

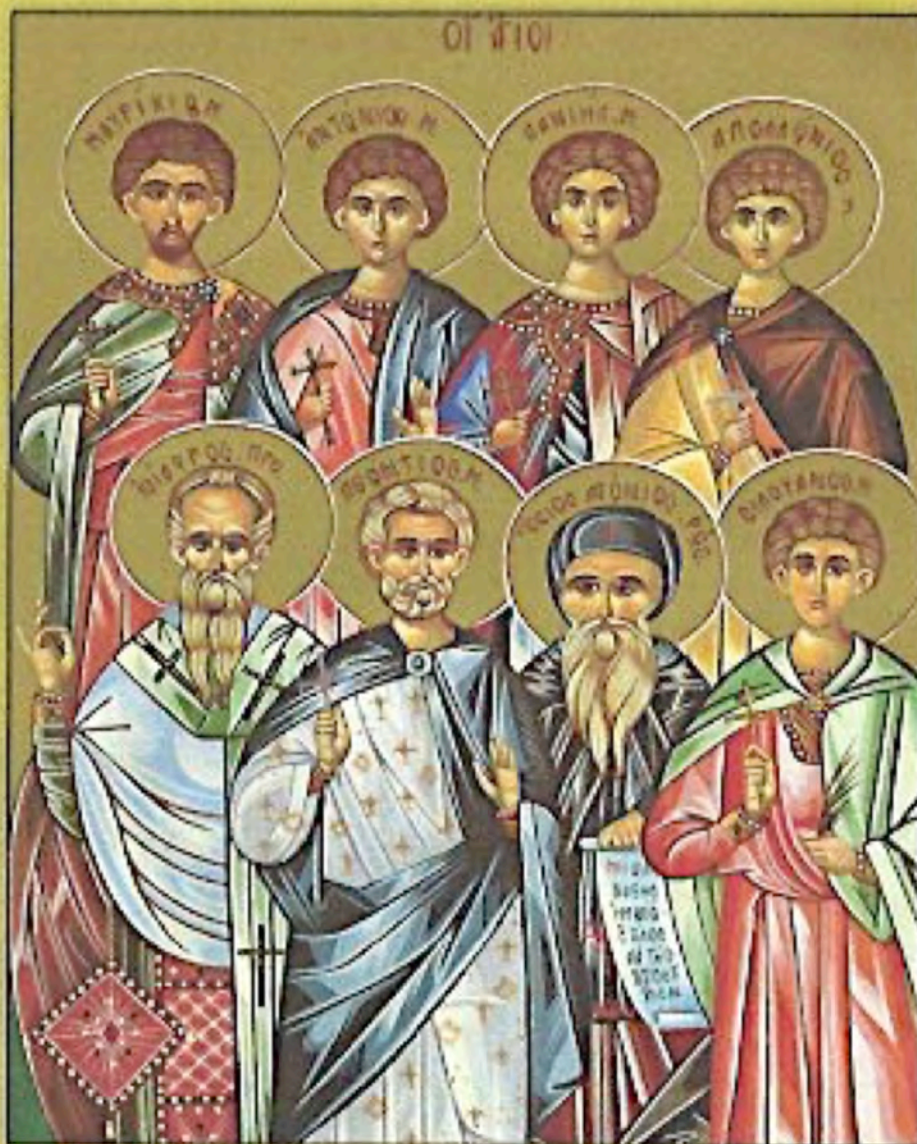


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 10th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## THIRD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of Saints of the 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis*

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## St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-10

