



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 22nd 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΕΞΑΝΤΙΩΝ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΕΝΤΕ ΑΡΤΟΥΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΔΥΟ ΙΧΘΥΑΣ



Miracle of Feeding the Five Thousand

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Προκείμενον. Ύχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 1:10-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ἦ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἥτε δὲ κατηρητισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοί καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ. Ἐδηλώθη γάρ μοι περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί μου, ὑπὸ τῶν Χλόης, ὅτι ἔριδες ἐν ὑμῖν εἰσιν. Λέγω δὲ τοῦτο, ὅτι ἕκαστος ὑμῶν λέγει, Ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, Ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ. Μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός; Μὴ Παῦλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν, ἢ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε; Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ ὅτι οὐδένα ὑμῶν ἐβάπτισα, εἰ μὴ Κρίσπον καὶ Γάϊον· ἵνα μή τις εἴπῃ ὅτι εἰς τὸ ἐμὸν ὄνομα ἐβάπτισα. Ἐβάπτισα δὲ καὶ τὸν Στεφανᾶ οἶκον· λοιπὸν οὐκ οἶδα εἴ τινα ἄλλον ἐβάπτισα. Οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλέν με Χριστὸς βαπτίζειν, ἀλλ' εὐαγγελίζεσθαι· οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἵνα μὴ κενωθῇ ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

8th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel According to Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 14:14-22

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδε πολὺν ὄχλον, καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσε τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν. ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ἔρημός ἐστιν ὁ τόπος καὶ ἡ ὥρα ἤδη παρήλθεν· ἀπόλυσον τοὺς ὄχλους, ἵνα ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὰς κώμας ἀγοράσωσιν ἑαυτοῖς βρώματα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρεῖαν ἔχουσιν ἀπελθεῖν· δότε αὐτοῖς ὑμεῖς φαγεῖν. οἱ δὲ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· οὐκ ἔχομεν ὧδε εἰ μὴ πέντε ἄρτους καὶ δύο ἰχθύας. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· φέρετέ μοι αὐτοὺς ὧδε. καὶ κελεύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνακλιθῆναι ἐπὶ τοὺς χόρτους, λαβὼν τοὺς πέντε ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς δύο ἰχθύας, ἀναβλέψας εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν εὐλόγησε, καὶ κλάσας ἔδωκε τοῖς μαθηταῖς τοὺς ἄρτους, οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τοῖς ὄχλοις, καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν, καὶ ἦσαν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων δώδεκα κοφίνους πλήρεις. οἱ δὲ ἐσθίοντες ἦσαν ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ πεντακισχίλιοι χωρὶς γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων. Καὶ εὐθέως ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσει τοὺς ὄχλους.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

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| Wednesday July 25th, | GREAT VESPER of Saint Paraskeve Greenlawn, Long Island Father Eugene will be the arch-celebrant for this miraculous well-spring agiasmos service. | 7:00 P.M. |
| Thursday July 26th, | Liturgy of Saint Paraskeve at Three Hierarchs - Orthos 9:30 A.M.-----Liturgy Distribution of Saint Paraskeve HOLY WATER from the well. | 10:00 A.M. |
| Friday July 27th, | Feast Day of Saint Panteleimon the Physician The EPITAPHIAN SHRINE ICON of the great saint is always available for veneration (near the pulpit corner). The sacred oils of anointing are secured there. DO YOU NEED ANOINTING? WHY NOT? | |
| Saturday July 28th, | Feast Day of SAINT IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU Monastery observance in Astoria. | |
| Sunday July 29th, | Icon of Saint Irene Chrysovalantou will be carried in procession at the Divine Liturgy at Three Hierarchs. She is the patroness of those desirous of getting pregnant. The "APPLES" of Saint Irene will be blessed for distribution. | |

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.

CHURCHING TODAY: We are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church "JOANIE ROSE " first child and new born daughter of Darren and Georgia (Pavlounis) McLAUGHLIN. NA SAS ZESE!

MANY THANKS TODAY to Floryna and Theodozia who were instrumental with Melinda Namath in making Father Eugene's birthday party today a major success, and memorable event for young and old alike. GRACIAS, EVCHARISTO, MERCI, SPASIBA!

