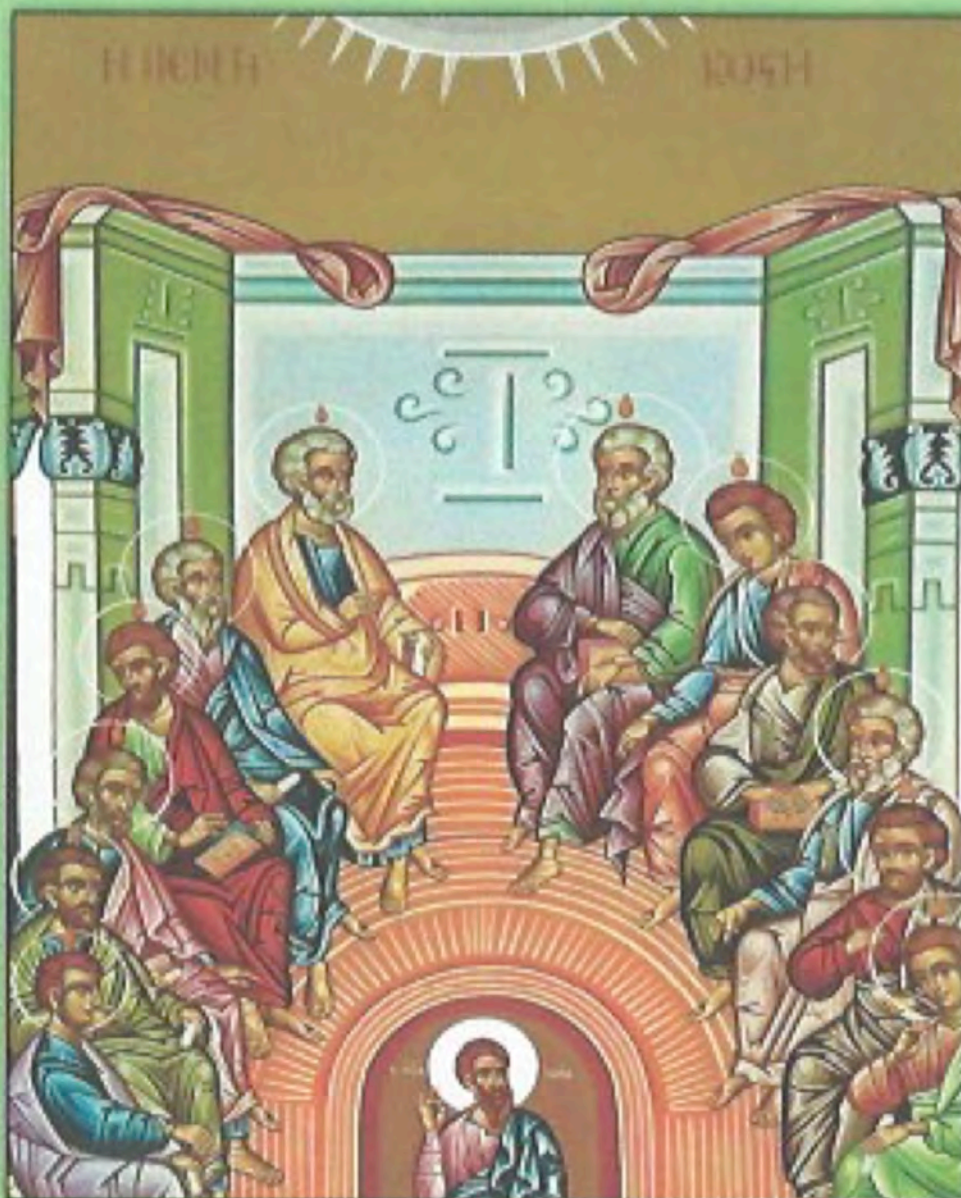




# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 19th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## PENTECOST SUNDAY



*Icon of Pentecost*

## Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

## Πράξεις Αποστόλων 2:1-11

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ δηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὡσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλώσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισεν τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέροις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ἧ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μηδοὶ καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καπαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ρωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἄραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέροις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ.

