

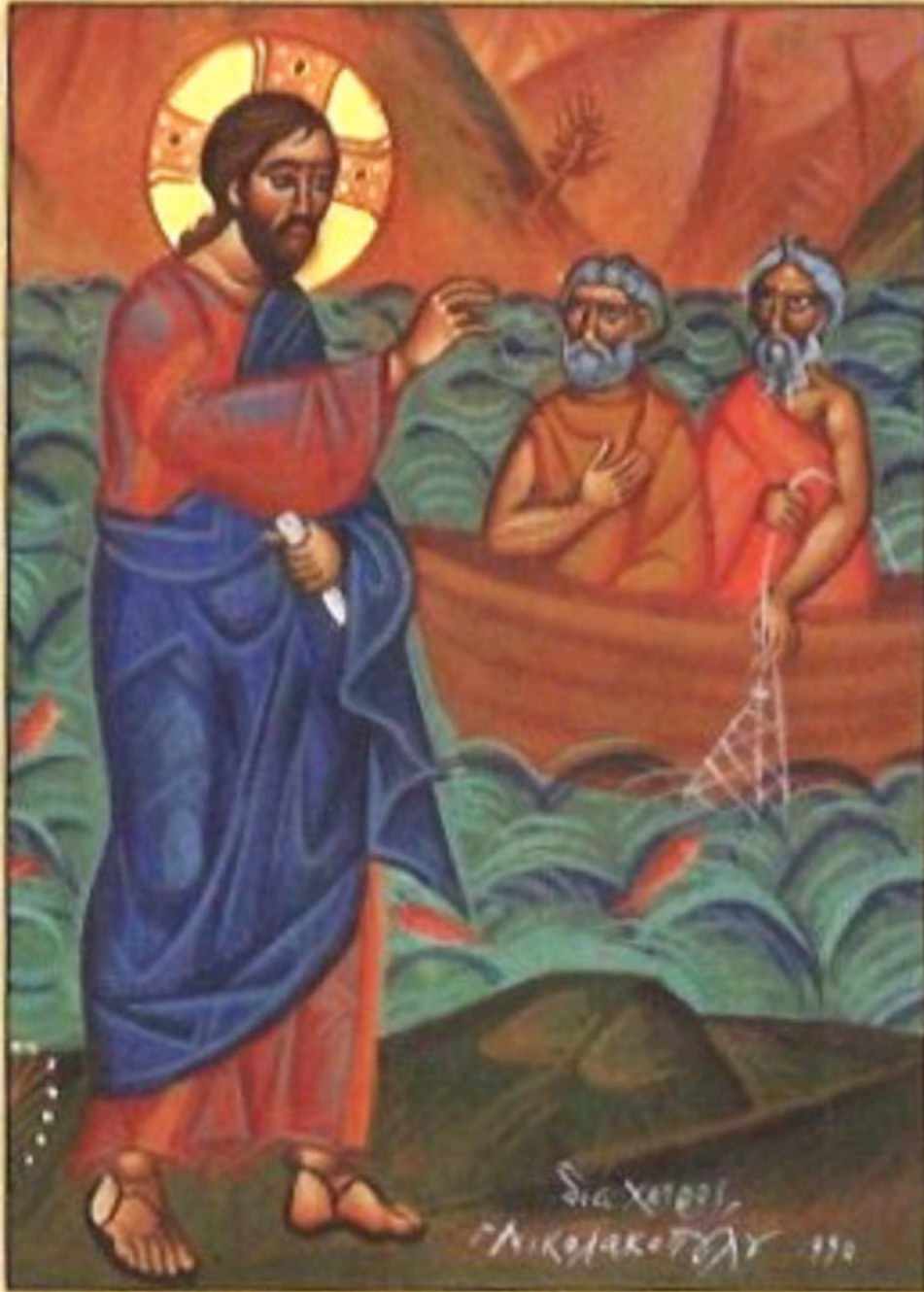


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 25th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Call of the Apostles (Luke 5:1-11)*

## St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

BRETHREN, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

## Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 1:21-24, 2:1-4

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὄσιος.

