁ Χριστὸς στὴν ἐνότητα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Θέλετε να δείτε την **ἀξία τῆς ἐνότητας**; Δὲς μιὰ **οἰκογένεια** δεμένη, ποῦ ἡ γυναῖκα σέβεται καὶ ὑπακούει στὸν ἄντρα, ὁ ἄντρας ἀγαπάει τὴ γυναῖκα, τὰ παιδιά ἀκούνε τοὺς γονεῖς· μιὰ τέτοια οἰκογένεια εἶνε παράδεισος – δυστυχῶς σπάνιο πρᾶγμα πλέον. Πόσο συγκινήθηκα ὅταν κάποιος μοῦ εἶπε: «Ζήσαμε πενήντα χρόνια μὲ τὴ γυναῖκα μου, καὶ κακὸ λόγο δὲν ἀλλάξαμε!» Ἡ σημερινὴ γενεὰ μεταξύ τῶν ἄλλων κακῶν ἔχει καὶ τὴ διάλυσι τῆς οἰκογενείας· πορνεία, μοιχεία, διαζύγιο ἀκούς συχνά· διαπληκτισμοὶ φτάνουν κάθε μέρα στὴ μητρόπολι. Στὸν Πόντο, στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία, στὴν εὐλογημένη χώρα, μὲς' στὰ ἑκατὸ χρόνια δὲν ἀκουγόταν οὔτε ἓνα διαζύγιο. Τώρα ἡ οἰκογένεια εἶνε διαλυμένη. Δεῖξετε μου μιὰ οἰκογένεια ποῦ νὰ εἶνε ἐνωμένη σφιχτά, ποῦ ὁ ἄντρας νὰ γνῶρισε μόνο μιὰ γυναῖκα στὸν κόσμο καὶ ἡ γυναῖκα νὰ γνῶρισε μόνο ἓναν ἄντρα – σπάνιο φαινόμενο πλέον· στὴ γενεὰ Σοδόμων καὶ Γουόρρας ἡ ἐνότητα διασπάσθηκε.

Θέλετε νὰ ὀhte τὴν ἀξία τῆς ἐνότητος; Ρί-
ξετε ἓνα βλέμμα σ' ἓνα χωριό πού οἱ κάτοικοι
λόγω τῶν κομματικῶν διαφορῶν ἔχουν διαιρε-
θῇ. Εἶνε τρομερό. Μαθαίνω, ὅτι σέ μικρά καί
μεγάλα χωριά, ἀλλά καί παντοῦ, οἱ ἄνθρωποι
ἔχουν γίνει ἐχθροί ἐξ αἰτίας τῶν πολιτικῶν δι-
αφορῶν. Ἐνῶ εἶνε πατριώτες, ἐνῶ εἶνε Χριστι-
ανοί, ἐνῶ εἶνε βαπτισμένοι στό ὄνομα τῆς ἁ-
γίας Τριάδος, ψυχραίνονται μεταξύ τους σέ
τέτοιο σημεῖο, πού δέ λένε καλημέρα ὁ ἓνας
στόν ἄλλο· λές καί ὁ ἄλλος εἶνε Τοῦρκος, λές
κ' εἶνε ἀλλόφυλος. Αὐτά καί μεταξύ συγγενῶν
ἀκόμη. Οἱ ὀπαδοί κάθε κόμματος ἔχουν τὸ δι-
κό τους καφφενεῖο· στό ἓνα καφφενεῖο πάνε
οἱ μέν, στό ἄλλο πηγαίνουν οἱ ἄλλοι. Θεέ μου,
τί διαίρεσεις εἶν' αὐτή!

Θέλεις να δής ακόμη πιο πολύ την αξία της
ένότητας; Διάβασε την ιστορία μας. Μικρό εί-
νε το **έθνος** μας. Αλλ' όταν ήταν **ένωμένο**, ω
τότε νικούσαμε τους **εχθρούς**. Οί **γονεείς** μας,
ή παλαιά **γενεά** που ήταν τότε **νέα παιδιά**, όταν
στρατεύθηκαν **μας** **άφηναν** και **έφευγαν** για

