

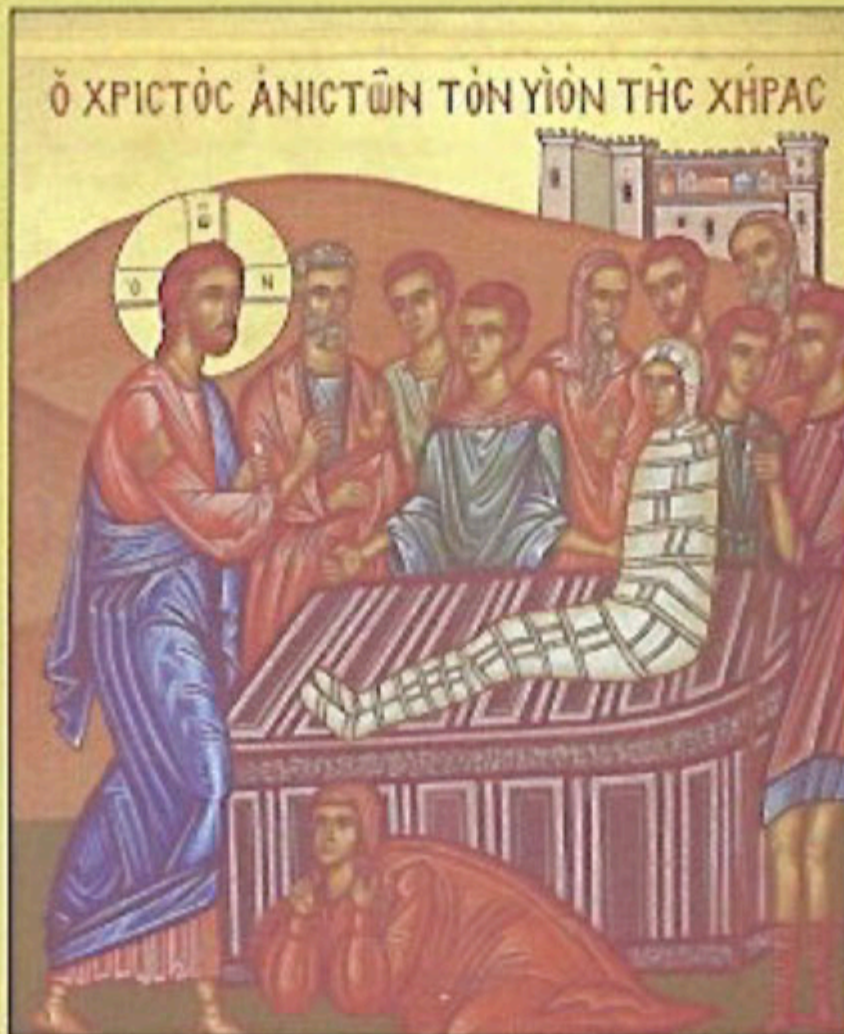


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 8th, 2017
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Raising of the Son of the Widow of Naim

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.

Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 9:6-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ σπείρων φειδομένως, φειδομένως καὶ θερίσει· καὶ ὁ σπείρων ἐπ' ἐυλογίαις, ἐπ' ἐυλογίαις καὶ θερίσει. Ἐκαστος καθὼς προαιρεῖται τῇ καρδίᾳ· μὴ ἐκ λύπης ἢ ἐξ ἀνάγκης· ἰλαρὸν γὰρ δότην ἀγαπᾷ ὁ θεός. Δυνατὸς δὲ ὁ θεὸς πᾶσαν χάριν περισσεῦσαι εἰς ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἐν παντὶ πάντοτε πᾶσαν ἀντάρκειαν ἔχοντες περισσεύητε εἰς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν· καθὼς γέγραπται, Ἐσκόρπισεν, ἔδωκεν τοῖς πένησιν· ἡ δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. Ὁ δὲ ἐπιχορηγῶν σπέρμα τῷ σπείροντι, καὶ ἄρτον εἰς βρῶσιν χορηγήσει, καὶ πληθύνει τὸν σπόρον ὑμῶν, καὶ αὐξήσει τὰ γενήματα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ὑμῶν· ἐν παντὶ πλουτιζόμενοι εἰς πᾶσαν ἀπλότητα, ἥτις κατεργάζεται δι' ἡμῶν εὐχαριστίαν τῷ θεῷ.

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!"

