



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 9th , 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saints James, Andronicus and Athanasia -- October 9th

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:1-10

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες δὲ καὶ παρακαλοῦμεν μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ δέξασθαι ὑμᾶς - λέγει γάρ, Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου, καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ, νῦν καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτος, ἰδοὺ, νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας - μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπήν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία· ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν ὄπλων τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς· ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι, καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι· ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ζῶμεν· ὡς παιδευόμενοι, καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι· ὡς λυπούμενοι, αἰεὶ δὲ χαίροντες· ὡς πτωχοί, πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες· ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες, καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

3rd Sunday of Luke

The Gospel according to Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

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AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted today by Senior Club under the able leadership of Helen Pavlides. 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 to the centerfold.

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.

STELLAR GRADUATE STUDENT of our Parochial School MISS ALEXIS GREGOS was united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, October 08th. at 3:30 PM. The groom LAWRENCE AYNSLEY was also baptized by Father Eugene and is most welcomed into the embrace of our faith community. KALA STEPHANA to the newly weds!

NATIONAL ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL will be convened at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Thursday and Friday, October 13-14th. Father Eugene will attend by invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

SENIOR CLUB celebrates 'Columbus Day' on Wednesday, October 12th. at 1:00 P.M. A pizza party, Italian cookies, Café espresso, Italiano or Grecco may be on the menu. Bring an 'ITALIAN FRIEND' or neighbor to join our festivity. BINGO is always on the schedule. UNA FACIA-UNA RACIA! You **DO** know that Christophoros Columbus was a crypto - greco!

CHOIR BRUNCH: is scheduled for NEXT SUNDAY (members only) directly after Divine Liturgy of SAINT LONGINUS. The fellowship event for our devoted CHOIR MEMBERS is hosted at TOM'S of CONEY ISLAND on the boardwalk. The choir is most deserving.

CATECHETICAL SCHOOL CLASSES have commenced. Have you enrolled your children in the Sunday morning program. THEY DO LEARN! Many thanks to our co-directors CHRISTINA HATZOPOULOS and MARIA APERGIS RINIS. They are the best.

MAJOR PROJECT THIS WEEK: the entire interior of the Church Proper, Narthex, Vestry and corridor as well as the SANCTUARY is to be freshly repainted. Please note that the front 'church doors' will be locked until the project is completed. Refrain from 'taking a look' since this may prove dangerous, distracting and place the contracted workers at risk. THANK YOU ALL!

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY ALUMNI Mc Callen Society has invited our Pastor Father Eugene to attend the Luncheon and Ceremonies at the Jamaica Campus on Tuesday, October 11th, through the afternoon. Distinguished Alumni are invited by the UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. ROBERT GENPESAW.

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.

CYPRIT 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.

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.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 18TH 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)

MEMORIAL TODAY: + **THEODOROS GAVARIS**

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + **KASSIANI THEODOS** and + **JAMES (DEMETRIOS) THEODOS**

Daughters of Penelope

Demetra Chapter #33



Luncheon

Sunday, October 23rd, 2016

1:00 P.M. after Divine Liturgy

Three Hierarchs Church
Whitehall
1724 Avenue P
Brooklyn, New York

MENU

Sovlaki on rice,
Vegetables & Salad,
Wine & Soda
Coffee and Greek Pastries

All proceeds will
benefit the Daughters
of Penelope Projects

\$20.00 donation

For Information Please Call
Efthymia Galiatsatos at
(718) 339-0280
or
(718) 627-0967

Raffles!

WINNER!
!!!



Philoptochos Society Annual Benefit



Hellenic College
Holy Cross Seminary
Luncheon

November 6th, 2016-12:30 P.M.
after Divine Liturgy -Whitehall

Roast Chicken, Manestra, Greek Salad
Dessert & Coffee

All proceeds to benefit the Seminary



Donation \$ 20.00 adults
10.00 children
under 12





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 1972

Κυριακή Γ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 7,11-16)
9 Ὀκτωβρίου 2016

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ συμμετοχή μας στὸ πένθος τοῦ πλησίον

«...Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκῶς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῆ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ» (Λουκ. 7,12)

