

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

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, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 6:11-18

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος πλ α'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὁσῖος.

Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ. Ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί, οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται. Οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτετημημένοι αὐτοὶ νόμον φυλάσσουσιν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρα σαρκὶ καυχῶσινται. Ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος ἐσταύρωται, καὶ γὰρ τῷ κόσμῳ. Ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι ἰσχύει, οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ κτίσις. Καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ στοιχήσουσιν, εἰρήνην ἐπ' αὐτούς, καὶ ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ θεοῦ. Τοῦ λοιποῦ, κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί. Ἀμήν.

9th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel according to Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

9th Sunday of Luke

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 12:16-21

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα· καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συνάξω τοὺς καρπούς μου; καὶ εἶπε· τοῦτο ποιήσω· καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω, καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθά μου, καὶ ἔρω τῇ ψυχῇ μου· ψυχὴ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Θεός· ἄφρον, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἡ δὲ ἡτοίμασας τίτι ἔσται; οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

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.

TODAY: The AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is being hosted by the DEMETRA Chapter #33 of the Daughters of Penelope, in WHITEHALL. please join the ladies for sweets and coffee as their 'Thanksgiving Treat'.

THE FEAST of the **PRESENTATION** of the **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** to the Temple of Solomon is being observed TODAY by anticipation of the holy day tomorrow (November 21st.) Her sacred icon will be processed and available for veneration during the Divine Liturgy.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the parish membership is being convened today directly after the Divine Liturgy at 1:00 P.M. Registered stewards of the Parish are eligible to speak and vote in all deliberations towards the welfare of our faith community. REGISTER! ATTEND! VOTE! Nominations to the next COUNCIL will commence at the meeting and will remain open for two full weeks. Nominations close on Sunday December 04th.

CHOIR HYATIS: With our Maestra Katie Hambas attending the Choir Conference in south-Hampton today at the Church of the Assumption, our choir of renowned accomplishment is at 'parade rest'....They will resume chorale accompaniment next Sunday.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: In grateful 'thanksgiving' for all the blessings upon their children XENOPHON, LAZARUS and GEORGIA, the RAPTIS FAMILY offers this special blessing of the FIVE LOAVES! NA SAS ZESOUN!

CONGRATULATIONS: to Parish Council Member and LEGAL COUNSEL Nicholas and Monica Eleftherakis who have a new born daughter 'PENELOPE'. After many sons ...finally a blessed girl!

FAITH and HEALING Services are held mid-month -and- every month. Why not visit us on these WEDNESDAY evening (6:30 - 8:00 P.M.) special spiritual journeys. You will be in a religious renaissance. TRY IT!

CONDOLENCES are extended to the EDITOR of our WEEKLY BULLETIN, Mrs. Stella Oberle and her family on the passing into repose of her brother + NICHOLAS. The requiem of peace was offered at Three Hierarchs last week. Eternal be his memory.

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.

MUCH TO BE THANKFUL ABOUTas a nation, a people, a faith, a community of Brooklynites, let us give due praise to the GOD OF OUR FATHERS. Count your blessings and truly see how fortunate you REALLY are. God loves you and so do we at Three Hierarchs. LOVE US BACK!

TOYS FOR TOTS : Christmas appeal for those children outside the parish in need will commence SUNDAY. November 27th. Think of your childhood and what you as little boy or girl desired MOST! Anonymously, unwrapped gifts may be left at the foot of the Blessed Virgins ICON for proper handling distribution.

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 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](#))

MEMORIALS TODAY :
+ GEORGE and + NICHOLAS YANAKAS
+ EFROSINI (Florence) KONTOS
+ NICHOLAS and + ANNA SARRIS



Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me....
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see.

T'was Grace that taught...
my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear...
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares...
we have already come.
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far...
and Grace will lead us home.

The Lord has promised good to me...
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be...
as long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years...
bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise...
then when we've first begun.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me....
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see.

We Gather Together Hymn

We gather together to ask the Lord's Blessing,
He chastens and hastens His will to make known
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we are winning'
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation';
Thy Name be ever praised ! O Lord, make us free!



