

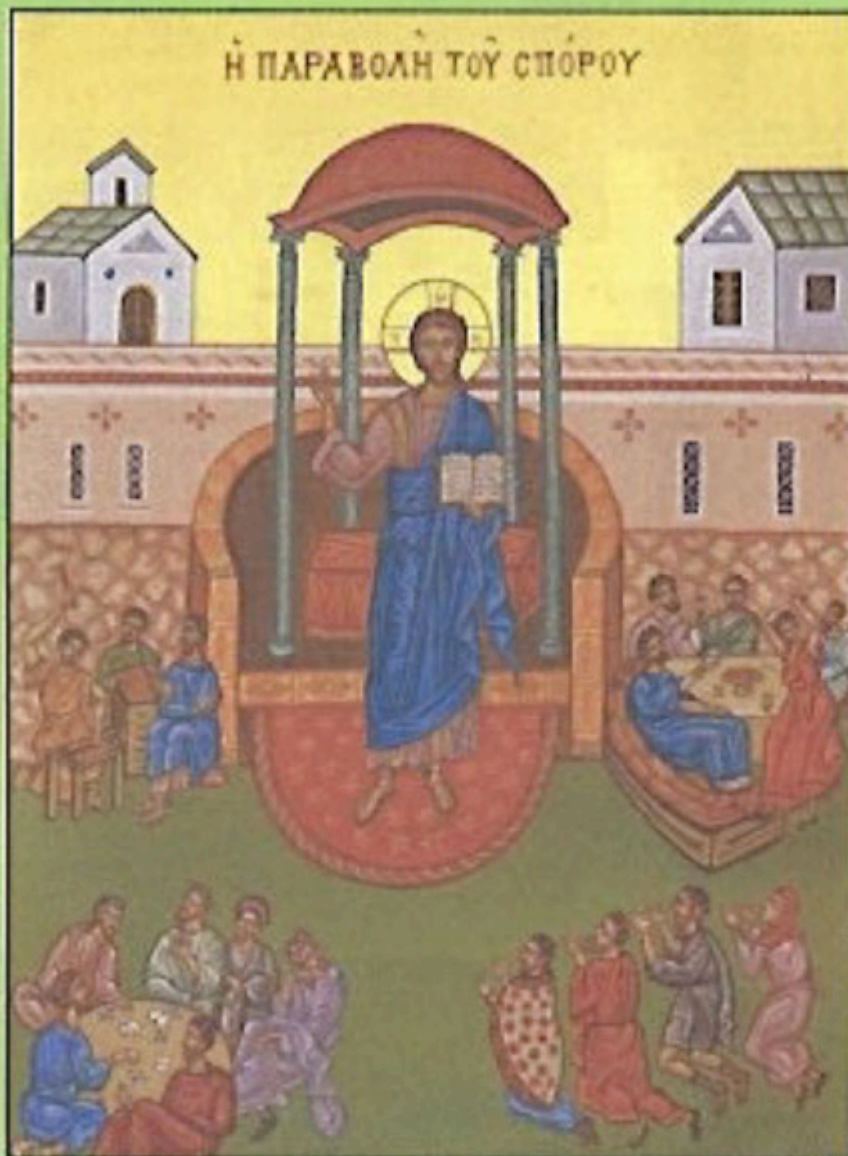


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 15th, 2017  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed*

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.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

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.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'.

Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

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

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαι σε διαβεβαιουῦσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προ ἴστασθαι 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. ἀφρέτικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει, ὧν ἡ ὑποκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σὲ ἢ Τυχικόν, σπούδασον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα παραχεμᾶσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προῖστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἄσπασαι 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."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:5-15 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπείρειν αὐτὸν ὁ μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυνὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ἰκμάδα· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αὐὶ ἄκανθα ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυνὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν κατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω. Ἐπρώτων δὲ αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἶη ἡ παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται γινῶναι 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 ὁδὸν εἰσὶν 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 ῥίζαν οὐκ ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσι καὶ ἐν καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται. τὸ δὲ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ πλοῦτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ τελεσφοροῦσι. τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῇ, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσιν καὶ καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK: Sunday October 15th Feast of Saints Lucian and Savino 10:30 A.M.**  
**The +SPYROS GALIATSATOS MAKARIA is being hosted today in WhiteHall .**  
**Relatives and friends are cordially invited.**

**ARTOKLASIA:** next week will be offered in loving tribute to the evangelist SAINT LUKE by devotion of the Notias and Ravanos Families. The sacred icon will be on exposition for procession and veneration. Chronia Polla to all those named Luke and Lucia.