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ βεβαιῶν ἡμᾶς σὺν ὑμῖν εἰς Χριστόν, καὶ χρίσας ἡμᾶς, θεός, ὁ καὶ σφραγισάμενος ἡμᾶς, καὶ δούς τὸν ἀρραβῶνα τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν. Ἐγὼ δὲ μάρτυρα τὸν θεὸν ἐπικαλοῦμαι ἐπὶ τὴν ἐμὴν ψυχήν, ὅτι φειδόμενος ὑμῶν οὐκέτι ἦλθον εἰς Κόρινθον. Οὐχ ὅτι κυριεύομεν ὑμῶν τῆς πίστεως, ἀλλὰ συνεργοὶ ἐσμεν τῆς χαρᾶς ὑμῶν· τῆ γὰρ πίστει ἐστήκατε. Ἐκρίνα δὲ ἑμαυτῷ τοῦτο, τὸ μὴ πάλιν ἐν λύπῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐλθεῖν. Εἰ γὰρ ἐγὼ λυπῶ ὑμᾶς, καὶ τίς ἐστὶν ὁ εὐφραίνων με, εἰ μὴ ὁ λυπούμενος ἐξ ἐμοῦ; Καὶ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν τοῦτο αὐτό, ἵνα μὴ ἐλθὼν λύπην ἔχω ἀφ' ὧν ἔδει με χαίρειν, πεποισθῶς ἐπὶ πάντας ὑμᾶς, ὅτι ἡ ἐμὴ χαρὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐστίν. Ἐκ γὰρ πολλῆς θλίψεως καὶ συνοχῆς καρδίας ἔγραψα ὑμῖν διὰ πολλῶν δακρύων, οὐχ ἵνα λυπηθῆτε, ἀλλὰ τὴν ἀγάπην ἵνα γνῶτε ἣν ἔχω περισσοτέρως εἰς ὑμᾶς.

## 1st Sunday of Luke

### The Gospel according to Luke 5:1-11

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## 1st Sunday of Luke

### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 5:1-11

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, καὶ εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἀλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους. ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιᾶσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματι σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγνυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἑτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντας συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἐπλησαν ἀμφοτέρα τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἀνὴρ ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρᾳ τῶν ἰχθύων ἢ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἱ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔση ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

## **DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

Saturday , October 1st, AGIASMOS (Blessing of Holy Water ) 10:30 A.M!

Please note that the blessing is ONE HALF HOUR EARLIER than usual We commence at 10:30 punctually.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** is being hosted today by the Ladies Philoptochos Society under the able leadership of President Susan Jannace and ladies auxiliary. Please join us for refreshments each Sunday after Divine Liturgy.

**RCA BOARD** of the Holy Archdiocese will convene Tuesday – Friday September 27th – 30th, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Father Eugene as President of the Board will be attending representing the clergy.

## **UP-COMING EVENTS:**

CHOIR HONORS DAY ; is scheduled for Sunday, October 02nd.

Honoring the Patron Saint of Orthodox ecclesiastical music Saint Romanos.

Our choir will be blessed with an ARTOKLASIA.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** are extended to our SUNDAY CATECHETICAL SCHOOL Director Ms. MARIA APERGIS who is to be married this coming Saturday October 1st, to Mr. NICHOLAS RINIS at 4:00 P.M. Miss Apergis has been involved in every facet of school and youth activity at Three Hierarchs since her birth! As Director of Sunday School with Christina Hatzopoulos for well over a decade she has been a stellar model of teacher, guide and mentor.

We wish Maria and NIKO.... KALA STEPHANA!

**PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY** will convene on Monday, September 26th at 7:00 P.M.

**CONDOLENCES** are extended to BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 GOLDEN GREEKS scoutmaster DEAN VEROUTIS and spouse SULTANA (MITRAKAS ) on the solemn occasion of the anniversary memorials of their parents. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

**AMERICAN FLAG NEEDED:** Rather than purchase a NEW American flag for the plaza flagpole, we prefer to raise a 'Veterans' Olde Glory which was presented at the Veteran's funeral service. If anyone wishes to have this honor in the memory of their loved one now departed, please contact the Church Office or the clergy.

**CYPRriot FLAG:** Donor is requested for the purchase of a professional nylon large national flag. Catalogue price is secured.

