



**Prokeimenon. Mode 2.**

**Psalm 117.14,18**

The Lord is my strength and my song.  
Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-10

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος β'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18**

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.  
Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 5:1-10 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, δικαιοθέντες οὖν ἐκ πίστεως, εἰρήνην ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ καὶ τὴν προσαγωγὴν ἐσχίκαμεν τῇ πίστει εἰς τὴν χάριν ταύτην ἐν ἣ ἐστήκαμεν, καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐπ' ἐλπίδι τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ. Οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν, εἰδότες ὅτι ἡ θλίψις ὑπομονὴν κατεργάζεται, ἡ δὲ ὑπομονὴ δοκιμὴν, ἡ δὲ δοκιμὴ ἐλπίδα· ἡ δὲ ἐλπίς οὐ καταισχύνει, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐκκέχυται ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου τοῦ δοθέντος ἡμῖν. Ἔτι γὰρ Χριστός, ὄντων ἡμῶν ἀσθενῶν, κατὰ καιρὸν ὑπὲρ ἁσεβῶν ἀπέθανεν. Μόλις γὰρ ὑπὲρ δικαίου τις ἀποθάνεται· ὑπὲρ γὰρ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ τάχα τις καὶ τολμᾷ ἀποθανεῖν. Συνίστησιν δὲ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἀγάπην εἰς ἡμᾶς ὁ θεός, ὅτι ἔτι ἁμαρτωλῶν ὄντων ἡμῶν Χριστός ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἀπέθανεν. Πολλῶ οὖν μᾶλλον, δικαιοθέντες νῦν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ, σωθησόμεθα δι' αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῆς ὀργῆς. Εἰ γὰρ ἐχθροὶ ὄντες κατηλλάγημεν τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέντες σωθησόμεθα ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ.

**3rd Sunday of Matthew**

The Gospel According to Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 6:22-33 Εὐαγγελίου  
τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν ὁ ὀφθαλμός· ἐὰν οὖν ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ἀπλοῦς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινὸν ἔσται· ἐὰν δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου πονηρὸς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινὸν ἔσται. εἰ οὖν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστί, τὸ σκότος πόσον; Οὐδεὶς δύναται δυοὶ κυρίως δουλεύειν· ἢ γὰρ τὸν ἕνα μισήσει καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀγαπήσει, ἢ ἐνὸς ἀνθέξεται καὶ τοῦ ἑτέρου καταφρονήσει. οὐ δύνασθε Θεῷ δουλεύειν καὶ μαμωνᾷ. Διὰ τοῦτο λέγω ὑμῖν, μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τῇ ψυχῇ ὑμῶν τί φάγητε καὶ τί πίητε, μηδὲ τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν τί ἐνδύσθητε· οὐχὶ ἡ ψυχὴ πλεῖον ἐστί τῆς τροφῆς καὶ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ ἐνδύματος; ἐμβλέψατε εἰς τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ὅτι οὐ σπεύρουσιν οὐδὲ θερίζουσιν οὐδὲ συνάγουσιν εἰς ἀποθήκας, καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τρέφει αὐτά· οὐχ ὑμεῖς μᾶλλον διαφέρετε αὐτῶν; τίς δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν μεριμνῶν δύναται προσθεῖναι ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλικίαν αὐτοῦ πηχυν ἕνα; καὶ περὶ ἐνδύματος τί μεριμνᾶτε; καταμάθετε τὰ κρινα τοῦ ἀγροῦ πῶς αὐξάνει· οὐ κοπιᾷ οὐδὲ νήθει· λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδὲ Σολομὼν ἐν πάσῃ τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ περιεβάλετο ὡς ἐν τούτων. εἰ δὲ τὸν χόρτον τοῦ ἀγροῦ, σήμερον ὄντα καὶ αὔριον εἰς κλίβανον βαλλόμενον, ὁ θεὸς οὕτως ἀμφιένυσιν, οὐ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ὑμᾶς, ὀλιγόπιστοι; μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε λέγοντες, τί φάγωμεν ἢ τί πίωμεν ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητεῖ· οἶδε γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος ὅτι ζητεῖτε τούτων ἀπάντων. ζητεῖτε δὲ πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν.

