



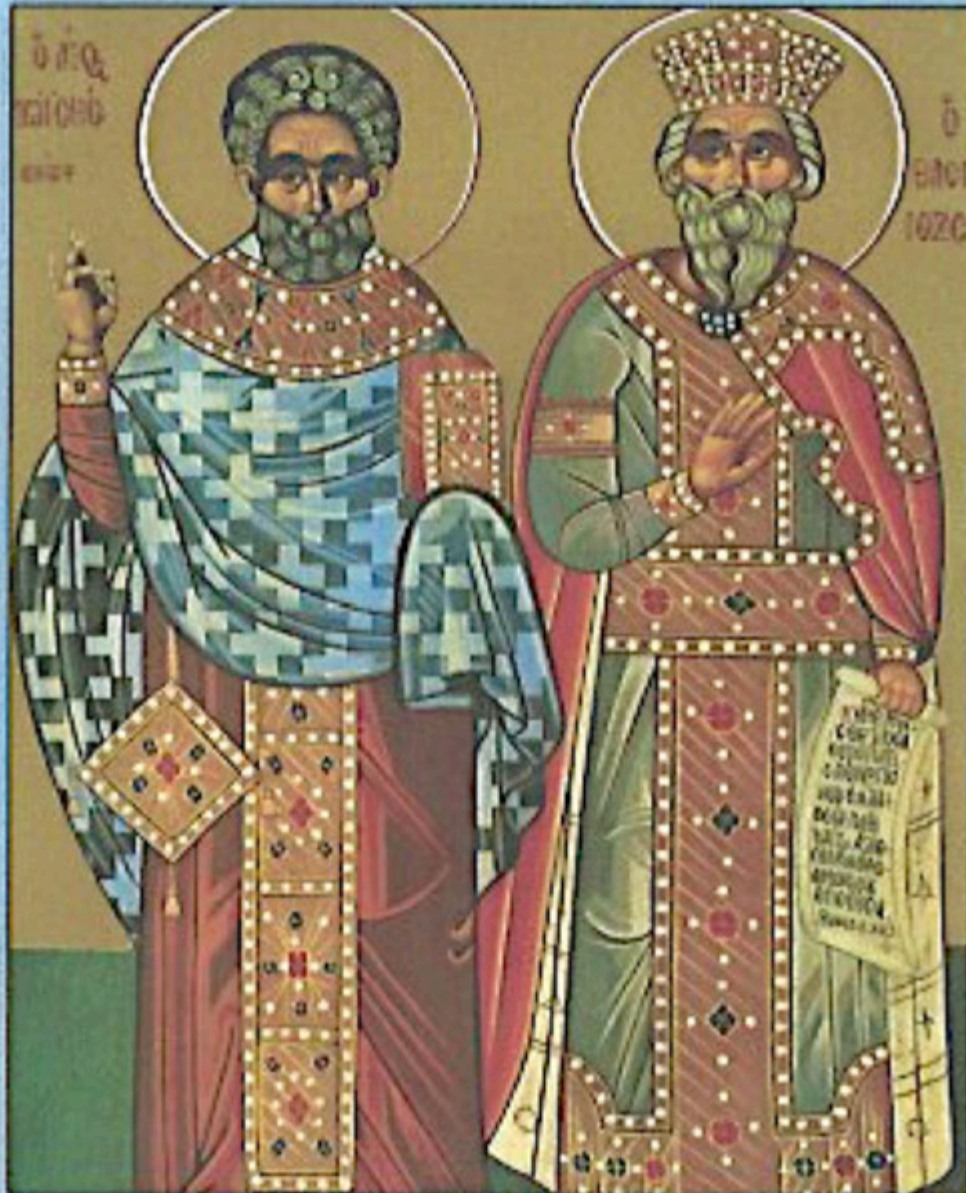
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 28th 2016

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of Saints Moses and Ezekiel -- August 28th*

## **St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16**

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.

Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

## **Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 4:9-16**

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος α'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν ὡς ἐπιθανατίους· ὅτι θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ ἀγγέλοις, καὶ ἀνθρώποις. Ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ Χριστόν, ὑμεῖς δὲ φρόνιμοι ἐν Χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς ἀσθενεῖς, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἰσχυροί· ὑμεῖς ἑνδοξοί, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. Ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι ὥρας καὶ πεινῶμεν, καὶ διψῶμεν, καὶ γυμνητεύομεν, καὶ κολαφιζόμεθα, καὶ ἀστατοῦμεν, καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν· λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν· διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα· βλασφημούμενοι παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων περίφημα ἕως ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω ταῦτα, ἀλλ' ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ νουθετῶ. Ἐὰν γὰρ μυρίους παιδαγωγοὺς ἔχητε ἐν Χριστῷ, ἀλλ' οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς ἐγέννησα. Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε.

## **10th Sunday of Matthew**

### **The Gospel according to Matthew 17:14-23**

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

## **10th Sunday of Matthew**

### **Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 17:14-23**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντων αὐτῶν πρὸς τὸν ὄχλον προσῆλθεν αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπος γονυπετῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ἐλέησόν μου τὸν υἱόν, ὅτι σεληνιάζεται καὶ κακῶς πάσχει· πολλάκις γὰρ πίπτει εἰς τὸ πῦρ καὶ πολλάκις εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ. καὶ προσήνεγκα αὐτὸν τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου, καὶ οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν αὐτὸν θεραπεῦσαι. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ διεστραμμένη! ἕως πότε ἔσομαι μεθ' ὑμῶν; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετέ μοι αὐτὸν ὧδε. καὶ ἐπετίμησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ δαιμόνιον καὶ ἐθεραπεύθη ὁ παῖς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης. Τότε προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ τῷ Ἰησοῦ κατ' ἰδίαν εἶπον· διατί ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· διὰ τὴν ἀπιστίαν ὑμῶν. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐὰν ἔχητε πίστιν ὡς κόκκον σινάπεως, ἐρεῖτε τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ, μεταβήθι ἐντεῦθεν ἐκεῖ, καὶ μεταβήσεται, καὶ οὐδὲν ἀδυνατήσκει ὑμῖν. τοῦτο δὲ τὸ γένος οὐκ ἐκπορεύεται εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Ἀναστρεφομένων δὲ αὐτῶν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μέλλει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοσθαι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθήσεται. καὶ ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα.

## DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday	August 28th,	Feast Day of Saint Laurentios (Saint Lawrence) and Moses the <b>ETHIOPIAN</b>	10.30 A.M.
Monday	August 29th,	Beheading of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy <b>THIS IS A DAY OF STRICT FASTING</b>	9:30 A.M.
Thursday	September,01st	This is the beginning of the <b>NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR</b> called the 'Indictus' , we will observe the annual observance with a <b>DOXOLOGY</b> and <b>AGIASMOS</b> on Thursday September,1st <b>11:45 A.M.</b>	

## UP – COMING SPECIAL HOLY DAYS:

Tuesday	September 08th	<b>NATIVITY</b> of the <b>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> Divine Liturgy and Artoklasia	9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	September 13h,	Great Vesper of <b>HOLY CROSS</b> Elevation Celebrated at our sister <b>BAY RIDGE</b> Parish Solemn Street Procession with the <b>HOLY CROSS</b> commencing at 8:30 P.M.	7:00 A.M.
Wednesday	September 14th,	<b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> of <b>HOLY CROSS</b> at <b>THREE HIERARCHS</b> with the procession of the <b>Sacred Relic of the</b> <b>CROSS</b> with veneration by all. Artoklasies are most welcomed for those with special intentions.	

**NEXT WEEK-END** is the National Observance of **LABOR DAY**, **HERALDING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE SUMMER** AND the harbinger of autumn. may we wish everyone a happy, healthful and most importantly a **SAFE HOLIDAY** experience from Thursday through Monday. Try and find an Orthodox church in the area where you may be vacationing during these days. Pay a visit on Sunday and inform the pastor priest where you come from and extend the greetings of **THREE HIERARCHS PARISH** to them! It's such a treat to visit other parishes and experience the fellowship of prayer. **LET US KNOW WHERE YOU WENT AND WHO YOU MET.....** it's a fun thing to do.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** 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.

