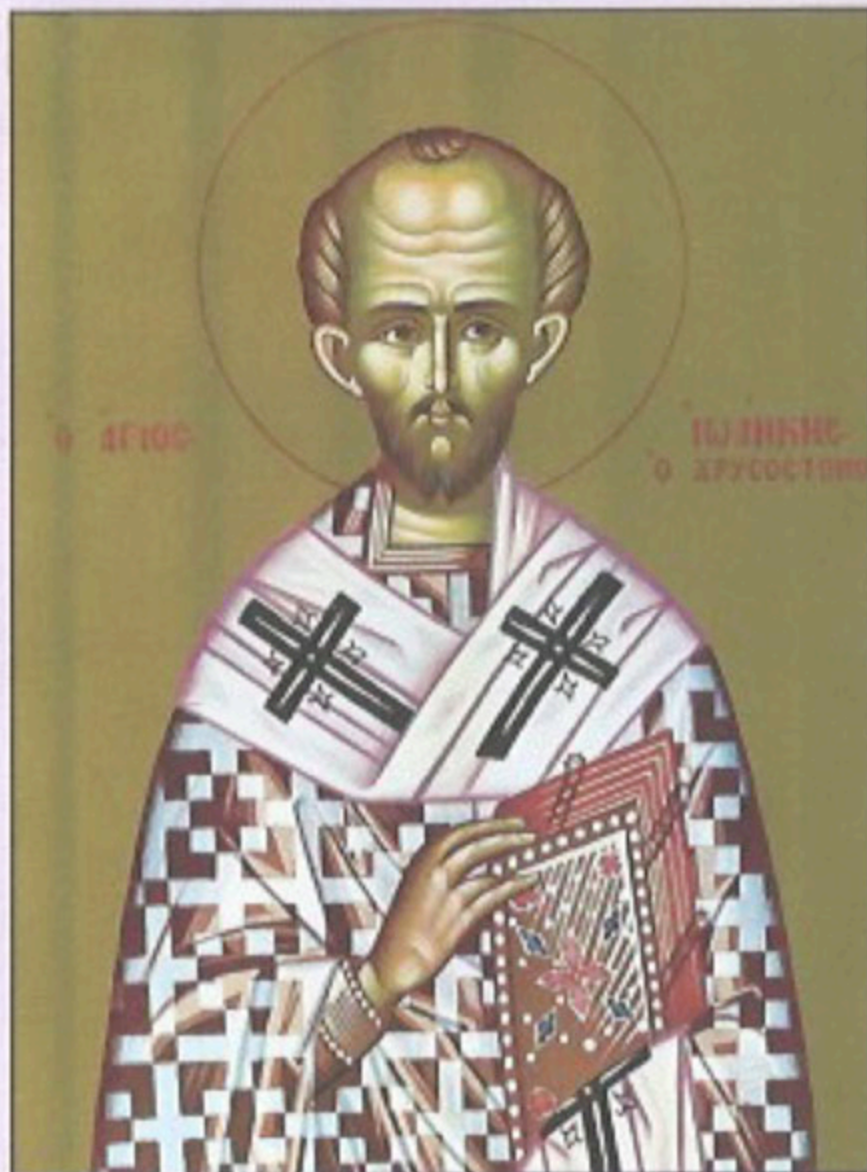




THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN November 12th 2017
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint John Chrysostom -- November 13th

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

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 115.15,12 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me?

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. Ήχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 115.15,12

Τίμιος ἐναντίον Κυρίου ὁ θάνατος τῶν ὁσίων αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Τί ἀνταποδώσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκεν ἡμῖν; Πρὸς Κορινθίους
β' 9:6-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ σπείρων φειδομένως, φειδομένως καὶ θερίσει· καὶ ὁ σπείρων ἐπ' εὐλογίαις, ἐπ' εὐλογίαις 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 αὐτάρκειαν 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 χορηγῆσαι, καὶ πληθύναι τὸν σπόρον ὑμῶν, καὶ αὐξήσαι τὰ γενήματα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ὑμῶν· ἐν παντὶ πλουτιζόμενοι εἰς πᾶσαν ἀπλότητα, ἥτις κατεργάζεται δι' ἡμῶν εὐχαριστίαν τῷ θεῷ.