## Holy Pentecost

### The Gospel according to John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## Holy Pentecost

### Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 7:37-52, 8:12

<p class="body\_text\_12" style="text-align:center; color:#990000;" tal:define="trans\_title translation/title;" tal:condition="python:(type == 'E' or type == 'epistle') and trans\_title not in (None, 'None')"> <span tal:condition="python:language=='en'">The Reading is from</span> <span tal:content="translation/title">Book Title 4:1-11</span> </p>

Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῆ μεγάλης τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραζε λέγων· ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ῥεῦσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὐ γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστός ἐρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυὶδ, ὁ Χριστός ἐρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἤθελον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἠγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἐλθὼν νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἷς ὢν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἐάν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γινῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεύνησον καὶ ἴδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγγίγεται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.

## **THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE CONDEMNS THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN ORLANDO**

NEW YORK- The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is saddened and appalled by the latest senseless mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, in which 49 people lost their lives and many more were injured. We express our unequivocal condemnation for this terrorist attack, the worst mass shooting in American history. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. May God give rest to the souls of those who were brutally killed and may He provide comfort and courage to their families, as well as to those injured and are now facing the difficult road to recovery. We also fervently pray to the Lord and God of mercy and peace to strengthen and guide all efforts to eliminate from the face of the earth the plague of terrorism and the poison of hatred and violence, and to advance reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among all people.

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

**FATHER'S DAY TODAY:** As a community of faithful believers we reach out in prayerful thanksgiving to our Father in Heaven with grateful appreciation for His benevolence in our lives. Let us NOT FORGET our earthly father, grand-father, God – father, brother and son on this day of commemoration. Make their day with a greeting card, gift, telephone call of loving outreach. Congratulations to all the men in the parish and in particular to the members of the Coney Island Chapter #200 of AHEPA!

**CHURCHING TODAY:** we are pleased and honored to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church, 'EVA NICOLE' new born daughter of CHRISTOPHER and NICOLE BARNA. NA SAS ZESE!

**PENTECOST TODAY:** 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.

**ALTAR BOY EXCURSION:** Each year the Saint Stephanos Society of ALTAR BOYS enjoy an evening in Coney Island with dinner on the boardwalk and rides at DENO'SWONDER-WHEEL PARK. The date is Friday June 24th, starting at 6:00 P.M. and ending with fireworks at 10 P.M. Consider enrolling your son or grand-son in the ALTAR!

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Next Sunday, June 26th. at 1:00 P.M. in Whitehall. All registered stewards of the parish are encouraged to attend the deliberations regarding future projects of the community. We traditionally end within the hour! ARE YOU REGISTERED?

**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!

**GREEK NIGHT:** at Brooklyn Cyclones Stadium, Friday , July 01st, at 7:00 P.M. More details next week if you are interested.

**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.

**UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS: U.P.K. GRADUATION DAY:** Friday , June 24th, 9:00 A.M. ROSEHALL