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

## Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 5:1-10

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος β΄.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Ἀδελφοί, δικαιοθέντες οὖν ἐκ πίστεως, εἰρήνην ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ καὶ τὴν προσαγωγὴν ἐσχίκαμεν τῇ πίστει εἰς τὴν χάριν ταύτην ἐν ἣ ἑστήκαμεν, καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐπ' ἐλπίδι τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ. Οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν, εἰδότες ὅτι ἡ θλίψις ὑπομονὴν κατεργάζεται, ἡ δὲ ὑπομονὴ δοκιμὴν, ἡ δὲ δοκιμὴ ἐλπίδα· ἡ δὲ ἐλπίς οὐ κατασχύνει, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐκκέχυται ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου τοῦ δοθέντος ἡμῖν. Ἔτι γὰρ Χριστός, ὄντων ἡμῶν ἀσθενῶν, κατὰ καιρὸν ὑπὲρ ἀσεβῶν ἀπέθανεν. Μόλις γὰρ ὑπὲρ δικαίου τις ἀποθανεῖται· ὑπὲρ γὰρ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ τάχα τις καὶ τολμᾷ ἀποθανεῖν. Συνίστησιν δὲ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἀγάπην εἰς ἡμᾶς ὁ θεός, ὅτι ἔτι ἁμαρτωλῶν ὄντων ἡμῶν Χριστὸς ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἀπέθανεν. Πολλῶ οὖν μᾶλλον, δικαιοθέντες νῦν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ, σωθησόμεθα δι' αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῆς ὀργῆς. Εἰ γὰρ ἐχθροὶ ὄντες καταλλάγημεν τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέντες σωθησόμεθα ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ.

## 3rd Sunday of Matthew

### The Gospel according to Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

## 3rd Sunday of Matthew

### Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 6:22-33

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματος ἐστὶν ὁ ὀφθαλμός· ἐὰν οὖν ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ἀπλοῦς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινὸν ἔσται· ἐὰν δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου πονηρὸς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινὸν ἔσται. εἰ οὖν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστὶ, τὸ σκότος πόσον; Οὐδεὶς δύναται δυοὶ κυρίοις δουλεῦν· ἢ γὰρ τὸν ἓνα μισήσει καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀγαπήσει, ἢ ἐνὸς ἀνθέξεται καὶ τοῦ ἑτέρου καταφρονήσει. οὐ δύνασθε Θεῷ δουλεῦν καὶ μαμωνᾷ. Διὰ τοῦτο λέγω ὑμῖν, μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τῇ ψυχῇ ὑμῶν τί φάγητε καὶ τί πίητε, μηδὲ τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν τί ἐνδύσησθε· οὐχὶ ἡ ψυχὴ πλεῖον ἐστὶ τῆς τροφῆς καὶ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ ἐνδύματος; ἐμβλέψατε εἰς τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ὅτι οὐ σπεύρουσιν οὐδὲ θερίζουσιν οὐδὲ συνάγουσιν εἰς ἀποθήκας, καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τρέφει αὐτά· οὐχ ὑμεῖς μᾶλλον διαφέρετε αὐτῶν; τίς δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν μεριμνῶν δύναται προσθεῖναι ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλικίαν αὐτοῦ πηχυν ἓνα; καὶ περὶ ἐνδύματος τί μεριμνᾶτε; καταμάθετε τὰ κρίνα τοῦ ἀγροῦ πῶς ἀυξάνει· οὐ κοπιᾷ οὐδὲ νήθει· λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδὲ Σολομὼν ἐν πάσῃ τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ περιεβάλετο ὡς ἐν τούτων. εἰ δὲ τὸν χόρτον τοῦ ἀγροῦ, σήμερον ὄντα καὶ αὔριον εἰς κλίβανον βαλλόμενον, ὁ Θεὸς οὕτως ἀμφιένυσιν, οὐ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ὑμᾶς, ὀλιγόπιστοι; μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε λέγοντες, τί φάγωμεν ἢ τί πίωμεν ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητεῖ· οἶδε γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος ὅτι χρῆζετε τούτων ἀπάντων. ζητεῖτε δὲ πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν.

**UP - COMING HOLY DAYS: mark your calendars Major saints observed:**

<b>July 12th,</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Saint Veronika</b>
<b>July 15th,</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saint Vladimir</b>
<b>July 17th,</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Saint Marina</b>
<b>July 20th,</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Saint Elias</b>
<b>July 22nd,</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saint Mary Magdalene and Saint Marcella</b>
<b>July 26th,</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Saint Paraskeve</b>
<b>July 27th,</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Saint Panteleimon</b>
<b>July 31st,</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Saint Joseph Arimathea</b>

**CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR LITURGY SCHEDULING AND HOURS OF SERVICES!**

**ARTOKLASIES** are welcomed for NAME-DAY HOLIDAY observances. Please register your artoklasia with the Church Office for proper announcements.