**GREEK FILM FESTIVAL COMMENCES:** from Thursday, September 29th, through Wednesday, October 19th, at various locations and theaters in N.Y.C., Astoria – Queens , and Manhasset, Long Island. This TENTH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL highlights the award winning Greek and bi – lingual cinematic achievements in Europe. Mark your calendar and choose a winner film for the evening with a good friend.

**GREEK SCHOOL ;** registrations have already commenced with the September 14th, AGIASMOS for students, faculty and administration. ARE YOUR CHILDREN ENROLLED?

**JOURNAL ADS:** are needed for this year's 87th, JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY of our PARISH. The journal traditionally is presented at the end of the year. PLEASE SECURE YOUR MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, CONGRATULATORY NOTE , ANNIVERSARY – BIRTHDAY GREETING or BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT ..... now. We do so much appreciate it.

**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 (Click live audio)

## **MEMORIALS TODAY :**

+ **THEODORE** and + **GEORGIA VEROUTIS**

+ **DEMETRA MITRAKAS**

+ **SHUSHANIKY ANCHIBAIA**

+ **SEVASTY GREIGOLIA**



# Ἡ ἅγια Βάτος



Ὡς γὰρ ἡ Βάτος ἔκκειτο καταφλογμένη  
ἐπὶ Παρθένου ἑτέρας ἔ Παρθένου ἑμοίας

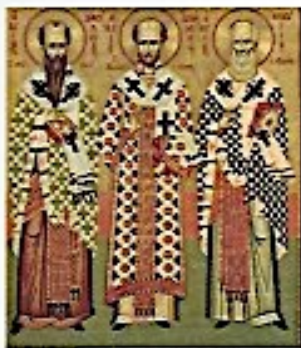
*As the Old Testament Prophet MOSES was admonished by GOD to remove his sandals before the unconsumed burning bush at Mount Sinai as he received the 10 Commandments; we also are reminded of the hallowed ground of this church on the corner of Avenue ' P ' .*

*This sacred space is where we are baptized, married, confessed, united in the sacraments and ultimately solemnize the passing of our loved ones. LET US THEN GIVE THANKSGIVING, GLORY and HONOR to our LORD and REDEEMER.*

*Register as a member steward securing the posterity of our faith community and offer an advertisement indicating the benefits of God's Grace.*

**INSCRIBE YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.**





**87th Historical Archive Journal  
ADVERTISING AGREEMENT**

**THREE HIERARCHS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1724 Avenue P; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229  
Tel: (718) 339-0280, Fax: (718) 375-0006  
Email: [info@threhierarchsbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@threhierarchsbrooklyn.org)

**RATES**

Gold Page.....\$250  
Full Page.....\$150  
Half Page.....\$100  
Quarter Page.....\$50  
Back Cover.....\$1,000  
Inside Front Cover.. \$700  
Inside Back Cover...\$500

**HONORING**

**The Very Reverend Eugene N. Pappas  
50 years of Ordination  
35 years, Pastor of our Parish**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Advertiser's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Not Paid \_\_\_\_\_

*Responses are acceptable until November 07th, 2016*



# 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 1970	Κυριακὴ Α' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 5,1-11) 25 Σεπτεμβρίου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
--	--	---

## Ἐπιμονὴ στὴ δουλειά

«Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν» (Λουκ. 5,4)

**Ο** Πέτρος, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ ἡ συνοδεία του **δούλεψαν ὅλη τὴ νύχτα** στὴ λίμνη Γεννησαρέτ ρίχνοντας τὰ δίκτυα τους. Ἄγρυπνοι στὸ σκοτάδι, κινουῦνταν μὲ τὸ ψαροκάικό τους πάνω στὰ νερὰ τῆς λίμνης δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά· ἄλλαζαν μέρος, ἐπιχειροῦσαν καὶ πάλι ἐπιχειροῦσαν, δοκίμαζαν καὶ πάλι δοκίμαζαν, πότε ἐδῶ - πότε ἐκεῖ. Καὶ κάθε φορὰ πού ἔρριχναν τὰ δίκτυα διατηροῦσαν τὴν ἐλπίδα πὼς κάτι θὰ πιάσουν. Ἄλλὰ ματαίως. **Κόπος πολὺς καὶ ἀποτέλεσμα μηδέν.** Τὰ δίκτυα κάθε φορὰ ἀνασύρονταν ἀδειανά, ὅπως θὰ πῆ σὲ λίγο ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Πέτρος στὸ Χριστό.