**FAITH and HEALING SERVICE:** Have you given it a try? Once a month, on a designated Wednesday evening between 6:30 and 8:00 P.M. inspired believers join in prayer, scripture exegesis, prophetic revelation, anointing and witnessing for the faith. It is a literal renaissance of the soul each month, restoring and reassuring our embrace in Christ Jesus! THE FOCUS THEME FOR THE PRAYER IS healing-physically spiritually, emotionally and restoration in faith. COME, SEE, LEAN. Coffee and sweets reception always follows at 8:00 .M. COME! LOOK! LISTEN! .....and REJOICE! The next session is WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18th.

**CONDOLENCES:** The Clergy, Parish Council and Church leadership and faithful extend our solace to the family of + SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS, spouse of our parish office secretary of forty years EFFIE. To our beloved Effie, and family Georgia and George Kaparos, Vicky and Jimmy Geleris and Maria and Gus Karagiannis and grand-children who empathize this great patriarchal loss to the family. Spyros served in many capacities in parish life at Three Hierarchs and was an officer of the Coney Island Chapter 200 of the A.H.E.P.A. May his memory be eternal! ZOE SE SAS!  
Memorial tributes are being directed to the :

**THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH – C R O S S of L I F E F U N D**

**ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL :** of the Church in America will meet on Thursday and Friday October 15th, and 20th, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. The prestigious COUNCIL represents 100 clergy and lay members. Of import will be the financial report of the current status of the National church headquarters. Not everything which we read in the ‘print’ is true. The President of the Nation has said it more than once.... “BEWARE THE FAKE NEWS!” Father Eugene is one of the 100 appointed delegates of hierarchy, clergy and laity.

**ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD** given each year by the Order of Saint Andrew ARCHONS will be presented this Saturday evening at the New York Hilton Banquet. This award reflects the noble principles in human rights and religious freedom. Past recipients are Presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter, Mother Teresa, Desmond Tutu, Mikhail Gorbachev and Elie Wiesel of notable fame. This year the ‘fishermen of Lesbos’ are being honored for their selfless sacrifices in rescuing the ‘boat people’ refugees from war torn Syria and the Middle East. THIS IS TRULY A NOBLE ACT. AXIOI!

**GREEK FILM FESTIVAL:** The 11th, Annual NEW YORK CITY Film Festival with Award Winning Films from Europe ends today. October 15th

**HOSPITAL CALLS** are made regularly upon request of the family. If we do not receive direct communication with the family we are unaware of the condition or placement of the patient. Please DO NOT assume “someone” made the call to the Church Office. Thank you

**Saint Demetrios Feast Day is THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, please register your ‘ Artoclasia presentation for the holiday with the church office -718 339 0280. The Holiday will be celebrated by anticipation also on October 22 Sunday.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDER:** for the 2017 – 88th Annual Three Hierarchs GALA Dinner – Dance scheduled for FRIDAY evening December 01st, at the fabulous EL CARIBE with dancing and music by the YIANNI PAPASTEPHANOU ORCHESTRA and SINGERS. The Parish is honoring the 5 generations of devoted service to our parish by the VELLIOS CLAN one and all ! Make every effort to join us on this festive night of fellowship, dining and dancing.

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 19<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](#))

**PRE- K FOR ALL :** Any child 4 years of age is eligible for FREE enrollment at our school operated by the New York City Department of Education. Classes are held each day from 8:00 A.M. through 3:00 P.M. with free lunch served by the City. IT’S ALL YOURS FREE FOR THE ASKING AND TAKING. DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN /GRANDCHILDREN! Call now: (347) 729-0446 .