8th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel According to Luke 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

8th Sunday of Luke

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 10:25-37 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νομικός τις ἀνέστη ἐκπειράζων αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· διδάσκαλε, τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· ἐν τῷ νόμῳ τί γέγραπται; πῶς ἀναγινώσκεις; ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν· ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδίας σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ἰσχύος σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς διανοίας σου, καὶ τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν· εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ· ὀρθῶς ἀπεκρίθης· τοῦτο ποιεῖ καὶ ζήσῃ. ὁ δὲ θέλων δικαιοῦν ἑαυτὸν εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν· καὶ τίς ἐστὶ μου πλησίον; ὑπολαβὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπός τις κατέβαινεν ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ εἰς Ἱεριχώ, καὶ λησταῖς περιέπεσεν· οἱ καὶ ἐκδύσαντες αὐτὸν καὶ πληγὰς ἐπιθέντες ἀπῆλθον ἀφέντες ἡμιθανῆ τυγχάνοντα. κατὰ συγκυρίαν δὲ ἱερεὺς τις κατέβαινεν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ ἐκείνῃ, καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν ἀντιπαρήλθεν. ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Λευίτης γενόμενος κατὰ τὸν τόπον, ἐλθὼν καὶ ἰδὼν ἀντιπαρήλθε. Σαμαρεῖτης δὲ τις ὁδεύων ἦλθε κατ' αὐτόν, καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, καὶ προσελθὼν κατέδησε τὰ τραύματα αὐτοῦ ἐπιχέων ἔλαιον καὶ οἶνον, ἐπιβιβάσας δὲ αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τὸ ἴδιον κτῆνος ἤγαγεν αὐτὸν εἰς πανδοχεῖον καὶ ἐπεμελήθη αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν αὔριον ἐξελθὼν, ἐκβαλὼν δύο δηνάρια ἔδωκε τῷ πανδοχεῖ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιμελήθητι αὐτοῦ, καὶ ὅ τι ἂν προσδαπανήσῃς, ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ἐπανέρχεσθαί με ἀποδώσω σοι. τίς οὖν τούτων τῶν τριῶν πλησίον δοκεῖ σοι γεγονέναι τοῦ ἐμπεσόντος εἰς τοὺς ληστές; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὁ ποιήσας τὸ ἔλεος μετ' αὐτοῦ. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· πορεύου καὶ σὺ ποιεῖ ὁμοίως.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday	November 12th,	VETERANS' DAY OBSERVANCE	11:45 A.M.
Sunday	November 12th,	Liturgy of Saint Nilus	10:30 A.M.
Monday	November 13th,	VENERATION of the Icon of Saint John CHRYSOSTOMOS	
Wednesday	November 15th,	CHRISTMAS LENT (ADVENT) COMMENCES (forty days)	
Wednesday	November 15th,	Prayer and Healing Service	6:30 P.M.
Thursday	November 16th,	VENERATION of the Icon of Saint Evangelist MATTHEW	
Sunday	November 19th,	Liturgy of the Prophet Obadiah	10:30 A.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: today is being hosted by the Parish CUB SCOUT TROOP and served by the parents. Please Join us in WHITEHALL.

TODAY G.A.V.A. TRIBUTE: in honor of **VETERANS DAY** our parish will commemorate all veterans here and everywhere with an inspiring memorial service including the color Guard of the Golden Greeks Troop #531 of the Boy Scouts of America.

TODAY PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY: at 1:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. REGISTERED stewards OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO ATTEND, SPEAK AND VOTE. **ARE YOU REGISTERED?**

TODAY: the KORKOFIGAS and RAPTIS FAMILIES honor Saint Nektarios with an artoklasia. As Patron Saint of all 'cancer' sufferers his holy day is observed on NOVEMBER 09th. All the faithful at that Liturgy were observed on NOVEMBER 09TH. All the faithful at that liturgy were anointed with 'myrrh from the icon in Chicago. The healing balm.