Τὸ πρωὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς βρίσκει ἐκεῖ στὴν παραλία, κατάκοπους, νὰ ξεπλένουν τὰ δίκτυα καὶ γνωρίζοντας ὁ παντογνώστης πὼς πέρασαν τὴ νύχτα **τοὺς λυπᾶται.**

Ἐν τῷ μεταξύ μαζεύτηκε ἐκεῖ κόσμος, ἀπ' τὴν ἐπιθυμία πού εἶχανε ν' ἀκοῦνε τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὁ Κύριος τότε μπῆκε στὸ καΐκι τοῦ Πέτρου. Τοῦ εἶπε νὰ τὸ ἀπομακρύνῃ λίγο ἀπ' τὴ στεριά, ὥστε νὰ τὸν βλέπουν καὶ νὰ τὸν ἀκοῦνε ὅλοι, **ἔκανε τὸ μικρὸ ἐκεῖνο καραβάκι ἄμβωνα,** καὶ καθιστὸς πάνω σ' αὐτὸ δίδασκε ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ τὸ πλῆθος, πού εἶχε πλημμυρίσει τὴν ἀκρογιαλιά. Μπορεῖτε νὰ φανταστῆτε τὴν ὠραία αὐτὴ σκηνή;

Ὁ Κύριος δὲν **ἔεχασε τὸν ἄκαρπο κόπο** τῶν ἀπλοϊκῶν ψαράδων. Ὅταν τελείωσε τὴν ὁμιλία του εἶπε στὸν Πέτρο· **Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν,** δηλαδή· Γύρισε πάλι στὰ βαθεῖα καὶ **ρίξτε τὰ δίκτυα σας** νὰ ψαρέψετε (βλ. 5,4). Ὁ Πέτρος, ἄπνους καὶ κουρασμένος μὰ κι ἀπογοητευμένος ἀπὸ τὴν ἄκαρπη ἐργασία μῆς ὀλόκληρης νύχτας, δὲν εἶχε τώρα ὄρεξι νὰ συνεχίσῃ αὐτὴ τὴ δουλειά, μέσα στὴν ἡμέρα καὶ μὲ τὸν ἥλιο· ἀλλ' ἀφοῦ τὸν διατάζει ὁ Χριστός, ὁ **ἐπιστάτης** καὶ κυβερνήτης τοῦ παντός,

θὰ ὑπακούσῃ. Λέει στὸν Κύριο μὲ εὐλικρίνεια· **Ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸν δίκτυον»** (βλ. 5,5). Ὅλη τὴ νύχτα δηλαδή, τότε πού ξέρουμε ὅτι εἶνε ὁ κατάλληλος καιρὸς γιὰ ψάρεμα, παρ' ὅλο τὸν κόπο μας δὲν πιάσαμε οὔτε λέπι· τώρα, μὲ τὸ φῶς, κανονικὰ δὲν γίνεται ψάρεμα· ἀλλ' ἀφοῦ τὸ λές ἐσύ, Κύριε, θὰ ὑπακούσω στὸ λόγο σου καὶ θὰ ρίξω τὸ δίκτυ.

Καὶ ὑπακούει πράγματι μὲ παιδικὴ ἀφέλεια σὲ μιὰ παράλογη κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ἐντολή, βάζοντας κατὰ μέρος τοὺς κανόνες τῆς ἀλιείας. Καὶ τότε —ὦ τοῦ θαύματος—, ὅ,τι δὲν κατῴρθωσε ἢ προσπάθεια μῆς ὀλόκληρης νύχτας, τὸ κατορθώνει τώρα ἡ **δουλειὰ λίγης ὥρας.** Τὰ δίκτυα συλλαμβάνουν **πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺν»** (βλ. 5,6). Τόσο πολλὰ ἦταν τὰ ψάρια, λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ὥστε τὸ δίκτυ τους **σχιζόταν·** γι' αὐτὸ κάλεσαν καὶ τοὺς συνεταιίρους τους, τοὺς γιουὺς τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου, νὰ ῥθοῦν μὲ τὸ ἄλλο καΐκι νὰ τοὺς βοηθήσουν. Καὶ σὲ λίγο κατάφορτα γυρίζουν στὴν παραλία καὶ τὰ δυὸ ψαροκάικα.