**TODAY:** Our Pastor Father Eugene will give a detailed report on the GREAT SYNODAL COUNCIL of Crete convened at the global level of all Orthodox Christian Churches. He will also report on the National Clergy/Laity Congress of the American Church held this past week in Nashville Tennessee. Time providing, he may offer a question and answer period during the 'homily'. Listen intently, learn freely and employ the knowledge with graceful patience. **THIS IS THE ORTHODOX WAY!**

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** Is only hosted during the summer months JULY and AUGUST, through the courtesy and generosity of individual sponsors. For \$125, (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY – FIVE DOLLARS) you can host the coffee fellowship as a birthday, anniversary tribute or memorial recognition any Sunday with coffee, tea, bagels and smears. Our committee will do the serving upon request. Call: 718-339-0280. Share the recognition of 'THE DAY' with others through fellowship.

**AGAPE COFFEE HOUR:** Is looking for hosts. Why not extend your fellowship to others and let them share in your happy observances (birthday, name-day, anniversary) or a memorial tribute to a loved one in repose. Check with the church office for available dates and occasions. Call Father Eugene at 718-339-0280 or Angela or Effie.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** was convened on Sunday, June 26th, and met with success as many future programs, plans and projects were discussed, as well as the favorably successful Paschal season holy days, and the Spring Grecian Festival. The U.P.K. School may possibly DOUBLE in September! TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE CHURCH. AFTER ALL, IT IS YOUR CHURCH ISN'T IT?

**ELEVATOR PROJECT:** is on the rise..... donations are always welcomed as we inch by inch look forward to the finalization of this much needed accessibility for our 'senior citizen' members. You may **NOT** be one today, but surely will be one tomorrow. MAKE A DONATION. THANK YOU!

**ALTAR BOYS EXCURSION:** took place last Friday evening with hot dogs, fries, ice cream, soda and rides, rides, rides, ending the evening excursion with fireworks on the CONEY ISLAND boardwalk. Some 28 youngsters enjoyed a fun filled night under the stars. Many thanks to the VOUDERIS BROTHERS at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park and To 'PAUL'S DAUGHTER' on the boardwalk for the refreshments.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB:** their final meeting took place this Wednesday, June 29th. wine, cheeses, fruits and WATERMELON GALORE celebrated the occasion. B I N G O and fun for all. You haven't joined us yet? EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. IN WHITEHALL. Give the elders in your home a 'DAY OUT' with their friends. The Club will be in recess until WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 14TH. Mark your calendar **now** for the return.

**BIRTHDAY:** celebration in TWO WEEKS ..... Sunday, July 24th... Cake for all!

**SUMMER HOURS:** Please take note that through the months of July and August until after LABOR DAY, the parish complex closes at 4:00 P.M. without exceptions. All organizational leaders are apprised that NO MEETINGS will take place after hours unless previously sanctioned by the administrative office. Please cooperate and observe the rule. THANKS. A secure complex is our goal.

**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! SEND US YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS : and we will send the weekly bulletin to your home. Going to Greece? Show the bulletin to your family in your old home town. What a treat.....and it's FREE! Call the office 718 339-0280 and speak to Effie.

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 18<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](http://LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER). The website address. [W.W.W.gaepis.org](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

**CHOIR RECESS:** We wish all our devoted choir members and the "MAESTRA" Katie Hambas a well deserved summer vacation. the choir resumes September 11th after Labor Day observance.



# Eliminating the Trafficking of Children and Youth

July 13, 2016  
3-5 pm  
UN Headquarters  
Conference Room 1

*The Event will feature the following speakers:*

- **Archbishop Bernardito Auza**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN
- **Sheila Simpkins McClain**, Director of Survivor Services, End Slavery Tennessee, and Graduate of Thistle Farm: *My Experiences My Being Trafficked as a Child*
- **Sr. Angela Reed, RSM**, Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans: *The Causes of Child Trafficking and Remedies: Giving Voice to the Victims*
- **Kevin Cassidy**, Senior Communications and External Relations Office, International Labour Organization: *The Scourge of Trafficking Children for Labor*
- **Jayne Bigelsen**, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives at Covenant House New York and Vice-President of Advocacy for Covenant House International: *Homeless Trafficked Youth: Responding to their Special Concerns*
- **Carol Smolenski**, Executive Director, ECPAT-USA: *The Use of the Internet in the Trafficking of Young People*



