



V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

Ο ΧΡ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΠΕΤΡΟΝ ἈΝΔΡΑΥ ΓΙΑΚΩΒΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ

Icon of the Call of the First Apostles

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2nd Sunday of Matthew
St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16
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 Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

2nd Sunday of Matthew
Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 2:10-16
Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'.
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 2:10-16 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, δόξα δὲ καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη παντὶ τῷ ἐργαζομένῳ τὸ ἀγαθόν, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι· οὐ γάρ ἐστιν προσωποληψία παρὰ τῷ θεῷ. Ὅσοι γὰρ ἀνόμως ἥμαρτον, ἀνόμως καὶ ἀπολοῦνται· καὶ ὅσοι ἐν νόμῳ ἥμαρτον, διὰ νόμου κριθήσονται· οὐ γὰρ οἱ ἀκροαταὶ τοῦ νόμου δίκαιοι παρὰ τῷ θεῷ, ἀλλ' οἱ ποιηταὶ τοῦ νόμου δικαιωθήσονται. Ὅταν γὰρ ἔθνη τὰ μὴ νόμον ἔχοντα φύσει τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιῇ, οὗτοι, νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες, ἑαυτοῖς εἰσὶν νόμος· οἵτινες ἐνδείκνυνται τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτὸν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν, συμμαρτυροῦσης αὐτῶν τῆς συνειδήσεως, καὶ μεταξὺ ἀλλήλων τῶν λογισμῶν κατηγορούντων ἢ καὶ ἀπολογουμένων, ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου, διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

2nd Sunday of Matthew
The Gospel According to Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

2nd Sunday of Matthew
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:18-23 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, περιπατῶν δὲ παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶδε δύο ἀδελφούς, Σίμωνα τὸν λεγόμενον Πέτρον καὶ Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, βάλλοντας ἀμφίβληστρον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· ἦσαν γὰρ ἀλιεῖς· καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς ἀλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὰ δίκτυα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ προβάς ἐκεῖθεν εἶδεν ἄλλους δύο ἀδελφούς, Ἰάκωβον τὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ μετὰ Ζεβεδαίου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν καταρτίζοντας τὰ δίκτυα αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐκάλεσεν αὐτούς. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὸ πλοῖον καὶ τὸν πατέρα αὐτῶν ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ περιῆγεν ὅλην τὴν Γαλιλαίαν ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.

TODAY as we celebrate Saint Kalliope, we are honored with an artoklasia offering by Jimmy Kokotas for his beloved spouse “KALLIOPE”. Chronia Polla !

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is being served in memory of IERO-MONACHOS + STAVROS by Mrs. Toulia Orthos and Mrs. Angeliki Vlahos, and the Holy Order in memory of their deceased members.

TODAY: The United States STAR SPANGLED BANNER is placed on the solea with honor as we observe the valiant memory of ‘ D – DAY ‘ June -6, 1944 and the significance of America’s response to tyranny in Europe.

CHOIR: is on a week sabbatical! With the Maestra of the CHOIR in Los Angeles this weekend, our choristers are given a ‘FREE DAY ‘ to rest up for their ‘curtain call final Liturgy’ before summer vacation – SUNDAY JUNE 24TH.

CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS of the National Church is scheduled for July 1-5th, in Boston , Massachusetts. This is the highest legislative body of the Greek Orthodox faith in the United States of America. Father Eugene will be representing our parish and community at the CONGRESS. In these trying times of financial stress facing the Archdiocese input and change is essential. RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY on all parts, that’s the course;

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: is to be convened TODAY Sunday, June 10 at 12:30 P.M. in WHITEHALL. All registered and recorded ‘stewards’ members of the parish are privileged to speak and vote on all issues. ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR THIS YEAR?

ELEVATOR PROPOSAL: is one of the many important issues to be presented for discussion and resolution. Elevator plans will be described by the official architect designated by the Parish Council. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION FOR THE ELDERS OF THE PARISH AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING. Please make every effort to attend.