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 7:11-16 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐπορεύετο εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναὶν· καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς. ὡς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πόλει τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκὼς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἤψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ὁ λόγος οὗτος ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ περιχώρῳ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK: Sunday October 08th Feast of Saints Ignatius and Pelagia 10:30 A.M.
Sunday October 15th Feast of Saints Lucian and Savino 10:30 A.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted today in WhiteHall by the Senior Club through an anonymous donation of thanksgiving to God. Open to all . Join us

SENIOR CLUB: On Wednesday, October 11th, starting at 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. will host their annual PIZZA PARTY in honor of Columbus Day observances – Italian music. wine, Italian cookies and sweets for those who dance the “TARANTELLA” barefoot! Members of the club are encouraged to join in the fun. BINGO and coffee too!

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESN DISTRICT: CLERGY (80 PRIESTS) are to attend the semi annual ‘convocation of hierarchs and clergy at Saint Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, Long Island on Thursday, October 12th commencing from 9:00 A.M. through dinner. Fr. Eugene will be in attendance as President of the Metropolitan Syndesmos FELLOWSHIP. Important directives regarding the Archdiocese programing are to be deliberated. Father Eugene will be in Office on Friday morning.

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! 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

CONGRATULATIONS as wedding bells rang loud and clear for the PARISH COUNCIL Vice President Gus Vellios who was united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony to the lovely Miss Angela Kiladitis on Saturday, September 30th, at 4:00 P.M. at THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH! Gus is a favorite son of the parish from his childhood. The koumbaro (best man) is also a favored son of Three Hierarchs – ANTHONY BRINN. It’s a household event. The groom is part of the VELLIOS – AVENUE “ J ” FLORIST Dynasty.

GREEK FILM FESTIVAL: will host the 11th, Annual NEW YORK CITY Review of 2017. Award Winning Films from Europe starting Thursday September 28th, through October 15th, at the prime cinemas of New York Metropolitan area. Details will be cited with an insert for the bulletin.

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

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 19TH 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)

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 NEXT WEEK: + SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS



The Three Hierarchs PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY (Ladies auxiliary) hosted a sumptuous dinner party at the THREE STAR RESTAURANT opening their new administration of officers! Eleutheria Xenakis – President, Mary Plessias and Alexandra Diolis – Vice Presidents, Joanna Vassilas and Evanthea Karounos – Secretaries, and Connie Pittas and Eleutheria Theologis – Treasurers. Best Wishes are extended to ALL the ladies for their philanthropic outreach beyond the walls of our parish and community.