**UPCOMING DEVOTIONS:**

<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>June 17th,</b>	<b>Liturgy of Martyr Manuel</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
		<b>Saint Stephanos Society CELEBRATION</b>	<b>11:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>June 20th,</b>	<b>Prayer and Healing Service</b>	<b>6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>June 24th,</b>	<b>Nativity of John the Baptist</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>June 28th,</b>	<b>Vesper of Saint Paul (Hempstead)</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>June 29th,</b>	<b>Liturgy of Saints Peter and Paul</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>

**DONORS REQUESTED AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** :usually offered each Sunday throughout the year will be suspended for the summer months of June, July, and August unless there is a donor who wishes to celebrate an event, offer a memorial tribute, or just reach out in love to the people of God. The offering for coffee, bagels, cream cheese and all paper goods for the reception each Sunday (100 plus people) is \$125. (one hundred and twenty five dollars) paid to the Church directly. **ARE YOU CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY? AN ANNIVERSARY? , A GOOD BILL OF HEALTH?** --- why not thank the Lord through the coffee agape fellowship. Call the Church office to reserve the date: 718-330-0280.

**CHURCH and SCHOOL COMPLEX:** will close down each day (Monday-Friday) from June 18th , through September 04, after 4:00 P.M. Evening meetings, events or services will be exempted by registering with the OFFICE first. Staff is off-duty at 4:00 P.M.

**ALTAR BOY AWARDS SUNDAY:** is scheduled for TODAY– 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.

**UP-COMING EVENTS TODAY THREE ARTOKLASIES: ON THE FATHERS’ DAY OBSERVANCE**

1. Mrs. Sophia Drouvalakis offers the sacred bread in tribute to GOD OUR FATHER our HEAVENLY FATHER on this special ‘fathers’ day observance’.
2. Mrs. Xanthe Apergis honors her beloved son George Demetrios Apergis in his special day.
3. Mrs. Eleutheria Xenakis celebrates her son PETROS on his forthcoming name-day of SAINT PETER and saluting his proud ‘fatherhood’ on fathers’ day.

The Annual Raffle of the Parish was drawn on Saturday evening June 02nd at the GRECIAN FESTIVAL at 9:30 P.M on the PLAZA. The winners were:

**1ST PRIZE: LISA AND BILL PALOYMPIS, 2ND PRIZE: PANTELIS VELLIOS, 3RD PRIZE : KYRI MENDES POVEROMO, 4TH PRIZE: THOMAS PLESSIAS, 5TH PRIZE: JOYCE MITCHELL**

**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;

**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!**

**CENTERFOLD:** photos are of our Greek School children with Father Eugene, and two teachers Mrs. Zoe Anastasakos and Mrs. Maria Halkias on a field day in CONEY ISLAND at Deno’s WONDER WHEEL PARK on the rides with dinner to follow at TOM’S ON THE BOARDWALK . Hot dogs, fries, chicken fingers, cokes, ice cream and much more. Parents also attended and P.T.A. members.

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 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** . 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: + XENOPHON RAPTIS + STELLA LONGO**





Father Eugene with faculty members and P.T.A. joined the Greek School Students at the end of the year outing to Coney Island on Thursday - June 7th. Many thanks are extended to Dennis and Steve VOURDERIS of Deno's WONDER WHEEL PARK for their hospitality and generosity to host EVERYONE to the rides all afternoon. Father Eugene was the main target in the 'bumping cars';, but he prevailed over everyone -- after all he is a CONEY ISLAND BABY from Stillwell Avenue.....





Hot dogs, fries, chicken fingers , pickles, hamburgers , coco cola ice cream and so much more filled the tired 'tummies' of the kids after the rides. Parents also shared in the food feast at TOM'S ON THE BOARDWALK thanks to the hospitality of JIMMY KOKOTAS and staff. Have you ever tasted the 'Coney Island Lager' .....mmmm good, cold and tasty. I'll have 'another'. Thank you !