Δυστύχημα βαρὺ, ἀγαπητοί μου, βαρύτατο βρῆκε κάποια **χήρα** στὴν πόλι **Ναὶν**, ποὺ ὅπως βλέπουμε στὸ χάρτη τῆς Παλαιστίνης βρίσκεται κοντὰ στὴ Ναζαρέτ τῆς Γαλιλαίας. Εἶχε ἓνα «**υἱὸν μονογενῆ**», ἓνα **μονάκριβο ἀγόρι** (Λουκ. 7,12). Αὐτὸ ἦταν ἡ χαρὰ τοῦ σπιτιοῦ τῆς, τὸ στηρίγμα τῆς στὰ γηρατειά· ἦταν γι' αὐτὴν ἓνας ἔμφυχος καθρέφτης, ποὺ σ' αὐτὸν ἔβλεπε κάθε μέρα τὴ μορφή τοῦ μακαρίτη τοῦ συζύγου τῆς καὶ ἔβρισκε ἔτσι μιὰ παρηγοριὰ στὸν πόνο τῆς.

Ἀλλὰ μιὰ μέρα τὸ φτωχικὸ σπιτάκι τῆς βυθίστηκε πάλι στὴ λύπη καὶ ἡ ταλαίπωρη γυναίκα ἄρχισε ξανά νὰ κλαίῃ. Τί συνέβη; ἀπροσδόκητο κακό, μεγάλη συμφορὰ· γιὰ λόγους ποὺ μόνο ὁ Κύριος γνωρίζει, **ὁ γυιὸς τῆς χήρας αὐτῆς πέθανε!** Κεραυνὸς νὰ ἴπεφτε, δὲν θὰ τάραζε τόσο τὴν φιλήσυχη ἐκείνη κοινωμία. Ἡ θλιβερὴ εἶδησι διαδίδεται γρήγορα ἀπὸ στόμα σὲ στόμα μέσα στὴ μικρὴ κωμόπολι καὶ σὲ λίγο τὸ ἔχουν μάθει ὅλοι.

Οἱ κάτοικοι τῆς Ναὶν, ποὺ νιώθουν ὅτι τὸ νέο τοῦτο χτύπημα τοῦ θανάτου ἔρχεται ν' ἀνοίξῃ νέα πληγὴ, πιὸ βαθειά, στὴν ψυχὴ τῆς χήρας, λυποῦνται εἰλικρινὰ γιὰ τὸ δυστύχημα. Εὐαίσθητες οἱ καρδιές τους συμπονοῦν αὐθόρμητα. **Τρέχουν νὰ συμπαρασταθοῦν καὶ νὰ παρηγορήσουν** τὴ χήρα· συμμετέχουν στὸ βαρὺ πένθος τῆς. Κι ὅταν ἔρχεται ἡ ὥρα τῆς κηδείας τὴν συνοδεύουν ὅλοι καθὼς ἡ νεκρικὴ πομπὴ βγαίνει ἀπὸ τὴν πόλιν γιὰ νὰ κατευθυνθῇ πρὸς τὰ μνήματα. «**Ὅχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ**», πλῆθος λαοῦ ἀκολουθοῦσε τὴ χήρα κατὰ τὴν ἐκφορὰ τοῦ νεκροῦ παιδιοῦ τῆς, σημειώνει ὁ εὐαγγελιστῆς Λουκᾶς [εἰ].

Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο περιγράφει τὸ θλιβερὸ γεγονός καὶ τὴν ἀδελφικὴ συμπαράστασι τῶν συν-

ανθρώπων, περιγράφει ὅμως καὶ τὸ **μέγα θαῦμα** ποὺ ἔκανε ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνασταίνοντας τὸ νεκρὸ παιδί καὶ παρηγορώντας οὐσιαστικὰ καὶ πραγματικὰ τὴ χήρα τῆς Ναὶν.

Ἡ εὐαγγελικὴ αὐτὴ περικοπὴ δείχνει καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς τὸ **χρέος μας σὲ ἀνάλογες περιπτώσεις**· γι' αὐτὸ ἄλλωστε διασώθηκε στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, γιὰ νὰ διδαχθοῦμε ἀπὸ αὐτὴν.

