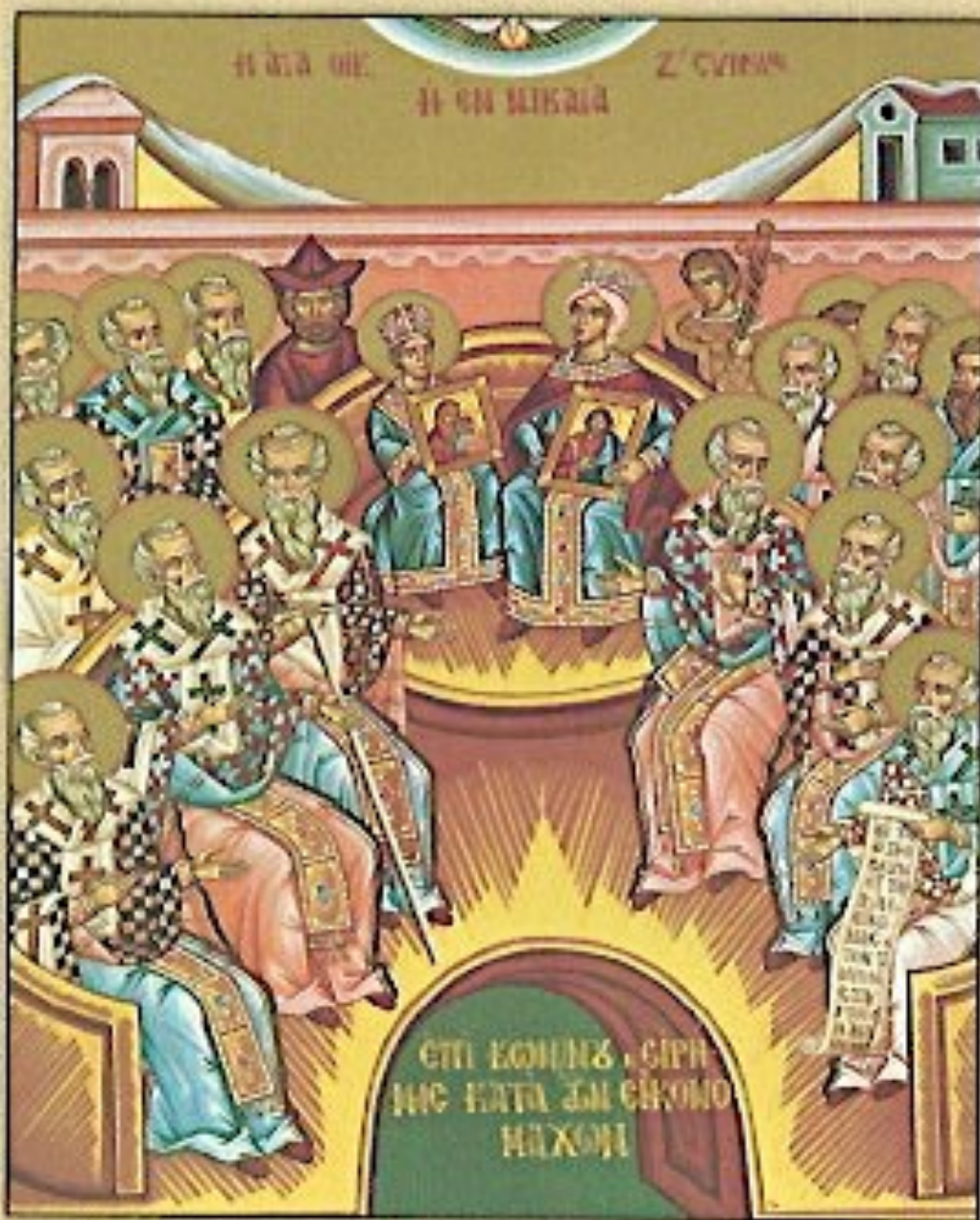


SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 16th , 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council*

### St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

### Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15

Προκείμενον. Ὡχος δ.

Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαι σε διαβεβαιουῖσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστιν καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιῖστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρετικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἁμαρτάνει, ὡς αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σέ ἢ Τυχικόν, σπούδασον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ᾧσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἀσπασαί τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

### Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

#### The Gospel according to Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

### Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

#### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:5-15

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπεῖραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπεῖρειν αὐτὸν ὁ μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ἱκμάδα· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αἱ ἄκανθαι ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν κατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω. Ἐπηρώτων δὲ αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἷη ἡ παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται γνῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσι καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ συνιῶσιν. ἔστι δὲ αὕτη ἡ παραβολή· ὁ σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν. οἱ δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς πέτρας οἱ ὅταν ἀκούσωσι, μετὰ χαρᾶς δέχονται τὸν λόγον, καὶ οὗτοι ρίζαν οὐκ ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσιν καὶ ἐν καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται. τὸ δὲ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ πλούτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ τελεσφοροῦσι. τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῇ, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσι καὶ καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** is being hosted today by A.H.E.P.A. Please join us for refreshments in WhiteHall.

**UP-COMING EVENTS** Daughters of Penelope and Ladies Philoptochos are hosting TWO MAJOR LUNCHEON FUND RAISERS. Please refer flyers.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! FRIDAY EVENING: DECEMBER 02nd, 8:00 P.M.**

Our Parish's 87th, ANNUAL DINNER DANCE will honor the 50th Priestly Ordination of V. REV. EUGENE N. PAPPAS as our PASTOR these past 35 years of ministerial service to the LORD. Please make an effort to join at the EL CARIBE CATERERS in Mill Basin, dining, dancing and tributes. History is being made and recorded.

**ARTOKLASIA today** is offered in grateful thanksgiving for the BIRTHDAY of Altar Boy LAZAROS RAPTIS. CHRONIA POLLA!

**CHOIR BRUNCH TODAY:** The members of the Choir will enjoy a beautiful brunch on the boardwalk of Coney Island at the famous restaurant 'TOM'S'. We are most grateful to our faithful maestro Katie Hambas and Choristers who grace our services.

**CATECHETICAL SCHOOL:** is in session. Are your children attending classes under the able direction of our administrators Christine Hantzopoulos and Maria Apergis Rinis? REGISTER TODAY! The children's educational program is offered free of charge!

**SENIOR CLUB:** will host its WEDNESDAY afternoon of activities with a special CHINESE AUCTION!! BINGO , coffee and sweets will be served as usual.

**A.H.E.P.A.** men's fraternity is meeting tomorrow evening MONDAY, October 17 at 7:30 with special dinner treats for the membership. Election of OFFICERS will take place. All members are urged to attend and vote!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Great Grandfather ANTHONY KALLINIKOS and wife Barbara who will celebrate the 'sarantis' of their great- grandchild 'AVA MARIE' daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth (GERICITANO) BRINN. The clan will gather next Sunday for this honorable first step to baptism. NA SAS ZESE!

**yARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT:** Clergy will be summoned to the Church of the Savior (SOTIROS) in Rye, New York by his eminence for the autumn session of the SYNDESMOS on Thursday, October 20th. Father Eugene as an officer of the SYNDESMOS will give will a report.

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE:** DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will host their benefit luncheon next Sunday, OCTOBER 23RD, after Divine Liturgy at 1:00 P.M. The menu is a GRECIAN DELIGHT! Don't miss it.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY:** will host a luncheon to benefit the HOLY CROSS SEMINARY in BOSTON. This is the ladies annual event in support of HELLENIC COLLEGE and the young men studying for the holy priesthood. Unable to attend your generous donation to the SEMINARY would be most appreciative A SPECIAL TRAY will be passed that day for the institution.

**PRAYER and HEALING:** service (monthly) will be held on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH . The theme of the homily is how ORTHODOX SAINTS ARE PROCLAIMED. Coffee and sweets reception is open to all.