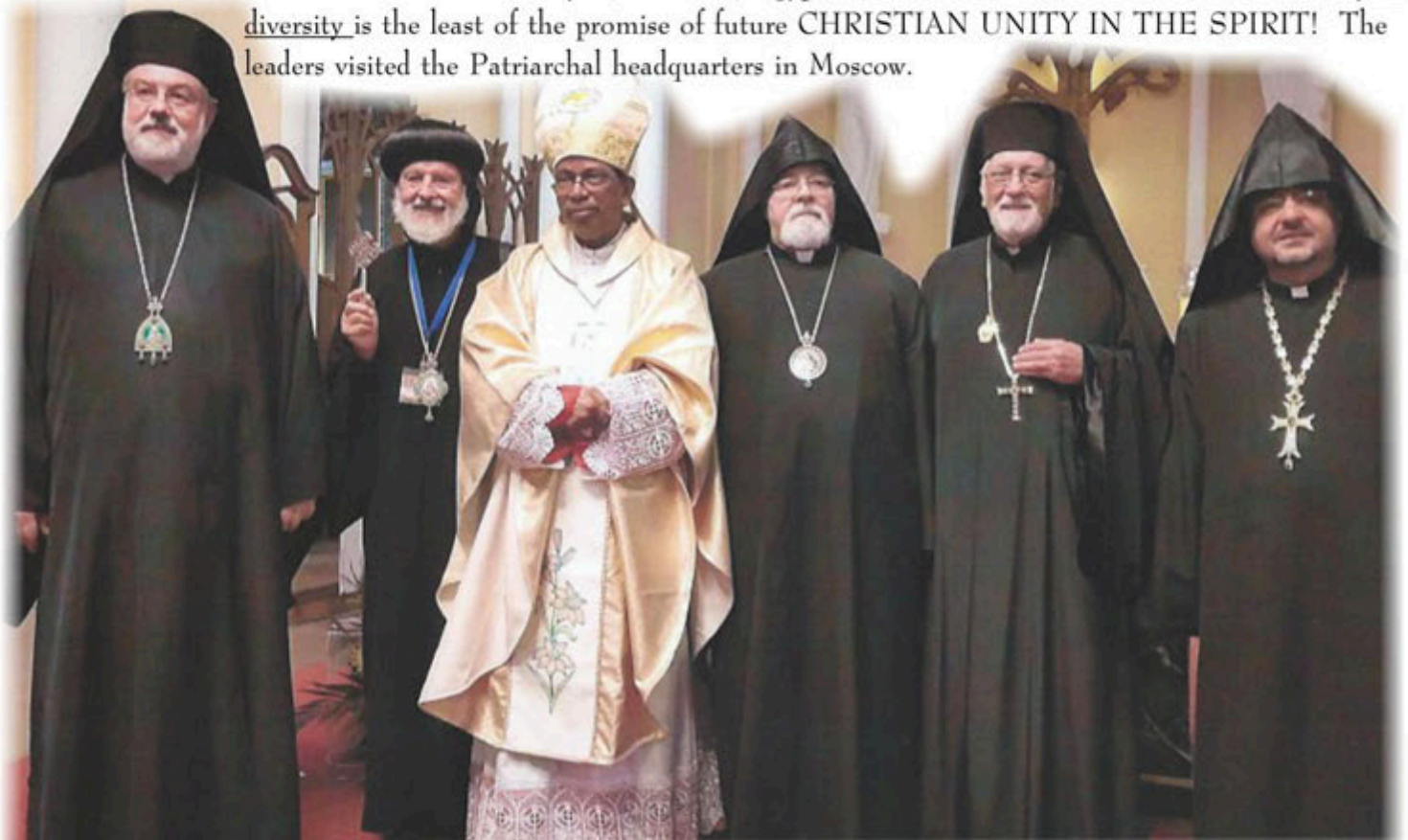


The miraculous ICON of OUR LADY of KAZAN (the most precious image in Orthodox Russia) was carried in a Soviet airplane during the Nazi invasion of Russia around the City of Moscow by order of Joseph Stalin (Soviet Dictator). Flying three times around the perimeter walls of the capital city as an effort to SAVE the city and the people.

IT WORKED!
Yes! It was a
total
phenomenon of
spiritual
gravity!



Father Eugene is among ecumenical leaders in Moscow, Russia during his recent voyage. Here are hierarchs from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Armenia and the Vatican. Christian unity in diversity is the least of the promise of future CHRISTIAN UNITY IN THE SPIRIT! The leaders visited the Patriarchal headquarters in Moscow.





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1457²	Κυριακὴ Γ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 7,11-16) 8 Ὀκτωβρίου 2017 (2008)	Συντάκτης † ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης
---	---	---

Γύρω ἀπὸ τὴν χηρεία

«Υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῆ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα» (Λουκ. 7,12)

ΤΑ βιβλία τοῦ κόσμου, ἀγαπητοί μου, οἱ ἱστορίες, μιλάνε γιὰ μεγάλα πρόσωπα καὶ κατορθώματα. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο μιλάει γιὰ ταπεινούς ἀνθρώπους τῆς ἀρετῆς. Ἀπόδειξις ἡ σημερινὴ περικοπὴ. Μιλάει γιὰ μιὰ ἡρωίδα. Παντρεύτηκε νέα, ἀλλὰ σύντομα ὁ ἀντρας τῆς πέθανε. Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο μὲ μιὰ λέξι περιγράφει τὴν τραγῳδίᾳ τῆς «καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα», λέει (Λουκ. 7,12).

Ἡ χήρα αὕτη εἶχε ἓνα ἀγόρι μονάκριβο· ἦταν ἡ παρηγοριὰ κ' ἐλπίδα τῆς. Ἀλλὰ τὸ παιδί ἀρρώστησε. Αὕτη ἔκανε τὸ πᾶν· ξενύχτησε, ἔτρεξε, προσευχήθηκε. Μὰ οἱ βουλὲς τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀνεξιχνίαστες· ὁ χάρος ἦρθε καὶ τὸ πῆρε. Ἔνα ἀστροπελέκι ἔπεσε καὶ πῆρε τὸν ἀντρα τῆς, δεύτερο τώρα πέφτει καὶ παίρνει τὸ παιδί τῆς. Κλαίνει μαζί τῆς ὅλοι καθὼς τὴ συνοδεύουν.