ARTOKLASIA next week honoring all FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS and GODFATHERS including our HEAVENLY FATHER for the observance of Father’s Day is graciously offered by Sophia Drouvalakis and family! Thank you

ALTAR BOY AWARDS SUNDAY: is scheduled for SUNDAY – JUNE 17th. (FATHERS’S DAY) with presentations to the young men who diligently and devotedly serve the sacred services of our church week after week. We are indeed proud of them and the parents who have nurtured them in the ‘faith of our fathers’. B R A V O T O T H E L A D S !

ALTAR BOYS: will have their first of three summer ‘EVENTS’ starting Friday evening, June 22nd, with dinner on the boardwalk and rides , rides, rides in CONEY ISLAND. The evening ends with fireworks at 9:45 P.M. Is your son a member of the **SAINT STEPHANOS SOCIETY** for altar servers? What an opportunity to teach a young lad the morals ethics and rule of life.

U.P.K. GRADUATIONS: Will take place from 9:00 A.M. to NOON on Thursday June 21st. Interested parents may certainly attend to see the excellence in PRE – school education rendered by our faculty. DO YOU HAVE A FOUR (4) YEAR OLD AT HOME – register now - FREE!

UP-COMING EVENTS:

1. HOLY ORDER MEMORIAL TRIBUTE Sunday – June 10th.
2. A.H.E.P.A. B.B.Q PLAZA -7:00 P.M. JUNE 11th.
3. PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES June Social on Thursday – June 14th.
4. ALTAR BOY AWARDS DAY – SUNDAY JUNE 17 th.

Please give ample advance notice if you wish to have a memorial announced in the church weekly bulletin and /or if you intend to order ‘KOLLYVA’ boiled wheat for the tribute commemoration. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL !

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it’s 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)**

NOTE – WELL: Three Hierarchs Church ‘**MEMORIAL CARDS**’ sent by the Church Office upon request of the donor to the bereaved family may be secured through the **OFFICE SECRETARY** only. The minimum offering is **\$25.(twenty –five dollars)** for each acknowledgment. **ALL MEMORIAL DONATIONS** for the card are directed to the **THREE HIERARCHS PARISH**. Thank you.

MEMORIALS TODAY

+ **HOLY ORDER DECEASED MEMBERS**
+ **MICHAEL PETERS**

+ **FATHER STAVROS (Iero – monachos)**
+ **RUFUS JACOB DANIELS**

MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + **XENOPHON RAPTIS**

+ **STELLA LONGO**

© Beautiful

For heroes proved

In liberating strife.

Who more than self their country loved

And mercy more than life!



D - DAY in the United States

D - Day is observed in the U.S. in memory of the Normandy landings in France on June 6, 1944 in which American soldiers and other Allied forces fought to end World War II in Europe.



About 160,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France to fight Nazi soldiers on June 6, 1944. General D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which 'we will accept nothing less than full victory.' More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D - Day invasion and by the end of the day, the troops gained a foot - hold in Normandy. Thousands of soldiers lost their lives, but thousands more trekked across Europe to end the war. The invasion is one of history's most significant military attacks.

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

— George Washington



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικίᾳ Τερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-26610 - info@yashoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Ἔτος ΛΕ"
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2097

Κυριακὴ Β' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 4,18-23)
10 Ἰουνίου 2018

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Πότε ὁ Θεὸς εὐλογεῖ ἓνα χωριό

«Περιπατῶν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶδε δύο ἀδελφούς...» (Ματθ. 4,18)

Αρχίζω τὴν ὁμιλία, ἀγαπητοί μου, μὲ ἓνα ἐρώτημα. Εἶνε κανεὶς ἀπὸ σὰς ποὺ πῆγε στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους; εἶνε κανένας ποὺ ἐγινε χατζής, ὅπως λένε; Στὴ Γερμανία πᾶμε, στὴν Αὐστραλία πᾶμε, στὸν Καναδὰ πᾶμε, παντοῦ πηγαίνουμε, ἀλλὰ στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους δὲν πηγαίνουμε.

