

## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 30th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of Saints Zenobius and Zenobia, and others -- October 30th*

## St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Prokeimenon. Mode 2. Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

BRETHREN, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 11:31-33, 12:1-9

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Ἀδελφοί, Ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. Ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφρούρει τὴν Δαμασκηνῶν πόλιν, πιάσαι με θέλων· καὶ διὰ θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ. Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρει μοι· ἐλεύσομαι γὰρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις κυρίου. Οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσάρων - εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα· εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ἄρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον - εἴτε ἐν σώματι, εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος, οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ὅτι ἡρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον, καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι. Ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιούτου καυχῆσομαι· ὑπὲρ δὲ ἐμῶν οὐ καυχῆσομαι, εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου· ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχῆσασθαι, οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ· φείδομαι δέ, μὴ τις εἰς ἐμὲ λογίσσεται ὑπὲρ ὃ βλέπει με, ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ υπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί, ἄγγελος Σατᾶν, ἵνα με κολαφίσῃ, ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι. Ὑπὲρ τούτου τρις τὸν κύριον παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστῇ ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. Καὶ εἶρηκέν μοι, Ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. Ἥδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ' ἐμὲ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

## 5th Sunday of Luke

### The Gospel according to Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazaros, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazaros in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazaros to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazaros in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

## 5th Sunday of Luke

### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 16:19-31

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἄνθρωπος δὲ τις ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐνεδιδύσκετο πορφύραν καὶ βύσσον εὐφραινόμενος καθ' ἡμέραν λαμπρῶς. πτωχὸς δὲ τις ἦν ὀνόματι Λάζαρος, ὃς ἐβέβλητο πρὸς τὸν πυλῶνα αὐτοῦ ἡλκωμένος καὶ ἐπιθυμῶν χορτασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῶν ψιγίων τῶν πιπτόντων ἀπὸ τῆς τραπέζης τοῦ πλουσίου· ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ κύνες ἐρχόμενοι ἀπέλειχον τὰ ἔλκη αὐτοῦ. ἐγένετο δὲ ἀποθανεῖν τὸν πτωχὸν καὶ ἀπενεχθῆναι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἰς τὸν κόλπον Ἀβραάμ· ἀπέθανε δὲ καὶ ὁ πλούσιος καὶ ἐτάφη. καὶ ἐν τῷ ᾄδῃ ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ, ὑπάρχων ἐν βασάνοις, ὁρᾷ τὸν Ἀβραάμ ἀπὸ μακρόθεν καὶ Λάζαρον ἐν τοῖς κόλποις αὐτοῦ. καὶ αὐτὸς φωνήσας εἶπε· πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἐλέησόν με καὶ πέμψον Λάζαρον ἵνα βάψῃ τὸ ἄκρον τοῦ δακτύλου αὐτοῦ ὕδατος καὶ καταψύξῃ τὴν γλῶσσάν μου, ὅτι ὀδυνῶμαι ἐν τῇ φλογὶ ταύτῃ. εἶπε δὲ Ἀβραάμ· τέκνον, μνήσθητι ὅτι ἀπέλαβες σὺ τὰ ἀγαθὰ σου ἐν τῇ ζωῇ σου, καὶ Λάζαρος ὁμοίως τὰ κακὰ· νῦν δὲ ὥδε παρακαλεῖται, σὺ δὲ ὀδυνᾷσαι· καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσι τούτοις μεταξὺ ἡμῶν καὶ ὑμῶν χάσμα μέγα ἐστήρικται, ὅπως οἱ θέλοντες διαβῆναι ἔνθεν πρὸς ὑμᾶς μὴ δύνωνται, μηδὲ οἱ ἐκεῖθεν πρὸς ἡμᾶς διαπερῶσιν. εἶπε δέ· ἐρωτῶ οὖν σε, πάτερ, ἵνα πέμψῃς αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκόν τοῦ πατρός μου· ἔχω γὰρ πέντε ἀδελφούς· ὅπως διαμαρτύρηται αὐτοῖς, ἵνα μὴ καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλθωσιν εἰς τὸν τόπον τοῦτον τῆς βασάνου. λέγει αὐτῷ Ἀβραάμ· ἔχουσι Μωϋσέα καὶ τοὺς προφήτας· ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· οὐχί, πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις ἀπὸ νεκρῶν πορευθῇ πρὸς αὐτούς, μετανοήσουσιν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ· εἰ Μωϋσέως καὶ τῶν προφητῶν οὐκ ἀκούουσιν, οὐδὲ ἐάν τις ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ πεισθήσονται.

## DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday	October 30th,	Feast of Saint Zenobia Liturgy	11:30 A.M.
Monday	October 31st,	VESPER of SAINTS ANARGYROi ( NEW YORK CITY)	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	November 01st,	OBSERVANCE of AGIOI ANARGYROi Icon Veneration	
Thursday	November 03rd,	HOLY WATER (AGIASMOS ) blessing	11:00 A.M.
Sunday	November 06th,	Feast of Saint Patriarch Paul	10:30 A.M.
Monday	November 07th,	VESPER of Saint Michael Archangel (Parish of Port Washington , L.I. )	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	November 08th,	ARCHANGELS MICHAEL and GABRIEL LITURGY ( Three Hierarchs Church)	9:30 A.M

**TODAY:** Agape Coffee Fellowship is being hosted by the GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A. in Whitehall at 12:00 P.M. Please join us for refreshments.

**TODAY:** Artoklasia is hosted in celebration of Saint Damian's feast day in honor of altar boy DAMIAN VAGOIGOV  
NA MAS ZESE!

**TODAY:** Greek School students under the able tutelage of Mrs. Zoe Anastasakos and Mrs. Maria Halkias are presenting a small ethnic observance on the occasion of 'OXI' DAY throughout the Hellenic community worldwide. Congratulations to the teachers, students and parents who value and cultivate the traditions of our heritage.

XHTO H ELLADA! ZHTO O LAOS! ZHTO TO AMERIKI !

**SENIOR CLUB CELEBRATIONS:** Please see the centerfold of Wednesday Afternoon celebrations. Come on down! JOIN THE SENIOR CITIZENS. Activities each week from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

## 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.

**A.H.E.P.A.** Congratulations to the newly RE-ELECTED President Peter MOSKOVITIS as he assumes the leadership of the men's fraternity. National recognition to our own AHEPAN Jimmy KOKOTAS who was elected at the National Convention as A.H.E.P.A. National TREASURER. We have leaders in the community and we value them!

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DEMETRA:** Chapter #33 had a smashing SUCCESS last Sunday at their 'benefit luncheon' hosted in WHITEHALL. The entire room was filled to capacity with a delicious Grecian array of food and dessert. congratulations to the 'DAUGHTERS' under the aegis of President Effie Galiatsatos and Board. AXIES! AXIES! AXIES!

**NEXT SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 06TH,** THE ladies Philoptochos society will host a luncheon for the benefit of HELLENIC COLLEGE and HOLY CROSS SEMINARY, In Whitehall at 12:00 noon. This supports the education of future clergy of the Holy Archdiocese. FUTURE PRIESTS ARE TRAINED HERE! Please join us in supporting the SEMINARY, and write a check for HOLY CROSS SEMINARY APPEAL. Every dollar helps our cause.

**NEW FLAGS NEEDED:** As the winter approaches NEW, NYLON heavy duty large flags are needed for the Plaza Flag Poles! Three flags are needed for donation AMERICAN, GREEK, CYPRIOT. The offering is approximately \$150 per flag with hoisting cords and proper grommets. Please see Father Eugene to designate your preference and place the order.

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

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** + THEODORA PANDZIC

**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + GEORGIA TSATSIS + PYOTR AYDINYAN



The Institute on World War II and  
the Human Experience

Department of History, Florida State University  
and

Fordham University Press

Invite you to hear  
**Panteleymon Anastasakis, Ph.D.**  
Independent Scholar

# The Church of Greece and the Holocaust

*Free Public Lecture*  
&  
*Light Refreshments Will Be Served*

Thursday, November 10, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

**Lowenstein 12th Floor Lounge**  
Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus  
113 West 60th Street  
New York, NY

<http://ww2.fsu.edu>



## SENIOR CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016



November 2nd, Wednesday



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION !

1:00 P.M.

Three of our ladies ,  
Georgia Demakakos, Florence Gold  
and Dina Rigas. are treating us all to pizza.  
Cake, coffee and Bingo as always.