Μπροστὰ σὲ τέτοια **θαυμαστὴ ἀλιεία** κατάπληξις κατέλαβε τὸν Πέτρο καὶ τοὺς συντρόφους τους· **ἠθάμβος περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρα τῶν ἰχθύων ἢ συνέλαβον»** (βλ. 5,6).

\*\*\*

Τί μᾶς διδάσκει, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ θαῦμα αὐτὸ τοῦ Κυρίου; διότι κάθε λόγος τῆς ἀγίας Γραφῆς ἔχει σκοπὸ, ἔχει γραφῆ **«πρὸς νοθεσίαν ἡμῶν»** (βλ. Κορ. 10,11). Ὁ προσεκτικὸς μελετητῆς καὶ τοῦ θαύματος αὐτοῦ πολλὰ ἔχει νὰ διδαχθῆ ἀπὸ αὐτό, ἀλλὰ ἐγὼ τώρα θέλω νὰ ἐλκίσω τὴν προσοχή σας στὸ ἐξῆς σημεῖο.

Στὸ ἔργο, πού μᾶς ἔχει τάξει ὁ Κύριος, ἐμεῖς **πρέπει νὰ ἐργαζώμεθα μὲ ἐπιμονή,** χω-

ρίς ν' αφήνουμε να μᾶς νικήση ἡ ἀπογοήτευσι ἀπὸ τῆς ἀποτυχίας πού κάθε ἔργο θὰ συναντᾷ ἐμπρὸς τοῦ πάντοτε. Πιστοὶ στὸν Κύριο, νὰ ἐργαζώμεθα σήμερα, νὰ ἐργασθοῦμε αὔριο, νὰ ἐργαζώμεθα πάντα, καὶ ὁ Κύριος δὲν θὰ μᾶς στερήσῃ τὴν θεία του εὐλογία. Ἄλλ' ἄς δώσουμε λίγο περισσότερες ἐξηγήσεις μὲ μερικὰ παραδείγματα.

**Εἶσαι γονιός;** Ὁ Κύριος λοιπὸν σοῦ ἔχει ἀναθέσει τὸ ἔργο τῆς ἀνατροφῆς τῶν παιδιῶν. Ἔχεις ὑποχρέωσι νὰ καλλιεργήσῃς μὲ κάθε ἐπιμέλεια τὶς ψυχὰς τῶν παιδιῶν πού σοῦ ἐμπιστεύθηκε. Καὶ εἶνε ἀλήθεια ὅτι τὰ καλλιεργεῖς. Ἄλλὰ τί; Σ' ἀκούω νὰ λὲς στὸ Χριστὸ ὅπως ὁ Πέτρος: Κύριε, συμβούλεψα, δίδαξα, μάλωσα, τιμώρησα, τὰ πάντα μεταχειρίστηκα γιὰ νὰ γίνουν τὰ παιδιά μου καλοὶ Χριστιανοί· οἱ κόποι μου ὅμως πάνε χαμένοι, τὰ παιδιά μου ἐξακολουθοῦν τὴν πορεία τους πρὸς τὸ κακό... Καὶ ὁ Κύριος ἀπαντᾷ: «Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν». Δηλαδή· πατέρα καὶ μάνα, εἰργαστήκατε, δὲν τὸ ἄρνούμαι. Πολλὰ μαρτυροῦν τὴν ἐργασία σας. Ἄλλ' ἐπιθυμῶ νὰ μὴ τὴν σταματήσητε. Συνεχίστε τὴν. Ἐργαστήτε ρίχνοντας τὰ δίκτυα τῆς ἀγωγῆς στὸ βάθος τῶν ψυχῶν τῶν παιδιῶν σας, καὶ ἐγὼ θὰ σᾶς βοηθῶ. Ὅ,τι δὲν κατάρθωσαν συμβουλές καὶ κόποι σας πολλῶν ἐτῶν, μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ κατορθώσῃ μία ἀκόμη προσπάθεια καὶ ἓνας νέος μικρὸς κόπος σας. Ἐργαστήτε λοιπὸν μὲ ἐπιμονή.