SPECIAL SHOUT – OUT to Maria Notaro at Aliotta Bakery and Three Star Restaurant – George and Steve and Bill Giannopoulos at Madison Florist for their support and generosity

AUGUST is the MONTH of MARY in the Orthodox Christian Tradition:

PLEASE NOTE: That during these feasts you may offer (a) wine, (b) artoklasia, (c) prosforon, (d) basiliko, (e) marigold flowers, (f) grapes of any color and (g) phanouropita (cake). Check the bulletin for further details or see the clergy directly. Your participation is always welcomed and helps make the festal observance personal, with outreach to others. Are you celebrating your name day: What more appropriate gesture than to include others in your celebration. GRAND CHILDREN should and must be encouraged to participate by bringing their special " offering for the holiday.

TEACH A CHILD THE WAY TO GO AND THEY WILL BE YOURS FOREVER:

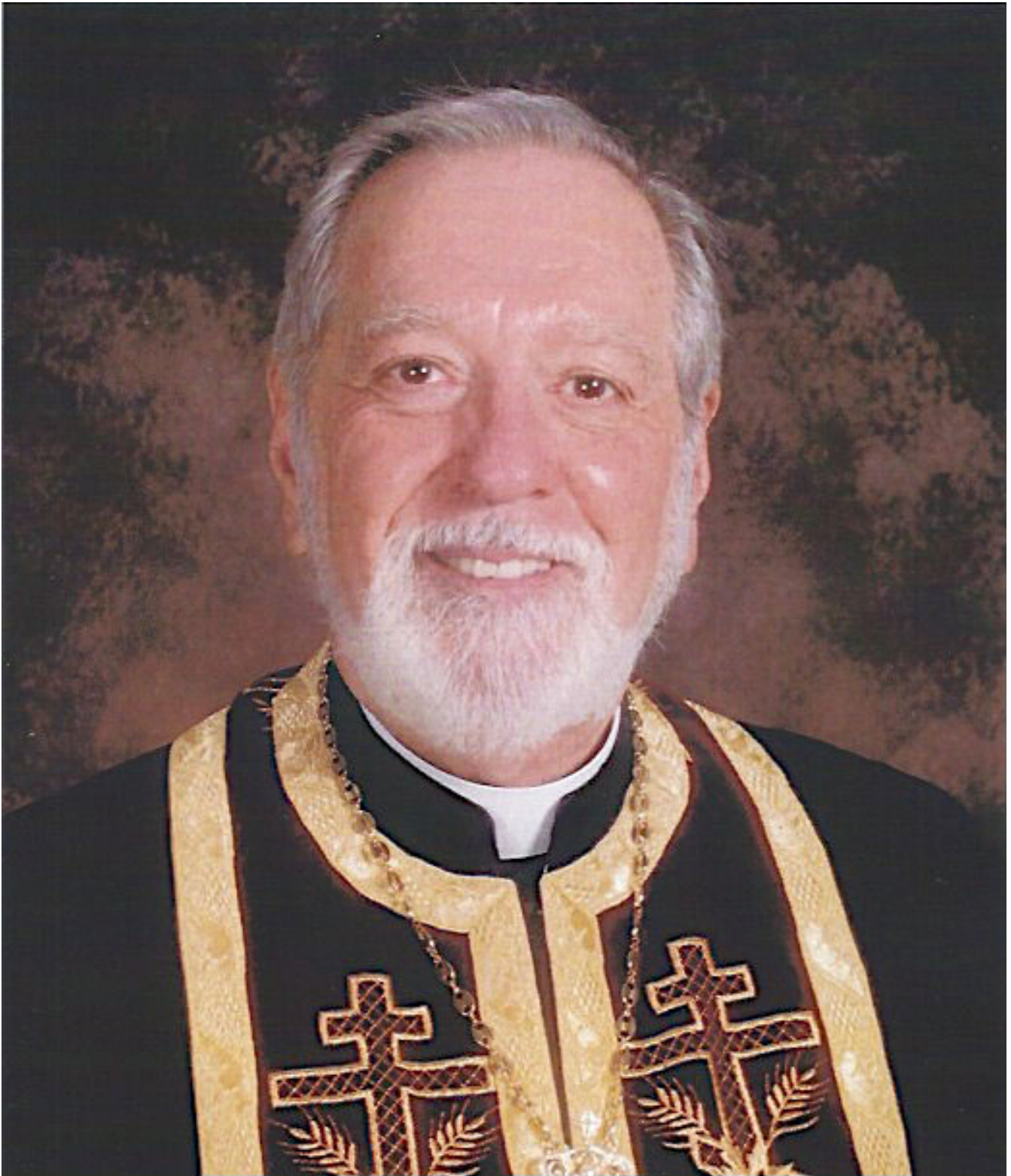
PLEASE NOTE: Artoklasies for any of the festal saint days are always welcome. Please however, call the church office to register your artoklasia for the specific day. YPSOMATA are prepared for the faithful offerer by name. See the clergy for proper dispensation and direction.