**BASILIKO PLANTS:** are most welcomed for the Feast of Holy Cross as sprigs of the sweet fragrant plant are distributed to the faithful on **SEPTEMBER 14TH** . Cuttings are also welcomed for distribution after the blessing and veneration of the Sacred Relic and Cross.

**CHRISMATION:** is the appropriate sacramental service for the reception of non-Orthodox Christians (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant) who are validly baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity entering the **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. We are receptive to any interested parties who may wish to enter the sacramental life of Orthodoxy by confession of faith and anointing. Please communicate with the clergy if you or another is interested. The ancient rite of **CHRISMATION** (confirmation) is administered during the Divine Liturgy any Sunday, prior to the Eucharistic distribution . **COME ! SEE ! LEARN ! REJOICE !**  
**MANY THANKS:** to the wine donors that submitted **EUCARISTIC WINES** for Holy Communion; **MR. and MRS STEVE KRITSAS, MRS. ANTONIA TSISMENAKIS, MRS FOTINI DANIIL.....** the Lord blesses the gracious donor in the vineyard of the harvest.

**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!** Special thanks to **MARIA COURTOS** who donated \$2500 last Sunday!

**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** . The website address. [W.W.W.gaepis.org](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

**ASIA MINOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL: ( SEE FLYER CENTERFOLD )**



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**COMMEMORATION  
of the  
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**HONORING THE SACRIFICED CHRISTIAN  
ORTHODOX VICTIMS OF  
THRACE, ASIA MINOR, PONTOS  
BY THE YOUNG TURKS AND THE KEMALISTS**

A Memorial Service and Observance of the  
“Megali Katastrophe”

Sunday, September 18th, 2016

Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church  
1724 Avenue P, Brooklyn- Tel: 718- 339- 0280

Guest Homilist: Constantine S. Sirigos, M.S.  
Georgetown University

Journalist, Legislative Assistant American Hellenic Institute;  
Washington D.C.



Divine Liturgy - 10:30 AM  
Memorial Service- 12:00 PM



Coffee Fellowship to Follow In Whitehall



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1965

Κυριακὴ Ι' (Ι' Ματθ.) (Α' Κορ. 4,9-16)  
28 Αὐγούστου 2016

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ὁ ἀπ. Παῦλος ὑποδειγματικὸ πρότυπο

«Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε» (Α' Κορ. 4,16)

Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶχε διδάξει τοὺς Κορινθίους τὰ **ὑψηλά μαθήματα τῆς ἠθικῆς** ζωῆς τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ. Ποιά μαθήματα δηλαδή; μαθήματα ταπεινοφροσύνης, σωφροσύνης, ἀγνότητος, ἐλεημοσύνης, ὁμονοίας, ἀγάπης. Ἦταν ὅμως εὐκολο οἱ Κορίνθιοι ν' ἀκούσουν καὶ νὰ ἐφαρμόσουν τὰ χριστιανικά αὐτὰ μαθήματα τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου;