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεὶα Τερά Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – imzaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2100	Κυριακὴ Γ' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 6,22-33) 17 Ἰουνίου 2018	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Χριστιανέ, γιατί ταράζεσαι;

«Μὴ μεριμνήσητε εἰς τὴν αὐριον· ἡ γὰρ αὐριον μεριμνήση τὰ ἑαυτῆς· ἄρκετόν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἢ κακία αὐτῆς» (Ματθ. 6,34)

**-Τί** θὰ γίνουμε; Τί θὰ φάμε; Τί θὰ πιούμε; Τί θὰ ντυθοῦμε; Τί θὰ ...; Νά, ἀγαπητοί μου, σκέψεις πού δὲν ἀφήνουν νὰ ἡρεμήσῃ ὁ ψυχικὸς κόσμος τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Νά σκέψεις οἱ ὁποῖες σὰν κύματα, πού διαδέχονται ἀδιάκοπα τὸ ἓνα τὸ ἄλλο, δημιουργοῦν ζάλη, ζάλη σοβαρῆ, στὰ κεφάλια τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Νά σκέψεις, πού σὰν ἀγκάθια συμπνίγουν τὸν σπόρο τοῦ λόγου τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ δὲν τὸν ἀφήνουν νὰ καρποφορήσῃ (βλ. Ματθ. 13,7. Μάρκ. 4,7,18-19. Ιακ. 3,7). Νά σκέψεις πού σὰν μαῦρα καὶ ἀπαίσια φτερωτὰ ὄρνεα πετᾶνε στὸν πνευματικὸ ὄριζοντα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, καὶ ὁ ταλαίπωρος προσπαθεῖ νὰ τὰ διώξῃ, ἀλλ' αὐτὰ ἔρχονται μέρα μετὰ τὴν ἡμέρα ὄλο καὶ περισσότερα καὶ γίνονται ὄλο καὶ πιὸ ἐνοχλητικά.

Ἔτσι ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου γίνεται ἓνα μαρτύριο. Γιατί συμβαίνει αὐτό;

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Ὁ ἀνθρώπος, ἀγαπητοί μου, ζῆ μέσα σὲ μέριμνες πολλὰς καὶ ποικίλες. Ἄνησυχεῖ, ταράζεται, τρέμει ὅπως τρέμουν τὰ φύλλα τῶν δέντρων ὅταν φυσᾷ δυνατὸς ἄνεμος. Τὸ αὐριο γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του, τὴν οἰκογένειά του, τὴν κοινωνία, τὸ ἔθνος, τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα τοῦ φαίνεται σκοτεινὸ. –Τί θὰ γίνουμε;... ἀκούγεται ἀπὸ τὰ στόματα ὄλων μας. Κι ἂν ἀκόμα δὲν τὸ λὲῖ ἢ γλῶσσα μας, πάντως ἢ καρδιά μας εἶνε ταραγμένη, ταραγμένη περισσότερο ἀπ' ὅ,τι εἶνε ὁ ὠκεανὸς ὅταν ἄνεμοι ὀρμητικοὶ σηκώνουν ἐκεῖνα τὰ τεράστια κύματα.

● Σὰν νὰ μὴν ἔφταναν οἱ φροντίδες καὶ οἱ κόποι, στοὺς ὁποίους ὁ ἀνθρώπος τῆς ἐποχῆς μας ὑποβάλλεται κάθε μέρα γιὰ ν' ἀντιμετωπίσῃ τὰ διάφορα ζητήματα τοῦ σήμερα, προστίθεται ἐπὶ πλέον σ' αὐτὰ καὶ ἡ μέριμνα γιὰ τὸ αὐριο, ἢ ἀγωνία πῶς θὰ λύσουμε προβλήματα τοῦ μέλλοντος, πού ἀκόμα δὲν ἔχουν ἔρθει μπροστά μας. Τὸ παρὸν μᾶς καλεῖ σὲ ἐργασία

ἐντατική καὶ συνεχῆ, κ' ἐμεῖς ἀσχολούμεθα διαρκῶς μὲ τὸ μέλλον. Ξέρετε πῶς μοιάζουμε; εἴμαστε σὰν ἓνα πλοίαρχο πού, ἀντὶ νὰ κοιτάξῃ πῶς θὰ ξεπεράσῃ τὸ κύμα πού εἶνε ἐμπρὸς στὴν πλῆρη τοῦ πλοίου του, αὐτὸς σκέπτεται πῶς θὰ ἀντιμετωπίσῃ τὰ κύματα πού μόλις διακρίνονται στὸ βάθος τοῦ ὀρίζοντος.