NGO COMMITTEE TO  
**STOP  
TRAFFICKING  
IN PERSONS**



*All are most welcome. A UN Pass is needed to attend. To request a special events pass or to register for the event, please RSVP by July 11 at [holyseemission.org/rsvpJuly13](http://holyseemission.org/rsvpJuly13)*



## Training Laborers for the Lord

Holy Cross is pleased to announce a new educational initiative for lay leaders and parishioners. With the blessing of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, "Training Laborers for the Lord" is a continuing educational opportunity for laymen and women who assist in the ministries of their church communities. Enroll in the following courses and grow in your faith and become equipped to inspire others.

July 18-22, 2016

***Major Themes in Orthodox Church History*** (9:00-10:45 am)  
James Skedros, ThD, Dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

***Scripture in the Orthodox Church*** (11:00 am-12:45 pm)  
Bruce Beck, ThD

***The Orthodox Liturgical Cycle*** (2:00-3:45 pm)  
Rev. Alkiviadis Calivas, ThD

**Program costs:** \$200 for one course; \$50 for each additional course.  
The registration fee includes lunch. Room and board is available Sunday-Friday in a dormitory on campus for \$300.

*For more information on all of our summer courses and to register, please contact Joy Ostrosky at [jostrosky@hchc.edu](mailto:jostrosky@hchc.edu) or 617-850-1261.*





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1959	Κυριακὴ Γ' Ματθαίου (Ρωμ. 5,1-10) 10 Ἰουλίου 2016	Συντάκτης (τ) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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### Ὁ Εὐεργέτης

«Ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐκκέχυται ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν» (Ρωμ. 5,5)

**Δ**ὲν ὑπάρχοιν, ἀγαπητοί μου, μόνο ἄνθρωποι ποὺ κάνουν τὸ κακό· ὑπάρχοιν κ' ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ κάνουν τὸ καλὸ. Καθένας σ' αὐτὸ τὸν κόσμο ἔχει καὶ φίλους, ποὺ τὸν ἀγαποῦν καὶ τοῖς προσφέρουν δῶρα. Γιὰ κάθε ἄνθρωπο ὑπάρχοιν **εὐεργέτες**. Δὲν ὑπάρχει κανεὶς ποὺ νὰ μὴν ἔχη δείγματα τῆς ἀγάπης τῶν ἄλλων.

Τέτοια πρόσωπα εἶνε ἡ **μάνα**, ποὺ μᾶς γέννησε, μᾶς θήλασε, στάθηκε στὸ προσκέφαλό μας· ὁ **πατέρας**, ποὺ δοῦλεψε σκληρὰ γιὰ τὴν ἐξουσίαν· ὁ **ιερέας**, ποὺ μᾶς βάπτισε «εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος» καὶ μᾶς ἔκανε Χριστιανούς· ὁ **δασκάλος**, ποὺ μᾶς ἔμαθε νὰ γράφουμε κ' ὀνομά μας· ὁ **γιατρός**, ποὺ μᾶς ἔσωσε ἀπὸ βαρεῖα ἀσθένεια· καὶ πολλοὶ ἄλλοι εὐεργέτες.

Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς, ποὺ τοὺς θυμόμαστε καὶ τοὺς εὐχαριστοῦμε, ὑπάρχει καὶ κάποιος ἄλλος μεγαλύτερος εὐεργέτης. Μὰ πρέπει νὰ ἔχῃ μάτια νὰ βλέπῃ, αὐτιά ν' ἀκούς καὶ καρδιά νὰ αἰσθάνεσαι. Διαφορετικά, αὐτὰ ποὺ θὰ πῶ θὰ πέσουν στὸ κενό. Ποίος εἶνε ὁ πῶς μεγάλος ἀπ' ὅλους τοὺς εὐεργέτες; **Ὁ Θεός!** –Καὶ τί μᾶς ἔχει κάνει; Καὶ τί δὲ μᾶς ἔχει κάνει! «*Ἀνοίγοντός σου τὴν χεῖρα τὰ σύμψαντα πλησθήσονται χρησιμότητος*»· ἀνοίγοντας τὴ φούχτα τοῦ ὁ Θεοῦς σκορπίζει στὸν κόσμο μύρια ἀγαθὰ (Ψαλ. 108).