**MEMORIAL TODAY: + SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS**  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + PANTELEIMON EUGENIS + KOSTAS and + IRENE TSAPELAS**  
**May the memory of the faithfully departed be eternal**



Three Hierarchs CHOR celebrated CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY on the first of October with festivities and an artoklasia honoring their Patron Saint ROMANOS the MELODOS and a coffee with sweets reception for the entire parish after liturgy. Singing in the finest of Byzantine tones with the Protopsaltis Antonios Paraskevopoulos and Maestra/Organist Katie Hambas the members ONE and ALL are to be celebrated for a truly inspiring Divine Liturgy.

Far too often we take things for granted, including the beautiful hymns that grace our devotions and liturgical observances. We hail our dedicated choir singers for their dedication, presence and professional attitudes in preserving this treasured heritage of our Orthodox Church. We are always looking for new members to join the ranks. Reading

**GREEK is NOT NECESSARY** since the texts are also rendered in **ENGLISH PHONETICS. YOU SEE!- you can do it!- Visit the choir 'loft' and give it a TRY. DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO.....**





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Εγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Απ. 1,10)

Εκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-26610 - imzeflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2043	Κυριακὴ Δ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 8,4-15) 15 Ὀκτωβρίου 2017	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Ἀγκάθια!

«Καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αὐτὴ ἀκανθαὶ ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό... τὸ δὲ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ πλοῦτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ τελεσφοροῦσι» (Λουκ. 8,7,14)

**Ἀ**κούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιο εὐ-αγγέλιο. Εἶνε μία ἀπὸ τὶς ὠραιότερες παραβολὰς ποῦ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός· εἶνε μιὰ εἰκόνα ἀπὸ τῆ φύσι, ἡ εἰκόνα τοῦ γεωργοῦ ποῦ βγῆκε νὰ σπείρῃ «τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ» (Λουκ. 8,5), τὸ σπόρο ποῦ πέφτει στὴ γῆ.

Ἀλλὰ καὶ κάθε φορὰ ποῦ ἀκούγεται ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, κάποιος ἄλλος σπόρος, οὐράνιος, «ὁ λόγος» (εἰς τὴν) δηλαδὴ ποῦ ἔφερε ἀπὸ τὸν οὐρανὸ ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, πέφτει ὄχι πιά σὲ αὐλάκια τῆς γῆς ἀλλὰ μέσα σὲ καρδιές, καὶ γεωργὸς ποῦ τὸν σπέρνει εἶνε ὁ κήρυκας τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Ἔτσι καὶ τούτῃ τῇ στιγμή μέσα στὰ αὐλάκια τοῦ δικοῦ σας ψυχικοῦ κόσμου.

Ἀπὸ τὸ σπόρο βγαίνουν ἄνθη, φυτὰ, δέντρα· καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου βγαίνουν «**μυρίνια ἄνθη**», ὅπως ψάλλει σήμερα ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας (ἰεὶ ἀκ. Ἁγ. Πατ.)· φωτεινὲς ἰδέες, εὐγενῆ αἰσθήματα καὶ «ἔργα» ἀγαθὰ ποῦ λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος (1π. 3,8,14). Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ δημιουργεῖ ἕνα πολιτισμὸ ὄχι μηχανικὸ ἀλλὰ ψυχικὸ.

Ὁ σπόρος στὴ γῆ ὁμως δὲν καρποφορεῖ ἐξ ἴσου· ὅταν δὲν βρῆ κατάλληλο ἔδαφος μένει ἀκαρπός· ἔτσι καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ ὅταν συναντᾷ ἐμπόδια. Καὶ τὰ ἐμπόδια εἶνε οἱ καρδιές. Ὅπως χωράφι ἀπὸ χωράφι διαφέρει, ἔτσι καὶ καρδιὰ ἀπὸ καρδιὰ· ὑπάρχουν καρδιές σκληρές, ὑπάρχουν καὶ καρδιές εὐγενικές.