Θεέ μου, θὰ σκεφθῆτε, δὲν εἶνε ἄδικο αὐτό;... Μὴν τὸ πῆτε. Ξαφνικὰ τὰ δάκρυα σταματοῦν, ὁ θρῆνος γυρίζει σὲ χαρὰ. **Τὸ παιδί ἀναστήθηκε!** Τί; Παράξενο φαίνεται. Δυσπιστοῦμε, εἴμαστε ἄπιστοι σήμερα. Φτάσαμε στὰ χρόνια ποὺ προέβλεψε ὁ Χριστός (βλ. Λουκ. 18,8). Τότε ὁμως ὅλοι εἶδαν τὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ παιδιοῦ.

Ἄπιστε, θέλεις ἀπόδειξι τῆς ἀναστάσεως; Οἱ γεωργοὶ τώρα μὲ τὰ πρωτοβρόχια σπέρνουν τὴ γῆ. Τί εἶνε κάθε αὐλάκι; Ἔνας τάφος. Μέσα σ' αὐτὸν θάβεται ὄχι ἓνα κορμί ἀλλ' ὁ σπόρος. Αὐτὸς σαπίζει, ὅπως τὸ σῶμα στὸν τάφο, κι ἀπὸ τὸ σάπιο σπόρο βγαίνει νέα ζωὴ. Δὲν εἶνε αὐτὸ εἰκόνα τῆς ἀναστάσεως; Ἀπορῶ πῶς ὑπάρχουν ἄπιστοι. Αὐτὸς ποὺ ἔκανε τὸ σπόρο ἀφοῦ σαπίση νὰ βγαίη σὲ νέα ζωὴ, ὁ ἴδιος εἶπε στὸ παιδί «Σήκω ἐπάνω», καὶ σηκώθηκε· ὁ ἴδιος εἶπε στὸ Λάζαρο «Δεῦρο ἔξω» (βλ. 11,41)· ὁ ἴδιος στὸ τέλος θὰ κἀνη καὶ τὴν **κοινὴ ἀνάστασι.**

Μποροῦμε νὰ ποῦμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ τὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ παιδιοῦ **ἐπιβράβευσε τὴν ἀρετὴ** τῆς μητέρας. Ποιά ἀρετὴ;

Ὅταν πέθανε ὁ ἀντρας τῆς, αὕτη δὲν σκέ-

φτηκε τὸ εὐκολο. Οἱ περισσότερες σήμερα, μόλις πεθάνη ὁ ἀντρας τῆς κ' ἐνῶ δὲν ἔχει λειώσει ἀκόμα τὸ κορμί μέσα στὸν τάφο, ζητοῦν **νέο γαμπρό.** Ἔτσι ἔκανε αὕτη;

Θὰ πῆτε· Ὅποια ἦ ὁποῖος χηρεῖση σὲ νεαρὰ ἡλικία εἶνε ἀμαρτία νὰ ξαναπαντρευτῆ; Ὅχι, δὲν ἀπαγορεύεται. Ἐπιτρέπεται δεύτερος γάμος, καὶ σὲ σπάνιες περιπτώσεις τρίτος. Πέρα τούτου ὁμως ὄχι. Μόνο οἱ φράγκοι ἐπιτρέπουν τέταρτο γάμο· καὶ ὠρισμένοι, γιὰ νὰ παντρευτοῦν, ἀλλάζουν καὶ πίστι καὶ πᾶνε σ' αὐτοῦς. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας αὐτὸ δὲν τὸ ἐπιτρέπει.

Δὲ λέμε λοιπὸν ὅτι ἀπαγορεύεται ἄλλος γάμος. Τί λέμε· ὅτι **γάμος - διαμάντι εἶνε ὁ πρῶτος.** Αὐτὸς εἶνε εὐλογημένος. Φαίνεται κι ἀπὸ τὸ κείμενο τῆς ἀκολουθίας· διαφέρουν τὰ λόγια ποὺ λέει ἡ Ἐκκλησία στὸν πρῶτο γάμο ἀπὸ τοὺς ἄλλους. Τὸν πρῶτο τὸν εὐλογεῖ, τὸ δεύτερο τὸν παραχωρεῖ, τὸν τρίτο τὸν ἐπιτιμᾷ. Ὁ πρῶτος λοιπὸν γάμος εἶνε ὁ εὐλογημένος.