**ALL SAINTS DAY FEAST:** Sunday June 26th Liturgy 10:30 A.M.

**FAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES:** Begins Monday, June 27th – Ends Wednesday 30th.

**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.

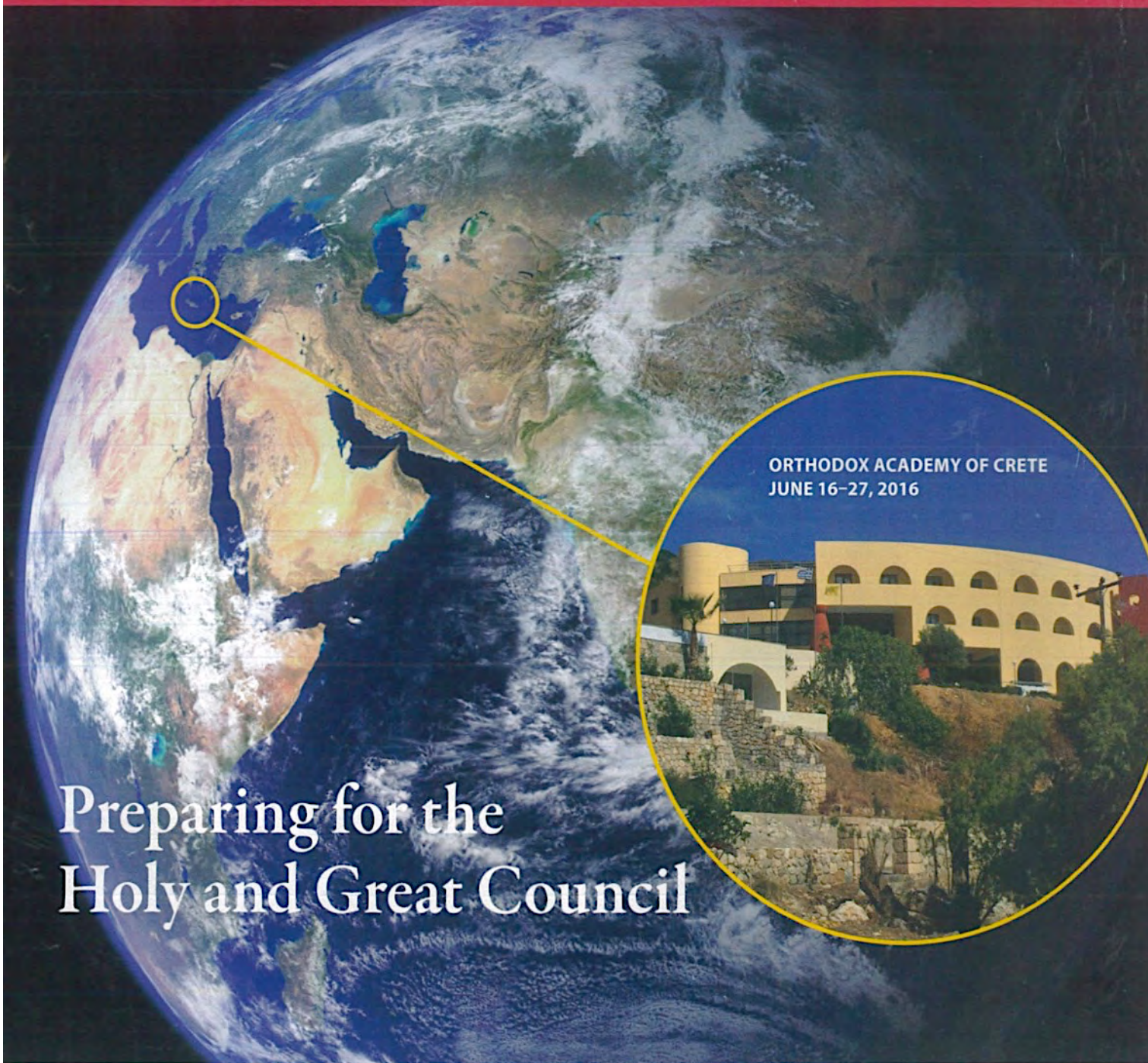
**THREE HIERARCHS U.P.K. OBSERVATION REPORT** from the City of New York earned ABOVE AVERAGE RATING in overall score to program structure. Hence we have ONE of the BEST U.P.K. PROGRAMS IN THE city. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CAN BE ENROLLED? This program 8:00 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!