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Τί ἐμποδίζει, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ νὰ καρποφορήσῃ; Ὑρισμένα ἐμπόδια τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα τὰ ὀνόμασε **ἀγκάθια**. Ποιὰ εἶν' αὐτά;

**Τὰ φυσικὰ ἀγκάθια** τὰ γνωρίζουμε ὅλοι καὶ ἰδίως ὅσοι γεννηθήκαμε σὲ χωριά. Ὅταν ἤμασταν μικροί, προσέχαμε περνώντας μέσα ἀπὸ χωράφια μὲ ἀγκάθια νὰ μὴ μᾶς ἀγκυλώσουν. Κι ὅταν μᾶς ἀγκύλωναν τρέχαμε στὴ μάνα ἢ τὴ γιαγιά νὰ μᾶς βγάλουν τ' ἀγκάθια, ποῦ δὲν μᾶς

ἀφηναν οὔτε τὴ νύχτα νὰ ἡσυχάσουμε. Τὸ ἀγκάθι, ὅταν μπῆ στὸ δέρμα, βασανίζει. Λένε ὅτι ἕνα λιοντάρι ποῦ πάτησε ἀγκάθι οὐρλιαζε ἀπ' τὸν πόνο· πλησίασε τότε κάποιος κυνηγός, τοῦ ἀφαίρεσε τὸ ἀγκάθι ἀπὸ τὸ πέλμα, καὶ τὸ λιοντάρι ἀπὸ εὐγνωμοσύνη τὸν ἀκολουθοῦσε πλέον σὰν πιστὸ σκυλὶ καὶ φρόνιμο ἀρνάκι. Ὑπάρχουν ἀγκάθια δηλητηριώδη καὶ ἀγκάθια ποῦ ὅπου φυτρώσουν ρουφοῦν ὅλη τὴν ὑγρασία τῆς γῆς καὶ δὲν ἀφήνουν νὰ καρποφορήσῃ τίποτ' ἄλλο.

Ἐδῶ ὁ Χριστός, μιλώντας παραβολικά, μᾶς λέει ὅτι, ὅπως στὴ φύσι, ἔτσι καὶ στὸν ψυχικὸ μας κόσμῳ ὑπάρχουν ἀγκάθια. Ποιὰ εἶν' αὐτά; Μᾶς τὰ ἐρμήνευσε ὁ ἴδιος· εἶνε, εἶπε, οἱ μερίμνες τοῦ κόσμου (ὃ λόγος μέγας, βαθειὰ ψυχολογικός, ποῦ θὰ χρειαζόταν ὥρα νὰ τὸν ἐξηγήσω) – εὐχομαί κανεῖς ἀπὸ σᾶς νὰ μὴ εἶνε ἀκαθόριστος ποῦ συμπνίγει τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ).

**Οἱ μερίμνες τοῦ κόσμου.** «Μὴ μεριμνᾶτε...», λέει ὁ Κύριος (Ματθ. 6,25,26, Λουκ. 12,22,25), ἀπαγορεύει τὴ μερίμνα. Ποιὰ μερίμνα; –Μπᾶ; θὰ πῆ ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς δραστηριότητος· ὥστε τὸ εὐαγγέλιο λέει νὰ σταυρώσουμε τὰ χέρια, νὰ λέμε κ' ἐμεῖς «πέσε σῦκο νὰ σὲ φάγω»; ἐγκρίνει τὴν ἀδράνεια, τὴ μοιρολατρία, τὸ κισμέτ τοῦ Ἰσλάμ;...

Ὅχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Εἶνε ψέμα, ἀπάτη αὐτό, πλαστογραφία τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. **Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο κηρύττει τὴν ἐργασία** ὡς εὐλογημένο θεσμὸ. Μέσα στὸν παράδεισο δόθηκε ἡ πρώτη ἐντολή, τὸ «ἐργάζεσθαι» (Γεν. 2,8). Στὸ δρος Σινὰ ἀκούστηκε· «Ἐξ ἡμέρας ἐργᾶ καὶ ποιήσεις πάντα τὰ ἔργα σου» (Ἐξ. 23). Καὶ ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός εἶπε «Ἐργάζεσθε...», ὅτι «Ὁ πατήρ μου ἔως ἄρτι ἐργάζεται, καὶ γὰρ ἐργάζομαι», ὅτι «Ἐμε δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας ἐστίν· ἔρχεται νύξ ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι» (1π. 12, 5,17,18). Καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος εἶπε ἐκεῖνο ποῦ τὸ πῆραν κι αὐτοὶ οἱ μολ-

σεβτικοί ως σύνθημά τους και τὸ ἔχουν γραμμένο ἐπάνω στὸ Κρεμλίνο: «*Εἴ τις οὐ θέλει ἐργάζεσθαι, μηδὲ ἐσθιέτω*», ὅποιος δὲν θέλει νὰ ἐργάζεται δὲν πρέπει καὶ νὰ τρῶη (β' Θεσ. 3,10).

Γι' αὐτὸ ἄς εἶνε **εὐλογημένη κάθε ἐργασία** ποὺ γίνεται ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ Ναζωραίου γιὰ τὸ καλὸ τοῦ πλησίον· νὰ φροντίζη ἡ μάνα γιὰ τὸ παιδί, ἡ νοσοκόμος γιὰ τὸν ἄρρωστο, ὁ γιατρός γιὰ τὸν ἀσθενῆ, ὁ δάσκαλος γιὰ τὸ μαθητή, ὁ ἀξιωματικός γιὰ τὸ στρατιώτη, ὁ ὑπάλληλος γιὰ τὸ κοινό, ὁ ἱερεὺς γιὰ τὸ ποίμνιό του. Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος λέει, ὅτι φροντίδα του ἦταν «*ἡ μέριμνα πασῶν τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν*» (β' Κορ. 11,28).

Μὰ τότε ποιά μέριμνα καταδικάζει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο; Τὴν **ἀγωνιώδη φροντίδα**, τὴν ἀνησυχία, τὴν ταραχή, τὸ φόβο. Ἄνησυχεῖ ὁ ἄνθρωπος γιὰ τὴν ὑγεία, γιὰ τὴν ἀσφάλεια, γιὰ τὰ οικονομικά, γιὰ τὴν οἰκογένεια - τὰ παιδιά του, γιὰ τὰ ἔξοδα ποὺ αὐξάνουν, γιὰ τὸ μέλλον... Ὅλα αὐτὰ εἶνε ἀγκάθια ποὺ κεντοῦν. Ποτὲ ἄλλοτε ὁ κόσμος δὲν ἦταν τόσο ἀνήσυχος ὅσο εἶνε σήμερα. Κι ὅσο προχωρεῖ ὁ ψεύτικος πολιτισμὸς καὶ ἐξελισσεται ὑλιστικώτερα, τόσο ἡ ἀγωνία, τὸ **ἄγχος** ποὺ λένε οἱ ψυχολόγοι, κυριαρχεῖ στὶς ψυχὲς καὶ στοὺς λαοὺς. **Γιατί;**

Οἱ ἀνησυχία αὐξήθηκε, γιατί **ἐπικράτησαν** νέες ἀντιλήψεις γιὰ τὴ ζωὴ κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος θέλει νὰ ἔχη ἕνα ἐπίπεδο ζωῆς μὲ ὄλες τὶς ἀνάσεις καὶ ἀπολαύσεις. Ἐπικράτησε ὁ **ὕλισμὸς**, εἴτε ἀριστερὸς εἴτε δεξιός, εἴτε μαῦρος εἴτε κόκκινος, καὶ ὑψώθηκε ἡ σημαία μὲ τὸ σύνθημα «*Φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αὐριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν*» (Ἰακ. 22,13 - Ἰ Κορ. 15,32).