**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.

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

**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.

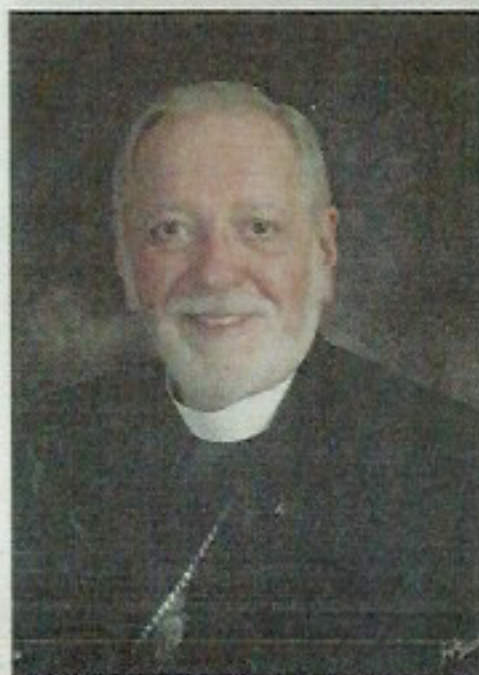
**PLEASE PLACE A JOURNAL AD NOW! THESE HISTORICAL VOLUMES ARE ARCHIVED WITH YOUR FAMILY NAME, HISTORY AND RECORD MEMORIAL TRIBUTES ARE WELCOMED.**

**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:** + KASSIANI THEODOS and + JAMES (DEMETRIOS ) THEODOS  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + PANTELEINON EUGENIS + TULA SIGELAKIS +DEMETRIOS ADIARIS  
+ IRENE and KOSTAS TSAPELAS



## Xaverian Is Proud To Announce 2016'S Spirit Of Xaverian Awardee Fr. Eugenios Pappas!



Fr. Eugenios N. Pappas, an Ecumenist, educator, missionary and social activist, has served as a religious and spiritual guide to his community for over 50 years. Currently, he serves as pastor at Three Hierarchs Church in Brooklyn, and as the President of the Greek Orthodox Clergy Association, in addition to his role as Theological Min-

istry Instructor at Xaverian. Beyond his work with Brooklyn's Greek Orthodox community and Xaverian, he also serves as chaplain to the New York Fraternal Order of Police and President of the New York Archdiocesan Metropolitan Clergy Syndesmos.

With his roots in Brooklyn, Fr. Pappas continues his reach of Christ's word beyond the parish and people he sees every day, but to the world through his radio show "Matters of Conscience" on COSMOS FM Radio for the past 18 years. The broadcast includes segments in Europe, Asia, and South America in addition to the United States.

Beginning with missionary work in South Korea, to opening an orphanage in 1969, Fr. Pappas has devoted a large portion of his life to serving the youth of the church. As quoted in The Milwaukee Sentinel on June 10, 1983, Fr. Pappas said, "You must get them [the youth] active in the Church, you have to give them respect and responsibility. My philosophy is to treat them as adults." This is how Fr. Pappas has approached his work with the youth of Xaverian and all young people he works with.



ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ/ΚΩΣΤΑΣ ΜΠΕΗ

### Με αγιασμό ξεκίνησε η νέα χρονιά στο Σχολείο «Πλάτων» Μπρούκλιν

Οι δάσκαλοι, οι γονείς και οι μαθητές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου «Πλάτων» του Μπρούκλιν, το απόγευμα της Κυριακής, συγκεντρώθηκαν στα γραφεία του στο Μπρούκλιν και παρακολούθησαν τον αγιασμό που τέλεσε ο π. Ευγένιος Πάππας. Σε πρώτο πλάνο ο π. Ευγένιος Πάππας ενώ τελεί τον αγιασμό η διευθύντρια Ελένη Καραγεωργίου και οι μαθητές.



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6 PM TO 9 PM

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**Reverend Eugenios N. Pappas**  
Pastor, Three Hierarchs Church  
President, Greek Orthodox Clergy Association  
Theological Ministry Instructor, Xaverian

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# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1973

Κυριακὴ Δ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 8,4-15)  
16 Ὀκτωβρίου 2016

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

### Οἱ «παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν»

«Οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν» (Λουκ. 8,12)

Ὅσοι, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀποροῦν καὶ διερωνύονται, **γιατὶ τὸ κήρυγμα**, ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, ὕστερα ἀπὸ μία ἀδιάκοπη πνευματικὴ σπορὰ εἴκοσι τῶρα αἰώνων, **δὲν καρποφόρησε** στὸν κόσμον τόσο ὅσο θὰ περίμενε κανεὶς, αὐτοὶ θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ μελετήσουν προσεκτικὰ τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ σπειρόντος γεωργοῦ, τὴ γνωστὴ παραβολὴ τοῦ Σπορέως, ποὺ διαβάστηκε σήμερα ὡς εὐαγγελικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα στοὺς ναοὺς.