**Εἶσαι ποιμένας** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, ἱερεὺς, πνευματικὸς πατέρας, διδάσκαλος, κατηχητής, ἱεροκήρυκας; Ὁ Κύριος σοῦ ἀνέθεσε τὸ λεπτὸ ἔργο τῆς σωτηρίας τῶν ψυχῶν. Ὡ πόσο βαρὺ καὶ κοπιαστικὸ εἶνε τὸ ἔργο αὐτό! Πολλὰς φορές «δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτός», ὡς ἄλλος Πέτρος, θὰ ρίχνῃς τὰ ἀποστολικά σου δίκτυα, θὰ ἀγρυπνῆς, θὰ καταβάλλῃς κόπους πολλούς, καὶ ἐν τούτοις τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα τῶν κόπων σου θὰ εἶνε μηδαμινό, ἢ μᾶλλον θὰ σοῦ φαίνεται μηδαμινό. Ἀδελφέ μου, μὴ ἀπογοητευθῆς, μὴ σταματήσῃς τὴν ἐργασία, μὴν ἀδρανῆσῃς! Ἄκουσε τὸν Κύριό μας, ὁ ὁποῖος μυστικὰ λαλεῖ στὴν καρδιά σου καὶ σοῦ λέει: «Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν». Εἶνε τάχα ἀνάγκη νὰ σοῦ ἐξηγήσω τί σημαίνει γιὰ σένα ἡ προτροπὴ τοῦ Κυρίου; Μόνο μὲ μίαν κατασκευαστικὴν προσευχὴν στὸν Κύριο μπορούμε νὰ καταλάβουμε τί σημαίνουν γιὰ μᾶς τοὺς κληρικούς οἱ λόγοι αὐτοὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ τί ἀπαιτεῖ ἀπὸ μᾶς ἐκεῖνος.

Ἄλλὰ δὲν εἶσαι ποιμένας τῆς Ἐκκλησίας,

εἶσαι ἓνας ἀπλὸς **Χριστιανός**; Καὶ σ' ἐσένα ἔχει ἀναθέσει ἔργο σπουδαιότατο ὁ Κύριος, τὸ ἔργο τῆς σωτηρίας τῆς ψυχῆς σου. Τὴν ψυχὴ σου πρέπει νὰ καλλιεργήσῃς, γιὰ τὴν ψυχὴ πρέπει νὰ κοπιήσῃς. –Κοπιᾶζω, μοῦ ἀπαντᾷς, ῥίχνω κ' ἐγὼ τὰ δίκτυα τῆς προσευχῆς χρόνια τώρα, μὰ μοῦ φαίνεται ὅτι πάντοτε ἀνασύρονται κενά. Τὰ πάθη μὲ κυριεύουν, οἱ πειρασμοὶ μὲ συγκλονίζουν. Τί ὠφελήθηκα πού τόσα χρόνια ἐργάζομαι, ἀφοῦ δὲν βλέπω μέσα στὸν ἑαυτό μου μίαν πνευματικὴν προκοπήν; Μηδὲν οἱ προσευχές μου, μηδὲν οἱ νηστείες μου, μηδὲν τὰ διαβάσματά μου, μηδὲν οἱ ἀσκήσεις μου οἱ πνευματικές. Δὲν ἀξίζει νὰ πῶ κ' ἐγὼ αὐτὸ πού εἶπε ὁ Πέτρος, «Ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτός κοπιᾶσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν»;... Εἶπες, ἀδελφέ μου, τὰ παράπονά σου; Ἄκουσε λοιπὸν τώρα καὶ τὴ γλυκεῖα φωνὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ πού σοῦ ἀπαντᾷ ὅπως καὶ στὸν Πέτρο: «Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν». Ξαναγύρισε δηλαδή καὶ συνέχισε ὅλα αὐτὰ· κοπίασε ἀκόμη περισσότερο. ῥίξε γιὰ ἑκατοστὴ καὶ γιὰ χιλιοστὴ φορὰ τὰ πνευματικά σου δίκτυα. Δὲν τὸ κατάλαβες; θέλω νὰ δοκιμάσω τὴν πίστι σου, τὴν ὑπακοή σου, τὴν ὑπομονή σου καὶ τὴν ἐπιμονή σου. Κι ὅταν δῶ ἐγὼ τὶς ἀρετές σου, δὲν θ' ἀργήσω νὰ σὲ βραβεύσω καὶ νὰ σὲ εὐλογήσω πλοῦσια. Θὰ δῆς τότε σὲ μίαν στιγμὴ νὰ ἀμείβωνται κόποι σου πολλῶν ἐτῶν καὶ θὰ χαίρεσαι γιὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν εὐλογιῶν μου.