November 9th, Wednesday



Regular meeting.

1:00 P.M.

### SAINT NEKTARIOS DAY LITURGY

Venerate his holy icon in church. He is the  
protector of all AGAINST CANCER!  
BINGO, sweets and coffee

November 16th, Wednesday



### PRE-THANKSGIVING PARTY

1:00 P.M.

The ANNUAL ' TURKEY RAFFLE '   
will be held by Assemblyman CYMBROWITZ.  
Holiday candies, sweets, coffee and decoration !  
B I N G O ! Cheese , Fruits, Wine and Flavored Crackers!

November 23rd., Wednesday



### NO MEETING IN PREPARATION OF THANKSGIVING!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING to one and all as you share the holiday with  
loved ones near and far. Eat , drink and be merry ..... and then 'cry'  
tomorrow. Left overs are the BEST!

November 30th, Wednesday



XAVERIAN HIGH SCHOOL  
Café Cabaret 1:30 – 4:00 P.M.

*Café*



Lunch Reception open FREE to all of our members.  
Let's car pool to get there!

THINGS TO DO:

Put your 'clocks' back an hour (FALL BACK) on Saturday evening, November 05th.



VOTE ! VOTE ! VOTE ! on Tuesday, November 08th. NOT TO VOTE  
IS A VOTE... exercise your privilege in democracy!

BUY YOUR TICKET to the Church Dinner Dance at the EL CARIBE for FRIDAY EVENING,  
DECEMBER -2ND. 8:00 P.M. Our Parish is honoring our Pastor Father Eugene for the GOLDEN  
ANNIVERSARY of his ordination, and 35 years as our Pastoral Shepherd. Cost of tickets  
\$125.00 per person. Call the Church and make your reservations.

When the weather is possibly inclement, please call the Church Office (718) 339 – 0280 or Helen Pavlides ' home  
(718) 336- 8581 to determine if the meeting is ON or OFF.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Helen Pavlides- President



# 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 1975	Κυρ. ΙΘ' [Β' Λουκ.] (Β' Κορ. 11,31 - 12,9) 30 Ὀκτωβρίου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Τί καυχᾶσαι;

«Ἦδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου...» (Β' Κορ. 12,9)

**Κ**άποια, ἀγαπητοί μου, κάποια **ὑπερηφάνεια** εἶνε ριζωμένη στὶς καρδιές ὧν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, μικρῶν καὶ μεγάλων, κι αὐτὴ εἶνε ἐκείνη ποὺ σπρώχνει τὸν καθένα ν' ἀνοίγῃ τὸ στόμα καὶ νὰ καυχίεται γιὰ διάφορα προσόντα· ὁ ἓνας γιὰ τὰ πλούτη του, ὁ ἄλλος γιὰ τὸ ἀξίωμά του, ὁ τρίτος γιὰ τὴν οἰκογένειά του, ὁ ἄλλος γιὰ τὴν τέχνη ἢ τὴν ἱκανότητά του, καὶ σήμερα πολλοὶ γιὰ τὴν ἐπιστήμη τους.

Ἡ ὑπερηφάνεια αὐτὴ **τυφλώνει**, ὥστε νὰ μὴ βλέπῃ κανεὶς μίαν σκληρὴν πραγματικότητα, ἐκεῖνο ποὺ διέβλεπαν ὅλα τὰ μεγάλα πνεύματα, ὅτι στὴ ζωὴ μας ὑπάρχει κάτι τραγικὸ· ὅτι παρ' ὅλα αὐτά, γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα καυχᾶται, στὸ βάθος **ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε μίᾱ ἀδυναμία, μίᾱ ἀσθένεια**.

Καὶ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ διεκτραγωδεῖ σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος στὴν περικοπὴ ποὺ ἀκούσαμε. Περιγράφει ἀφ' ἑνὸς μὲν τὸ μεγαλεῖο τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀποκαλύψεως, καὶ ἀφ' ἑτέρου τὴν **ἀνθρώπινη ἀσθένεια**, ἡ ὁποία εἶνε διπλῇ, ἔχει δύο σκέλη· ἡ μίᾱ ἀδυναμία εἶνε ἡ σωματική, καὶ ἡ ἄλλη εἶνε ἡ πνευματικὴ ἀδυναμία.