Καθόλου εὐκολο. Γιατί δὲν ἦταν εὐκολο; Διότι οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τῆς Κορίνθου ζοῦσαν μέσα σὲ μία κοινωνία τελείως ἀντίθετη μετὰ τὸν τρόπο ζωῆς ποὺ τοὺς δίδασκε ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος· ζοῦσαν σὲ **μία ἀπὸ τὶς πρὸ διεφθαρμένες κοινωνίες** τοῦ ἀρχαίου κόσμου. Στὴν Κόρινθο ἡ Ἀφροδίτη καὶ ὁ Βάκχος, οἱ εἰδωλολατρικοὶ θεοὶ ποὺ ὑπέθαλπαν καὶ ἐξωθοῦσαν τοὺς λατρευτάς τους σὲ ἀθέμιτες ἀπολαύσεις καὶ ξεσκήκωναν τὰ κατώτερα πάθη τοῦ δόχλου, αὐτοὶ ποὺ θεοποιοῦσαν τὶς σαρκικὲς ἡδονὲς καὶ τὴ μέθη, ἦταν οἱ κατ' ἐξοχὴν λατρευτοὶ θεοί. Ἐκεῖνα ποὺ ὁ ἀπόστολος τοῦ Χριστοῦ καυτηρίαζε ὡς ἁμαρτία, αὐτὰ ἡ κοινωνία τῆς Κορίνθου τὰ εἶχε ὅχι ἀπλῶς ὡς τρόπο ζωῆς ἀνεκτὸ καὶ θεμιτὸ - νόμιμο, ἀλλὰ ὡς τρόπο λατρείας ποὺ «εὐλογοῦσαν» οἱ θεοὶ καὶ ὡς «ἱερὸν» καθήκον ποὺ ἐπέβαλλε ἡ θρησκεία τῆς κοινωνίας. Χιλιάδες διεφθαρμένοι ἄνθρωποι, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, μετὰ τὴν ἀκόλαστη συμπεριφορὰ τοὺς σκόρπιζαν τὸ μόλυσμα τῆς ἁμαρτίας σὲ ὁλόκληρη τὴν πόλι.

Τὸ ἠθικὸ λοιπὸν ἐπίπεδο τῆς Κορίνθου εἶχε πέσει τόσο χαμηλά, ὥστε ὁποιοσδήποτε διδάσκαλος θὰ ἐπιχειροῦσε νὰ ἐξυγιάνῃ τὰ ἦθη καὶ ν' ἀνυψώσῃ τὴ ζωὴ σὲ βαθμὸ ἠθικώτερο καὶ εὐγενέστερο, θὰ συναντοῦσε **ἐμπόδια πολλὰ καὶ μεγάλα**.

Ἐνα ἀπὸ τὰ ἐμπόδια αὐτὰ θὰ ἦταν καὶ ἡ ἔμμονη ἰδέα, ἡ ἀντίληψις τῶν πολλῶν, ποὺ ἐ-

πικρατεῖ συνήθως στὶς διεφθαρμένες πόλεις, ὅτι ὑπὸ τὶς συνθήκες αὐτὲς ὁ ἄνθρωπος **εἶνε ἀδύνατον νὰ ζήσῃ σύμφωνα μετὰ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο**, νὰ ἐφαρμόσῃ τὴν ἠθικὴ, τὴν ἠθικὴ τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ μάλιστα.

**Ἀδύνατον!** θὰ φώναζε ἡ διεφθαρμένη κοινωνία. Ἀδύνατον! θὰ διαμαρτύρονταν οἱ ὑλιστὰ φιλόσοφοι καὶ διδάσκαλοι τῆς Κορίνθου, νὰ ζήσουν οἱ ἄνθρωποι καὶ μάλιστα οἱ Κορίνθιοι σύμφωνα μετὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Παύλου. Ἀδύνατον! θὰ σφύριζε στὰ αὐτιά τῶν ἀκρατῶν τοῦ Παύλου ὁ σατανᾶς, ποὺ ἐβλεπε πῶς ἡ πελατεία του, μετὰ τὰ φλογερὰ κηρύγματα τοῦ ἀποστόλου γιὰ τὴν ἀρετὴν, κινδυνεύει νὰ διαρρεῦσῃ πρὸς τὸ στρατόπεδο τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