Ὅσοι λοιπὸν ἔχουν πάει στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους, ξέρουν ὅτι ἐκεῖ, ποὺ πάτησε ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ δίδαξε ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ σταυρώθηκε ὁ Χριστός, ἐκεῖ ὑπάρχει μιὰ λίμνη. Τὴν ἀκούσατε: γι' αὐτὴ τὴ λίμνη μιλάει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ἀλλὰ τὴ λέει «θάλασσαν» (Ματθ. 4,18). Ὅπως ὑπάρχουν λίμνες στὴν πατρίδα μας, ἔτσι καὶ στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους ὑπάρχει μιὰ λίμνη ἀρκετὰ μεγάλη, ποὺ ὀνομάζεται λίμνη ἢ «θάλασσα τῆς Τιβεριάδος» (Ἰω. 6,1-21,1) ἢ «θάλασσα τῆς Γαλιλαίας» (Ματθ. 4,18-19,23; Μάρκ. 1,16-7,31. Ἰω. 6,1) ἢ «λίμνη Γεννησαρέτ» (Λουκ. 5,1,2-8,22,23,33). Ἐπειδὴ δηλαδὴ εἶνε πολὺ μεγάλη, δὲν ὀνομάζεται μόνον λίμνη ἀλλὰ ὀνομάζεται καὶ θάλασσα.

Γι' αὐτὴ τὴ λίμνη, ἀγαπητοί μου, γι' αὐτὴ τὴ θάλασσα, μιλάει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Καὶ ὅπως ἐδῶ, στὶς λίμνες τῆς πατρίδος μας, συναντοῦμε συχνὰ στὶς ὄχθες τοὺς χωριά - ψαροχώρια, ἔτσι καὶ στὴ μεγάλη αὐτὴ λίμνη ποὺ πῆγε ὁ Χριστός, στὴ λίμνη αὐτὴ τῆς Παλαιστίνης μέσα στὴν ὁποία πέφτουν τ' ἁγιασμένα νερά τοῦ Ἰορδάνου ποταμοῦ, στὴ λίμνη αὐτὴ δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά, ἀπὸ τὴ μιὰ πλευρὰ καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν ἄλλη, ὑπάρχουν μέχρι σήμερα χωριά, διάφορα χωριά. Στὰ χωριά αὐτά, ὅπως εἶνε φυσικό, κατοικοῦσαν ψαράδες, φτωχοὶ ψαράδες.

Ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε στὰ μέρη αὐτά. Περιπάτησε στὴν ὄχθη τῆς λίμνης, στάθηκε καὶ κήρυξε ἐκεῖ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο στοὺς ἀπλοϊκοὺς κατοίκους τῆς περιοχῆς, μπῆκε στὶς βάρκες καὶ στὰ καΐκια τῶν ψαράδων, ταξίδευε διασχίζοντας τὰ νερά τῆς, ἀλλὰ καὶ πολλὰς φορὲς θαυμα-

τούργησε σ' αὐτήν· ἄλλοτε κατέπαυσε τὴν τρικυμία τῆς, ἄλλοτε περπάτησε πάνω στὰ ἀφρισμένα κύματά τῆς, ἄλλοτε εὐλόγησε τὴν ἀλιεῖα τῶν φτωχῶν ψαράδων τῆς.

Τὸ σπουδαιότερο ὅμως εἶνε, ὅτι ἀπὸ τοὺς ψαράδες ἐκείνους διάλεξε τοὺς πρώτους μαθητάς του. Ὑπῆρχαν, ὅπως εἶπαμε, ἐκεῖ γύρω στὴ λίμνη πολλοὶ ψαράδες· ἔρριχναν τὰ δίχτυα τους στὰ νερά, ἐπιαναν ψάρια, τροφοδοτοῦσαν μ' αὐτὰ τὴν ἀγορὰ τῶν κοντινῶν χωριῶν καὶ πόλεων, καὶ ἔτσι ζοῦσαν τὶς οἰκογένειές τους. Ἀπὸ ὅλους λοιπὸν ἐκείνους τοὺς ψαράδες ὁ Κύριος διάλεξε τέσσερις, ὅπως λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο· διάλεξε τὸν ψαρὰ τὸν Ἀνδρέα καὶ τὸν ψαρὰ τὸν Πέτρο ποὺ ἦταν μεταξύ τους ἀδέρφια, κι ἀκόμα τὸν ψαρὰ τὸν Ἰάκωβο καὶ τὸν ψαρὰ τὸν Ἰωάννη ἐπίσης ἀδέρφια.