CHURCHING TODAY: We welcome into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church ' FRANKIE MAE ' (**FRANCESCA MARIA**) the second daughter of John and TARA – ELLEN (Duffy) Karalis. **NA S A S Z E S E!**

DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will host their ANNUAL LUNCHEON next Sunday. Please refer to the 'centerfold' for all particulars. All funding benefits philanthropy.

CONDOLENCES are extended to the Treasurer of the Parish Council, JULIA DEMAKAKOS with family and kin upon the passing of her father + FOTIOS LOUZAKOS. May his memory be eternal !

HAVE YOU LISTENED LATELY TO THE CHOIR? SOME FANTASTIC SOUNDS REVERBERATE IN THE RAFTERS BY OUR DEDICATED CHOIRISTERS. Thank you Maestra KATIE HAMBAS-organist and all who grace our services week after week. You all deserve an enormous 'B R A V O ! '

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.

JOURNAL? Please submit a journal advertisement in honor of a loved one , a baptism, a wedding, an anniversary, a memorial tribute, or just a greeting of THANKSGIVING TO GOD, for all his GRACE upon you and your loved ones. VISIT the church office after liturgy and fill out the AD FORM

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 TODAY:

+ MARY MARGARET AGGE
+ LEON and + PAULINE PAPPAS

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK:

+ ANNA SARRIS
+MICHAEL & + MARY BOUZAKIS

**PHILOTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY
SEMINARY LUNCHEON**

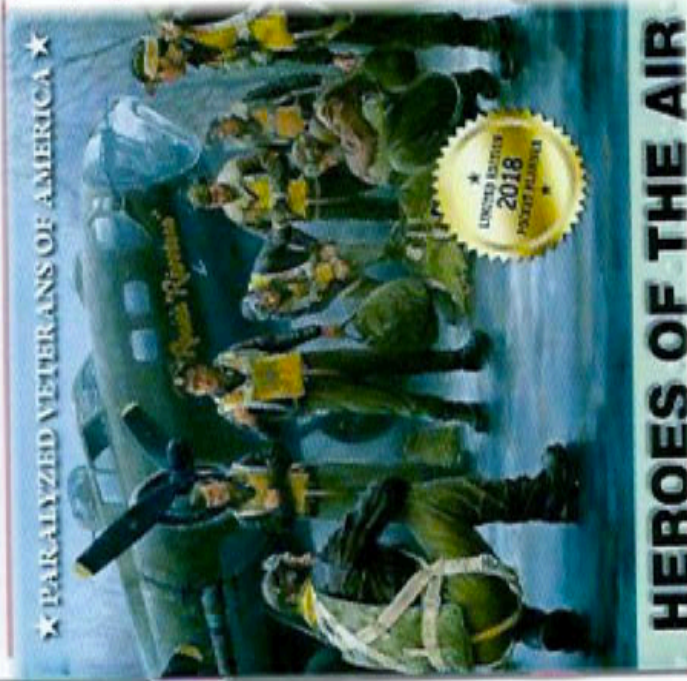
The annual event highlighting support to the Hellenic College Holy Cross Seminary in Boston was a major success last Sunday. Thanks to everyone in the congregation supporting the fund raiser, fellowship and delicious food was shared.



EXCURSION PLANNED: NOVEMBER 18th
as bus will depart from the church for SAINT
MICHAEL'S HOME FOR THE AGED at 11:30 A.M.
Reserved seats on the bus trip are 15 dollars each.
Please reserve your seat for a wonderful afternoon
trip by calling the President **ELEFTHERIA XENAKIS** AT
(718) 33E6-5127.
HOPE TO SEE YOU WITH US!