τὸ μέτωπο. «Παναγιά μαζί σας», τοὺς ἔλεγαν οἱ μητέρες καὶ οἱ γιγαῖδες μας. Κ' ἔφευγαν, κ' ἔφευγαν. Καὶ ἐνωμένοι προχώρησαν, ἔφτασαν στὴ Λάρισα. Καὶ προχώρησαν, πέρασαν τὸν Ὀλυμπο, καὶ σὰν ἀετοὶ τὴν ἡμέρα τοῦ ἀγίου Δημητρίου μπήκαν στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη. Καὶ προχώρησαν, ἔφτασαν μέχρι τῆ Σόφια. Ἦταν τότε ὅλοι ἐνωμένοι, δὲν ὑπῆρχαν κόμματα, δὲν ὑπῆρχε διαίρεσις. Ἐνωμένο τὸ Ἑλληνικὸ ἔθνος ἔφτασε μέχρι τὴν Τσατάλτζα, ἔξω ἀπ' τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολι. Σὲ λίγο θὰ μπαίναμε στὴν Πόλι καὶ θὰ λειτουργοῦσαμε στὴν Ἁγία-Σοφία. Ἀλλὰ, ἀλλὰ... Καὶ ἐνῶ οἱ Ἕλληνες εἶχαν φτάσει μέχρι τὸ Σαγγάριο καὶ ὁ Κεμάλ ἄδειαζε τὴν Ἄγκυρα καὶ ἔφευγε πέρα ἀπ' τὸ Ἰκόνιο, καὶ προμηνυόταν θρίαμβος καὶ νίκη μεγάλη..., τί μᾶς ἔφαγε, τί μᾶς διέλυσε; ἡ **διχόνοια**. Διχάστηκε τὸ ἔθνος. Αἰτία τῆς νίκης τῶν Τούρκων ἦταν ἡ τρομερὴ μας διχόνοια. Δὲν τὸ λέω ἐγώ· τὸ λέει ὁ Κεμάλ. Ὅταν στὴν Ἄγκυρα τὸν χειροκροτοῦσαν, αὐτὸς τοὺς εἶπε: Τί με χειροκροτᾶτε; δὲν νικῆσαμε ἐμεῖς τοὺς Ἕλληνες· οἱ Ἕλληνες νικήθηκαν μόνοι τους, μετὰ τὴ διαίρεσί τους... Ἔτσι ἦρθε ἡ μικρασιατικὴ καταστροφή, ἡ μεγάλη καταστροφή, ἀπὸ τὴ διαίρεσι.

Ἀδελφοί μου! Ὁ σατανᾶς διαιρεῖ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἐνώνει. Κ' ἔχουμε πολλὰ παραδείγματα. Ὁ Χριστὸς ἐνώνει. Καὶ Χριστὸς ἴσον Ἐκκλησία. Καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἐνώνει. Καὶ ἐγὼ ὡς ἐπίσκοπος δὲν ἀνῆκω σὲ κόμματα. Πενήντα χρόνια δουλεύω στὴν Ἐκκλησία, πολλοὺς διωγμοὺς καὶ φυλακίσεις καὶ ἐξορίες υπέστην, ἀλλὰ σὲ κόμματα δὲν ἀνῆκω. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μένει πάνω ἀπὸ τὰ κόμματα. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας, ὅπως εἶπα πολλές φορές καὶ τὸ ἐπαναλαμβάνω, εἶνε σὰν τὴν κλῶσσα. Ἡ κλῶσσα ἀγαπάει ὅλα τὰ πουλιά της· ἀλλὰ πουλιά της εἶνε ἄσπρα, ἄλλα εἶνε κόκκινα, ἄλλα εἶνε γαλάζια, ἄλλα εἶνε κίτρινα, ἄλλα εἶνε μαύρα· ἐκεῖνη τ' ἀγαπάει ὅλα, ὅποιοδήποτε χρῶμα καὶ ἂν ἔχουν. Ἔτσι καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἀγαπάει ὅλα τὰ παιδιά της καὶ δὲν ἀναμιγνύεται στὰ κομματικά. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μᾶς διδάσκει νὰ λέμε· Ἀνήκουμε στὴν πατρίδα, στὴ γλυκεῖά μας πατρίδα. Καὶ πάνω ἀπὸ τὴν πατρίδα ἀνήκουμε στὸ Χριστό· ὦν, παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ὕμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν. Ἐκεῖ ν' ἀνήκουμε καὶ ἔνα μόνο νὰ ἐπιδιώκουμε· νὰ εἰμαστε ἐνωμένοι, ἐνωμένοι ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Σωτῆρι ἡμῶν, ᾧ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων· ἀμήν.

(†) 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

True God of True God

We very confidently prove the true catholic faith out of the Holy Scriptures. We place it as a candle on a candlestick. We assert that the Son is naturally and essentially the Son of the Father, of the same substance with Him, His Only-begotten Wisdom, the true and only Word of God; that He was not made nor created, but begotten of one substance with the Father. Therefore, we say that He is true God, being of one substance with God the Father. Whereas the gods mentioned by the Psalmist in the passage, "I have said, you are gods" (Ps 82: 6), are only entitled to that description so far as they are partakers of divine grace, which the Son bestows upon them from the Father through the Holy Spirit. The Son is the representation of the Person of the Father (Heb 1: 3). He is Light of Light. He is the true and genuine Power and Image of His Father's substance, according to what He says of himself, "He that has seen me

has seen the Father" (Jn 14: 9). He always was, and is, and never was not; for the Word and Wisdom of the Father must certainly be eternal as well as the Father. . . There is an extraordinary heresy, which contains such unreasonable ideas, and which, instead of godly discourses, amasses together gross blasphemies. Suppose we were to ask anyone that has examined and compared our Creed and this together, which of them he thinks the more reasonable, and the more suitable to the attributes of God...

... Of these two expositions, which is more worthy of God the Father, and of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, let anyone judge.

*St. Athanasius the Great,
Champion of the Council of Nicaea*

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