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 16<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](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

# PRAXIS

πραξις



ORTHODOX ACADEMY OF CRETE  
JUNE 16-27, 2016

Preparing for the  
Holy and Great Council

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!  
It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon  
the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!  
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there  
the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.*

– Psalm 132:1–3

*But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, “Unless  
you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”*

*And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with  
them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to  
Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question...The apostles and  
the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had  
been much debate, Peter rose and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in  
the early days God made choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles  
should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God who knows the heart  
bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us; and he  
made no distinction between us and them, but cleansed their hearts by faith...”*

– Acts 15:1–2, 6–9 (the First Council in Jerusalem)

*The Church was strengthened into one faith through the preaching  
of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers. The Church is robed in truth  
woven of the word of God from above. It teaches truth, and glorifies the great  
mystery of faith.*

– From the Matins on the Sunday of the Fathers  
of the First Ecumenical Council

*As the prophets beheld, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received,  
as the teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as grace has shown  
forth, as truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as wisdom has  
presented, as Christ awarded, thus we declare; thus we assert, thus we preach  
Christ our true God, and honor His saints in words, in writings, in thoughts,  
in sacrifices, in Churches, in holy icons; on the one hand worshiping and  
reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand honoring as true  
servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration.*

*This is the faith of the apostles, this is the faith of the fathers, this is the faith of  
the Orthodox, this is the faith that has established the universe!*

– Affirmation of the Orthodox faith from the Synod of Constantinople  
(843), recited on the Sunday of Orthodoxy





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΑ'<br>Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1080 <sup>2</sup> | Κυριακὴ Πεντηκοστῆς (Ἰω. 7,37-52· 8,12)<br>19 Ἰουνίου 2016 πρῶτῃ (2004) | Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος<br>Αὔγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης |
|---|---|---|

### Ἡ δίψα τῆς ψυχῆς

«Ἐκραξε λέγων (ὁ Ἰησοῦς): Ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ τινέτω» (Ἰω. 7,37)

Τὰ λόγια αὐτά, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε θεϊκά, λόγια ἀνεκτιμήτου ἀξίας. Εἶνε μία πρόσκλησις πρὸς ὅλη τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα, μία **παγκόσμιος πρόσκλησις**, ποὺ ἀπευθύνει ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, «ὁ γλυκύτερος ἀφέντης μας» ὅπως ἔλεγε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός. Ἐάν ὁ κόσμος δεχόταν αὐτὴ τὴν πρόσκλησι, ὁ πλανήτης μας θὰ ἦταν παράδεισος. Δυστυχῶς σὲ λίγες ψυχές ἔχει ἀπήχησι ὁ λόγος αὐτὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας.

Ἄς δοῦμε σύντομα τὸν λόγο αὐτόν.

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Ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε τὰ λόγια αὐτά σὲ μία ἐορτῇ τῶν Ἰουδαίων. Παίρνοντας ἀφορμὴ ἀπὸ τὸ νερό, ποὺ χυνόταν τότε γύρω ἀπὸ τὸ θυσαστήριον, εἶπε: Ἐάν κανεὶς διψᾷ, νὰ ἔρθῃ νὰ τοῦ δώσω νὰ πιῇ τὸ νερὸ τὸ ἀθάνατον (βλ. 7,37). Τί σημαίνουν τὰ λόγια αὐτά, ἀδελφοί μου;

Σὲ κάθε ἄνθρωπο, εἴτε αὐτὸς κατοικεῖ στὸ Βόρειο Πόλο ὡς Ἐσκιμῶς, εἴτε κατοικεῖ στὶς πηγές τοῦ Νείλου ποταμοῦ ὡς ἄγριος, σὲ κάθε ἄνθρωπο, ὁποιοῦδήποτε χρώματος, ὁποιασδήποτε γλώσσης καὶ καταγωγῆς καὶ μορφώσεως, σὲ κάθε ἄνθρωπο ὁ Θεὸς φύτευσε μία ἐπιθυμία· σὲ κάθε ἀνθρώπινη καρδιὰ ὑπάρχει ἕνας πόθος. Εἶνε δίψα παγκόσμιος, Μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, πλούσιοι καὶ φτωχοί, ἀμόρφωτοι καὶ μορφωμένοι, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, νεώτεροι καὶ γεροντότεροι, ὅλοι σὲ κάθε τόπο καὶ σὲ κάθε καιρὸ, ἕνα πόθο ἔχουν. **Τί διψᾷ ἡ ἀνθρώπινη ψυχὴ; Διψᾷ τὴν εὐτυχία·** ὁ ἄνθρωπος θέλει νὰ ζήσῃ εὐτυχισμένος.