Three Hierarchs Parish Wishes
"A Happy Thanksgiving to All"





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 1981	Κυριακὴ ΚΒ' (Γαλ. 6,11-18) 20 Νοεμβρίου 2016 (στὸν ἀπόστολο)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Τὸ φάρμακο τῆς ἀνθρωπαρεσκείας καὶ κενοδοξίας

«Ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί... Ἔμοι κόσμος ἐσταύρωται καὶ ἐγὼ τῷ κόσμῳ» (Γαλ. 6,12 & 14)

Τὸ Νοέμβριο μῆνα, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὶς 13 τοῦ μηνός, ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ἐορτάζει τὴ μνήμη τοῦ μεγάλου πατρὸς καὶ διδασκάλου ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσοστόμου. Δικὴ του εἶνε καὶ ἡ θεία Λειτουργία ποὺ ἀκοῦμε κάθε φορὰ στὴν ἐκκλησία. Ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης, μεταξὺ τῶν ἄλλων διδασχῶν του, λέει καὶ ὅτι ἡ **Ἐκκλησία εἶνε πνευματικὸ φαρμακεῖο** ποὺ χορηγεῖ **φάρμακα γιὰ κάθε ψυχικὴ ἀσθένεια**.

Γιὰ μιὰ τέτοια σοβαρὴ ἀσθένεια τῆς ψυχῆς κάνει λόγο ὁ σημερινὸς ἀπόστολος. Ποιά εἶνε ἡ ἀσθένεια αὐτή; Εἶνε ἡ **κενοδοξία**, ἡ τάσι ποὺ ἔχουμε ὄλοι ἀνεξαιρέτως νὰ κοιτᾶμε ὄχι τὸν οὐρανὸ καὶ τὴν ψυχὴ ἀλλὰ τὸν κόσμον, νὰ μᾶς ἐνδιαφέρει τί θὰ πῆ ὁ κόσμος· εἶνε ἡ μέριμνα νὰ κάνουμε ἐκεῖνα ποὺ θέλει ὁ κόσμος καὶ ἡ φοβία μήπως δυσαρεστήσουμε τὸν κόσμον.

Κόσμος, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε τὸ σύνολο τῶν ἀνθρώπων ποὺ δὲν πιστεύουν στὸν Κύριο καὶ ζοῦν ὄχι μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἀλλὰ μὲ τὸ ἀντι-εὐαγγέλιο. Ὑπάρχει λοιπὸν δυστυχῶς ἡ τάσι σὲ πολλοὺς πιστοὺς **νὰ ἀρέσουν στὸν κόσμον**. Νὰ ἐξηγηθῶ καλύτερα μὲ μερικὰ παραδείγματα.

Ἐρὰ συνήθεια τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ εἶνε νὰ κάνῃ **τὸ σημεῖο τοῦ σταυροῦ** ὅταν τὸ πρωὶ φεύγει γιὰ τὴ δουλειά του, ὅταν στὸ σπῆτι ἡ οἰκογένεια κάθεται γιὰ φαγητό, ὅταν πέφτουν στὸ κρεβάτι γιὰ ὕπνο, ὅταν ταξιδεύουν μὲ τὰ διάφορα συγκοινωνιακὰ μέσα, ὅταν περνοῦν ἔξω ἀπὸ ἓνα ναὸ ἢ ἐξωκκλήσι. Ἐρὰς συνήθειες εἶνε ἀκόμη ἡ προσευχή, ἡ μελέτη τῆς ἁγίας Γραφῆς, ἡ νηστεία, ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός, ἡ ἐξομολόγησις, ἡ θεία κοινωνία. Γίνονται αὐτὰ σήμερα; Ὁχι δυστυχῶς. Ὑπάρχουν τρεῖς κατηγορίες ἀνθρώπων. Ἄλλοι δὲν τὰ κάνουν ἀπὸ ἀπιστία – δὲν μιλάμε γι' αὐτούς. Ἄλλοι δὲν τὰ κάνουν ἀπὸ ἀδιαφορία καὶ ἀμέλεια – δὲν μι-