Στὰ λίγα λεπτὰ ποὺ διαθέτουμε, θὰ προσπαθήσω νὰ σοῦ δώσω **μίᾱ εἰκόνα** τῆς ἀθλιότητος καὶ ἀδυναμίας τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου ὄντος.

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Καὶ πρῶτα εἶπαμε ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε μίᾱ **ἀδυναμία σωματική**. Τί εἶνε, ἀπὸ ποῦ ξεκινάει;

Μίᾱ εἶνε γιὰ ὅλους ἡ πύλη εἰσόδου στὴ ζωὴ, κάτι ποὺ ἀηδιάζει κανεὶς νὰ τὸ ἀναφέρῃ. Στὴν ἀρχὴ ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε ἓνα μικροῦτσικο πραγματάκι, ὅσο τὸ κεφαλάκι τῆς καρφίτσας, καὶ ἀπὸ ἐκεῖνο γίνεται ἓνα **ἐμβρυο**, ποὺ κολυμπᾷ μέσα στὰ ὑγρά τῆς μήτρας. Μετὰ πέφτει ἀπὸ τὴν κοιλία τῆς μάνας, ἓνα κομμάτι μύξες, καὶ μόνο χάρις στοὺς δικούς της κόπους καὶ τὶς θυσίες γίνεται ἀνεξάρτητος, ἱκανὸς νὰ σταθῇ πάνω στὴ γῆ, ἐνῶ ἓνα παπὶ π.χ., μόλις γεννιέται, πέφτει στὸ νερὸ κ' εἶνε ἑτοιμὸ νὰ ζήσει.

Γυμνός, θὰ μοῦ πῆτε, ἔρχεται στὸν κόσμῳ

ὁ ἄνθρωπος, μὰ ἔχει ὅλες τὶς αἰσθήσεις, **δὲν εἶνε ἀσπλος**. Εἶνε ὅμως πῶς **ἀδύναμος** ἀπὸ τὰ ἄλλα ὄντα. Ναι βλέπει, ἀλλὰ πολὺ περισσότερο ἀπὸ αὐτὸν βλέπει τὸ γεράκι κι ὁ ἀετός· ἀκούει, ἀλλὰ πολὺ περισσότερο ἀπὸ αὐτὸν ἀκούει ἓνα σκυλί· τρέχει, ἀλλὰ περισσότερο ἀπὸ αὐτὸν τρέχει ὁ λαγὸς καὶ τὸ ἄλογο.

Αὐτός, θὰ μοῦ πῆτε πάλι, εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ πρωτόγονος· σήμερα ὅμως ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει προσδεύσει, δὲν εἶνε ἀσπλος κι ἀδύναμος· δὲν χρησιμοποιεῖ βέλη καὶ πέτρινα ἐργαλεῖα, δὲν μένει σὲ σπηλιές, δὲν φοράει προβειές, δὲν τρώει ὦμα κρέατα. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος στὸν αἰῶνα μας εἶνε **σπουδαῖος**· ἐφτείαξε ἐργαλεῖα, μηχανές, ὄργανα, τηλεσκόπια, ραντάρ, ἀσυρμάτους, τηλεοράσεις, αὐτοκίνητα, ἀεροπλάνα, ὑποβρύχια, πυραύλους, διαστημόπλοια...

Καὶ λοιπόν; γιὰ ὅλα αὐτὰ πρέπει νὰ καυχηθῇ; Ὁχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Ὅλα αὐτὰ τὰ ἐπιτεύγματα, ποὺ κ' ἐμεῖς τ' ἀναγνωρίζουμε, ἐν ἐσχάτῃ ἀναλύσει εἶνε **δῶρο τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ**. «*Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ*». Διότι ὁ Θεός, ἔπλασε μὲν τὸν ἄνθρωπο ὡς πλοῦ καὶ ἀδύνατο καὶ γυμνός, τὸν προίκισε ὅμως μὲ ἓνα ἐξαίρετο δῶρο ποὺ τὸν κάνει θριαμβευτὴ ἐπὶ τῆς φύσεως καὶ κυρίαρχο σὲ ὅλη τὴ γῆ· καὶ τὸ δῶρο αὐτὸ εἶνε ὁ **νοῦς** μὲ ὄργανό του τὸν **ἐγκέφαλο**. Ἔχουμε σκεφτῇ τί δῶρο εἶνε ὁ νοῦς καὶ ἡ διανόησις; ἔχουμε σκεφτῇ τί λεπτεπίλεπτος μηχανισμὸς εἶνε ὁ ἐγκέφαλος;