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Ἀδύνατον; **Ἀλλὰ νὰ λοιπὸν ὁ Παῦλος.** Τί ἦταν αὐτός; Μήπως ἦταν ἄγγελος χωρὶς σῶμα ἢ μήπως ἦταν φάντασμα; Ἄνθρωπος ἦταν κι αὐτός, ὅπως ὅλοι οἱ ἄλλοι, ἄνθρωπος ὅπως καὶ οἱ Κορίνθιοι, ἄνθρωπος μετὰ σωματικὲς ἀνάγκες ὅπως ὅλος ὁ κόσμος. Καὶ ποὺ ζοῦσε; Μήπως στὴν ἔρημο, ἔξω ἀπ' τὸν κόσμον; Ὁχι, δὲν ζοῦσε στὴν ἔρημον· ζοῦσε μέσα στὶς πόλεις, ὅπου πλεονάζει ἡ ἁμαρτία. Καὶ ὅμως ὁ Παῦλος **ἔζησε τὴ χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ μετὰ ἀκρίβεια**, ἐφάρμοσε τὰ διδάγματα τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἐφθασε σὲ ἓνα ἐπίπεδο τελειότητος μοναδικό· ἐνῶ ζοῦσε πάνω σ' αὐτὴ τὴ γῆ, φαινόταν ὅτι **ζῇ καὶ πολιτεύεται στοὺς οὐρανοὺς**.

Ὁ Παῦλος **ἔζησε μετὰ συνέπεια**. Κανεὶς δὲν μπορούσε νὰ τοῦ βρῇ ἀντιφάσεις, νὰ ξεχωρίσῃ τὴ διδασκαλίαν του ἀπὸ τὴ ζωὴν του. **Δίδασκε ὅ,τι ἦταν, καὶ ἦταν ὅ,τι δίδασκε**. Φῶς ἡ διδασκαλία του, φῶς καὶ τὸ παράδειγμά του. Καὶ ἔτσι ἐξηγεῖται πῶς εἶχε τὸ θάρρος, ν' ἀπευθυνθῇ στοὺς Κορινθίους, νὰ τοὺς προσκαλέσῃ νὰ δοῦν στὸ δικό του πρόσωπο τὴ μορφὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.



Μεγάλη τόλμη αυτό. Ποιός άλλος θά είχε τὴ δύναμι νὰ πῇ, ὅτι στὸ πρόσωπό του μπορεῖ ὁ κάθε συνάνθρωπός του νὰ δῇ ἕνα τέλειο καὶ ἀξιωματικό πρότυπο; Μόνο ἡ Παναγία καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος. Μέσα στὴν ἀγία Γραφή ἀκοῦμε βέβαια πρῶτα τὸν ἴδιο τὸν Χριστὸ νὰ προκαλῇ τοὺς ἐχθρούς του καὶ νὰ τοὺς λήῃ ἀφοβα «*Τίς ἐξ ὑμῶν ἐλέγχει με περὶ ἁμαρτίας;*», ποιός δηλαδὴ ἀπὸ οὗς μπορεῖ νὰ βρῇ ἐπάνω μου κάποια ἁμαρτία; (βλ. 1.48). Ἐπειτα, ἀπὸ ὅλους τοὺς ἁγίους ἀνθρώπους, ἀκοῦμε μόνο τὴν Παναγία νὰ λήῃ «*Ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μακαριοῦσάι με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί*», στὸ ἐξῆς δηλαδὴ θὰ μὲ μακαρίζουν ὅλες οἱ γενεὲς τῶν ἀνθρώπων (βλ. 1.48), καὶ ἐδῶ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο νὰ γράφῃ στοὺς Κορινθίους τὰ βαρυσήμαντα λόγια «*Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε*» (1 Κορ. 4.16), μιμηθῆτε με δηλαδὴ.

**Ὡ Κορινθιοί,** λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ἀκούσατε τὴ διδασκαλία μου; Σὰς φάνηκε ἴσως ὑπερβολικὰ αὐστηρὴ καὶ ἀπραγματοποίητη; Ἀλλὰ στρέψτε λοιπὸν τὴν προσοχή σας καὶ παρατηρήστε τὴν ἐφαρμογὴ της· **δῆτε τὸ παράδειγμά μου.** Ἐξετάστε προσεκτικὰ τὴ ζωὴ μου. Κι ὅπως ἐγὼ ἀντέγραψα καὶ ἀποτύπωσα στὸν ἑαυτὸ μου τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἔτσι κ' ἐσεῖς ἀντιγράψτε καὶ ἀποτυπώστε στὴ δική σας καρδιά τὸν Χριστό· καὶ γιὰ νὰ μὴ δυσκολευθῆτε σ' αὐτό, **ἀντιγράψτε βλέποντας ἐμένα,** ποὺ ἔζησα κοντά σας· μιμηθῆτε τὸ παράδειγμά μου, τὴ ζωὴ μου. «*Μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε*».