Ἄνθρωπε! τακτοποίησε ὅσο μπορεῖς πιὸ καλὰ τὸ παρὸν· μὲ τὸν τρόπο αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ αὐριο, ἐὰν ἀνατείλῃ, θὰ εἶνε ἀσφαλῶς καλύτερο. Ποιὸς ὁ λόγος νὰ ταράζεσαι ἀπὸ τώρα γιὰ κάτι πού ἀκόμα δὲν ἀνέκυψε; Δὲν ἀκοῦς τί λέει ὁ Χριστός; Φτάνουν, λέει, οἱ φροντίδες καὶ ὁ βασανισμὸς πού ἔχετε γιὰ τὴ σημερινὴ ἡμέρα, μὴ φορτωθῆτε καὶ βάσανα τῆς ἡμέρας πού ἀκόμη δὲν ἦρθε. Τὴ στιγμὴ πού εἴστε ἤδη πιεσμένοι ἀπὸ ἀρκετὴ δυσκολία, εἶνε παράλογο νὰ προσθέτετε καὶ ἄλλη δυσκολία πρὶν τὴν ὥρα της. Ἡ θεία πρόνοια ἀναθέτει σὲ κάθε ἀνθρώπο τὴν κάθε ἡμέρα τῆς ζωῆς του νὰ σηκώσῃ ἓνα ὠρισμένο βάρος. Εἶνε ἀρκετὸ αὐτό, δὲν χρειάζεται νὰ προστεθῇ κι ἄλλο. Ἔσεῖς περιορισθῆτε νὰ σηκώσετε αὐτὸ πού σᾶς ἔχει ἀνατεθῆ σήμερα· μὲ τὰ αὐριανὰ βάρη θὰ ἀσχοληθῆτε αὐριο. «Μὴ μεριμνήσητε εἰς τὴν αὐριον· ἡ γὰρ αὐριον μεριμνήση τὰ ἑαυτῆς· ἄρκετόν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἢ κακία αὐτῆς» (Ματθ. 6,34).

Ἄλλὰ γιατί ταράζεται τόσο πολὺ ὁ ἀνθρώπος; γιατί τόσο πολὺ φοβᾶται τὸ μέλλον; γιατί ἡ μέριμνα γιὰ τὴν αὐριανὴ ἡμέρα πιέζει τὰ στήθη τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος σὰν ἐφιάλης;

Νά γιατί. Διότι ὁ ἀνθρώπος δὲν πιστεύει στὴν Θεία Πρόνοια· εἶνε ἢ ἄπιστος ἢ ὀλιγόπιστος. Δὲν εἶνε ὠπλισμένος μὲ τὸ ὄπλο τῆς πίστεως. Γι' αὐτό, μόλις σκεφτῇ τὸ μέλλον, τὸν κυριεύει ὁ πανικός. Νομίζει πῶς εἶνε ἔρημος στὸν κόσμον καὶ δὲν ὑπάρχει δύναμις ἰκανὴ νὰ τὸν προστατεύσῃ. Αὐτὴ ἡ ἀπιστία ἢ ὀλιγοπι-



στία του εἶνε ἀδικαιολόγητη. Τοῦ εἶνε τόσο δύσκολο νὰ τὴν ὑπερικήση;

✓ Δὲν ἀκούει τὸ Χριστὸ πού μᾶς λέει: «Μὴ ταρασσέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδιά· πιστεύετε εἰς τὸν Θεὸν καὶ εἰς ἐμέ πιστεύετε»· μὴν ἀφήνετε τὴν καρδιά σας νὰ ταραζέται· ἔχετε πίστι στὸ Θεὸ καὶ σ' ἐμένα (ἄ. 14);

✓ Δὲν μελετᾷ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, νὰ δῆ ὅτι μέσα στις σελίδες του ὁ Κύριος δίνει τόσες πολυτιμες ὑποσχέσεις καὶ βεβαιώσεις, ὅτι παρακολουθεῖ μὲ ἀγάπη καὶ ἐνδιαφέρον πατρικὸ τὴ ζωὴ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καὶ σ' αὐτὲς ἀκόμη τίς ἐλάχιστες λεπτομέρειες;

✓ Δὲν ἐμπιστεύεται τὴ ζωὴ του σ' Ἐκεῖνον πού τρέφει τὰ πουλιὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ ντύνει τὰ κρίνα τοῦ ἀγροῦ μὲ στολὲς πού τὴ μεγαλοπρέπειά τους θὰ ζήλευαν καὶ βασιλιᾶδες;