λάμε γι' αὐτούς. Ἄλλοι δὲν τὰ κάνουν ἀπὸ ἀνθρωπαρέσκεια καὶ κενοδοξία. Νὰ κάνῃ τὸ σταυρὸ του αὐτός, κι ὁ ἄλλος νὰ τὸν κοροιδέψῃ καὶ νὰ τὸν πῆ θρησκόληπτο; νὰ κάνῃ τὸ σταυρὸ του μέσ' στὸ αὐτοκίνητο, καὶ νὰ γελάνε οἱ δεσποινίδες καὶ οἱ μοντέρνες κυρίες; νὰ πιᾶσιν στὰ χέρια του τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο; τί λέτε τώρα; θὰ τὸν σχολιάσουν· ἂν ὁμως πάρῃ ἓνα μυθιστόρημα, τότε βέβαια δὲν ὑπάρχει πρόβλημα. Γιὰ ν' ἀρέσῃ λοιπὸν στὸν κόσμον καὶ νὰ μὴ χάσῃ τὴν ἐκτίμησί του, οὔτε σταυρὸ κάνει οὔτε ἄλλα ἱερὰ καθήκοντα ἐκτελεῖ. Ἔτσι ἡ ἀνθρωπαρέσκεια καὶ ἡ κενοδοξία τὸν σπρώχνουν στὴν παράβασιν τῶν νόμων τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Τὸν ἴδιο πειρασμὸ ἀντιμετωπίζουν καὶ ἄντρες **καὶ γυναῖκες**. Ὑπάρχουν βέβαια, εἰς πείσμα τῶν δαιμόνων, καὶ τίμιες γυναῖκες. Δὲν εἶνε ὁμως ὅλες δυνατές. Καὶ δυστυχῶς τί συμβαίνει; Τὸ καταλαβαίνει ἡ γυναῖκα ὅτι τὸ νὰ βγῆ ἔξω γυμνὴ –δὲν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ τὸ πῆ ὁ παπᾶς κι ὁ ἱεροκήρυκας, τὸ λέει ἡ συνείδησί της–, ὅτι δὲν εἶνε ἐνδυμασία αὐτή, εἶνε σὰν τὰ κρέατα ποὺ κρεμᾶνε στὰ τσιγγέλια τῶν κρεοπωλείων· τὸ καταλαβαίνει ὅτι αὐτὸ ἀντίκειται στὴν ἀξιόπρεια τῆς Χριστιανῆς Ἑλληνίδος. Τὸ καταλαβαίνει, ὅτι δὲν εἶνε ὀρθὸ νὰ κάθεται διπλοπόδι, νὰ βάζῃ τσιγάρο στὸ στόμα, νὰ παίξῃ χαρτιά, νὰ χυδαιολογῇ καὶ νὰ αἰσχρολογῇ, νὰ πηγαίῃ στὰ πάρτυ μὲ τοὺς ἐξωφρενικοὺς χορούς· ὅτι ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸν ἄντρα της, μὲ τὸν ὁποῖο ἔχει συμβόλαιο, δὲν πρέπει νὰ γλυκομιλάῃ μὲ ἄλλους ἄντρες. Ἀφοῦ λοιπὸν τὰ καταλαβαίνει κι ἀφοῦ εἶνε τίμια γυναῖκα, γιὰτί **«συσχηματίζεται»** μὲ τὴ μόδα (Ρωμ. 12,2); Διότι **φοβᾶται τὸν κόσμον**, δὲν θέλει νὰ δυσαρεστήσῃ φίλους καὶ φίλους της. Γιὰ νὰ μὴν τὴν ποῦν λοιπὸν θρησκόληπτη καὶ καθυστερημένη, τὴ βλέπεις καὶ κάνει νερὰ καὶ ὑποχωρεῖ· καὶ ἐνῶ

εἶνε τίμια καὶ τ' ἀποδοκιμάζει αὐτά, σιγά - σιγά ἢ ἁμαρτία τὴν τραβάει πρὸς τὰ κάτω καὶ καταπατεῖ τὸ νόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἐπὶ τοῦ λοιποῦ, ἀγαπητοί μου, μέσα στὸν καθένα ἢ καταστρεπτικὴ **ἀνθρωπαρεσκεία**. Αὐτὴν ἐλέγχει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος ὅταν κακίζει αὐτοὺς ποὺ ὡς στόχο τους ἔχουν θέσει τὸ «εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί» (Ἰαλ 6,12), αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἐκκοσμικεύονται φροντίζοντας πῶς νὰ ἀρέσουν στοὺς ἀνθρώπους τοῦ κόσμου.