**THANK YOU,
VETERAN!**



★ PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA ★

HEROES OF THE AIR



Our beloved
PARISH
salutes all the members
here and everywhere
who are members of the

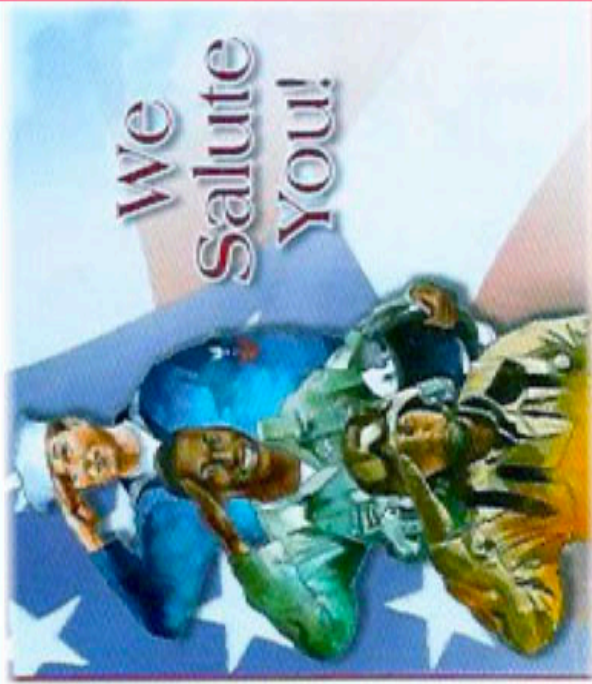
**G.A.V.A.
(‘GREEK AMERICAN
VETERANS’
ASSOCIATION).**

We are proud to house
and host the **POST #1**
of the national identity.

May our **LORD
JESUS CHRIST**
bless and preserve all
who have served in the
defense of our nation
and flag.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN
SINGING THE**

**HYMN:
‘GOD BLESS
AMERICA’.**



**We
Salute
You!**



**THANK YOU,
VETERAN!**



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γεννακία Τετρὴ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@yshoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2050

Κυριακὴ Η' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 10,25-37)
12 Νοεμβρίου 2017

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ εἰκόνα τῆς εὐσπλαχνίας

«*Καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν ἐσπλαγχνίσθη...*» (Λουκ. 10,33)

Καὶ πάλι, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὁ πανάγαθος Θεὸς μὲ ἀξίωσε νὰ φέρω τὰ βήματά μου ἐδῶ στὸ ναό. Καὶ ἐφ' ὅσον εἶμαι ὑποχρεωμένος νὰ μιλῶ, θὰ μοῦ ἐπιτρέψετε νὰ πῶ **λίγες λέξεις**.

Ἀκούσατε τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο· εἶνε ἡ ὡραιότατη **παραβολὴ τοῦ Καλοῦ Σαμαρείτου**, γνωστὴ σὲ ὄλους, ποὺ παρὰ τοὺς αἰῶνες ποὺ πέρασαν διατηρεῖ ὅλη τὴ δροσιά της· ἀπεικονίζει τὴ σύγχρονη πραγματικότητα.

Ὅποιος διαβάσει τὴν παραβολὴ αὐτὴ νομίζει ὅτι κάποιος ζωγράφος στάθηκε ἀπέναντι στὴ σημερινὴ κοινωνία καὶ μὲ τὰ χρώματά του ζωγράφησε **τρεῖς εἰκόνες**· τὴν εἰκόνα **τῆς δυστυχίας** στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ποὺ ἔπεσε στοὺς ληστές, τὴν εἰκόνα **τῆς ἀσπλαχνίας** στὰ πρόσωπα τοῦ λευίτου καὶ τοῦ ἱερέως, καὶ τρίτον τὴν **ὑπέροχη εἰκόνα τῆς εὐσπλαχνίας** στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ καλοῦ Σαμαρείτου.

Θὰ σᾶς παρακαλέσω νὰ ρίξουμε ἕνα βλέμμα στὴν τρίτη, στὴν **εἰκόνα τῆς εὐσπλαχνίας**.

Λέει, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ὅτι ὁ Σαμαρείτης «*ἰδὼν αὐτὸν ἐσπλαγχνίσθη*» (Λουκ. 10,33) ὅτι δηλαδή, ὅταν πέρασε ἀπὸ τὸ σημεῖο ποὺ ἦταν τραυματισμένος ὁ ἀγνωστος ἐκεῖνος ἀνθρώπος, **δὲν προσπέρασε**. Ὑπάρχουν μερικοὶ ποὺ λένε· Συμπονῶ τὸν ἄλλο, ἀλλὰ δὲν μπορῶ νὰ τὸν κοιτάξω στὸ χάλι ποὺ εἶνε, ὅταν π.χ. βγαίη ἀπὸ τὸ χειρουργεῖο ἢ ὅταν ξεψυχάη... Αὐτὸ εἶνε μία **ὑπερευαίσθησία**, ἢ ὁποῖα στὸ βάθος εἶνε ἐγωισμός.