Πέστε μου, ποῖο εἶνε τὸ ἐξυπνότερο ζῷο. Εἶνε ἡ μαῖμού; Ἔ λοιπόν, ἂν πάρουμε μίᾱ **μαῖμού** καὶ τὴ γράψουμε στὸ σχολεῖο, δέκα χρόνια νὰ καθίσῃ στὸ θρανί καὶ νὰ ἔχῃ τοὺς καλύτερους καθηγητὰς, οὔτε μηχανικὸς γίνεται, οὔτε γιατρός, οὔτε δικηγόρος, οὔτε παιδαγωγός, οὔτε ποιητής, οὔτε φιλόσοφος γίνεται· ὄχι τριγωνομετρία καὶ ἀλγεβρα, ἀλλὰ οὔτε τὸ ἀλφάβητο δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ χαράξῃ στὸ μαυροπίνακα. Γιατί; τί τῆς λείπει; Ὅλα τὰ ἔχει καὶ



μάτια, καὶ καρδιά, καὶ γλῶσσα, καὶ μυαλό (πού ζυγίζει ὅσο περίπου καὶ τὸ μυαλό τοῦ ἀνθρώπου). Ὡ ἀχάριστε ἄνθρωπε, θαυμάζεις τοὺς ἐπιστήμονες, καὶ δὲν θαυμάζεις Ἐκεῖνον πού φύτευσε μέσα σου τὸ δῶρο τοῦ πνεύματος καὶ σὲ ἔκανε ἕνα μικρὸ θεὸ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Δόξασε λοιπὸν τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ ὅλα τὰ δῶρα του, γιὰ τὴ μεγάλη προίκα μὲ τὴν ὁποία σὲ προίκισε.

Ἀλλὰ συνεχίζοντας λέω, ὅτι παρ' ὅλα τὰ θαυμάσια ἐπιτεύγματα του, **πάλι ὁ ἄνθρωπος παραμένει μία ἀδυναμία**. Καὶ ἐὰν ἐδῶ στὴ Γῆ λέη μιά φορά τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», ἑκατὸ φορές θὰ τὸ λέη ὅταν φτάσῃ νὰ φτειάξῃ ἀεροδρόμια ἐπάνω στὴ σελήνη. Γιατί;

Διότι ἡ τεχνολογικὴ πρόοδος, κατὰ ἕνα περιεργό τρόπο, **ἀντὶ νὰ μειώνῃ αὐξάνει τοὺς κινδύνους**. Θέλετε παραδείγματα;

✓ Σπάνιο πρᾶγμα ἦταν νὰ σκοτωθῇ ἄνθρωπος περπατώντας μὲ τὰ πόδια του ἢ καβαλλικεύοντας σὲ γαϊδουράκια. Τώρα; τὰ **αὐτοκίνητα** ἔγιναν λαϊμητόμοι.

✓ Ἄλλοτε μ' ἕνα δαδί κ' ἕνα λυχνάρι φεγγοβολοῦσε τὸ καλυβάκι. Τώρα; μὲ τὸν **ἠλεκτρισμὸ** φωτίζουν πολυέλεσι, ἀλλὰ τὸ καλώδιο εἶνε κίνδυνος - θάνατος· τ' ἄγγιξες; ἔγινες κάρβουνο.

✓ Τὸν παλιὸ καιρὸ ἔβραζαν σ' ἕνα τσουκαλάκι ἀπὸ χῶμα τὰ λίγα χορταράκια καὶ τὰ ὁσπριά τους, καὶ ἦταν ὑγιεῖς. Τώρα; μαγειρεύεις μὲ σύγχρονα **σκεύη** ἀπὸ ἀλουμίνιο, ἀλλὰ βγαίνουν ἀέρια δηλητηριώδη ἀπ' τὰ ὁποῖα προέρχονται ἀσθένειες· ὁ πρωτόγονος ἄνθρωπος, πού δὲν ζοῦσε μὲ τὰ σύγχρονα κομφορ, καρκίνο δὲν εἶχε.