Ἀλλὰ τί κάνει τὸν ἄνθρωπο εὐτυχισμένο; Ἐδῶ ὑπάρχει διαφωνία. Ἄλλοι λένε, ὅτι τὴν εὐτυχία ἐξασφαλίζει τὸ χρήμα· ἔχεις λεφτά; κάνεις, ὅ,τι θέλεις... Ἄλλοι λένε: Ὅχι τὰ λεφτά, ἀλλὰ ἡ δόξα, τὰ μεγαλεῖα καὶ οἱ τιμές. Ἄλλη παράταξις λέει, ὅτι Ὅχι τὰ μεγαλεῖα καὶ τὸ χρήμα, ἀλλὰ οἱ ἡδονές καὶ διασκεδάσεις. Καὶ ἄλλη πάλι παράταξις λέει, ὅτι ἡ

γνώσις καὶ ἡ τέχνη θὰ κάνουν εὐτυχισμένο τὸν ἄνθρωπο.

Τί ἔχουμε ν' ἀπαντήσουμε σ' αὐτά; Ὡς πρὸς τὸ **χρήμα**, παρατηροῦμε ὅτι ὑπάρχουν περιστάσεις ποὺ δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ προσφέρῃ τίποτα, ἀπολύτως τίποτα. Ὅταν λ.χ. φθάνῃ ἡ τελευταία ὥρα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καὶ οἱ γιατροὶ εἶνε ἀπελπισμένοι καὶ φάρμακα δὲν ὑπάρχουν καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος πλησιάζῃ νὰ πεθάνῃ, τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη τί ἔχει νὰ προσφέρῃ τὸ χρήμα; Ὁ Ὀνόσης, ὅταν πέθαινε στὸ νοσοκομεῖο τῶν Παρισίων, ἔλεγε στὸν γιαντρός: Γιατρέ, σοῦ δίνω τὴν περιουσία μου ἂν μὲ κάνῃς καλά... Ὅταν ὁ χάρος σὰν μαῦρος κόρακας πετᾷ κι ἀρπάξῃ μέσ' ἀπ' τὸ σπίτι τὸν πατέρα, τὴ μητέρα, τὸ παιδί, τὰ προσφιλή πρόσωπα, καὶ κλαίνει καὶ θρηνοῦν οἱ συγγενεῖς, τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη τῆς μεγάλης συμφορᾶς τί μπορεῖ νὰ προσφέρῃ τὸ χρήμα; Τίποτε ἀπολύτως. Τὸ μόνο ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ κάνῃ ὁ πλοῦσιος μὲ τὸ χρήμα του εἶνε ν' ἀγοράσῃ ἕνα μεταξωτὸ μαντήλι γιὰ νὰ σφουγγίξῃ τὰ δάκρυά του. Ἀλλὰ τὰ δάκρυα, εἴτε τὰ σφουγγίζεις μὲ μεταξωτὸ μαντήλι εἴτε πέφτουν κάτω, εἶνε τὰ ἴδια. Γι' αὐτὸ εἶπαν, ὅτι μὲ τὰ λεφτά ὄλα τ' ἀγοράζεις – ἕνα δὲν ἀγοράζεις, τὴν εὐτυχία.

Ἀλλὰ μήπως ἡ **δόξα**, τὰ μεγάλα ἀξιώματα, οἱ τιμές καὶ οἱ θρόνοι, δίνουν στὸν ἄνθρωπο τὴν χαρὰ καὶ εὐτυχία; Ὅχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἄν μελετήσουμε τὴν ἱστορία μεγάλων ἀνδρῶν, τοῦ Μεγάλου Ἀλεξάνδρου, τῶν καισάρων, τοῦ Ναπολέοντος..., θὰ δοῦμε ὅτι ὅσο κανεὶς ἀνεβαίνει στὰ μεγάλα ἀξιώματα, τόσο πιὸ μεγάλες πικρίες δοκιμάζει. Κάτω ἀπὸ τοὺς θρόνους, κάτω ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλεῖα, κάτω ἀπὸ τίς δόφνες τῶν νικῶν καὶ τῶν θριάμβων κρύβονται φίδια καὶ σκορπιοὶ ποὺ δηλητηριάζουν τὴν ζωὴ.