Ὁ καλὸς Σαμαρεῖτης ἄκουσε τὸ βογγητὸ τοῦ τραυματία, πλησίασε κοντά, εἶδε τὰ αἵματα στὰ ρούχα καὶ τίς πληγὲς στὸ σῶμα του, καὶ **τὸν συμπόνεσε**. Ἄν ἦταν κανένας ὑπερευαίσθητος, ὅπως εἶνε μερικὲς κυρίες καὶ δεσποινίδες ἀλλὰ καὶ μερικοὶ κύριοι, ποὺ τρέχουν μὲν στὰ κέντρα διασκεδάσεως, ἀλλὰ δὲν πλησιάζουν ἐκεῖ ποὺ ὑπάρχει πόνος καὶ δυστυχία γιατί ἀποτροπιάζονται, ἀν ἔκλεινε κι αὐτὸς τὰ

μάτια του, ἀσφαλῶς δὲν θὰ τὸν σπλαχνιζόταν. Ἄρα λοιπὸν **θέα καὶ εὐσπλαχνία συνδέονται**· ἢ θέα τῆς δυστυχίας εἶνε τὸ κίνητρο, καὶ ἡ εὐσπλαχνία εἶνε τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα.

Δὲν λέω, ὑπάρχουν καὶ ψυχὲς διεστραμμένες, ποὺ ἀρέσκονται νὰ βλέπουν φρικιαστικὰ θεάματα, κι ὅσο τὰ βλέπουν τόσο εὐχαριστοῦνται· αὐτὸ λέγεται **σαδισμός**, τὸ νὰ χαίρεται κανεὶς βλέποντας τὸ κακό, τὴν δυστυχία, ἐγκλήματα, φόνους, αἵματα. Δὲν μιλάμε γι' αὐτοὺς.

Ἕνας φυσιολογικὸς ἀνθρώπος μέσα του ἔχει τὸ λεγόμενο **συμπαθητικὸ συναίσθημα**. Παράδειγμα. Περπατᾶς ἀδιάφορος κοντὰ σ' ἕνα ποτάμι βλέποντας ὅλα γύρω σου. Ἐὰν ξαφνικὰ πέση στὸ ποτάμι ἕνα μικρὸ παιδί, ταραξοῦσαι ὀλόκληρος. Ἄχ, λές, ἂν μπορούσα νὰ πέσω μέσα νὰ τὸ σώσω!... Εἶνε μέσα στὴ φύσι τοῦ ἀνθρώπου νὰ συμπασῶν μὲ τὸν ἄλλο, εἶνε **ἀνθρώπινο** νὰ συμπονεῖ, νὰ κλαίη μαζί του. Ἐνῶ τὸ ἄλλο, τὸ νὰ χαίρεται κάποιος μὲ τὴν εὐτυχία τοῦ ἄλλου, νὰ χαίρεται ὁ γείτονας ὅταν τὸ κορίτσι τοῦ διπλανοῦ του παντρευεῖται μ' ἕναν ἐκλεκτὸ νέο, νὰ χαίρεται γιατί τὸ παιδί τοῦ φίλου του πῆρε ἄριστα στὰ μαθήματα, νὰ χαίρεται γιατί ὁ συνάδελφος του προσδεύει στὸ ἐμπόριο ἢ στὴν ἐπιχείρησι ἢ στὴν ἐπιστήμη, αὐτὸ τὸ νὰ χαίρεσαι μαζί μ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ εὐτυχοῦν, εἶνε **ἀγγελικὸ**, εἶνε γνώρισμα τῶν ἀγγέλων. Τέλος, τὸ νὰ χαίρεται κανεὶς γιὰ τὸ κακὸ ποὺ ὑφίσταται ὁ ἄλλος, αὐτὸ πλέον εἶνε **δαιμονικὸ**· μόνο ὁ δαίμονας χαίρεται ὅταν βλέπῃ τὸν ἀνθρώπο νὰ ἁμαρτάνῃ, νὰ ταλαιπωρῆται καὶ νὰ ὀδυνᾶται.