✓ Δὲν βλέπει ὅτι πάνω ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνθρώπινα πράγματα ἀπλώνεται κάποιο μεγάλο χέρι· τὸ χέρι τοῦ παντοδύναμου καὶ πάνσοφου καὶ πανάγαθου Δημιουργοῦ, πού μοιράζει ἀκατάπαυστα τίς δωρεές του (τροφὴ, νερό, φῶς, ἀέρα...) στὰ ζῶα καὶ δὲν ἀφήνει νὰ πεθάνουν ἀπὸ τὴν πείνα οὔτε αὐτὰ τὰ νεογέννητα πουλάκια τῶν κοράκων;

Ἄν λοιπὸν ὁ Πλάστης φροντίζει γιὰ τὰ νεογέννητα κοράκια, πῶς θ' ἀφήσῃ ἔξω ἀπ' τὴ φροντίδα του τὸν ἄνθρωπο, τὸν ὁποῖο ἐπλασε καὶ τὸν ὠρίσε βασιλέα τῆς Γῆς; Καὶ ἐὰν παρέχῃ στὰ ζῶα τὰ μέσα γιὰ νὰ ἐκπληρώνουν αὐτὰ τὸν προορισμὸ τους, πῶς θ' ἀφήσῃ ἀπροστάτευτο τὸν ἄνθρωπο; Ἡ ἀπλὴ λογικὴ, ἡ καθημερινὴ πείρα, ἡ φύσι γύρω μας, καὶ πρὸ παντὸς ὁ γραπτὸς λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὸ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιο, στηρίζουν τὴν πίστι καὶ ἀποκρούουν τὰ αὐθαίρετα συμπεράσματα κατὰ τῆς θείας προνοίας, στὰ ὁποῖα μόνον μιά ἀπιστὴ καρδιά κ' ἔνα χαλασμένο μυαλὸ μποροῦν νὰ καταλήξουν.

● Ἀκούσαμε σήμερον τὸ Χριστὸ στὸ εὐαγγέλιο νὰ λέγῃ: «Μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τῇ ψυχῇ ὑμῶν τί φάγητε καὶ τί πίνητε, μηδὲ τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν τί ἐνδύσησθε», δηλαδή· μὴ φροντίζετε μὲ ἀγωνία γιὰ τὴ ζωὴ σας τί θὰ φάτε καὶ τί θὰ πίνητε, μήτε γιὰ τὸ σῶμα σας τί θὰ ντυθῆτε (Ματθ. 6, 25). Τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ κάποιοι τὰ παρεξηγοῦν.

—Τί λοιπὸν, θὰ μᾶς ποῦν ἀμέσως αὐτοί, δὲν πρέπει δηλαδή ὁ ἄνθρωπος νὰ ἐργάζεται; μὰ τότε, ἂν ὅλα τὰ περιμένῃ ἀπὸ τὴ βοήθεια τοῦ Θεοῦ, αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε μοιρολατρία;...

Τοὺς ἀπαντοῦμε μὲ συντομία τὰ ἑξῆς.