Στὴν ωραιότατη αὐτὴ παραβολὴ ὁ Κύριός μας μὲ ἀπαράμιλλο γλαφυρὸ τρόπο ὑποδεικνύει, ὅτι **τὸ αἶτιο τῆς ἀκαρπίας** τῆς διδασκῆς τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου δὲν βρίσκεται στὴν ἴδια τὴ διδασκῆ. Δὲν φταίει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο γιὰ τὴν ἀκαρπία. Ἡ διδασκῆ τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου εἶναι ἐκλεκτὸς σπόρος, εἶναι ὁ οὐράνιος σπόρος τῆς ἀληθείας, ποὺ κλείνει μέσα του ὅλη τὴ μυστηριώδη δύναμι καὶ τὴ θαυμαστὴ δυνατότητα νὰ δημιουργῇ νέα ζωὴ, εὐτυχισμένη καὶ ἀθάνατη ζωὴ. Ἡ αἰτία τῆς ἀκαρπίας βρίσκεται κάπου ἄλλου, τὸ αἶτιο τῆς ἀκαρπίας εἶναι ἄλλο: **εἶναι ὁ ἴδιος ὁ ἄνθρωπος**· καὶ πὺς συγκεκριμένα, εἶναι ἡ ψυχικὴ διάθεσι καὶ ἡ προαίρεσι, μὲ τὴν ὁποία ἡ κάθε ψυχὴ ἀκούει τὸν λόγο τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἐπειδὴ λοιπὸν ἡ ψυχικὴ διάθεσι διαφέρει ἀπὸ ἄνθρωπο σὲ ἄνθρωπο, γι' αὐτὸ διαφορετικὰ εἶναι καὶ τ' ἀποτελέσματα τῆς θείας σπορᾶς μέσα στὶς ψυχές.

**Τέσσερις κατηγορίες** ἀνθρώπων διακρίνει ὁ Χριστὸς στὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ Σπορέως καὶ τὴν καθεμιά ἀπὸ αὐτὲς τὴν παραβάλλει μὲ ἓνα εἶδος γῆς, μὲ ἓνα συγκεκριμένο κομμάτι ἐδάφους. Καὶ ἐδῶ φαίνεται καθαρὰ αὐτὸ ποὺ εἴπαμε: βλέπουμε δηλαδὴ ὅτι, ἐνῶ ὁ σπόρος ποὺ πέφτει στὴ γῆ εἶναι παντοῦ ὁ ἴδιος ἐκλεκτὸς σπόρος, τὰ ἐδάφη ὅμως διαφέρουν. Ἐπομένως, τὰ διαφορετικὰ ἀποτελέσματα τῆς

καλλιεργείας δὲν ὀφείλονται στὸν σπόρο, ἀλλὰ ὀφείλονται στὸ ἐδαφος· τὸ ἐδαφος ἢ εὐνοεῖ τὴν καρποφορίαν ἢ εὐθύνεται γιὰ τὴν ἀκαρπία.

Οἱ τέσσερις κατηγορίες ἀνθρώπων - ἀκροατῶν τοῦ θείου λόγου, μὲ τὴ σειρά ποὺ τὶς περιγράφει ὁ Κύριος, **εἰκονίζονται**· ἡ μὲν πρώτη μὲ δημόσιο πατημένο δρόμο ὅπου ὁ σπόρος δὲν προλαβαίνει καν νὰ ριζώσῃ, ἡ δευτέρη μὲ ἓνα πετρώδες ἐδαφος ὅπου ὁ σπόρος φυτρώνει μὲν ἀλλὰ ἀμέσως ξεραίνεται λόγῳ ἐλλείψεως νεροῦ, ἡ τρίτη μὲ χωράφι γεμᾶτο ἀγκάθια ποὺ κυριαρχοῦν καὶ πνίγουν τὸν σπόρο, καὶ ἡ τέταρτη μὲ καλὴ εὐφορὴ γῆ ποὺ καρποφορεῖ πλούσια.