Δὲν μπορούμε βέβαια ἐμεῖς, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ μιμηθοῦμε τὸ Χριστό, μπορούμε ὅμως νὰ διδαχθοῦμε ἀπὸ τὴ στάσι τῶν συμπατριωτῶν τῆς πονεμένης χήρας. Καὶ ἂν δὲν ἔχουμε τὴ δύναμι ν' ἀναστήσουμε νεκρὸ καὶ νὰ παρηγορήσουμε ἔτσι οὐσιαστικὰ καὶ πραγματικὰ τὶς καρδιές τῶν συγγενῶν τοῦ κεκοιμημένου, ὅπως ἔκανε ὁ Κύριος, μπορούμε ὅμως καὶ **ἔχουμε ὑποχρέωσι** νὰ συμμετέχουμε στὸ πένθος τοῦ πλησίον μας, μιμούμενοι τὸ παράδειγμα τῶν κατοίκων τῆς Ναὶν καὶ δείχνοντας στὴν πράξι τὴ χριστιανικὴ ἀγάπη.

Ὅπου πεθαίνει ἓνας Χριστιανὸς ἀδελφός μας, πρέπει νὰ πάμε καὶ νὰ συμμετάσχουμε εἰλικρινὰ στὸ πένθος τῶν οἰκείων του, νὰ προσφέρουμε **βοήθεια** μὲ λόγια καὶ μὲ ἔργα.

● **Θὰ παρηγορήσουμε** πρῶτα - πρῶτα τοὺς πενθοῦντας **μὲ λόγια**· λόγια ὅμως ὄχι τυπικὰ καὶ ἄψυχα, ἀλλὰ λόγια τὰ ὁποῖα θὰ προέρχωνται ἀπὸ μιὰ καρδιά ποὺ ὄχι ἀπλῶς ἀγαπᾷ, ἀλλὰ καὶ πιστεύει στὴν ἀλήθεια τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Γιατί μόνο τὰ λόγια ἐνός **πιστοῦ**, ὄχι ἐνός ψυχροῦ ἢ ἐνός ἀδιαφόρου ἢ ἐνός ἀπίστου, μόνο τὰ λόγια ἐνός πιστοῦ παρηγοροῦν τὴν καρδιά ποὺ ἔθλιψε ὁ θάνατος.

✓ **Σὰν πιστοὶ Χριστιανοί**, λοιπόν, πηγαίνοντας στὰ σπιτία τῶν πενθοῦντων θὰ ὑπενθυμίσουμε τὴ **ματαιότητα** τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ζωῆς. Θὰ ποῦμε, ὅτι τὰ πάντα καὶ οἱ πάντες φθειρόμε-

θα και βαδίζουμε πρὸς τὸν θάνατο. Ὁ νεκρὸς εἶνε μεγάλος δάσκαλος και ἡ θεά του μεγάλο δίδαγμα γιά ὄλους.

✓Θά τονίσουμε ὅμως και τήν ἀλήθεια τῆς πίστεώς μας, ὅτι χωρίς τὸ **θέλημα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ Πατρός μας** οὔτε ἕνα σπουργιτάκι δέν πέφτει νεκρὸ στό ἔδαφος· πολὺ περισσότερο δέν πέφτει νεκρὸς ἕνας ἄνθρωπος, πού εἶνε τὸ ἐξοχώτερο και ὠραιότερο δημιούργημα τοῦ Ὑψίστου. Μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ ὁ Κύριος, φροντίζει γιά μᾶς, δέν μᾶς ἔχει ξεχάσει, θέλει πάντα τὸ καλό μας και πραγματεύεται τῆ σωτηρία μας.

✓Ἀλλά και τήν ἄλλη ἀλήθεια τῆς πίστεώς μας θά τονίσουμε· ὅτι οἱ Χριστιανοὶ δέν πρέπει νά λυπούμεθα *«καθὼς και οἱ λοιποὶ οἱ μὴ ἔχοντες ἐλπίδα»* (1 Κορ. 15), ἀφοῦ ὁ Κύριος μᾶς δίδαξε κ' ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε και *«προσδοκῶμεν ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν και ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλονος αἰῶνος»* (1 Κορ. 15, 20). Μία μέρα θ' ἀναστηθοῦμε.