**Τί μᾶς ἔχει δώσει;** Ἄς ἀρχίσουμε ἀπὸ τὰ μικρά, αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀναφέρει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο (Ματ. 13,12), γιὰ νὰ φτάσουμε στὰ μεγάλα.

• Ἐγράμην οἱ ἐφημερίδες, ὅτι δυὸ τουρίστες ξεκίνησαν ἀπὸ τὸ Κάιρο, προχώρησαν βαθειὰ στὴν ἔρημο χωρὶς νὰ πάρουν μαζί τους **νερό**, κ' ἐκεῖ πέθαναν ἀπὸ τὴ δίψα. Καταλαβαίνετε; Ἐμεῖς ἀνοίγουμε τὴ βρύση ἢ τὸ ψυγεῖο καὶ πίνουμε ὅσα θέλομε. Αὐτὸ τὸ ποτήρι, ποὺ κρατᾶτε στὸ χεῖρ καὶ πίνετε καὶ δροσιζέστε, αἰσθάνεσθε τί εἶνε; ἡ εὐεργεσία τοῦ Θεοῦ σὲ ὅλους, ἀγαθοὺς καὶ πονηροὺς. Γιὰ σκεφτῆτε τί θὰ γίνῃ ἂν δὲν βρέξῃ καὶ στερέψοι οἱ πηγές;

Μέσα σ' ἓνα εἰκοσιτετράωρο θ' ἀδειάσῃ ἡ ἄθλινα! Ὁ ζῆτῆς ἓνα ποτήρι νερὸ καὶ δὲν θὰ τὸ βρῆσκησῃ οὔτε στὴ μαύρη ἀγορὰ· ὅπως στὰ χρόνια τῆς Κατοχῆς, ποὺ ἔγινε ἐκεῖνο ποὺ εἶπε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός, «*μιά φούχτα ἀλεύρι - μιά φούχτα χρυσάφι*». Καὶ κάτι χειρότερο· γιατί χωρὶς ψωμί ζῆς καὶ μὴν μῆρα καὶ δυὸ μέρες καὶ σαράντα μέρες, ἀλλὰ χωρὶς νεράκι πόσες μέρες μπορεῖς νὰ ζήσης; Τὸ νερὸ αὐτὸ εἶνε τοῦ Θεοῦ. Πές λοιπὸν «*Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός*».

• Καὶ μόνο τὸ νερὸ, ἂν τὸ πρῶν ἄς τὸ βράδῃ πάνω στὸν οὐρανὸ λειτουργεῖ ὁ μεγαλύτερος ἠλεκτροπαραγωγικὸς σταθμὸς, ὁ **ἥλιος**. Μπροστά του τί εἶνε τὰ δικὰ μας ὑδροηλεκτρικὰ ἔργα, ὅπως αὐτὰ τοῦ Ἀχελώου στὰ Κρεμαστά, ἢ τὰ ἔξω στὴν Ἀμερική καὶ ἄλλοῦ; Ἐδῶ κάθε μῆνα πληρώνεις στὴ Δ.Ε.Η. χαράτσι γιὰ ἄρισμένους ἄρες, ἐνῶ ὁ ἥλιος παρέχει συνεχῶς ἐνέργεια δωρεάν. Τὰ συνηθίσαμε ὅμως αὐτὰ καὶ δὲ μᾶς κάνουν ἐντύπωση. Ἄφθονο φῶς καὶ στὴν καλύβα καὶ στὸ ἀνάκτορο, καὶ στὸ κρεβάτι τοῦ νοσοκομείου καὶ στὸ κελλί τοῦ φυλακισμένου. Εἶνε τὸ φῶς τοῦ Θεοῦ. Γι' αὐτὸ νὰ λέμε «*Δόξα σοι τὸ δείξαντι τὸ φῶς*» (Ψαλ. 136).