Τὸ χρήμα λοιπὸν ὄχι, ἡ δόξα ὄχι· μήπως οἱ **ἡδονές** καὶ διασκεδάσεις, μήπως τὸ «**Φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αὔριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν**»

ὅτι εὐδαίμων εἶναι αὐτὸ πού θά μᾶς χαρίσῃ τὴν εὐτυχία· εἶνε γεγονός, ἀδελφοί μου, ὅτι οἱ τέρψεις τῶν αἰσθήσεων προσφέρουν κάποιες χαρές· ἀλλ' αὐτὲς δὲν διαρκοῦν. εἶνε δὲ ἐξ Ἰσου γεγονός ὅτι ἑκατομμύρια ἄνθρωποι καὶ μάλιστα νέοι, πού ἔχουν πέσει μὲ τὰ μοῦτρα στὶς ἡδονές καὶ διασκεδάσεις, πού ξενοχτοῦν στὰ κέντρα καὶ βουφοῦν μὲ ὄλες τίς αἰσθήσεις τὸ κύπελλο τῶν ἡδονῶν ἢ ποτίζουν τὸ κορμί τους καὶ μὲ ναρκωτικά, ὄλοι αὐτοὶ μαρτυροῦν, ὅτι δὲν εἶνε ἐκεῖ ἡ εὐτυχία· ἐκεῖ, ἀντιθέτως, εἶνε ὁ θάνατος καὶ ἡ καταστροφή.

Ἀλλὰ μήπως, τέλος, ἡ γνῶσις, ἡ ἐπιστήμη καὶ ἡ τέχνη κάνουν τὸν ἄνθρωπο νὰ εὐτυχῇ; Ἐδῶ ἀπαντᾷ ὁ φιλόσοφος Σωκράτης· «Ἐν αἴδα, ὅτι αὐδὲν αἶδα»· ἕνα γνωρίζω, ὅτι δὲν γνωρίζω τίποτα. Συνεπῶς, δὲν λύνεται τὸ ζήτημα.

Μήπως ὁμως, θὰ πῆτε, μήπως ὄλα αὐτὰ μαζί (πλοῦτος, δόξα, ἡδονές, γνῶσις, ἐπιστήμη, τέχνη), ἐνωμένα, μποροῦν νὰ ξεδιψάσουν τὴν ἀνθρώπινη ψυχὴ; Σπάνιο πράγμα βέβαια στὸν ἴδιο ἄνθρωπο νὰ συνυπάρχουν ὄλα τ' ἀγαθὰ. Ἐνα μόνο τέτοιο παράδειγμα ἀνθρώπου παρουσιάστηκε· ὁ βασιλεὺς Σολομῶν. Αὐτὸς τὰ εἶχε ὄλα. Πλοῦτο καὶ χρῆμα; στέρνες χρυσάφι διέθετε. ἡδονές, χαρέμι ὀλόκληρο εἶχε, χίλιες γυναῖκες, τίς ὠραιότερες. Δόξα; δὲν ὑπῆρχε ἐνδοξότερος. Γνῶσις; σοφὸς ἐπιστήμων καὶ συγγραφεὺς ἦταν. Ἄφου λοιπὸν τ' ἀπῆλause αὐτὰ, στὸ τέλος τὸν ρωτοῦμε· Ὅλα τὰ γεύθηκες, τί κατάλαβες ἀπ' τὴ ζωὴ αὐτῆ; Καὶ ἀπαντᾷ ὁ Σολομῶν - πάρτε μολύβι καὶ γράψτε· «Ματαιότης ματαιότητων, τὰ πάντα ματαιότης» (βιβλ. 12). Καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ ἐπιβεβαιώνουν οἱ νεκροί, πού φωνάζουν ἀπὸ τὰ μνήματα· Μηδὲν τὰ χρήματα, μηδὲν οἱ διασκεδάσεις, μηδὲν οἱ ἡδονές, μηδὲν τὰ ἀξιώματα, μηδὲν οἱ θρόνοι, μηδὲν οἱ γνῶσεις καὶ ἐπιστήμες, μηδὲν οἱ τέχνες...