✓Θά πάρουμε στό χέριο τὸ **Εὐαγγέλιο** και, με τρόπο κατάλληλο, θά ὑποδείξουμε στοὺς πενθοῦντας ἀδελφούς μας νά μελετήσουν προσεκτικά ὄλα ἐκεῖνα τὰ μέρη τῆς ἁγίας Γραφῆς πού σταλάζουν βάλαμο παρηγορίας στις καρδιές τῶν πενθοῦντων.

● Ἀλλά ἡ συμμετοχή μας στό πένθος τοῦ συνανθρώπου μας δέν θά περιοριστῆ βέβαια μόνο σέ λόγια. Ἡ παρηγορία πού θά προσπαθήσουμε νά προσφέρουμε θά συνδεθῆ **και με ἔργα** ἀγάπης και συμπαραστάσεως. Λοιπόν,

✓**Θ' ἀγρυπνήσουμε** κοντά του και θά τὸν συντροφεύσουμε, γιά νά μὴ μείνη μόνος ἐκεῖνες τῆς δύσκολες ὥρες τοῦ πόνου. Γνωρίζουμε ἄλλωστε ὅτι ἡ μόνωσις ἐπαυξάνει τῆ θλίψη και βυθίζει τὴν καρδιά σέ ἀπελπισία. Μεγάλη παρηγορία χαρίζει τῆς ὥρες ἐκεῖνες ἡ ἀνάγνωσις τῶν ψαλμῶν τοῦ Ψαλτηρίου.

✓Θά βρεθοῦμε **τὴν ὥρα τῆς κηδεῖας δίπλα του**· θ' ἀφήσουμε τὰ δάκρυά μας νά ἐνωθοῦν με τὰ δικά του και θά τοῦ δεῖξουμε εἰλικρινά ὅτι ὁ πόνος του εἶνε και δικός μας πόνος.

✓Και μετὰ τὴν κηδεῖα και τὴν ταφή θά προθυμοποιηθοῦμε **νά τὸν βοηθήσουμε** ὄχι μόνο ἠθικά ἀλλά και ὕλικά - οικονομικά, σέ ὅ,τι ἔχει ἀνάγκη. Θά βάσουμε τὸ χέριο στὴν τσέπη, θ' ἀνοίξουμε τὸ πορτοφόλι μας και εἶτε ἀπὸ τὸ περισσεῦμα εἶτε ἀπὸ τὸ ὑστέρημά μας θά θυσιάσουμε λίγα ἢ πολλὰ χρήματα, γιά νά καλυφθοῦν ἄμεσες ἀνάγκες, γιά νά ἐπουλωθοῦν πληγές πού ἄνοιξε ὁ θάνατος. Ἴσως αὐτὸς πού πενθεῖ και κλαίει τὸ νεκρὸ του νά εἶνε και φτωχός, πάμφτωχος, και νά μὴν ἔχη τὰ ἀπαραίτητα ἔξοδα μιᾶς κηδεῖας. Ἴσως ἡ γυναίκα πού πενθεῖ νά εἶνε μία φτωχιά χήρα, πού μπρο-

στά τῆς δέν ἔχει μόνο νεκρὸ τὸν σύζυγό της ἀλλά ἔχει και τὰ μικρὰ παιδιὰ τῆς πεινασμένα, και ἡ θλίψη της γίνεται διπλή. Ἴσως αὐτὸς ἢ αὐτή, πού πενθοῦν γιὰτὶ ἔπεσαν σέ ὄρφανια και ἔχασαν τὸν προστάτη τους, νά ἔχουν ἀνάγκη κι ἀπὸ ἄλλου εἶδους βοήθεια και προστασία, ὥστε νά μὴν τοὺς σπρώξῃ ἡ ἀνάγκη και πέσουν σέ παγίδες ἠθικῆς φύσεως και βρεθοῦν ἔτσι ἀπὸ τὴ μία θλίψη σέ ἄλλη. Ἴσως αὐτοὶ πού πενθοῦν...

* * *

Ἀλλά εἶνε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τόσα τὰ **δράματα** πού μπορεῖ νά προκαλέσῃ στό σπίτι τῶν πενθοῦντων ὁ θάνατος, ὥστε μόνο μία σκληρὴ καρδιά μπορεῖ νά μείνη ἀπαθῆς και ἀδιάφορη γιά ὅ,τι μέλλει νά συμβῆ ἀπὸ μία παράτασι τῆς θλίψεως.