Γιατί ἄραγε διάλεξε αὐτὰ τὰ ἀδέρφια;

✓ Πρῶτον, διότι μεταξύ τους εἶχαν ἀγάπη. Ἐέρω δυὸ ἀδέρφια στὴν Ἀθήνα, ποὺ μεταξύ τους ἔχουν μεγάλο μῖσος, καὶ ὠδηγήθηκαν στὰ δικαστήρια, ἔφτασαν μέχρι τὸν Ἀρειὸ Πάγο, κι ὅταν πέθαινε ὁ ἓνας ἀπὸ τοὺς δύο ὁ ἄλλος δὲν πῆγε νὰ τοῦ ζητήσῃ συγχώρησι. Δὲν ἦταν λοιπὸν τέτοια τὰ ἀδέρφια αὐτὰ γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα μιλάει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Καὶ ὁ Ἀνδρέας ἀγαποῦσε τὸν Πέτρο, καὶ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἀγαποῦσε τὸν Ἰάκωβο· ἦταν ἀδέρφια ἀγαπημένα.

✓ Ὁ ἓνας λόγος ποὺ τοὺς προτίμησε ἦταν διότι εἶχαν μεταξύ τους ἀγάπη· ὁ δεύτερος τώρα λόγος: ἦταν ἐργατικοί. Φτωχαδάκια ἀσφαλῶς, ὅχι ὅμως τεμπέληδες. Σηκώνονταν τὴ νύχτα καὶ ἀρχίζαν δουλειά· ἐτοίμαζαν τὰ δίχτυα τους, ἐμπαιναν στὶς βάρκες, ἔρριχναν τὰ δίχτυα στὴ λίμνη, ἐπιαναν ψάρια, τὰ πουλοῦσαν, καὶ ἀπ' αὐτὰ συντηροῦσαν τὶς οἰκογένειές τους. Ἦταν ἐργατικοὶ ἄνθρωποι αὐτοί, καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς εὐλογεῖ τὴν ἐργασία.

✓ Τοὺς διάλεξε λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς γιατί ἦταν ἀδέρφια ἀγαπημένα, τοὺς διάλεξε γιατί ἦταν

ἄνθρωποι ἐργατικοί· τοὺς διάλεξε ὁμοῦ καὶ γιὰ ἕναν ἀκόμη λόγο – ποιόν; Ἀγαποῦσαν ὁ ἕνας τὸν ἄλλο, ἀγαποῦσαν τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴ μάνα τους, ἀγαποῦσαν τὴ δουλειά, ἀλλὰ **παρὰ πᾶν ἅπ' ὅλα ἀγαποῦσαν τὸ Θεό**. Καὶ ἀποδείξεις εἶνε ὅτι, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε ἐκεῖ στὴν παραλία, αὐτοὶ παραχώρησαν τὸ καῖκι τους, μπήκε μέσα ὁ Χριστὸς, τὸ ἔκανε ἄμβωνα, κι ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ κήρυξε τὰ λόγια του, μίλησε στὰ πλήθη ποὺ εἶχαν μαζευτῇ στὸ γυαλό. Ἀλλή ἀποδείξεις εἶνε ὅτι, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς εἶπε «Ρίξτε τὰ δίχτυα νὰ ψαρέψετε», ἐνῶ ἡ ὥρα ἦταν ἀκατάλληλη γιὰ ψάρεμα, αὐτοὶ ὑπάκουσαν στὸ λόγο του· καὶ μόλις ἔρριξαν τὰ δίχτυα, ἐκεῖνα γέμισαν ἀπὸ ψάρια, κ' ἦταν τόσο πολλὰ ποὺ οἱ βάρκες βούλιαζαν! εὐλογία ἐξαιρετική.