Ἄν πάρουμε τὰ δικαιολογητικά, ποὺ προσκομίζουσι οἱ μελλοντομφοὶ γιὰ τὴν ἄδεια γάμου, βλέπουμε νὰ γράφουν, ὅτι ὁ ἀντρας καὶ ἡ γυναῖκα «ἔρχονται σὲ πρῶτο γάμο». Σήμερα ὁμως, πολὺ συχνά, αὐτὸ εἶνε ἓνα ψέμα. Πρὸ ἑκατὸ ἐτῶν ἢ βεβαίως αὕτη ἦταν ἀληθινή· ὁ ἀντρας μιὰ γυναῖκα γνώριζε στὸν κόσμον, καὶ τὴν ἀγαποῦσε. Τώρα; «Ἐρχεται», λέει, «σὲ πρῶτο γάμο». Ἐννοεῖ μὲ στεφάνια· **χωρὶς στεφάνια** ὁμως πόσοι «γάμοι» ἔχουν προηγηθῆ;...

Κάποτε ἦρθε στὴ μητρόπολι κάποιος γιὰ νὰ πάρη ἄδεια γάμου. Τὸν ἤξερα, κ' ἐπειδὴ δὲν ἤθελα νὰ τὸν ντροπιάσω τὸν πῆρα ἰδιαιτέρως. —Θέλω νὰ μοῦ πῆς εἰλικρινῶς· —Παντρεύεσαι πρώτη φορά; —Ναί, βέβαια. —Ἐννοεῖς πρώτη φορά μὲ στεφάνια. Δὲ μοῦ λές, πόσες γυναῖκες πᾶνω - κάτω ἔχεις παντρευτῆ μέχρι τώρα μὲ τὸ **γαῖδουρινὸ «γάμο»;**... Ζορίστηκε, κοκκίνισε, τέλος λέει· —Ξέρω κ' ἐγώ; 15, 20, 30... — Μπράβο, λέω· καὶ μοῦ ἔρχεσαι τώρα νὰ σὲ

στεφανώσω; Ἡ Ἐκκλησία στεφανώνει ἐκεῖνον πού εἶνε καθαρὸς καὶ γνωρίζει πρώτη φορά τὴ γυναῖκα, καὶ τὴ λαχταράει μετὰ μέχρι τὸ θάνατο. Ὅταν ἓνας ἔχη μπουχτίσει τίς γυναῖκες, πῶς ν' ἀγαπήσῃ; Γι' αὐτὸ ἔχουμε τόσα διαζύγια.

Ὅταν λοιπὸν λέμε γάμο, ἐννοοῦμε τὸν πρῶτο, τὸν πραγματικὸ, ὄχι τὸν ἄλλο τὸν ψεύτικο. **Μὰ ἔχει σημασία;** θὰ πῆς. Μεγάλῃ σημασία, ἀγαπητέ μου. Ὑπόθεσε ὅτι ἔχουμε δύο ποτάμια, κοντὰ τὸ ἓνα στὸ ἄλλο. Τὸ ἓνα ἔχει νερὸ κρύσταλλο, πίνεις καὶ ὁροσιζεσαι. Στὸ ἄλλο ρίχνουν τίς ἀκαθαρσίες καὶ τὰ λύματα. Σὲ ρωτῶ· εἶνε καλὸ τὰ δύο ποτάμια νὰ τὰ σμίξουμε; Ὅχι βέβαια· διότι τότε τὸ καθαρὸ νερὸ θὰ χαθῆ. Καὶ στὸ γάμο, ἂν ἡ κόρη εἶνε καθαρὴ καὶ τὴν πάρῃ ἓνας ἀκάθαρτος, τὴ λέρωσε κι αὐτήν.