• Πῶς ἀναγκαῖο ὅμως κί ἀπὸ τὸ νερὸ καὶ τὸ φῶς εἶνε κάτι ἄλλο· ὁ **ἀέρας**. Τὸ ψᾶρι καλυμπάει μέσα στὴ θάλασσα, κί ὁ ἄνθρωπος καλυμπάει στὸν ἀέρα. Ἐξω ἀπ' τὸν ἀέρα δὲν ζῆ. Οἱ ἀστροναῦτες στὸ διάστημα, στὴ Σελήνη καὶ στὰ ἄλλα ἄστρα, ἐπεὶδὴ δὲν ὑπάρχει ἀέρας, κουβαλοῦν μαζί τους ἀπὸ τὴ Γῆ ἄσκοις - φιάλες ὀξυγόνου γιὰ νὰ ζήσουν, διαφορετικὰ θὰ πεθάνουν. Χωρὶς νερὸ καὶ ἥλιο ζοῦμε λίγες ἡμέρες, χωρὶς ἀέρα οὔτε πέντε λεπτά· ἂν μᾶς λείψῃ, τύμπανιασοὶ θὰ γίνουμε ὑπὸ ἄσφυξία.

Καὶ δὲν εἶνε μόνο αὐτὰ. Καὶ τὸ ψωμί ποὺ τρώς, καὶ οἱ καρποὶ στὰ δέντρα, καὶ τὰ πουλιά στὸ δάσος, καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ ποὺ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα (Ματ. 6,26), καὶ τὰ ψάρια τῆς θάλασσας, ὅλα τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶνε. Ἄν εἶσαι λοιπὸν ἀν-

θρώπος πνευματικός, όταν τίνης νερό, όταν βάζης στο στόμα ένα κομμάτι ψωμί, όταν τὸ πρῶτὸ βλέπης τὴν ἀνατολή, όταν εἰσπνέης τὸν ἀέρα, όταν ἀκοῦς στὸ δάσος τὰ πουλιά, όταν δροσίσεις στὴ θάλασσα, όταν ἀντικρύζης ἕνα πανόραμα ἀπὸ τὴν κορυφή τοῦ βουνοῦ, όταν κρατῆς στὰ χερίά σου ἕνα λουλούδι καὶ τὸ μυρίζης, μὴ ἕνα λόγο κάθε φορά που ἀπολαμβάνεις τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ, πές «Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός· δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός· δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός». Πές «Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός» γιὰ τὴ γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ παιδιά σου, γιὰ τοὺς συγγενεὶς καὶ φίλους σου, γιὰ τὴν πατρίδα τὴν ἐλεύθερη που ἔχεις – γιατί ἐδῶ που τὰ λέμε δὲν ξέρεις ἂν θὰ τὴν ἔχης καὶ αὔριο.

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Δόξασε τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ ὅλα αὐτὰ ἀλλὰ χίλιες φορές νὰ τὸν δοξάσης γιὰ κάτι ἄλλο. Ποιῶ; Ἐδῶ σταματῶ. Γιατί ἂν γι' αὐτὰ που βλέπεις καὶ αἰσθάνεσαι δὲν τὸν εὐχαριστῆς, πῶς τώρα θὰ τὸν εὐχαριστήσης γιὰ κάτι ἀπειρώς ἀνώτερο ἀλλὰ που συλλαμβάνεται μόνο μὲ πνευματικὰ αἰσθητήρια; Κι ἂν δὲν εὐχαριστῆς τὸ Θεὸ γι' αὐτὰ που θὰ σοῦ πῶ, Χριστιανὸς δὲν εἶσαι. Μὰ ποιῶ εἶν' αὐτὰ; Ὁ Χριστέ μου, ἂν μπορούσε νὰ κατεβῇ Πνεῦμα ἅγιον καὶ νὰ φωτίσῃ τίς καρδιές, νὰ καταλάβουμε ὅτι παραπάνω ἀπὸ ὅλες τίς ὑλικὲς εὐεργεσίες ὑπάρχει μιά ἄλλη που ἔνε ἀνώτερη! Τότε θὰ μποῦμε στὸ μυστήριο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ποιῶ εἶνε αὐτὰ τὸ μεγάλο μυστήριο, ἡ **μεγάλὴ εὐεργεσία**, γιὰ τὴν ὁποία πρέπει μέρα - νύχτα νὰ εὐλογοῦμε τὸ Θεό; Πῶς νὰ σοῦ μιλήσω. Θά ἤθελα νὰ ἴμουν ζωγράφος, ποιητῆς, λογοτέχνης, νὰ ζωγραφίσω μπροστά σου τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Θεοῦ· εἶμαι Χριστιανός. Πῶς νὰ σοῦ τὴν περιγράψω; Μ' ἕνα παράδειγμα – καὶ τελειώνω τὸ λόγο μου.