Στὸν καλὸ Σαμαρεῖτη τὸ νὰ δῆ μὲ βλέμμα συμπαθείας τὸν τραυματισμένο γέννησε μέσα του τὴ διάθεσι νὰ τὸν βοηθήσῃ· καὶ στὸν κάθε φυσιολογικὸ ἀνθρώπο ἢ θέα ἐκεῖνου ποὺ δυστυχεῖ γίνεται ἔναυσμα καὶ κίνητρο νὰ τοῦ συμπασταθῇ. Θέλετε λοιπὸν κ' ἔσεῖς νὰ μιμηθῆτε τὸν καλὸ Σαμαρεῖτη, ν' ἀποκτήσετε κ' ἔ-

σείς άλλτρούιστικά αισθήματα; **Ἐπισκεφθῆτε** νοσοκομεῖα, ν' ἀκούσετε μέσα στους θαλάμους τὸ βογγητὸ τῶν ἀσθενῶν πού κοιτώνται στὸ κρεβάτι τοῦ πόνου· ἐπισκεφθῆτε ἄστυλα ἀνιάτων, νὰ δῆτε ἐκεῖ ἀνθρώπους πού ἰσοβίως ὑποφέρουν· ἐπισκεφθῆτε φυλακές, ὅπου συχνὰ ἀθῶοι φτωχοὶ κρατοῦνται στὰ κελλιὰ γιὰ μικροπταίσματα· ἐπισκεφθῆτε σπιτάκια καὶ καλύβες, νὰ δῆτε πῶς ζῆ μιὰ χήρα μὲ τὰ ὀρφανά της. Αὐτὴ ἢ ἐπίσκεψις εἶνε καλή, τὴν εὐλογεῖ ὁ Θεός, τὴν συνιστᾷ καὶ ἡ ἀγία Γραφή μὲ τὰ λόγια: *«Θρησκεία καθαρὰ καὶ ἀμίαντος παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ αὐτῆ ἐστίν, ἐπισκέπτεσθαι ὀρφανούς καὶ χήρας ἐν τῇ θλίψει αὐτῶν, ἄστυλον ἑαυτὸν τηρεῖν ἀπὸ τοῦ κόσμου»* [κ. 12]. Ἐὰν λοιπὸν κάποιος ἀπὸ μᾶς ἔχη σκληρὴ καρδιὰ καὶ θέλῃ ν' ἀποκτήσῃ συμπάθεια, δὲν ἔχει παρὰ νὰ πηγαίῃ τακτικὰ ἐκεῖ πού βασιλεύει ὁ πόνος· τέτοιες ἐπισκέψεις, πού πρέπει νὰ γίνωνται ἰδίως τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς Κυριακῆς, δημιουργοῦν μέσα στὴν ψυχὴ ἕνα κλίμα συμπαθείας.

Ἀλλὰ ὁ καλὸς Σαμαρεῖτης δὲν ἀρκέσθηκε μόνον στὴν θεὰ καὶ στὴ συμπάθεια· ἔκανε καὶ κάτι ἄλλο. Ἐρημος ἦταν ὁ τόπος, δὲν ὑπῆρχε ἐκεῖ φαρμακεῖο, ἰατρεῖο, γιατρός, νοσοκόμος. Ἐγίνε λοιπὸν αὐτὸς καὶ γιατρός καὶ νοσοκόμος. Λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ὅτι χρησιμοποίησε κρασί, γιὰ νὰ ἀπολυμάνῃ τὴς πληγές, καὶ λάδι, γιὰ νὰ καταπραῦνῃ τὸν πόνον. Ὁ τραυματίας θὰ εἶχε ἀσφαλῶς ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ ἐπιδέσμους, μὰ πού νὰ βρεθοῦν; Δὲν τὸ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ἀλλὰ ὑπονοεῖται, ὅτι ὁ Σαμαρεῖτης θὰ **ἔσχισε τὸ ποικάμισό του** γιὰ νὰ κἀνῃ ἐπιδέσμους. Ἐτοῖ ἐγινε καὶ σὲ πολέμους· εὐσπλαχνοὶ στρατιῶτες μας –γνώρισα πολλούς– ὄχι μόνον γιὰ Ἑλληνες τραυματίες ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ Ἰταλοῦς καὶ Γερμανοῦς ἔσχισαν ποικάμισα καὶ μαντῆλια τους καὶ ἔδεσαν μὲ συμπόνια τὸν τραυματία, γιὰ νὰ σταματήσουν τὸ αἷμα τοῦ πού ἔτρεχε.