Καὶ πράγματι. Ὁ βίος τοῦ μεγάλου ἀποστόλου εἶνε τὸ **ὑπόδειγμα τῆς χριστιανικῆς ζωῆς.** Ἡ καρδιά του εἶνε μιὰ ζωντανὴ εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Δὲν ὑπάρχει ἐντολὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὴν ὁποία ὁ ἀπόστολος νὰ μὴν ἔχη τηρήσει, δὲν ὑπάρχει χριστιανικὴ ἀρετὴ τὴν ὁποία νὰ μὴν ἔχη ζήσει, νὰ μὴν ἔχη ἐφαρμόσει. Καὶ γι' αὐτὸ ὅλοι ἐμεῖς, ποὺ ἔχουμε τόσες ἐλλείψεις στὴ ζωὴ καὶ στὸ χαρακτήρα μας, μπορούμε νὰ βλέπουμε τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο, νὰ παρατηροῦμε τὴν ἀγιότητά του καὶ τὴν καθαρότητά του, νὰ ζηλεύουμε τὴν ἀκρίβεια καὶ τὴ συνέπειά του, νὰ μυοῦμεθα στὸ πνεῦμα του, νὰ μιμούμεθα τὴ ζωὴ καὶ τὸ παράδειγμά του, νὰ πατοῦμε στ' ἀχνάρια του, καὶ ν' ἀναπληρώσουμε τίς ἐλλείψεις μας, ὥστε ἡ εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ νὰ γίνῃ μέσα μας ζωηρὴ, ὡραία, πλήρης, μὲ ὅλα τὰ χρώματα τῆς ἀρετῆς.

Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος λέγοντας «*Μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε*» εἶνε σὰν νὰ μᾶς λήῃ: Οἱ ὑπερήφανοι μιμηθῆτε τὴν ταπεινότητά μου, οἱ θυμῶ-  
δεις μιμηθῆτε τὴν πραότητά μου, οἱ ἀκρατεῖς

μιμηθῆτε τὴν ἐγκράτειά μου, οἱ φιλάργυροι μιμηθῆτε τὴν ἀνιδιοτέλειά μου, οἱ φθονεροὶ μιμηθῆτε τὴν ἀγάπη μου, οἱ ὀκνηροὶ μιμηθῆτε τὴν ἐργατικότητά μου, οἱ ἀνυπόμονοι μιμηθῆτε τὴν ὑπομονή μου, οἱ δειλοὶ μιμηθῆτε τὸ θάρρος μου... Θὰ χρειαζόταν νὰ ἔχουμε στὴ διάθεσί μας πολὺ χρόνο γιὰ νὰ δείξουμε τὰ ὑπέροχα **δείγματα καθεμιᾶς ἀπὸ τὶς ἀρετῆς** τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, συλλέγοντάς τα μέσα ἀπὸ τίς Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ τίς 14 Ἐπιστολές του. Τὸ ἀφήνω στὴ διάθεσί καὶ στὴν προθυμία τοῦ καθενός μας.

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«*Μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε*». Ὁ Παῦλος εἶχε τὸ θάρρος νὰ γράφῃ τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ στοὺς Κορινθίους, νὰ προσκαλῇ μὲ τὸν τρόπο αὐτὸν ἐχθρούς καὶ φίλους τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κορίνθου νὰ ἐξετάσουν τὴ συμπεριφορά του, νὰ ἐρευνήσουν τὴ ζωὴ του, καὶ τότε νὰ πειθοῦν, ὅτι τὰ ὅσα διδάσκει **δὲν εἶνε μόνο λόγια, ἀλλὰ εἶνε καὶ ἔργα**· πρῶτος αὐτὸς τὰ ἐφάρμοσε στὸν ἑαυτὸ του.