TODAY: By way of special courier, you are cordially invited to share the Pastor's BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION today Sunday, July 22nd, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. PIZZA, CAKE, SWEETS, COFFEE and SODA will be served to all in attendance. What number birthday # ? only the saints will know. However, there are echoes in the vestry.....FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO....?

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE: The day begins with HOLY WATER BLESSNG for the month of August at 11:00 A.M. and concludes at sun-set with the First Paraklesis to the Blessed Virgin Mary at 7:00 – 8:15 P.M.

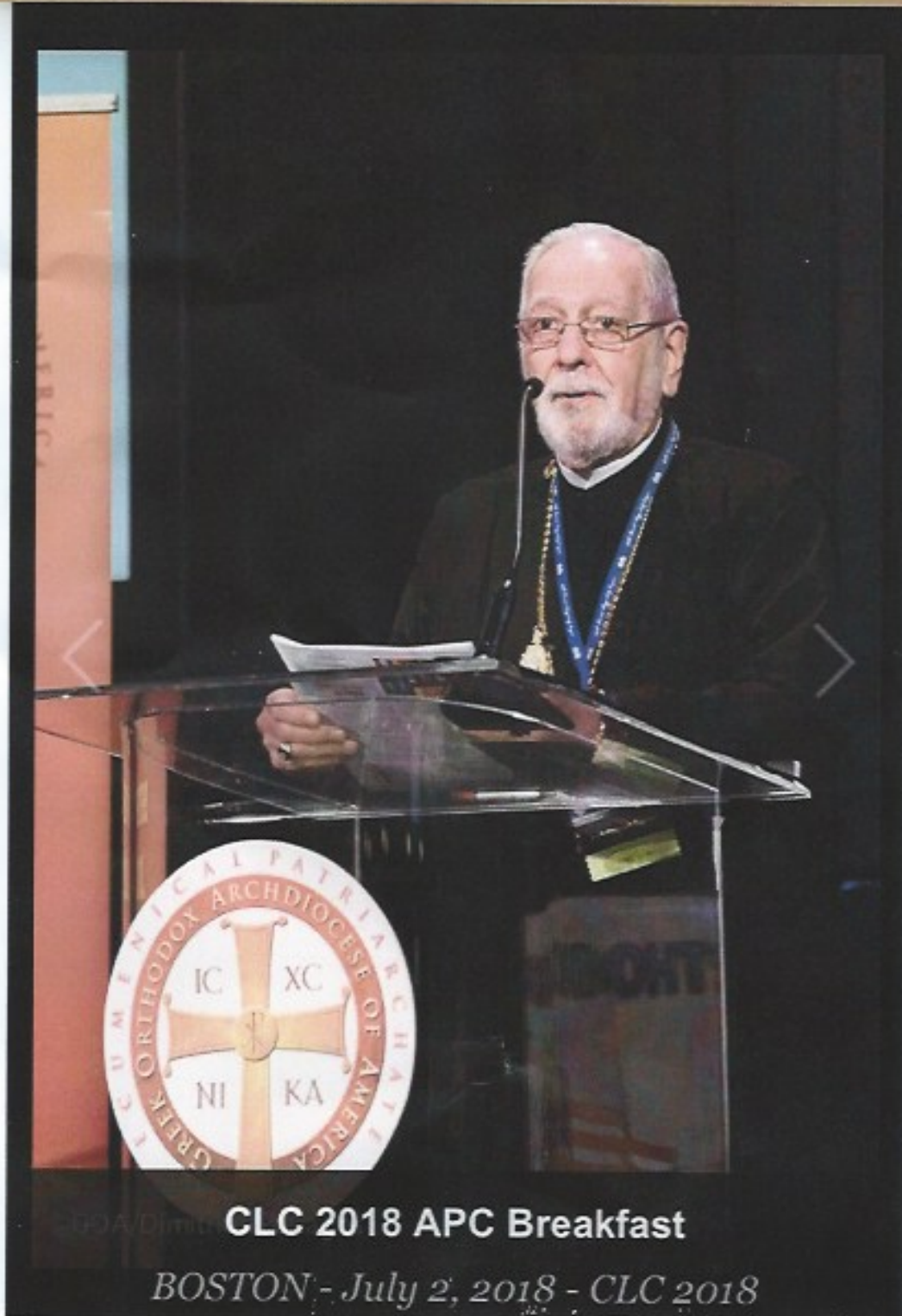
RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well 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](#))