Ὅταν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχη ἀγάπη, καὶ νοσοκόμος γίνεται καὶ γιατρός γίνεται, **τὰ πάντα γίνονται.** Λένε γιὰ κάποια μάνα πού βρέθηκε στὴν ἔρημο κ' ἐκεῖ ἐστεῖρευσε ὁ μαστός της καὶ δὲν εἶχε σταλαγματιὰ γάλα γιὰ τὸ παιδί της, ὅτι ἔκανε κάτι πού μόνον ἡ ἐπιστήμη τὸ γνωρίζει καὶ τὸ γάλα τὸ ἄσπρο, αἷμα εἶνε. Ἄνοιξε λοιπὸν τὴς φλέβες της καὶ πότισε τὸ παιδί μὲ τὸ αἷμα της, καὶ τὸ παιδί ἐζῆσε! Νὰ λοιπὸν ὅτι, ὅπου κι ἂν βρεθῇ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὅταν ἔχη ἀγάπη καὶ εὐσπλαχνία, **βρίσκει τρόπους νὰ ἐλεήσῃ.**

Αὐτὸ τὸ **δίδαγμα,** ἀγαπητοί μου, μᾶς δίνει σήμερα ὁ καλὸς Σαμαρεῖτης.

✓ Πρῶτον μὲν **ἐπίσκεψις.** Ἄχ αὐτὴ ἡ Κυριακή!

θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ εἶνε ἡμέρα ἐπισκέψεων. Νὰ πᾶς βέβαια καὶ στὸ σπίτι τοῦ συγγενοῦς σου, ἀλλὰ περισσότερο νὰ ἐπισκεφθῆς τὸν ξένο κ' ἐγκαταλειμμένο, πού ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν θεωρεῖ ἀδελφὸ του· αὐτὸ ἔχει ἀξία.

✓ Δεύτερον δεῖξετε **εὐσπλαχνία, συμπάθεια, ἀγάπη**· κι αὐτὸ μὲ τὴν καρδιὰ, ὄχι ἀπὸ ἕνα ξηρὸ καθήκον καὶ μιὰ τυπικὴ ὑποχρέωση.

✓ Τρίτον καὶ κυριώτερον δεῖξετε τὴν ἀγάπη σας ἐμπράκτως, ὄχι μόνον μὲ ὠραῖα λόγια ἀλλὰ καὶ **μὲ ἔργα,** ὄχι μόνον μὲ δάκρυα, συγκινήσεις καὶ αἰσθήματα φευγαλέα, ἀλλὰ **στὴν πράξι** μὲ ἔργα καὶ θυσίες. Λένε ὅτι κάποτε στὸ δρόμον ἔπεσε ἕνας φτωχὸς καὶ ἄρρωστος· ξαπλώθηκε καταμεσῆς τοῦ δρόμου. Μαζεύτηκαν γύρω του πολλοί. Κάποιοι ἔλεγαν· Τὸν καμμένο, πῶς ἔπεσε!... Μερικὲς κυρίες ἔβγαλαν τὰ μαντῆλια τους καὶ ἔκλαιγαν. Ἦρθε τέλος κάποιος πού, χωρὶς νὰ κλάψῃ, ἄνοιξε τὸ πορτοφόλι του, ἔβγαλε ἕνα χιλιάριο καὶ λέει· Ἐγὼ βάζω **χιλίες δραχμὲς,** βάλτε κ' ἐσεῖς ὅ,τι μπορεῖτε... Ἐτοῖ συγκεντρώθηκε ἕνα ποσό, τὸν μετέφεραν στὸ νοσοκομεῖο καὶ σώθηκε ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