Καὶ τὸ φάρμακο τῆς ἀνθρωπαρεσκείας καὶ κενοδοξίας **ποιό εἶνε**; Νὰ μὴν τὸ πῶ ἐγὼ ἀκούστε τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο τί λέει. Ἐξῆσε κι αὐτὸς μέσα στὸν κόσμο, ἦταν παιδί ἐπιφανοῦς οἰκογενείας, δεχόταν ἐπιρροὲς τοῦ περιβάλλοντος. Τί λέει λοιπὸν; Κάθε φάρμακο εἶνε **πικρὸ ἀλλὰ σωτήριο**. Φάρμακο τῶν πλουσίων εἶνε ἡ ἐλεημοσύνη· «Πώλησόν σου τὰ ὑπάρχοντα καὶ δὸς πτωχοῖς» (Ματθ 19,21)· δὲν τὸ δέχονται. Φάρμακο τῶν ἀκολάστων εἶνε ἡ ἐγκράτεια· «Φεύγετε τὴν πορνείαν» (1 Κορ 6,18)· δὲν τὸ δέχονται. Φάρμακο ἐκείνων ποὺ θέλουν νὰ ἔναι καὶ μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ μὲ τὸν κόσμο, νὰ κάνουν συμβιβασμό, ποιό εἶνε; Αὐτοὶ μοιάζουν μὲ τοὺς βατράχους ποὺ λέει ἡ Ἀποκάλυψις (Ἰλ 16,13). Καὶ γέμισε ἡ γῆ «βατράχους», ἀνθρώπους δηλαδή ποὺ θέλουν νὰ ἔναι σὰν τὸ βάτραχο, μιὰ στὸ νερὸ - μιὰ στὴν ξηρά, μιὰ μὲ τὸ Θεὸ - μιὰ μὲ τὸ διάβολο· «θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί». Ποιό λοιπὸν εἶνε τὸ φάρμακο;

Ἀνθρωπέ μου, δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ παίξεις κρυφούλι· **ἢ μὲ τὸ Θεὸ ἢ μὲ τὸ διάβολο**. Ἐὰν εἶνε ψέματα αὐτὰ ποὺ λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, νὰ πᾶμε μὲ τοὺς ἀθέους, νὰ τὰ γκρεμίσουμε ὅλα καὶ νὰ τὰ κάψουμε, γιατί δὲν πρέπει νὰ ζῆ ὁ κόσμος μὲ τὰ ψέματα. Ἄν ὅμως αὐτὰ εἶνε ἀλήθεια, τότε νὰ μείνουμε μὲ τὴν ἀλήθεια. Ὅχι Χριστιανὸς χλιαρὸς, ἀνθρωπος τῶν συμβιβασμῶν, βατραχοειδής. Τὸ φάρμακο λοιπὸν τοῦ Παύλου ἐναντίον τῶν συμβιβαστικῶν λύσεων καὶ μιᾶς ζωῆς χωρὶς χρῶμα οὐρανοῦ εἶνε τὸ ἐξῆς.

Γιὰ μένα, λέει, ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸς μὲ τὰ θέλητρα καὶ τὶς ἀπειλές του, ὁ κόσμος μὲ τὰ χρυσάφια καὶ ἀσήμια καὶ στέμματα καὶ παλάτια καὶ μέγαρα, ὁ κόσμος τοῦ «**Φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αὐριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν**» (Ἰακ 22,13 ἢ 1 Κορ 15,32), ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸς γιὰ μένα ἴσον «**σκύβαλα**» (Ἰακ 1,8), σκουπίδια, ἓνα τίποτα. Δὲν μὲ δελεάζουν οἱ ἡδονές τὰ πλούτη καὶ τὰ σπαθιά, δὲν μὲ φοβίζονται οἱ διώκτες ἀνθρώποι καὶ οἱ δαίμονες. «Τί μπορεῖ νὰ μὲ χωρίσῃ ἀπ' τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Χριστοῦ;» Τίποτα! (Ρωμ 8,35,39). Γιὰ μένα, λέει, **ὁ κόσμος πέθανε**. Τί μεγάλη κραυγὴ, τί κεραυνὸς εἶνε αὐτός! Ὁ Παῦλε ἀθάνατε, μπροστά

σο εἶμαστε μυρμήγκια. «**Ἐμοί**», λέει, «**μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ ἔμοι κόσμος ἐσταύρωται καὶ ἐγὼ τῷ κόσμῳ**» (Ἰακ 6,14). «Γιὰ μένα ὁ κόσμος πέθανε, **κ' ἐγὼ γι' αὐτὸν ἐπίσης**».

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Ὅταν, ἀγαπητοί μου, πῆγα κ' ἐγὼ ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς κάποτε **στὸ Ἅγιο Ὄρος**, ἐπισκέφθηκα τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ἱστορικὰ μοναστήρια - ποὺ θὰ κλείσουν στὴν ἐποχὴ μας γιὰ τὶς ἁμαρτίες μας· ὑπάρχει κάποια σχετικὴ προφητεία. Καὶ **πῶς νὰ μὴν κλείσουν**, ὅταν παιδιὰ λεβέντες φεύγουν καὶ πάνε στὴν Αὐστραλία καὶ στὸν Καναδᾶ μὲ τὶς εὐχὲς τῶν γονέων τους, ἀλλὰ μόλις ἀκουστῆ ὅτι κάποιο παιδί ἔφησε τὴ ματαιότητα νὰ πάῃ στὸ Ἅγιο Ὄρος - ἓνας στοὺς δέκα χιλιάδες -, τότε ξεσηκώνονται ὅλοι καὶ φωνάζουν καὶ φέρνουν τὴν ἀστυνομία κ' ἐπιστρατεύουν ψευδομάρτυρες γιατροὺς νὰ ποῦν ὅτι τὸ παιδί τρελλάθηκε, γιὰ νὰ τὸν κλείσουν στὸ τρελλοκομεῖο; Ὁ κόσμος σατανικὸ καὶ διεστραμμένον!