Δὲν ἔχετε δίκιο. Παρεξηγεῖτε ἢ μᾶλλον διαστρέφετε τὴν ἔννοια τῶν λόγων τοῦ Εὐαγ-

γελίου. Ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν καταδικάζει τὴν ἐργασία· ἀντιθέτως, αὐτὸς τὴν διέταξε, τὴν δίδαξε καὶ τὴν καθάγιασε μὲ τὸ ἔμπρακτο παράδειγμά του, ὅπως γνωρίζουμε. Ἐκεῖνο πού καταδικάζει ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε μόνον ἡ ἀγχώδης μεριμνα γιὰ τὴν αὐριανὴ ἡμέρα καὶ ἡ ἐναγώνιος φροντίδα, ἡ ὁποία κατατρώνει τὴν καρδιά τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὅπως τὸ σκουλήκι τρώει τὸ ξύλο. Δὲν εἶπε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, «Ὅλα, ἄνθρωπε, νὰ τὰ περιμένῃ ἀπὸ τὸ Θεὸ» – πού εἶνε μοιρολατρικὸ· οὔτε ὅμως ἐπιδοκιμάζει τὸ ἀντίθετο ἐκεῖνο «Γιὰ ὅλα, ἄνθρωπε, στηρίξου ἀποκλειστικὰ στὸν ἑαυτὸ σου, στὶς δικές σου δυνάμεις, στὴ δική σου εὐφυΐα καὶ δραστηριότητα» – πού εἶνε ἐγωιστικὸ. Γιατὶ ὅσο κι ἂν κοπιᾷ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὅλες αἱ προσπάθειές του, ὅλοι οἱ κόποι του, ὅλοι οἱ ἀγῶνες του θ' ἀποτύχουν, ἂν ἔχη τὸ Θεὸ ἀντιμέτωπο. Καὶ θὰ τὸν ἔχη ἀντιμέτωπο, ἐὰν νομίζῃ ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε τὸ πᾶν, ἐὰν δὲν βαδίζῃ σύμφωνα μὲ τίς θεοδίδακτες ἀρχές τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, ἐὰν σὲ κάθε ἔργο του, καὶ στὸ ἐλάχιστο, δὲν ὑψώνῃ μὲ ταπεινῶσι τὰ μάτια τῆς ψυχῆς του πρὸς τὰ ἄνω, ἐπικαλούμενος τὴ βοήθεια Ἐκεῖνου πού ἔχει τὴ δύναμι νὰ διαλύῃ τίς βουλὲς τῶν ἐθνῶν καὶ τὰ σχέδια τῶν ἀρχόντων τους σὰν ἀσθενικὰ συννεφάκια. Γι' αὐτὸ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο προτρέπει: **ἐργάζεσθε μὲν, ἀλλὰ «μὴ μεριμνᾶτε»**· ναὶ μὲν μὴ μένετε ἀργοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ μὴ γίνεστε ἀπληστοί. Ὁ συνδυασμὸς αὐτὸς καὶ ἡ ἰσορροπία βρίσκεται στὸν ἄλλο λόγο τοῦ Χριστοῦ: «Ζητεῖτε πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν» (ἄ. 33).

\* \* \*

Ἀγαπητοί μου! Ἡ ταραχὴ, ἡ ἀνησυχία, ἡ ἀγωνία, ὁ φόβος καὶ ὁ τρόμος γιὰ τὸ μέλλον, ὅλα αὐτὰ, εἶνε καρποὶ τῆς ὀλιγοπιστίας μας στὴν θεία Πρόνοια. Ταραζόμαστε, γιατί δὲν ἔχουμε βαθειὰ πίστι στὸ Θεὸ, τὸν Κύριο τῶν δυνάμεων. Ἀγωνιοῦμε, γιατί τὴ ζωὴ μας, τίς ὑποθέσεις μας, τὰ ἔργα μας, ὅλα τὰ ἔχουμε ἐξαρτήσῃ ἀπὸ τὴν ἀνθρώπινη δύναμι, ἡ ὁποία ἀποδεικνύεται ὅτι εἶνε μία λεπτὴ - λεπτὴ κλωστή· ἡ κλωστή αὐτὴ κόβεται, κ' ἐμεῖς πέφτουμε στὸ κενὸ μὲ φωνὲς ἀλλοφροσύνης. Κι ὅτι αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ βαθύτερη αἰτία ὅλης τῆς ταραχῆς καὶ τῆς δικῆς μας ζωῆς καὶ τῆς ζωῆς τῶν ἄλλων, θὰ πεισθοῦμε, ἐὰν «ἑαυτοὺς καὶ ἀλλήλους καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν ζωὴν ἡμῶν Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ παραθώμεθα» (ἄ. 101). Τότε θὰ δοῦμε, ὅτι τὴν ταραχὴ μας θὰ διαδεχθῇ εἰρήνη βαθειά, ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ!

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

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 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**

### *Prove Your Faith by Your Trust*

'Look at the birds of the air,' says Jesus. What a splendid example for our faith to follow! If God's providence bestows an unfailing supply of food on the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap, we ought to realize that the reason for people's supply running short is human greed. The fruits of the earth were given to feed all without distinction and nobody can claim any particular rights. Instead, we have lost the sense of the communion of goods, rushing to turn these goods into private property. The birds do not know famine because they do not claim anything specially for themselves and neither do they have any envy of others. 'Consider the lilies of the field: not even Solomon in all his glory was

arrayed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass which is alive today and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe one of you!' Listen to these stupendous and uplifting words. With this parable of flowers and grass the Lord urges us to hope that God will also be merciful to us. Nothing is more persuasive than a glance at unthinking creatures who have received such beautiful dress from Providence. Surely we should be all the more ready to believe that human beings, if they entrust themselves completely to God and free themselves of all their worries, will not lack anything.

*St. Ambrose of Milan*

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