Ἐμεῖς, ἀπὸ τὶς τέσσερις αὐτὲς κατηγορίες στὶς ὁποῖες ὁ Θεὸς Διδάσκαλος κατατάσσει τοὺς ἀκροατὰς τοῦ λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ κάθε ἐποχῆς, σ' αὐτὸ ἐδῶ τὸ σύντομο ἐρμηνευτικὸ μας κήρυγμα θὰ πάρουμε μόνο μία, τὴν **πρῶτη κατηγορία**. Καὶ θὰ σᾶς παρακαλέσω, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ δώσετε τώρα ἰδιαίτερη προσοχή, γιατί ἐνδέχεται νὰ ὑπάγεστε κ' ἐσεῖς στὴν κατηγορίαν αὐτὴ τῶν ἀκάρπων ἀκροατῶν τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

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Στὴν πρώτη κατηγορία κατατάσσονται οἱ ἀκροαταὶ ἐκεῖνοι, ποὺ ἡ ψυχικὴ τους διάθεσι μοιάζει μὲ τὴν πεπατημένη ὁδὸ, τὸν δημόσιο δρόμο μὲ **τὸ σκληρὸ ὁδόστρωμα**. Ὅπως δηλαδὴ πάνω στὸ δημόσιο δρόμο δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ φυτρώσῃ τίποτε καὶ ἂν ὁ σπόρος τοῦ γεωργοῦ συμβῇ νὰ πέσῃ ἐκεῖ ὁ σπόρος αὐτὸς πάει χαμένος, κατὰ παρόμοιο τρόπο καὶ στὶς ψυχές αὐτῶν τῶν ἀκροατῶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ σπόρος τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ καρποφορήσῃ, γιατί οἱ καρδιές τῶν ἀνθρώπων αὐτῶν εἶναι σὰν τὸν χιλιοπατημένο δρόμο. Νὰ



πῶς περιγράφει τὴν ψυχικὴ τους κατάστασι ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Κύριος· «Ὁ σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἰσὶν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν» (Μακ. 4, 11-12).

Οἱ ἀκροαταί, γιὰ τοὺς ὁποίους μιλάει ἐδῶ ὁ Κύριος, εἶνε κυρίως ἄνθρωποι **ἐπιπόλαιοι**, ἀπρόσεκτοι, χωρὶς βάθος. Ἀκοῦνε μὲν τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ, τρέχουν κι αὐτοὶ στοὺς ἱεροὺς ναοὺς ὅπου γίνεται τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, μελετοῦν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἢ καὶ ὅλη τὴν ἁγία Γραφή, διαβάζουν τὰ θρησκευτικὰ βιβλία καὶ τὰ περιοδικά, ἀλλὰ ὅλα αὐτὰ τελείως ἐπιπόλαια, ἐπιφανειακά. Δὲν τὰ παίρνουν στὰ σοβαρὰ καὶ μὲ τὴν ἀπόφασιν νὰ τηρήσουν ἀκριβῶς ὅ,τι λέει καὶ διατάζει ὁ Θεὸς μὲ τὸ στόμα τῶν κηρύκων τοῦ Θεοῦ λόγου. Δὲν ἐκτιμοῦν τὰ λόγια τοῦ Θεοῦ ὡς κάτι πολὺτιμο καὶ δὲν τὰ κρατοῦν στὰ βάθη τῆς καρδίας τους ὡς θησαυρὸ ἀνεκτίμητο. Δὲν ἐφαρμόζουν στὴ ζωὴ τους ἐκεῖνο ποὺ ἐφάρμοζε στὸν ἑαυτὸ του ὁ μέγας προφήτης καὶ βασιλεὺς Δαυὶδ· ὁ Δαυὶδ ὅχι ἀπλῶς ἀκουγε, ἀλλὰ καὶ φύλαγε τὰ λόγια τοῦ Κυρίου μὲ τόση προσοχὴ μὲ ὅση δὲν θὰ φύλαγε τοὺς θησαυροὺς τοῦ παλατιοῦ του· γι' αὐτὸ καὶ μπορούσε ν' ἀπευθύνεται στὸ Θεὸν καὶ νὰ λέῃ· «Ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ μου ἔκρυψα τὰ λόγια σου, ὅπως ἂν μὴ ἀμάρτω σοι»· φύλαξα δηλαδὴ, Θεέ μου, μέσα στὴν καρδίᾳ μου τὰ λόγια σου, ὥστε νὰ τὰ θυμᾶμαι, νὰ τὰ τηρῶ, καὶ νὰ μὴν ἀμαρτήσω σ' ἐσένα (Ψαλ. 119, 11).