Τότε λοιπὸν πῶς ζῆ ὁ ἄνθρωπος; πῶς ξεδιψᾷ ἡ ψυχὴ; Δὲν ὑπάρχει τρόπος πού ὁδηγεῖ στὴν πραγματικὴ εὐτυχία; Ὑπάρχει. Ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ τρόπος αὐτός; Ὅπως στὴ Φλώρινα φτειάξαμε ἕνα δρομάκι, μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο ἀναβαίνει κανεὶς ἐπάνω στὸ Σταυρὸ, στὸ ὕψωμα 1.020, κι ἀπὸ κεῖ βλέπει ἕνα θαυμάσιο πανόραμα, ἔτσι, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὑπάρχει καὶ στὴ ζωὴ αὐτῆ ἕνας δρομίσκος, πού δι' αὐτοῦ μπορούμε νὰ φθάσουμε «εἰς ὕψος νοσητόν» καὶ ν' ἀπολαύσουμε τὴν ἀληθινὴ εὐτυχία καὶ ἀγαλλίασι. Ὁ δρόμος αὐτός δὲν εἶνε τὸ χρῆμα, δὲν εἶνε οἱ ἡδονές, δὲν εἶνε τὰ πλοῦτη, δὲν εἶνε οἱ διασκεδάσεις, δὲν εἶνε τὰ κάλλη καὶ ἡ ὠραιότης, δὲν εἶνε τὰ ἄλλα ἀνθρώπινα πράγματα. Διότι ὁ ἄνθρωπος μ' αὐτὰ

ἀπατᾶται καὶ ταλαιπωρεῖται. Μοιάζει μὲ τὸ μυθικὸ Τάνταλο. Ὁ Τάνταλος ἀμάρτησε, λέει, (ὅπως ἀμάρτησε καὶ ὁ πρῶτος ἄνθρωπος) καὶ οἱ θεοὶ τοῦ Ὀλύμπου τὸν καταδίκασαν στὸν ἄδη - σέ τί; Τὸν ρίξανε σὲ μιὰ λίμνη· καὶ ἐνῶ διψοῦσε κ' ἤθελε νὰ πιῇ, μόλις ἀπλωνε τὴ χούφτα του νὰ πάρῃ νερό, τὸ νερό ἔφευγε. Ἔτσι ἦταν πάντα διψασμένος. Ὁ Τάνταλος εἶνε εἰκόνα κάθε ἀνθρώπου. Μέσα στὸ στήθη μας ὑπάρχει ταντάλειος δίψα. Διψοῦμε γιὰ ἀφθαρτο πλοῦτο, διψοῦμε γιὰ ἀμείραντη δόξα, διψοῦμε γιὰ πνευματικὴς ἡδονές, διψοῦμε τὴ γνῶσι τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ τὴν γνησίαν ἐπιστήμη, διψοῦμε τὴν ἀληθινὴν χαρά, διψοῦμε μεγαλεῖα οὐράνια, διψοῦμε ἀγιότητα καὶ τελειότητα. Πῶς θὰ φθάσουμε σ' αὐτὰ;

Ὑπάρχει λοιπὸν ἕνας δρομίσκος, πού ὁδηγεῖ σ' αὐτὴ τὴν κορυφὴ, τὴν κορυφὴ τοῦ Γολγοθᾶ. Καὶ ὁ δρόμος αὐτός εἶνε ἡ πίστις μας. Αὐτὴ ὁδηγεῖ στὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο. Ἐπάνω ἐκεῖ, ἀπὸ τὸ βράχο τοῦ Γολγοθᾶ καὶ τὸ σταυρὸ τοῦ Κυρίου, βγήκε νερό, ἀνέβλυσε ποταμὸς ὀλόκληρος. Δὲν εἶνε ψέμα, εἶνε ἡ πραγματικότης. Ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ νερό αὐτὸ πού ποτίζει καὶ δροσιζει τὴν ψυχὴ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου; εἶνε ἡ χάρις τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, πού ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα.