Τὸ καλοκαίρι τοῦ 1965 βρέθηκα **στὰ δικαστήρια**. Καθόμουν σὲ μιά γωνιά καὶ παρακολουθοῦσα τίς διάφορες ὑποθέσεις. Περνοῦσαν τὰ δυστυχισμένα πλάσματα, που δικάζονταν γιὰ διάφορες παραβάσεις τοῦ ποινικοῦ νόμου, καὶ ὁ πρόεδρος τιμωροῦσε συνεχῶς τὰ φτωχάκια: ἕναν 10 μέρες, ἄλλον 15 μέρες, ἄλλον 30 μέρες, ἄλλον 40 μέρες· καὶ μετὰ τοὺς ἔπαιρναν οἱ χωροφύλακες ἕτοιμοι νὰ τοὺς δέσουν – ἀκουγες τὰ αἶδερα – γιὰ νὰ τοὺς πᾶνε στὴ φυλακή. Οἱ ταλαιπώροι ἦταν ἀκεπτικοὶ καὶ οἱ γυναῖκες καὶ τὰ παιδιά τοὺς κλαίγανε, γιατί δὲν εἶχαν χρήματα. Ἀλλὰ κάποια στιγμὴ ρίχνω πίσω μιά ματιὰ καὶ τοὺς βλέπω νὰ ἔνε χαρούμενοι. Ρωτῶ, Τί ἔγινε; καὶ μοῦ λένε: Κάποιος δικηγόρος τοὺς εἶπε: Μὴ στενοχωριέστε, ὅπου νὰ ἔνε περιμένουμε εὐχάριστο μήνυμα ἀπὸ τὴν Κέρκυρα: θὰ γεννηθῇ ἡ βασιλική, θὰ βγῇ δι-

**τάγμα χάριτος**... Μὲ ρωτοῦσαν κ' ἐμένα! Παπούλη, ἔμαθες τίποτα ἀπ' τὴν Κέρκυρα;... Πῶς περιμέναν πότε θὰ βγῇ βασιλικὸ διάταγμα νὰ βγοῦν ἔξω ὅλοι αὐτοὶ οἱ μικροποινίτες!

Καταλάβατε τί θέλω νὰ πῶ; Ἄν δὲν καταλάβετε, δὲν εἶστε Χριστιανοί. Τ' ἀκούμε στὴν ἐκκλησία, ἀλλὰ δὲ βαριέσαι τὴν ἄρα που τελούνται μυστήρια – **ὄν πιστεύουμε** – καὶ σεῖονται τὰ οὐράνια καὶ τρέμουν οἱ ἄγγελοι, κάποιοι χαρμουριώνονται. Ἄν δὲν πιστεύης, μὴν ἐρχεσαι στὴν ἐκκλησία, κάτσε στὸ καφενεῖο.