Νά λοιπὸν γιατί ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε ἐκεῖ καὶ διάλεξε αὐτοὺς τοὺς τέσσερις· ἐπαναλαμβάνω, γιατί ἦταν ἀδέρφια ἀγαπημένα, ἦταν ἄνθρωποι ἐργατικοί - τῆς δουλειᾶς, καὶ προπαντὸς εἶχαν πᾶν ἅπ' ὅλα τὸ Θεό. Ἔτσι, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς εἶπε, Ἀφήστε τὶς βάρκες καὶ τὰ δίχτυα, ἀφήστε τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴ μάνα, ἀφήστε τὸ σπίτι καὶ τὸ χωριό, αὐτοὶ **τ' ἄφησαν ὅλα, κι ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη τὸν ἀκολούθησαν** κ' ἔγιναν μαθηταὶ καὶ ἀπόστολοί του. Καὶ τέλος, ἀφοῦ ὁ Χριστὸς σταυρώθηκε καὶ ἀναστήθηκε, πήραν ῥαβδί ὁδοιπόρου, γύρισαν τὸν κόσμο ὅλο, κήρυξαν τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τῆς σωτηρίας, καὶ μάλιστα μαρτύρησαν γιὰ τὸ Χριστό· ὁ Πέτρος στὴ Ῥώμη, ὁ Ἀνδρέας στὴν Πάτρα τῆς Πελοποννήσου, καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἄλλοι.

Τί μᾶς λέει σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, αὐτὴ ἡ περικοπὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου; Ὅτι σὰν αὐτοὺς τοὺς τέσσερις, ποὺ διάλεξε ὁ Χριστὸς, **ἔτσι θὰ ἤθελε νὰ γίνουμε ὅλοι**. Κ' ἐδῶ ὁ τόπος, τὸ χωριό μας, ἡ πόλις μας, ἡ κοινωνία μας, γιὰ νὰ ἔχουν τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, **χρειάζονται τρία πράγματα**.

✓ Τὸ πρῶτο ποῖο εἶνε· **νὰ εἴμαστε ὅλοι ἀγαπημένοι**. Ὅπως ὁ Ἀνδρέας ἀγαποῦσε τὸν Πέτρο κι ὅπως ὁ Ἰάκωβος ἀγαποῦσε τὸν Ἰωάννη, ἔτσι καὶ μεταξύ μας νὰ βασιλεύῃ ἡ ἀγάπη καὶ ἡ ὁμόνοια, νὰ μὴν ὑπάρχουν ἀνάμεσά μας κακίες καὶ μίσση· νὰ εἴμαστε σὰν μιὰ οἰκογένεια. Τότε θὰ ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ. ✓ Τὸ δεύτερο ποῖο εἶνε· **νὰ εἴμαστε ἐργατικοί**. Σὰν ἱεροκλήρυκα καὶ σὰν ἐπίσκοπος ἔχω περάσει ἀπὸ πολλὰ χωριά, πεντακόσια - ἑξακόσια χωριά. Τί παρατήρησα λοιπόν; - Πηγαίνω σὲ ἕνα χωριὸ ἡμέρα καθημερινή. Πουθενά ἐργασία οἱ ἄντρες! κάθονται στὰ καφφενεῖα, παίζουν χαρτιά, φλυαροῦν, αἰσχρολογοῦν κ.τ.λ..

Στὰ χωράφια εἶνε μόνο οἱ ταλαίπωροι οἱ γυναῖκες· αὐτὲς δουλεύουν σὰν τὰ ζῶα, ἐνῶ οἱ ἄντρες κάθονται, καπνίζουν καὶ πίνουν. Ἐδῶ δὲν ἀγαποῦν τὴ δουλειά. Τέτοια χωριά τί περιμένεις, νὰ πάρῃ εὐλογία; δὲν ἔχουν προκοπή. - Πηγαίνω σὲ ἄλλο χωριό. Τί βλέπω ἐδῶ; Ὅλες τὶς μέρες τῆς ἐβδομάδος, Δευτέρα - Τρίτη - Τετάρτη - Πέμπτη - Παρασκευὴ - Σάββατο, ἄνθρωπος στὸ δρόμο δὲν ὑπάρχει, τὰ καφφενεῖα κλειστά. Εἶνε ὅλοι στὶς δουλειές· ὁ ἕνας στὸ χωράφι ὀργώνει μὲ τὸ τρακτέρ ἢ ποτίζει μὲ τὸ πιεστικό, ὁ ἄλλος στὸ ἀμπέλι ἢ στὶς ἐλιές, ὁ ἄλλος βόσκει στὴν πλαγιά τὸ κοπάδι ἢ στὸν κάμπο τὰ βόδια, ὁ ἄλλος χτίζει ἢ σοбатίζει στὴ σκαλωσιά, ὁ ἄλλος δουλεύει στὸ ξυλουργεῖο ἢ στὸ σιδηρουργεῖο ἢ στὸ φοῦρνο..., ὁ δάσκαλος στὸ σχολεῖο μὲ τὰ παιδιά· οἱ νοικοκυρὲς στὰ σπίτια συγυρίζουν, μαγειρεύουν πλένουν. Ψυχὴ δὲν βλέπεις ἔξω. Τὴν Κυριακὴ ὁμοῦ εἶνε ὅλοι στὴν ἐκκλησία. Νά ἄνθρωποι εὐλογημένοι, ποὺ ἀξίζει νὰ τοὺς μιμηθῇς.