MEMORIAL TODAY + **STAVROS KALOGIANNIS**
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + **ANGELO RAVANOS**



Our Pastor for the last 35 year, V. Rev. Archimandrite EUGENE NICHOLAS PAPPAS is a Coney Island baby born July 23, 1940 privileged to be baptized where his parents were married at THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH. A graduate of the Greek School he served at the altar under the first priest of the community, Rev. Vasilios Michalopoulos. Active in the Sunday School, the T.H.Y. and the Choir, he received the vocation to the priesthood when he was 17 years of age. As an active clergyman of 53 years of service, Father Eugene was ordained by Archbishop Iakovos on THREE HIERARCHS DAY January 30, 1966. He has served as National President of the Greek clergy for many years. Among his posts were SEOUL, KOREA; - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, -THESSALONIKI, GREECE, - OMAHA, NEBRASKA, - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



Our beloved Pastor, Father Eugene was re-elected for another two year term 2018 – 2020, as President of the National R.C.A. He addressed hundreds of active and retired hierarchs and presbyters of the Church in America at the Boston Massachusetts 44th. Biennial Clergy Laity CONGRESS. The 30th ANNIVERSARY celebration of the R.C.A.'s inauguration was a major festive success thanks to all who participated: approximately 1,300 delegates from 50 states.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@yghoo.gr

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| Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2108 | Κυριακὴ Η' (Η' Ματθ.) (Α' Κορ. 1,10-17) 22 Ἰουλίου 2018 | Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης |
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Τὰ σχίσματα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας

«Παρακαλῶ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ᾖ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἦτε δὲ κατηρτισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοί καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ» (Α' Κορ. 1,10)

Στὴν Κόρινθο, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὴν πλοῦσια καὶ μεγάλη αὐτὴ πόλι τῆς ἀρχαίας Ἑλλάδος, εἶχαν ἐργασθῆ πολλοὶ ἐργάτες τοῦ εὐαγγελίου γιὰ τὴν ἰδρυσι, θεμελίωσι καὶ ἀνάπτουσι τῆς πρώτης Ἐκκλησίας.