Γονεῖς πού ἔχετε κορίτσια, προσέξτε πολύ. Νὰ ἐξετάσετε τὸ παρελθὸν τοῦ γαμπροῦ· κι ἂν μάθετε ὅτι εἶχε σχέση μετὰ ἄλλες γυναῖκες, μὴν τοῦ δώσετε τὸ κορίτσι σας, διότι θὰ γίνῃ δυστυχημένον· ἃς εἶνε πλούσιος, ἐπιστήμονας, γιατρός, δικηγόρος, ὅ,τι καὶ νὰ 'νε. Σ' εἶνα χωριὸ τῶν Πρεσπῶν ἦταν ἓνα καλὸ κορίτσι. Ἀγάπησε ἓνα τσοπάνο, καὶ τὴν ἀγάπησε κι αὐτός. Καθαροὶ καὶ οἱ δύο, μετὰ ἀγνὸ ἔρωτα. Ἀλλὰ νὰ καὶ φτάνει ἀεροπορικῶς ἀπ' τὸ Σικάγο ἓνας Ἀμερικάνος. Ντυμένος ἄψογα, μετὰ γραβάτα κ.τ.λ., ἦρθε μετὰ αὐτοκίνητο. Θάμπωσε τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴ μάνα, καὶ τί κάνουν· διώχνουν τὸν τσοπάνο καὶ παίρνουν τὸν Ἀμερικάνο. Τὸ χωριὸ καλοτύχιζε· Μπράβο ἢ Μαρία πήρε πλούσιο, θὰ ζήσῃ καλά. Τί, τὸν τσοπάνο τώρα;... Ἔτσι ὁ τσοπάνος περιφρονήθηκε. Στὸν πατέρα ἐγὼ εἶπα ἰδιαιτέρως· –Κοίταξε καλά, ὁ Ἀμερικάνος δὲ μοῦ φαίνεται καλός. – Ὅχι, δεσπότη, τί εἶν' αὐτὰ πού λές; εἶνε εὐγενικὸ παιδί, μιλάει καλά, ξέρει ἀγγλικά· ἔπειτα, μετὰ τὰ λεφτὰ πού ἔχει, θὰ ζήσῃ ἢ κόρη μας καλά... Ἀφοῦ πέρασαν ἓνα - δυὸ μῆνες, φτάνει τηλεγράφημα ἀπ' τὸ Σικάγο· «Πατέρα, ἔλα νὰ με πάρῃς, κινδυνεύω...». Ὅπως ἐξακριβώθηκε, ὁ κύριος αὐτός εἶχε ζήσει «βίον καὶ πολιτείαν» μετὰ γυναῖκες Ἀμερικάνες καὶ Πορτογαλέζες. Πῶς αὐτὸς νὰ κάνῃ οἰκογένεια;

Γι' αὐτὸ κ' ἐμεῖς οἱ κληρικοί, γιὰ νὰ λέμε ἀλήθεια καὶ νὰ μὴ γινώμαστε **θεομπαῖχτες** καὶ λέμε ψέματα μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, δὲν πρέπει νὰ δίνουμε ἄδεια γάμου χωρὶς ἔρευνα. Ὁ πρῶτος γάμος εἶνε χρυσάφι, οἱ ἄλλοι εἶνε ψεύτικα νομίσματα.

Καὶ γιὰ νὰ εἴμαστε δίκαιοι, αὐτὰ πού εἶπαμε γιὰ τὸν ἄντρα, **ισχύουν καὶ γιὰ τὴ γυναῖκα.** Κ' ἐσὺ ὁ νέος πού πρόκειται νὰ παντρευτῆς, πρόσεξε καλά. Ἄν αὐτὴ ἢ κοπέλλα γυρίζῃ δε-

ξιὰ κι ἀριστερὰ μετὰ τ' αὐτοκίνητα κ' ἔχη σχέση μετὰ ἄλλους ἄντρες, ἂν βάφεται κ' ἐπιδεικνύεται, μὴ τὴν πάρῃς· θὰ κλάψῃς πικρά.

Αὐτὰ εἶνε μερικὲς σκέψεις ἐπάνω στὸ ῥητὸ «*καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα*».

* * *

Ἡ γυναῖκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου δὲν γνώρισε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἄλλον ἄντρα. Ἔμεινε **πιστὴ στὴ μνήμη τοῦ συζύγου** της. Πέθανε ἐκεῖνος; δὲν ἀποφάσισε νὰ πάρῃ ἄλλον.