Ἄλλοτε οἱ τίμιες γιαιτιάδες μας, ποὺ γέννησαν τοὺς ἥρωες τοῦ '12, κάθονταν νύχτα στὸ ἀργαλεῖο καὶ ὕφαιναν, φοροῦσαν ἀπλὲς ὠραίες στολές, δὲν ζητοῦσαν μοδίστρες ἀπὸ τὸ Παρίσι καὶ κασμίρια ἀπὸ τὸ Λονδίνο. Ἐνα φόρεμα σεμνὸ καὶ καθαρὸ ἀνεδείκνυε τὴν Ἑλληνίδα σὲ μία ὑπέροχη γυναῖκα μέσα στὸν κόσμο, μὲ τὸ δικό της πολιτισμὸ. Τώρα εἰσέβαλε ἕνας ἀμερικανισμὸς, πολυτέλεια, διαφθορά, ἐκφυλισμὸς. Δὲν ράβει πιά τὰ ρουχαλάκια τῆς ἡ χωριάτισσα στὸ χωριό, κατεβαίνει στὴν πρωτεύουσα· καὶ ἡ κυρία τῆς πόλεως πάει στὴν Εὐρώπη νὰ ράψῃ ἄλλη τουαλέττα γιὰ τὸ πρωί, ἄλλη γιὰ τὸ βράδυ, ἄλλη γιὰ τὸ χορὸ καὶ τὴ δεξίωση. Ὁ κόσμος σήμερα μεριμνᾷ γιὰ νὰ στολίῃ τὴ γυναῖκα σὰν μία κούκλα γιὰ τὴ βιτρίνα.

Ἄνησυχία γιὰ τὸ ἔνδυμα, ἀνησυχία καὶ γιὰ τὴν **κόμμωση**. Δὲν τῆς φτάνει τῆς κυρίας τὸ σαποῦνι, λίγο νερὸ καὶ μιὰ χτένα γιὰ νὰ περιποιηθῇ τὰ μαλλιά της, ἀλλὰ τρέχει στὰ κομμωτήρια, καὶ γέμισε ὁ τόπος ἀπ' αὐτὰ, γιὰ ἄφρονες

γυναῖκες, ποὺ νομίζουν ὅτι ἀποκτοῦν ἀξία ἂν περιποιηθοῦν τὸν ἐξωτερικό τους κόσμο, ἐνῶ ὁ ἐσωτερικὸς εἶνε γεμάτος ἀράχνες.

Ὁ σύγχρονος ἄνθρωπος ἔχασε τὴν ἀπλότητα. Δὲν τὸν φτάνουν μερικὲς καρέκλες καὶ ἕνα τραπέζι εὐλογημένο, γύρω ἀπ' τὸ ὁποῖο κάθονται καὶ κάνουν τὸ σταυρὸ τους. Θέλει ἔπιπλα νέου ρυθμοῦ ἀπὸ τὴ Δανία καὶ τὴ Γαλλία. Δὲν τὸν φθάνει πλέον νὰ ἔχη ἕνα σπιτάκι νὰ μαζέψῃ τὰ παιδιά του· θέλει νὰ ἔχη **σπίτι** στὴν πόλι, σπίτι στὴν ἐξοχή, διαμερίσματα ἐδῶ κ' ἐκεῖ. Δὲν θέλει μιὰ ἀπλὴ ζωὴ, θέλει ὄλα τὰ κομφορ καὶ τίς πολυτέλειες.

Ὅταν ἦμουν στὸ στρατό, θυμάμαι ὅτι κάποιο παιδί τὴ νύχτα στὸ στρατόπεδο δὲν μπορούσε νὰ κοιμηθῇ. Τί εἶχε συμβῆ· κάποιοι συναδέλφοί του, γιὰ νὰ παίξουν, ἔβαλαν μέσα στὸ προσκέφαλό του καρφίτσες, πῆγε ὁ ταλαίπωρος νὰ ξαπλώσῃ, οἱ καρφίτσες τὸν ἀγκύλωναν καὶ τὸν μάτωναν· καὶ ὠργίστηκε, σηκώθηκε πάνω, καὶ ἔγινε ὀλόκληρο ἐπεισόδιο. Ὅπως λοιπὸν ὁ στρατιώτης ἐκεῖνος δὲν μπορούσε νὰ ἡσυχάσῃ, καὶ ὅπως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς μας ὑπέφερε ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ γιὰ τὸν κεντοῦσε τὸ ἀγκάθινο στεφάνι, ἔτσι νιώθει καὶ ὁ σημερινὸς ἄνθρωπος μέσα στὶς μέριμνες τῆς ἀποστατίδος γενεᾶς μας.