Ἐπιδίωξι τῶν κηρύκων τῆς χριστιανικῆς πίστεως ἦταν νὰ πέση παντοῦ ὁ σπόρος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀλλὰ κυρίως νὰ ἰδρύνονται ἐκκλησίαις πρώτα - πρώτα στὰ **μεγάλα διοικητικὰ κέντρα** τοῦ ἀρχαίου κόσμου. Ἡ Ἑλλάδα, ἡ ὁποία κατὰ τὴν ἀποστολικὴ ἐκείνη ἐποχὴ ἦταν ὑποταγμένη στοὺς Ῥωμαίους, διακρινόταν σὲ δύο μεγάλα διαμερίσματα, τὴ Μακεδονία μὲ κέντρο τὴ Θεσσαλονίκη καὶ τὴν Ἀχαΐα μὲ κέντρο τὴν Κόρινθο. Ἦταν λοιπὸν φυσικὸ καὶ ἡ Κόρινθος νὰ ἐλκύσῃ τὴν προσοχὴ τῶν ἀποστόλων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Πρῶτος ἐργάστηκε ἐκεῖ ὁ ἀπόστολος **Παῦλος**, ὁ ὁποῖος καὶ φύτεψε τὸ δέντρο τῆς χριστιανικῆς πίστεως στὴν ἐπίσημη αὐτὴ πόλι τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ. Τὸ κλίμα τῆς Κορίνθου ἦταν ἔντονα εἰδωλολατρικὸ καὶ ἡ πίστι καὶ λατρεία τῶν εἰδώλων εἶχε ἐπηρεάσει βαθειὰ τὴ ζωὴ καὶ τὰ ἦθη τῶν Κορινθίων. Ὁ ἀπόστολος τοῦ Χριστοῦ χρειάστηκε νὰ μείνῃ ἐκεῖ ἐπὶ ἀρκετὸ διάστημα καὶ κατέβαλε πολλοὺς κόπους γιὰ νὰ στερεωθῆ ἡ νεοφύτευτη πίστι στὶς καρδιὰς τῶν Κορινθίων. Αὐτὰ μᾶς πληροφοροῦν τόσο τὸ βιβλίον τῶν Πράξεων τῶν ἀποστόλων ὅσο καὶ οἱ δύο πρὸς Κορινθίους Ἐπιστολές τοῦ ἀποστόλου τῶν ἐθνῶν, ποὺ ὡς θεόπνευστα βιβλία τοῦ κανόνος τῆς Καινῆς Διαθήκης ἀποτελοῦν καὶ ἀθάνατα γραπτὰ μνημεῖα τῆς ἀπέραντης ἀγάπης τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου πρὸς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τῆς Κορίνθου.

Μετὰ ἀπὸ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο στὴν Κόρινθο **ἐργάστηκαν καὶ ἄλλοι**, ἐπίσημοι καὶ ἀνεπίσημοι, ἐπώνυμοι καὶ ἀνώνυμοι ἐργάτες τῆς

Ἐκκλησίας. Τὸ γεγονός αὐτὸ ἦταν εὐχάριστο γιὰ ὅλη τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν, καὶ βέβαια γιὰ τὸ πλῆθος αὐτὸ τῶν ἐργατῶν ποὺ κοπιᾶσαν στὸν ἀγρὸ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κορίνθου κανεῖς ἄλλος δὲν θὰ χάρηκε περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὸν πρωτεργάτη, τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο· χαρὰ του ἦταν νὰ διαδίδεται μὲ ὅσο τὸ δυνατόν περισσότερα στόματα ἢ ἀλήθεια τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἀλλὰ ὁ σατανᾶς φθονεῖ τὸ καλὸ καὶ ἐπιδιώκει ὅλα νὰ τὰ ἐκμεταλλεύεται γιὰ τὸ δικό του δόλιο σκοπὸ. Ἔτσι καὶ τὸ γεγονός αὐτὸ, τὸ τόσο εὐχάριστο γιὰ τὴν ἀγία ψυχὴ τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, δὲν ἄργησε νὰ πάρῃ μία ἀπροσδόκητη ἐξέλιξι καὶ νὰ ἐμφανίσῃ μία πολὺ δυσάρεστη ὄψι. **Οἱ Χριστιανοὶ** δηλαδὴ τῆς Κορίνθου, μὲ ἀφορμὴ τὴν ἐργασία τῶν διαφόρων κηρύκων τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ τὸν κύκλο τῶν μαθητῶν ποὺ σχηματιζόταν φυσικὰ γύρω ἀπ' τὸν καθένα ἀπ' αὐτούς, χωρίστηκαν μετεξέτους, **διαρέθησαν σὲ κόμματα καὶ σὲ κομματίδια**, σὲ «*σχίσματα*» ὅπως λέει ἐδῶ ὁ ἀπόστολος (Α' Κορ. 1,10). Τὸ καθένα ἀπὸ τὰ κόμματα αὐτὰ ἀναγνώριζε ὡς ἀρχηγὸ του ἕναν ἀπὸ τοὺς διδασκάλους τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, ἐκαυχάτο καὶ καμάρωνε γι' αὐτόν, καὶ οἱ ὁπαδοὶ του διακρίνονταν ἀπέναντι τῶν ἄλλων Χριστιανῶν καὶ φέρονταν σὰν ἀντίπαλοι.