Ὅλοι μας εἴμαστε παραβάτες. Τί παραβάτες; Ὅχι ἀστυνομικῶν διατάξεων, ἀλλὰ παραβάτες τοῦ νόμου τοῦ Θεοῦ. Παραβαίνουμε τὸν Δεκάλογο, τὴν Ἐπί τοῦ δρους ὁμίλιαν, τὸν γραπτὸ καὶ ἄγραφο θεῖον νόμον· ἄλλος μὲ τὴ γλῶσσα, ἄλλος μὲ τὰ μάτια, ἄλλος μὲ τ' αὐτιά... ἄλλος τὴ μιά ἐντολή, ἄλλος τὴν ἄλλη. Καὶ τὸ δικαστήριο τοῦ Θεοῦ λεπτοεργεῖ, ὁρίζει διαφορὰς ποινές. Τί ποινές; Ὅποιος ἀμαρτάνει, θάνατος! «**Τὰ ὕψωνα τῆς ἀμαρτίας θάνατος**» (Ρωμ 6:23). Ἐνῶ λοιπὸν εἴμαστε καταδικασμένοι ὅλοι εἰς αἰώνιον θάνατον, ξαφνικὰ τί ἀκούμε; Ἄγγελος μᾶς λέει: Ἀμαρτωλοί, μὴ λυπάστε! Ὁ Θεὸς θέσπισε βασιλικὸ διάταγμα, τὸ ὑπογράφει ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ τὸ αἷμα που ἔχυσε πάνω στὸ σταυρὸ, καὶ **συγχωροῦνται ὅλα τὰ ἀμωρτήματα σας!** Ἄς εἶνε δοξασμένο τὸ ὄνομά του.

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Ἐγώ, ἀδελφοί μου, ἀπὸ ὅλα αὐτὰ τί θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ αἰσθανώμαστε; Θά ἔπρεπε ἀπ' τὸ πρῶτὸ μέχρι τὸ βράδυ ἡ καρδιά μας νὰ λέη – Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός. Καὶ ὅμως δὲν ὑπάρχει πιά ἀχάριστο πλάσμα ἀπὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπον. Ἡ κόττη πίνει νεράκι καὶ ὑψώνει τὸ κεφάλι της σὺν τὴν λέην πρὸς τὸ Θεόν. Σ' εὐχαριστῶ. Ἐχεις ἕνα σκυλί, τοῦ πετῆς ἕνα κοκκαλο, κ' ἐπειδὴ δὲν ἔχει γλῶσσα νὰ σοῦ πῇ εὐχαριστῶ κοινάει τὴν οὔρα του. Κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὄχι μόνο δὲν πατάει στὴν ἐκκλησία νὰ πῇ ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ, ἀλλὰ τί κάνει; **βλαστημᾷ τὸ θεῖον!** Φρίκη· αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ χριστιανισμὸς μας. Καταντήσαμε σὺν τὰ σκυλιά τὰ λυσσασμένα που δαγκώνουν τὸ ἀφεντικό τους.

Καλὰ τέλος πάντων, κάνεις ἄλλες ἀμαρτίας (πορνείεις, μοιχεύεις, κλέβεις, ἀδικεῖς, χτυπῆς τί μᾶνα σου κ.λπ.) μὰ τὸ νὰ βλαστημᾷς τὸ Θεόν εἶνε τὸ χειρότερον ἀπ' ὅλα. Εἶμαι ἀμαρτωλός, ἀλλὰ σοῦ τὸ λέω· ἐάν συνεχίσῃ αὐτό, θὰ γίνῃ σεισμὸς καὶ θὰ μᾶς κατοπιῇ ἡ γῆ, γιατί γίναμε ἀγνώμονες καὶ ἀχάριστοι πρὸς τὸ Θεόν.

Ὁ δὲ Κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς διὰ τῶν προσευχῶν τῆς Παναγίας Θεοτόκου **ἔς ἐλεῆση καὶ σῶση** πάντας ἡμᾶς· ἀμήν.

(†) *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**

*Let Us Show Everyone God's Generosity*

Recognize to whom you owe the fact that you exist, that you breathe, that you understand, that you are wise, and, above all, that you know God and hope for the kingdom of heaven. ... You have been made a son of God, coheir with Christ. Where did you get all this, and from whom? .... Who has endowed you with all that makes mankind superior to all other living creatures?

Is it not God who asks you now in your turn to show yourself generous above all other creatures and for the sake of all other creatures? Because we have received from Him so many wonderful gifts, will we not be ashamed to refuse Him this one thing only, our generosity? .... If we do, we shall hear

Saint Peter say: "Be ashamed of yourselves for holding on to what belongs to someone else. Resolve to imitate God's justice, and no one will be poor."

Let us not labor to heap up and hoard riches while others remain in need. .... He has given abundantly to all the basic needs of life, not as a private possession, ... but as common to all. ... His gifts are not deficient in any way, because He wanted to give equality of blessing to equality of worth, and to show the abundance of His generosity.

*St. Gregory the Theologian*

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