Ἰδοὺ ἡ αἰώνιος δίψα τῆς ψυχῆς, ἰδοὺ καὶ τὸ ἀθάνατο νερό πού τὴ δροσιζει.

\* \* \*

Φθάσαμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, σὲ μιὰ ἐποχὴ, πού οἱ ἄνθρωποι γιὰ ὄλλα διψοῦν. Μίλα στὸν ἄλλο γιὰ λεφτά, γιὰ γυναῖκες, γιὰ ἡδονές, γιὰ ἐρωτες, γιὰ ποδόσφαιρο, γιὰ πολιτικὴ, γιὰ ἐξουσία, γιὰ ταινίες... - σ' ἀκούει. Μίλα του γιὰ Πνεῦμα ἅγιο... - κινεζικὰ τοῦ φαίνονται.

**Ἦ Πνεῦμα ἅγιο, ἔλα στὴν καρδιά μας!**

Τὴ χρειάζεται γιὰ νὰ ἔρθῃ; **Νὴ πιστέψουμε.** Τὴ νὰ πιστέψουμε; **Ὅτι ὑπάρχει Πνεῦμα ἅγιο, ὑπάρχει ἡ χάρις τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος.** Αὐτὴ ἡ χάρις ποτίζει τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, θερμαίνει τὴν καρδιά, ἠλεκτρίζει τὴν ἀδράνεια τοῦ ἀνθρώπου γιὰ τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑψηλά.

Εἶθε, ἀγαπητοί, τὴν ἁγία αὐτὴ ἡμέρα, πού ἐορτάζουμε τὴν κάθοδο τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, ὄλοι, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, ὅταν γονατίζουμε καὶ διαβάζονται οἱ εὐχές τοῦ ἐσπερινοῦ, νὰ τίς ἀκοῦμε ὄχι μὲ ψυχρὴ ἀλλὰ μὲ θερμὴ καρδιά, μὲ διψῶσα καρδιά, μὲ πιστεύουσα καρδιά. Ἄς ζητήσουμε νὰ ἔρθῃ ἡ χάρις τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Κι ὅταν τὸ ζητήσουμε, τὸ ἅγιο Πνεῦμα θὰ μᾶς δροσιση καὶ θὰ μᾶς ξεδιψᾷ. Τότε θὰ αισθανθοῦμε τὰ λόγια πού εἶπε ὁ Χριστός· Ὅποιος διψᾷ, ἄς ἐρχεται σ' ἐμένα, κ' ἐγὼ θὰ τοῦ δώσω τὸ ἀθάνατο νερό.

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

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**

### *Be Counted Worthy of the Holy Spirit*

According to the Apostle, Lord, your Holy Spirit fully understands and penetrates your inmost depths. He also intercedes on my behalf, saying to you things for which I cannot find the words. Nothing can penetrate your being but what is divine already; nor can the depths of your immense majesty be measured by any power which itself is alien or extrinsic to you. So, whatever enters into you is yours already, nor can anything which has the power to search your very depths ever have been other than your own.

I beg you therefore, Father, to preserve in me that pure and reverent faith and to grant that to my last breath I may testify to my

conviction. May I always hold fast to what I publicly professed in the creed when I was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May I worship you, the Father of us all, and your Son together with you, and may I be counted worthy to receive your Holy Spirit ... For me there is sufficient evidence for this faith in the words: "Father, all that I have is yours, and all that is yours is mine," spoken by Jesus Christ my Lord who remains, in and from and with you, the God who is blessed for endless ages. Amen.

*St. Hilary of Poitiers*

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