–Τί εἶν' αὐτὰ πού μὰς λὲς τώρα; θὰ πῆτε. Ἄν δὲν θέλετε ν' ἀκούσετε ἐμένα, τότε πηγαίνετε στὸ δάσος νὰ σὰς διδάξῃ ἓνα πουλί – δὲν τὸ λέω ἐγὼ, τὸ λέει ὁ Μέγας Βασιλεῖος. Ποιὸ πουλί; **Τὸ τρυγόνι.** Εἶνε πιστὸ στὸ ταίρι του. Σκότωσε ὁ κυνηγὸς τὸ ἀρσενικό; τὸ θηλυκὸ δὲ ζευγαρώνει μετὰ ἄλλο· σκοτώθηκε τὸ θηλυκὸ; τὸ ἀρσενικό δὲν πάει μετὰ ἄλλο· μόνο ἀλλάζει πλέον φωνὴ καὶ τραγουδάει λυπητερὰ ὅσο ζήσῃ. Κ' ἐσένα, πέθανε ἢ γυναῖκα σου; μὴ ζητῆς ἄλλη γυναῖκα· ἢ πέθανε ὁ ἄντρας σου; μὴ ζητῆς ἄλλον ἄντρα.

Ἡ χήρα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου θὰ σκέφτηκε γιὰ τὸ μονάκριβο παιδί της· Ἄν πάρω ἄλλον ἄντρα, πῶς θὰ τὸν δῆ τὸ παιδί μου;... Δυστυχημένα τὰ παιδιά πού μπῆκε στὸ σπίτι **πατριός!** Μέσα στοὺς ἑκατὸ πατριούς ἓναν θὰ βρῆς ν' ἀγαπῆ τὰ παιδιά τῆς γυναῖκας του ὅπως τὰ δικά του. Καὶ δυστυχημένα τὰ παιδιά πού ἔχουν **μητριὰ**· μέσα στίς χίλιες, μητριές μία θὰ βρῆς ν' ἀγαπήσῃ τὰ παιδιά τοῦ ἀντρός της ὅπως τὰ δικά της – ἢ μάνα δὲν ἀντικαθίσταται. Βιβλίον ὀλόκληρον θὰ μπορούσε νὰ γραφῆ γιὰ τὰ βάσανα πού περνοῦν παιδιά σὲ χέρια μητριῶν. Γι' αὐτὸ μυαλωμένους ἄντρας μετὰ παιδιά δὲν παίρνει ἄλλη γυναῖκα, καὶ μυαλωμένη γυναῖκα μετὰ παιδιά δὲν παίρνει ἄλλον ἄντρα.

Ἔτσι σκέφτηκε ἢ χήρα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ γιὰ τὴν ἀρετὴ καὶ τίς θυσίες της ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνέστησε τὸ παιδί της.

«**Προσδοκῶ ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν**», λέμε στὸ ἐνδέκατο ἄρθρον τοῦ «**Πιστεύω**» περιμένω ν' ἀναστηθῶ. Αὕτη εἶνε ἢ πίστι μας. Ὁ ὕπνος εἶνε ἓνας μικρὸς θάνατος καὶ ὁ θάνατος ἓνας μεγάλος ὕπνος, ὅπως εἶπε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός. Γι' αὐτὸ μὴν κλαίμε τοὺς νεκρούς. Κοιμῶνται. Μιὰ μέρα θὰ ξυπνήσουν, κ' ἐκεῖ στοὺς οὐρανοὺς, μαζί με τοὺς ἁγίους καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους, θὰ εἴμαστε ὅλοι μία οἰκογένεια, ἓνας λαός, μία βασιλεία, ἓνας παράδεισος, στὸν ὁποῖο θὰ δοξάζουμε Πατέρα, Υἱὸν καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

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

A Peaceful Ending of Our Lives

Surely the secret of true life is to accept each state as it comes. To die the death and to live the new life, not to cling to the past but to live with total integrity in the present. Now in all these cases out of dying there comes resurrection. Not loss but enrichment, not decay but growth. Something dies means something comes alive. May not the death that comes right at the end of our life, fit into that pattern? May not our bodily death be the final stage in our growth? The last and greatest in the long series of deaths and resurrections, that we have been experiencing ever since the day we were born. If the small deaths each lead beyond death to resurrection, may this not be true of the great death that awaits us when we finally leave this world? May

this not be the greatest passover? Then we should enlarge our vision, we should look beyond our own life stories to the Christ story. We should relate the death and resurrection pattern within our own life to the death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. Our story makes sense in the light of His story. Our small deaths and resurrections are joined across history through His definitive death and resurrection. What do we hear at Paschal midnight? "Let none fear death, for the death of the Savior has set us free. He has destroyed death by undergoing death. Christ is risen and death reigns in fear. Christ is risen and there is none dead in the tomb."

Visit www.ecpubs.com for more publications.

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org