✓ Πρῶτα οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν εἶχαν φάρμακα. Τώρα; ἔφτιαξαν **φάρμακα**, ἀλλὰ μὲ παρενέργειες. Εἶχα ἕνα φίλο πού ἦταν γερός· πῆγε σὲ κλινικὴ, τοῦ ἔδωσαν φάρμακα γιὰ ἄλλη πάθησι, αὐτὰ τὸν χτύπησαν στὴν καρδιά καὶ ἔγινε καρδιακός. Τὸ φάρμακο σὲ ὠφελεῖ ἀπὸ τὴ μία μεριά, ἀλλὰ σὲ χτυπάει ἀπὸ ἄλλου.

Γιὰ ποιά ἐπιστήμη λοιπὸν καὶ ποιὸν πολιτισμὸ σου καυχᾶσαι; Αὐτὰ δὲν χαρίζουν εὐτυχία, δὲν σὲ ἀσφαλίζουν ἀπὸ τὸ θάνατο. **Τί εἶσαι, ἄνθρωπε, πού καυχᾶσαι;** Μιὰ σταγόνα αἷμα νὰ πέσῃ στὸν ἐγκέφαλο, καὶ νὰ ἡ συμφόρησις· μιὰ σταγόνα αἷμα νὰ γίνῃ θρόμβος, καὶ νὰ ἡ συγκοπὴ καρδίας. Τί εἶσαι λοιπὸν; μιὰ ἀδυναμία, παρ' ὅλη τὴν ἐπιστήμη καὶ τὴν πρόοδό σου. Τί νὰ τὰ κάνῃς τότε τὰ αὐτοκίνητα καὶ τὴς ἠλεκτρικὲς συσκευὲς καὶ ὅλο τὸν ψεύτικο πολιτισμὸ; Θά 'ρθῇ ὥρα πού θὰ ξαναχτυπήσουν οἱ σειρήνες—ὅσοι ἔχουμε ἄσπρα μαλλιά τὴς θυμούμαστε— καὶ θὰ πέσουν οἱ μπόμπες οἱ μεγάλες τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως, καὶ σὲ μία νύχτα θὰ

ἀδειάσῃ ἡ Ἀθήνα. Τί μοῦ καυχᾶσαι λοιπὸν γιὰ ἕνα **πολιτισμὸ** γεμάτο κινδύνους;

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Ἀλλὰ κυρίως, ἄνθρωπε, εἶσαι μία **ἀδυναμία ἠθικὴ καὶ πνευματικὴ**. Ἄν εἶσαι ἀδύνατος σωματικῶς, πολὺ περισσότερο εἶσαι ἀδύνατος πνευματικῶς.

Ἔνα μόνον **παράδειγμα**. Τὸν βλέπεις; Χωριατόπαιδο ἦταν· σπούδασε, πῆρε διπλῶμα, πῆγε στὸ ἐξωτερικόν, πῆρε κι ἄλλα διπλώματα, ἔμαθε μία γλῶσσα, δευτέρη καὶ τρίτη γλῶσσα· ξαναγύρισε ἐδῶ, παντρεύτηκε, πῆρε μιὰ πλούσια κι ὠραία γυναῖκα, συγγένεψε αὐτὸς ὁ χωριάτης μὲ μεγάλα σπιτία, πλησίασε τοὺς ὑπουργικοὺς θαλάμους, ἔγινε μέγας καὶ σπουδαῖος. Καὶ τώρα τὸν βλέπεις, ἀφήνει τὴν οἰκογένεια, γυναῖκα καὶ συγγενεῖς, καὶ πού νὰ τὸν βρῇς! Γυρίζει σὰν τὸ δαιμονιζόμενον τῶν Γεργεσηνῶν καὶ σὰν τοὺς δαιμονισμένους πού περιγράφει ὁ Ῥῶσος Ντοστογιέφσκυ. Δὲν πατάει στὸ σπῆτι του. Αὐτὸς ὁ εὐφυὲς μὲ τὰ διπλώματα, αὐτὸς ὁ ὑπουργὸς πού ἀνῆλθε στὰ ὑπάτα ἀξιώματα, εἶνε νὰ τὸν κλαῖς· εἶνε ἕνα ράκος ἠθικόν. Ἐγκατέλειψε τὴ μιὰ γυναῖκα του, τὴ δευτέρη γυναῖκα του, τὴν τρίτη γυναῖκα του, ζῇ κατὰ τρόπο ἄθλιο - ἀθλιώτατο.