Ὁ Χριστιανὸς στις περιστάσεις αὐτὲς **θά φανῆ ἂν ἔχη ἀγάπη Χριστοῦ**. Δέν θά πῆ ἀπλῶς *«Μὴ κλαίε· ἔχει ὁ Θεός»*, ἀλλά και θά ἀποδείξῃ ἐμπράκτως ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς ἐνδιαφέρεται, ὅτι ἔστειλε αὐτὸν σὰν ἄγγελο παρηγορίας, σὰν προστάτη, σὰν εὐεργέτη. Θά κάνῃ ὅ,τι μπορεῖ, γιά νά γίνῃ ἐλαφρότερη ἡ θλίψη τοῦ πενθοῦντος. Σὰν ἀδελφός, ὄχι μόνο με λόγια ἀλλά και με ἔργα, θά σηκώσῃ και αὐτὸς ἕνα μέρος τοῦ φορτίου τῆς θλίψεως, και θ' ἀνακουφίσῃ τὸν πενθοῦντα.

Τότε και ὁ **πενθῶν θά εὐχαριστῆ** ἡμέρα και νύχτα τὸν Κύριο, γιὰτὶ πάνω στὴ μεγάλη του αὐτὴ θλίψη τοῦ ἔστειλε ἕναν ἀδελφό, πού ἐσφούγγισε τὰ δάκρυά του, παρηγόρησε τὴν καρδιά του, διέλυσε τὰ μαῦρα σύννεφα και τὸν ἔκανε, ὅσον ἐξηρτᾶτο ἀπὸ αὐτόν, νά διακρίνῃ ὅτι με τὸ θάνατο τοῦ πατέρα του ἢ τῆς μητέρας του ἢ τῆς συζύγου του ἢ τοῦ παιδιοῦ του, δέν χάθηκε τὸ πᾶν, ἀλλ' ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεὸς Πατέρας.

«Ὅχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ». Οἱ κάτοικοι τῆς πόλεως Ναὶν δέν ἄφησαν μόνη στὴ θλίψη της τὴ δυστυχισμένη χήρα· στάθηκαν δίπλα της με κάθε τρόπο. Ἀλλά κ' ἐμεῖς **ἂς μὴν ἀφήνουμε μόνους τοὺς ἀδελφούς μας** ὄταν ὁ θάνατος κάνῃ τὴ θλιβερὴ του ἐπίσκεψη και τὸ δρεπάνι του θερίζῃ, κι ἀφήνῃ πίσω του δάκρυα και στεναγμούς. Ἄς σπεύσουμε στὴ φωνὴ τοῦ πονοῦντος ἀδελφοῦ μας. Και με τὰ λόγια μας, κι ἀκόμη περισσότερο με τὰ ἔργα μας, ἂς δεῖξουμε τὴν ἀγάπη μας. Ὁ Κύριος εὐχαριστεῖται νά βλέπῃ κοντὰ σέ κάθε πενθοῦντα πολλοὺς νά τὸν παρηγοροῦν και νά τὸν ἐνισχύουν. *«Και ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ»*.

(†) **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

New Life Through the Holy Spirit

When the Lord told His disciples to go and teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, He conferred on them the power of giving men new life in God.

He had promised through the prophets that in these last days he would pour out his Spirit on his servants and handmaids. ... So when the Son of God became the Son of Man, the Spirit also descended upon Him, becoming accustomed in this way to dwelling with the human race, to living in men and to inhabiting God's creation. The Spirit accomplished the Father's will in men who had grown old in sin, and gave them new life in Christ.

Luke says that the Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost, after the Lord's ascension, with power to open the gates of life to all nations and to make known to them the new covenant. So it was that men of every language joined in singing one song of praise to God, and

scattered tribes, restored to unity by the Spirit, were offered to the Father as the first-fruits of all the nations.

This was why the Lord had promised to send the Advocate: He was to prepare us as an offering to God. Like dry flour, which cannot become one lump of dough, one loaf of bread, without moisture, we who are many could not become one in Christ Jesus without the water that comes down from heaven. And like parched ground, which yields no harvest unless it receives moisture, we who were once like a waterless tree could never have lived and borne fruit without this abundant rainfall from above. Through the baptism that liberates us from change and decay we have become one in body; through the Spirit we have become one in soul.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

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