✓ Καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη χρειάζεται, καὶ ἡ ἐργατικότητα χρειάζεται, ἀλλὰ τὸ σπουδαιότερο εἶνε ἡ **πίστι** καὶ ἡ **εὐλάβεια** στὸ Θεό, ἡ **ζωὴ μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία**. Νά τὸν λατρεύουμε στὸ ναὸ μας τὶς Κυριακὲς καὶ τὶς ἑορτές, νὰ προσευχώμαστε στὸ σπίτι μας καὶ νὰ τὸν παρακαλοῦμε πρωὶ καὶ βράδυ, νὰ μελετοῦμε τὸ νόμο του, νὰ προσέχουμε τὰ λόγια του καὶ νὰ τηροῦμε τὶς ἐντολές του, νὰ φρουροῦμε τὴν καθρότητα τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας ἀπὸ τὶς διάφορες αἵρέσεις (χιλιασμὸ κ.λπ.), νὰ βασιλεύῃ παντοῦ ὁ Χριστὸς, στὶς οἰκογένειες καὶ στὰ παιδιά μας, στὴν ἰδιωτικὴ καὶ τὴ δημοσίαν ζωὴ μας.

Δώστε μου, ἕνα σπίτι, ἕνα χωριό, μιὰ ἐνορία, μιὰ κοινωνία, ποὺ νὰ ζῇ ἔτσι, ὅπως ζοῦσαν οἱ πρόγονοί μας στὸν Πόντο, στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία, στὴ Μακεδονία, στὴ Θράκη, στὸ Μοριά καὶ στὰ νησιά μας, καὶ θὰ ἔχῃ τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Δὲν εἶνε ψέμα αὐτό – ποιὸς τὸ ἔπε; Ἡ θρησκεία μας εἶνε ζωντανή, ὁλοζώντανη.

Ἐὰν τ' ἀκούσετε αὐτά, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ εἴστε μονοιασμένοι κι ἀγαπημένοι, καὶ εἴστε φιλόπονοι κ' ἐργατικοί, καὶ ἀγαπᾶτε τὴ θρησκεία μας καὶ ἐκκλησιάζεστε τακτικά καὶ τὰ παιδιά σας τὰ ἀνατρέφετε ὅπως θέλει ὁ Χριστὸς, τότε **«χῶμα θὰ πιάσετε καὶ μάλαμα θὰ γίνεσθε»**. Μὲ τὴν εὐχὴ αὐτὴ τελειώνω καὶ εὐχομαι, ὁ Κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς Θεοτόκου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων νὰ εἶνε πάντα μαζί σας 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 2018 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

What Have We Left Behind?

Most successful people would probably tell you that what separates great people from ordinary people is that great people are willing to risk making decisions, whether right or wrong, and then acting on those decisions. Great people are people who have made great choices, often very risky choices, but in the long run their choices have usually been right. Biblical history is peopled with folks who were confronted by decisions they had to make.

Just imagine the decision required of those fishermen on the shores of Lake Galilee. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, true, but they were businessmen. Perhaps even prosperous businessmen. Fish was a staple in the diet, and fishermen could often make a very good living. The brothers Peter and Andrew were

probably business partners with the brothers James and John and most likely had a good business going. So when Jesus said to the two sets of brothers, "Follow me," He was not calling them to leave a sport, or a hobby; he was asking them to leave their careers, their livelihoods, and their families! They had everything to lose.

What have we left behind to follow Him? Unless there's some pain, some discomfort, some sacrifice, then most probably we haven't left anything. Perhaps we're still fumbling about in our boats, tossing our nets over the side, and business goes on as usual.

Yet, if we do that, the Great Fisherman might leave us and move on to someone else, and the choice might go by forever.

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