Καὶ δὲν εἶνε ἕνας καὶ δύο σὰν αὐτόν. Τί νὰ τὰ κάνῃς τὰ διπλώματα καὶ τὴν εὐφυΐα καὶ τὴν ἐπιστήμη ὅταν, ὅπως ὁ ἀρκουδιάρης σέρνει μὲ μιὰ κρικέλλα τὴν ἀρκουδά καὶ παίζει τὸ ντέφι κι αὐτὴ χορεύει, ἔτσι αὐτόν, τὸν τάχα ἐπιστήμονα, τὸν ὑπουργόν, τὸν πρωθυπουργόν, τὸν μεγάλο καὶ τρανόν, τὸν ἀρχηγὸ κόμματος—μὴν πάῃ τὸ μυαλό σας σὲ κανένα πρόσωπο, ὁμιλῶ ὑπεράνω κοιμμάτων— **τὸν σέρνει ἀπ' τὴ μύτη μιὰ γυναῖκα**. Ἄνθρωπος πού δὲν διοίκησε σωστὰ τὸ σπῆτι του, πῶς μπορεῖ νὰ διοικήσῃ τὸ μεγάλο σπῆτι πού λέγεται πατρίδα;

Ὅχι! Αὐτὸς ὁ τόπος πού ζοῦμε, αὐτὴ ἡ γῆ πού κατοικοῦμε, μὲ τόσα αἵματα πού ἔχυσαν οἱ παλαιότεροι, μὲ τόσους πόνους πού ζήσαμε κ' ἐμεῖς πού ἀνεβήκαμε στὰ ψηλὰ βουνὰ καὶ θάψαμε τόσα παιδιὰ σὰν στρατιωτικοὶ ἱερεῖς, θὰ παλέψουμε, θὰ ἀγωνιστοῦμε ὅλοι, ἡ Ἑλλάδα μας νὰ μὴ γίνῃ Χόλλυγουντ, νὰ μὴ γίνῃ τόπος διαφθορᾶς, ἀλλὰ μέσα ἀπ' αὐτὴν νὰ βγοῦν νέες δυνάμεις, μία νεότης πού νὰ κρατήσῃ ψηλὰ τὸ λάβαρό· κι ὅπως ἄλλοτε διδάξαμε **πῶς πρέπει νὰ ζοῦμε**, ἔτσι τώρα ἡ νέα γενεὰ νὰ διδάξουμε **πῶς πρέπει νὰ πεθαίνουμε**.

Αὐτά, ἀγαπητοί μου, δι' ὀλίγων—μὲ κάποια παρέκβασι— εἶνε **διδάγματα** πού περιέχει ἡ σημερινὴ περικοπή.

(†) **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**

### *Driving Out Demons*

Listen to me, dearly beloved, listen to me or this sweat of mine may bear witness against you; listen to me. When the apostle James was talking about faith and works against those who thought their faith was enough, and didn't want to have good works, he said, "You believe that God is one; you do well; the demons too believe, and tremble" (James 2: 19). Will the demons, do you suppose, be delivered from eternal fire, just because they believe and tremble? Look, there's what you heard in the Gospel, what Peter said: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16: 16); read, and you'll find the demons said, "We know who you are, the Son of God." Peter, though, is praised, the demons put down. One voice, different deeds. What distinguishes these two confessions from each other? Love is praised, fear condemned. I mean, the demons didn't say this out of love, "You are the Son of God." They said this out of fear, not love.

Hope in the Lord, and join good deeds to

true faith. Confess that Christ has come in the flesh, both by believing and by living good lives, and hold on to both as received from Him, and hope for both to be increased and perfected by Him. For cursed is everyone who places his hope in man. And it is good for any of us, that whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.

Turning to the Lord God the Father almighty, from a pure heart, as far as our littleness is able, let us give Him the most sincere and true thanks, praying His singular gentleness with our whole hearts, that He would be pleased at His good pleasure to hearken to our prayers; that He would also drive the enemy away from our actions and thoughts with His great power; that He would increase our faith; guide our minds, grant us spiritual thoughts, and bring us to share in His own bliss.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

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