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Ἡ ἀγωνία, ἀδελφοί μου, αὐτὴ ἡ ἄκανθα ποὺ κεντᾷ τὶς καρδιὲς φτωχῶν καὶ πλουσιῶν, εἶνε ἡ **βαθύτερη αἰτία συχνῶν παθήσεων**, τῶν νεύρων καὶ τῆς καρδιάς ὅπως λένε οἱ ψυχολόγοι -ἐγὼ προσθέτω καὶ τοῦ καρκίνου-, εἶνε πικρὸ φάρμακι. Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ ἀπλοῖκοι ἐκεῖνοι ἄνθρωποι ποὺ δὲν ἤξεραν οὔτε καρκίνο οὔτε καρδιά οὔτε νεῦρα, γιατί ζοῦσαν κοντὰ στὸ Θεὸ καὶ μέσα στὴ φύσι! Καὶ τὸ **φάρμακο** ποῖο εἶνε;

Θὰ τὸ προσφέρω, μὰ θὰ τὸ πάρετε; Τὸ φάρμακο εἶνε ἡ **πίστις!** Ἡ πίστι σ' αὐτὸ ποὺ βεβαιώνει ὁ Κύριος: «*Οὐ μὴ σε ἀνῶ, οὔτε μή σε ἐγκαταλίπω*», δὲν θὰ σ' ἐγκαταλείψω (β' Κορ. 1,38). Ἡ πίστι στὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ «*Ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ θλίψιν ἔξετε· ἀλλὰ θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ νενίκηκα τὸν κόσμον*» καὶ «*Μὴ ταρασσέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία μηδὲ δειλιάτω*» (β' Κορ. 1,6,23-14,7,1). Καὶ ἂν ἀκόμα βλέπησ τὰ ἄστρα νὰ πέφτουν καὶ τὴ γῆ νὰ σειεται καὶ τὰ βουνὰ νὰ λειώνουν καὶ τὰ ποτάμια νὰ ξεραίνωνται, ἐσὺ μὴ φοβηθῆς. «*Ἐὰν γὰρ καὶ πορευθῆς ἐν μέσῳ σκιᾶς θανάτου*» μὴ φοβηθῆς, ἐγὼ εἰμι μετὰ σοῦ (β' Κορ. 2,4). Ἡ πίστι, νὰ τὸ φάρμακο τῆς ἀγωνίας, τῆς ἀνησυχίας καὶ τοῦ φόβου.

Ὁ δὲ Κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἄς φυτεύσῃ στὶς καρδιὲς μας τὴν πίστι διὰ πρεσβειῶν καὶ εὐχῶν πάντων τῶν ἁγίων· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος**

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 2017 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 Sower and the Seed*

Dearly beloved, the reading from the holy gospel about the sower requires no explanation, but only a word of warning. In fact, the explanation has been given by Truth Himself, and it cannot be disputed by a frail human being. However, there is one point in our Lord's exposition which you ought to weigh well. It is this. If I told you that the seed represented the word, the field the world, the birds the demons, and the thorns riches, you would perhaps be in two minds as to whether to believe me. Therefore, the Lord himself deigned to explain what He had said.

Store up in your minds the Lord's words which you receive through your ears, for the word of the Lord is the nourishment of the mind. When His word is heard but not stored away in the memory, it is like food which has been eaten and then rejected by an upset sto-

ach. A person's life is in danger if he cannot retain his food; so if you receive the food of holy exhortations, but fail to store in your memory those words of life which nurture righteousness, you have good reason to fear the danger of everlasting death. Be careful, then, that the word you have received through your ears remains in your heart.

Remember these words: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." All who were there listening to Christ had ears of the body. But He who said to those same people: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear," was referring, beyond doubt, to the ears of the heart. See then that the discourse which you hear takes root in your heart.

*St. Gregory the Great*

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