\*\*\*

**Ἐπιμονή** λοιπὸν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐπιμονὴ ἐπάνω στὴ δουλειά μας ζητάει ὁ Κύριος. Χωρὶς τὴ δύναμι αὐτῆ, τῆς ἐπιμονῆς, **κανένα ἔργο δὲν μπορεῖ ν' ἀποπερατωθῇ**. «Τῇ ἐπιμονῇ πάντα δοῦλα γίνεται», ὅλα ὑποτάσσονται, λέει ἔνα γνωμικόν. Ἡ ἐπιμονὴ τοῦ γεωργοῦ κάνει καὶ τὸ βράχο νὰ τινάξῃ ῥόδα, ἡ ἐπιμονὴ τοῦ ψαρά κάνει τὴ θάλασσα νὰ τοῦ παραδώσῃ ὅ,τι κρύβει, ἡ ἐπιμονὴ τοῦ κυνηγοῦ τὸν ἀμείβει μὲ τὸ θήραμα, ἡ ἐπιμονὴ τοῦ γλύπτη μεταβάλλει τὸ ἄμορφο μάρμαρο σὲ ἄγαλμα, ἐπιμονὴ τοῦ ἐρευνητοῦ ἐκπορθεῖ τὶς πύλες τῆς γνώσεως.

Ἐὰν ἡ ἐπιμονὴ στὸ κακὸ εἶνε ἀμάρτημα, ἡ ἐπιμονὴ στὸ καλόν, ὁποιοδήποτε καλόν, ἀποτελεῖ **ἀρετὴ** σπουδαία καὶ ἀξιοζήλευτη. Διότι ἡ ἐπιμονὴ σὲ κάθε θεάρεστο σκοπόν, ἐὰν τὴν δοῦμε κατὰ βάθος, δὲν εἶνε τίποτε ἄλλο παρὰ μίαν συνεχῆ καὶ ἀδιάκοπη **ὑπακοή** στὸ θέλημα τοῦ Κυρίου.

**Μακάριοι** ὅσοι ἔχουν αὐτὴ τὴν ἀρετὴ.

(†) **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**

### *Lower Your Net*

Can you imagine the look on Peter's face when he realized how many fish were in his net? No wonder he dropped to his knees! He realized that he was in the presence of someone totally "other," someone he felt compelled to call "Lord" (Luke 5:8). From that moment on, Peter's life was changed. Now he was going to fish with a spiritual net, catching men and women for the Lord.

Jesus is still calling his disciples to lower their nets for a catch. But practically speaking, what does lowering our nets look like? First and foremost, it means acting and speaking in such a way that we shine the light of Christ into others' lives.

Picturize yourself carrying a big, invisible fishing net beside you and asking the Lord to sweep as many people as possible into it. Remember, He is the One who does all the

catching. Your part is to let your net down by practicing the kind of actions and behaviors that will attract people to Him. In other words, you are the "bait" that can draw others into the kingdom. As people see the light of Christ in you, they will be drawn toward it, so that Jesus can sweep them into the large net of God's kingdom.

Peter was fairly skeptical when Jesus first asked him to let down his nets. The best response he could conjure up was something along the lines of: "I'm just doing this because you asked me to." And look how miraculously Jesus worked! So even if you feel like you have been "fishing" for a long time with few results, go ahead and throw that net out one more time today. You may just be amazed at the results!

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit **YOUR E-MAIL** address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)