Ὅταν λοιπὸν πῆγα στὸ Ἅγιο Ὄρος καὶ ἔφτασα στὸ μοναστήρι ποὺ ἀσκήτησε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός, εἶδα μιὰ εἰκόνα ποὺ μ' ἔκανε νὰ μείνω κατάπληκτος ὥρα πολλή. Εἶδα ἓνα σταυρὸ κ' ἐπάνω του ζωγραφισμένο ἓναν καλόγερο ἀσκητή! Μεγάλον νόημα ἔκρυβε ἡ εἰκόνα. Εἶσαι ἀσκητής, εἶσαι βασιλιάς, εἶσαι πατριάρχης, εἶσαι ἄντρας, εἶσαι γυναίκα, εἶσαι παιδί; βγήκες ἀπὸ τὴν ἁγία κολυμβήθρα; **Ἐ, δὲν εἶσαι Χριστιανὸς ἐὰν δὲν σταυρωθῆς κ' ἐσὺ ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ σου** ὅπως ὁ Χριστός. Ὅχι νὰ καρφώσῃς σὲ σταυρὸ τὸ κορμί σου, ἀλλὰ νὰ νεκρώσῃς τὰ πάθη μέσα σου. Τὸ κάνουμε ἐμεῖς αὐτὸ, ἀδελφοί μου; ἔχουμε νεκρώσει τὰ πάθη μας;

Δὲν τὰ πῆραμε δυστυχῶς νὰ τὰ καρφώσουμε στὸ σταυρὸ, νὰ μείνουν ἀκίνητα καὶ ἀνενέργητα. Τὰ ἔχουμε σὰν χαϊδεύμενα παιδιὰ· **τὰ χαϊδεύουμε καὶ τὰ περιποιούμεθα**. Καὶ ἔτσι ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ ἐπτακέφαλη κακία· ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ οἴσιν, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ ὑπερηφάνεια, ζῆ μέσα μας ὁ ἐγωισμὸς, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ φιλοδοξία, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ ἀνθρωπαρεσκεία, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ κενοδοξία, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ μοιχεία, ζῆ μέσα μας ἡ πορνεία, ζοῦν μέσα μας ὅλα τὰ θηρία τῆς κολάσεως.

Ὁ ἀδέρφια μου, μᾶς καλεῖ ὁ Παῦλος. Μπρός, ἀρπάξτε ἀπ' τὸ λαιμὸ τὰ θηρία αὐτὰ καὶ **καρφώστε τα πάνω στὸ σταυρὸ**. Καὶ πέστε μαζί μὲ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο· Κόσμε, δὲν σὲ λογαριάζω γιὰ τίποτα· κόσμε, δὲν σὲ ὑπολογίζω. Πάνω ἀπὸ τὸ μάταιον κόσμον εἶνε ὁ Χριστός· αὐτὸς ζῆ καὶ βασιλεύει εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.

(†) **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

Spiritual Reflection for Tomorrow's Feast

Stretching out His hand over His disciples, the Lord Christ declared: Here are my mother and my brothers; anyone who does the will of my Father who sent me is my brother and sister and my mother. I would urge you to ponder these words. Did the Virgin Mary, who believed by faith and conceived by faith, who was the chosen one from whom our Savior was born among men, who was created by Christ before Christ was created in her — did she not do the will of the Father? Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ's disciple than to have been His mother.

Now listen and see if the words of Scripture do not agree with what I have said. The Lord was passing by and crowds were following

him. His miracles gave proof of divine power, and a woman cried out: Happy is the womb that bore you, blessed is that womb! But the Lord, not wishing people to seek happiness in a purely physical relationship, replied: More blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it. Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying His body in her womb. The truth and the body were both Christ: He was kept in Mary's mind insofar as He is truth, He was carried in her womb insofar as He is man; but what is kept in the mind is of a higher order than what is carried in the womb.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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