Τελείωσα, ἀγαπητοί μου. Σᾶς παρουσίασα τὴν εἰκόνα τῆς ἀγάπης· τῆς ἀγάπης ὄχι τῆς συγγενείας καὶ τοῦ αἵματος, ὄχι τῶν ὑπολογισμῶν καὶ τοῦ συμφέροντος, ὄχι ἐνὸς στενοῦ κύκλου ἀλλὰ τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος. Εἶνε ἡ **ἀγάπη πού δίδαξε ὁ Χριστὸς** μὲ τὴ θυσία του καὶ τῆς ὁποίας τὸ ὕψος τὸ βάθος καὶ τὸ πλάτος ἔδειξε ὁ σταυρὸς του. Δὲν εἶνε ἀγάπη φυσικὴ, εἶνε ἀγάπη πνευματικὴ· δὲν εἶνε ἀγάπη αἰσθησιακὴ, αἰσchrῶν ἐρώτων πού ἀποτελοῦν ἐξευτελισμὸ καὶ ἐκχυδαῖσμὸ τῆς ἀληθινῆς ἀγάπης. Ὁ Χριστὸς διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ τοῦ σταυροῦ τοῦ μᾶς ἔδειξε τὴν ἀληθινὴ ἀγάπη, τὴν ὁποία ἐγὼ ὀνομάζω **ἐσταυρωμένη ἀγάπη.**

Τὴν πραγματικὴ ἀγάπη μᾶς **διδάσκουν ἐπίσης ὄλοι οἱ ἅγιοι,** καὶ κατ' ἔξοχὴν ὅσοι τὴν εἶχαν ὡς κύριο χαρακτηριστικὸ τῆς ζωῆς τους (ὀπως π.χ. οἱ ἅγιοι Νικόλαος, Σπυρίδων, μέγας Βασίλειος κ.ἄ.) καὶ κάποιοι πού πῆραν τὸ ἐπίθετο *ἐλεήμων* (ὀπως π.χ. οἱ ἅγιοι Ἰωάννης πατριάρχης Ἀλεξανδρείας, Φιλάρτος, Ταβιθά κ.ἄ.).

Τὴν **ἀγάπη πρὸς ὄλους** (συγγενεῖς, φίλους, ἐχθρούς) νὰ δεῖξουμε στὸν μάταιο τοῦτο κόσμον βαδίζοντας στὰ ἴχνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας, ὥστε νὰ γίνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς ἄξιοι τοῦ μακαρισμοῦ τοῦ Κυρίου, πού ἀνέβηκε στὸ Γολγοθᾶ γιὰ νὰ προσφέρῃ τὴν ὑψίστη ὑπηρεσία στὸν κόσμον. Τότε θὰ εἴμαστε ὄχι μόνον θαυμασταὶ ἀλλὰ καὶ μιμηταὶ καὶ ἀντιγραφεῖς, στὸ μέτρο τῶν δυνάμεών μας, τῆς παραβολῆς τοῦ καλοῦ Σαμαρεῖτου.

(f) **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 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

Prayer is the Light of the Spirit

Prayer and conversation with God is a supreme good. ... I do not mean the prayer of outward observance but prayer from the heart, not confined to fixed times or periods, but continuous throughout the day and night.

Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, giving generously in the service of others, our spirit should long for God, and call Him to mind, so that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God's love, and so make a palatable offering to the Lord of the universe.

The spirit... like a child crying tearfully for its mother, it craves the milk that God

provides. It seeks the satisfaction of its own desires, and receives gifts outweighing the whole world of nature. ... I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God ... a gift not given by man but by God's grace. The apostle Paul says: We do not know how we are to pray but the Spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings.

Practice prayer from the beginning. Paint your house with the colors of modesty and humility. Make it radiant with the light of justice. Decorate it with the finest gold leaf of good deeds. Adorn it with the walls and stones of faith and generosity.

St. John Chrysostom

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