Τὸ φαινόμενο ἦταν θλιβερό, θλιβερώτατο. **Ἡ ἐνότητα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κορίνθου διασπάσθηκε**· ἡ ὁμόνοια χάθηκε, ἡ ἀγάπη ψυχράνθηκε, ἡ ἀδελφοσύνη πληγώθηκε. Ἀντιζηλίαι καὶ φθόνοι καὶ ἀνταγωνισμοὶ ἀρχισαν ν' ἀναπτύσσωνται σὰν καρκινώματα μέσα στὸν καθαρὸ ὄργανισμὸ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Γιατὶ καθένας ἀπὸ τοὺς Χριστιανοὺς τῆς Κορίνθου ἀκούγεται νὰ λέῃ· «*Εγὼ μὲν εἶμι* (=εἶμαι ὁπαδὸς τοῦ) *Παύλου*, *ἐγὼ δὲ* (=εἶμαι ὁπαδὸς τοῦ) *Ἀπολλῶ*, *ἐγὼ δὲ* (=εἶμαι ὁπαδὸς τοῦ) *Κηφᾶ*, *ἐ-*

γὼ δὲ (=εἶμαι ὁπαδὸς τοῦ) Χριστοῦ» (ἔλ. 1,12). Ἐκταναν δηλαδή καὶ τὸ Χριστό, τὴν κεφαλὴ καὶ τὸ κέντρο ἐνότητος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, σὰν ἕναν ἀπ' αὐτούς, σὰν ἕναν ἀπὸ τοὺς πολλοὺς κομματάρχες ποὺ διασποῦσαν τὴν ἐνότητά της. Μπορεῖ κανεὶς τώρα νὰ φανταστῆ τί θὰ προξένησε αὐτὸ τὸ πλήγμα στὸν ἰδρυτὴ τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κορίνθου, ποὺ δίδαξε, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἔδωσε αὐτὸ τὸ αἷμα καὶ τὴ ζωὴ του γιὰ ν' ἀποκτήσῃ «τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ» – «*περιποιήσατο* (δηλαδή τὴν ἀπέκτησε) *διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος*» (Πρὸς 21,28);

Ἡ διαίρεσις αὐτῆ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κορίνθου **λύπησε πολὺ** τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο, καὶ γι' αὐτὸ κυρίως ἔγραψε τὴν Πρώτη (Α') πρὸς Κορινθίους Ἐπιστολή, στὴν ὁποία με λόγια δυνατὰ χτύπησε τὸ κακό, καυτηρίασε τὴν πληγὴ τῆς διαιρέσεως, ἢ ὁποία ἔτεινε νὰ διαλύσῃ τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τῆς Κορίνθου.

Ἀλλὰ δυστυχῶς, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἡ **διαίρεσις αὐτῆ ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ ὑφίσταται** μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Χριστοῦ σὰν μία γάγγραινα. Τὰ σχίσματα, τὰ ἐκκλησιαστικὰ κόμματα καὶ οἱ θρησκευτικὲς φατρίες δὲν ἔλειψαν καὶ δὲν ἐξουδετερώθηκαν. Καὶ νὰ γνωρίζουμε ὅτι καὶ στὸ μέλλον δὲν θὰ ἐκλείψουν, ἐὰν δὲν τεθοῦν σὲ ἐφαρμογὴ μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησίαν οἱ δύο ἐπόμενοι κανόνες.