Κάθε τι πολὺτιμο ὅμως ποὺ δὲν φυλάσσεται μὲ προσοχὴ, ἀλλ' ἀφήνεται ἀφύλαχτο καὶ ἐκτεθειμένο στὰ μάτια ὄλων, κινδυνεύει καὶ συνήθως δὲν ἀργεῖ νὰ ἐξαφανιστῇ. Χρήματα ἂν εἶνε, θὰ κλαποῦν· τιμαλφές κόσμημα ἢ ἄλλο πολὺτιμο ἀντικείμενο ἂν εἶνε (ρολόι, σαχτυλίδι, βραχιόλι κ.λπ.), προκαλεῖ καὶ βάζει σὲ πειρασμὸ ὅσους εὐκολὰ ἀπλώνουν τὸ χέρι. Ἔτσι καὶ ἂν βρεθῇ **στὸ δρόμο** χυμένος **σπόρος**, ποὺ ἔπεσε ἐκεῖ ἀπὸ κάποιο τρύπιο σακί, δὲν πρόκειται νὰ μείνῃ ἐκεῖ γιὰ πολὺ γρήγορα θὰ φαγωθῇ ἀπὸ τὰ πουλιά, ποὺ πετοῦν διαρκῶς καὶ ψάχνουν νὰ βροῦν τροφή· θὰ μαζεψοῦν ἀμέσως καὶ μὲ τὰ ράμφη τους θὰ τὸν ἐξαφανίσουν. Ὁ σπόρος αὐτὸς εἶνε καταδικασμένος νὰ μείνῃ ἄκαρπος· πάει χαμένος.

Κάτι παρόμοιο λοιπὸν συμβαίνει καὶ μὲ τὸν οὐράνιο σπόρο, μὲ τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Ὅσο ἀφθονοὶ καὶ ἂν σπεύρουν οἱ κήρυκες τὸν θεῖο λόγον, ἐφ' ὅσον οἱ ἀκροαταὶ δὲν δίνουν τὴν πρέπουσα προσοχὴ καὶ δὲν ἐκτι-

μοῦν τὸν μέγας αὐτὸ θησαυρὸ, τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα τῆς σπορᾶς σὲ τέτοιου εἴδους ἀνθρώπους θὰ εἶνε μηδαμινό. Γιατὶ ὁ σατανᾶς, αἰκίνητος καὶ ἐξαιρετικὰ δραστήριος ἐκεῖ ὅπου σπεύρεται ὁ θεῖος λόγος, θὰ τρέξῃ καὶ θ' ἀφαιρέσῃ ὅλο τὸ σπόρο· **δὲν θ' ἀφήσῃ οὔτε ἓνα κόκκο, οὔτε ἓνα σπυρί**.

Ὁ σατανᾶς θὰ χρησιμοποίησιν «τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ», δηλαδὴ τοὺς **λογισμοὺς τῆς ἀπιστίας**, ποὺ θὰ ἔρθουν νὰ ἐξουδετερώσουν κάθε τυχὸν ἀγαθὴ ἐπίδρασι τοῦ Θεοῦ λόγου. Γιὰ κάθε δόγμα, γιὰ κάθε κήρυγμα, γιὰ κάθε εὐαγγελικὴ συμβουλὴ, ὁ σατανᾶς θ' ἀντιτάξῃ ἓνα σωρὸ «ἐπιχειρήματα», θὰ ἐξαποστείλῃ σμήνη ὁλόκληρα ἀπὸ «πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ» γιὰ νὰ ἀρπάξουν, εἰ δυνατόν, καὶ ἀπ' αὐτὰ ἀκόμη τὰ χέρια τοῦ σπορέως, δηλαδὴ τοῦ κήρυκος, τὸν εὐαγγελικὸ σπόρο. Τόση λύσσα ἔχει ὁ σατανᾶς –καὶ γνωρίζει τὸν τρόπο νὰ τὴ μεταδίδῃ στὰ ὄργανά του– ἐναντίον τοῦ Θεοῦ λόγου, τὸν ὁποῖο προσπαθεῖ ν' ἀρπάξῃ ἀπὸ τὴν καρδίαν τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Καὶ τὸ δυστύχημα εἶνε ὅτι τὸ κατορθώνει – ποῦ; ἐκεῖ ποὺ βρίσκει ἀκροατὰς ἐπιπόλαιους, ἀπρόσεκτους, ἄμελες καὶ ῥάθυμους.