Ἀλλὰ τὸ θάρρος αὐτὸ τοῦ Παύλου, ἀγαπητοί μου, θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ διακρίνῃ καὶ ὅλους ἐμᾶς, οἱ ὁποῖοι μέσα στὴ σημερινὴ κοινωνία, κοινωνία διεφθαρμένη ὅπως καὶ ἡ κοινωνία τῆς ἀρχαίας Κορίνθου, φέρουμε τὸ τίμιο ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ. Ναί· θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ ζοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς τόσο ἅγια, ὥστε στὴν κάθε στιγμὴ τῆς ζωῆς μας, ὅσοι εἶνε γύρω μας, ὅσοι ἐξαρτῶνται ἀπὸ μᾶς, ὅσοι βρίσκονται πάνω ἀπὸ μᾶς, ὅσοι εἶνε φίλοι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅσοι εἶνε ἐχθροὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅλοι αὐτοὶ νὰ ἔβλεπαν στὸ πρόσωπό μας τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

«*Μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε*». Τὸ εἶπε ὁ Παῦλος πρὸς τοὺς χριστιανοὺς τῆς Κορίνθου. Ἐμεῖς **δυστυχῶς δὲν μπορούμε νὰ τὸ ποῦμε.** Ὁ κόσμος μᾶς παρατηρεῖ, καὶ ἀντὶ τοῦτο πρόσωπό μας καὶ στὸ χαρακτήρα μας νὰ δῇ τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὴ μίμησι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὴν ἀγιωσύνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ, βλέπει –φοβερὸ ἀλλ' ἀληθινόν– ἢ τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ ἐωσφόρου, μὲ ὅλες τίς κακίες καὶ τὰ πάθη, ἢ μιὰ ξεθωριασμένη εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἢ μιὰ γελοιογραφία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Αὐτοὶ εἴμαστε.

Ἀδελφοί μου, ὁποιοδήποτε ἐπάγγελμα καὶ ἂν κάνουμε, ὁποιαδήποτε θέσι καὶ ἂν κατέχουμε στὴν κοινωνία καὶ στὴν Ἐκκλησία, **ἂς σκεπάσουμε τὸ πρόσωπό μας ἀπὸ ντροπῆς,** διότι βρισκόμαστε τόσο μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὴ μίμησι τοῦ Παύλου, ἀπὸ τὴ μίμησι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀπὸ τὸν προορισμό μας ὡς Χριστιανῶν.

(†) **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**

### *My Yoke is Easy, My Burden Light*

God's will is to save us, and nothing pleases Him more than our coming back to Him with true repentance. ... It was precisely in order to show that there is nothing closer to God's heart than the divine Word of God lived among us in the flesh, and did, suffered, and said all that was necessary to reconcile us to God the Father, when we were at enmity with Him. He also taught us in many different ways that we should wish to imitate Him by our own kindness and genuine love for one another.

So it was that Christ proclaimed that He had come to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous, and that it was not the healthy who required a doctor, but the sick. To give the same lesson - he revived the man who, having fallen into the hands of the brigands, had been left stripped and half-dead from his wounds; he poured wine and oil on the wounds, bandaged them, placed the man on his own mule and brought him to an inn, where he left sufficient money to have him cared for, and promised to repay any further expense on his return.

Again, He told of how that Father, who is good-

ness itself, was moved with pity for his profligate son who returned and made amends by repentance; how he embraced him, dressed him once more in the fine garments that befitted his own dignity, and did not reproach him for any of his sins.

So too, when he found wandering in the mountains and hills the one sheep that had strayed from God's flock of a hundred, he brought it back to the fold, but he did not exhaust it by driving it ahead of him. Instead, he placed it on his own shoulders and so, compassionately, he restored it safely to the flock.

So also He cried out: Come to me, all you that toil and are heavy of heart. Accept my yoke, He said, by which He meant His commands, or rather, the whole way of life that He taught us in the Gospel. He then speaks of a burden, but that is only because repentance seems difficult. In fact, however, my yoke is easy, He assures us, and my burden is light.

*St. Maximus the Confessor*

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