Ναὶ ἀρπάζει, ὡς ἀπαίσιον ὄρνεο, τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀπὸ τὴν καρδίαν τῶν ἀνθρώπων ὁ σατανᾶς· ἀλλὰ κ' ἐμεῖς **δὲν πρέπει νὰ σταυρώσουμε τὰ χέρια** καὶ νὰ τὸν ἀφήσουμε νὰ ἐξαφανίσῃ τὴν σπορά. Ὅπως παρατηρεῖ ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος, «**ἀρπάζει ὁ σατανᾶς, ἀλλὰ ἡμεῖς κύριοι τοῦ μὴ ἀρπαγῆναι**» ἀπὸ μᾶς ἐξαρτᾶται νὰ λάβουμε ὅλα τὰ κατάλληλα μέτρα, ὥστε οὔτε ἓνα κόκκο τῆς θείας ἀλήθειας νὰ μὴν πάρῃ, ἀλλὰ νὰ κρατήσουμε ὅλο τὸν σπόρο καὶ νὰ τὸν ἀσφαλίσουμε στὰ ταμεῖα μας, στὴς μουσικὲς ἀποθήκες τῆς καρδίας μας.

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Ἀδελφοί μου, ἂς προσέξουμε. Νὰ ἐκτιμήσουμε τὸν πολὺτιμο θησαυρὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ λόγου. Ἄς ἀκοῦμε καὶ ἂς δεχώμαστε τὸν θεῖο λόγον μὲ τόση προσοχὴ καὶ εὐλάβεια μὲ ὅση πλησιάζουμε στὴν ὠραία πύλη καὶ δεχώμαστε τὴν **θεῖαν κοινωνίαν**. Καὶ ὅπως θεωροῦμε μέγας ἀμάρτημα ἂν λόγῳ ἀπροσεξίας μας συμβῇ νὰ πέσῃ κάτω ἔστω καὶ τὸ ἐλάχιστον ἀπὸ τὴν θεῖαν κοινωνίαν, ἔτσι νὰ θεωροῦμε ἀμάρτημα μέγας ἂν, λόγῳ τῆς δικῆς μας ἀπροσεξίας, βρίσκῃ εὐκαιρία ὁ σατανᾶς καὶ τὴν ὥρα τοῦ κηρύγματος ἀρπάξῃ ἐκεῖνο ποὺ δὲν ἔπρεπε νὰ τοῦ δώσουμε ἔστω καὶ ἂν μᾶς ἔδινε ὡς ἀντάλλαγμα ὅλους τοὺς θησαυροὺς τοῦ κόσμου.

(†) **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**

### *The Church is Formed from the Side of Christ*

Do you wish to learn from another source as well the strength of this blood? Look from where it first flowed and where it had its source! It flowed down from the cross, from the Master's side. St. John says that, when Christ was dead but still on the cross, the soldier came and pierced His side with a lance, and straightway there came out water and blood. The one was a symbol of baptism, and the other of the mysteries. Therefore, he did not say: There came out blood and water, but first water came forth and then blood, since first comes baptism and then the mysteries. It was the soldier, then, who opened Christ's side and dug through the rampart of the holy temple, but I am the one who has found the treasure and gotten the wealth. So it was with the lamb. The Jews sacrificed the victim, but I reaped the

reward of salvation which came from their sacrifice. There came out from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass this mystery by without a thought. For I have still another mystical explanation to give. I said that there was a symbol of baptism and the mysteries in that blood and water. It is from both of these that the Church is sprung through the bath of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, through baptism and the mysteries. But the symbols of baptism and the mysteries come from the side of Christ. It is from His side, therefore, that Christ formed His Church, just as He formed Eve from the side of Adam.

*St. John Chrysostom*

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