● Ὁ **πρῶτος κανόνας ἀφορᾷ** στοὺς **ἐργάτες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας**, εἴτε ἱεροκήρυκες, εἴτε πνευματικοί, εἴτε κατηχηταί, εἴτε ὁπωσδήποτε ἀλλίως ὀνομάζονται αὐτοί. Καὶ ὁ κανόνας εἶνε νὰ κρῖνουν ὅσο τὸ δυνατόν τὸ ἄτομό τους μέσα στὸ ἔργο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. **Νὰ ἔχουν μεγάλη ἰδέα γιὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ μικρὴ - πολὺ μικρὴ ἰδέα γιὰ τὸ ἄτομό τους.** Νὰ μὴ νομίζουν ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία ὑπάρχει μόνο γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ τους καὶ τὰ ἄθλια συμφέροντά τους, ἀλλὰ νὰ πιστεύουν ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία εἶνε «*Θεοῦ γεώργιον, Θεοῦ οἰκοδομὴ*» (1 Κορ. 3,9). Δὲν εἶνε δικό τους κτῆμα ἡ Ἐκκλησία, γιὰ νὰ κάνουν ὅ,τι θέλουν μέσα σ' αὐτό, γιὰ νὰ τὸ κομματιάσουν καὶ νὰ λένε, Αὐτὸ ἔδω τὸ κομμάτι εἶνε δικό μου, ἐκεῖνο τὸ ἄλλο εἶνε δικό σου... καὶ νὰ στήνουν τὰ συρματοπλέγματα τοῦ μίσους, ἐξ αἰτίας τῶν ὁποίων νὰ μὴ μπορῆ ὁ ἕνας ἐργάτης τοῦ εὐαγγελίου νὰ εἰσχωρήσῃ στὸ «οἰκόπεδο» τοῦ ἄλλου! Ἡ Ἐκκλησία εἶνε μία, εἶνε μεγάλη, εἶνε ἀπέραντη, καὶ ὑπάρχει θέσι γιὰ ὅλους τοὺς ἐργάτες, οἱ ὁποῖοι, ἀνάλογα με τὰ χαρίσματα ποὺ τοὺς ἔχει δώσει ὁ Θεός, καλοῦνται νὰ προσφέρουν τὶς ὑπηρεσίες τους σ' αὐτήν.

● Ὁ **δεύτερος** τώρα κανόνας ἀφορᾷ στοὺς πιστοὺς - τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Καὶ ὁ κανόνας αὐτὸς λέει: **νὰ μὴ προσκολλῶνται στὰ πρόσωπα τῶν ἐργατῶν** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἀλλὰ τιμώντας τὸν κάθε ἐργάτη ἀνάλογα με τὴν ἐργασία ποὺ προσφέρει μέσα στὸν θεῖο ἀμπελῶνα, νὰ ἔχουν τὴν καρδιά τους προσκολλημένη μόνο σὲ ἕνα πρόσωπο, στὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. Γιατὶ αὐτός, καὶ μόνο αὐτός, εἶνε ὁ Εὐεργέτης τους, ὁ Σωτήρας τους, ὁ Λυτρωτὴς τους: οἱ ἄλλοι εἶνε ὑπηρετές, εἶνε ἀπλὰ ὄργανα τοῦ Θεοῦ ποὺ διακονοῦν στὸν σκοπὸ τῆς σωτηρίας τοῦ λαοῦ. Ἄν ὑπάρχῃ ἕνα πρόσωπο γιὰ τὸ ὁποῖο μποροῦν καὶ πρέπει νὰ καυχῶνται, αὐτὸ εἶνε μόνο ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, γιατί *αὐτός «ἐγενήθη ἡμῖν σοφία ἀπὸ Θεοῦ, δικαιοσύνη τε καὶ ἁγιασμός καὶ ἀπολύτρωσις»* λοιπόν, «*ὁ καυχώμενος ἐν Κυρίῳ καυχάσθω*» (1 Κορ. 1,31-32; 1 Κορ. 3,23-24).

Ἦ, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐὰν ἐτηροῦντο οἱ δύο αὐτοὶ κανόνες! Ἄλλη θὰ ἦταν ἡ πνευματικὴ μας κατάστασις καὶ ζωὴ.

Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὁ κορυφαῖος ἀπόστολος, δὲν εἶχε μεγάλη ἰδέα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ του, ὅλα τὰ ἀπέδιδε στὸ Θεό, καὶ εἶνε χαρακτηριστικὸς ὁ τρόπος ποὺ ἐκφραζόταν καὶ ἔγραφε γιὰ τὸ ἔργο του: «*Εγὼ ἐφύτευσα*», λέει, «*Ἀπολλῶς ἐπότισεν, ἀλλ' ὁ Θεὸς ἤρξανεν ὥστε οὔτε ὁ φυτεῦων ἐστὶ τι οὔτε ὁ ποτίζων, ἀλλ' ὁ αὐξάνων Θεός*» (1 Κορ. 3,6-7). Ἐὰν καὶ οἱ **σημερινοὶ ἐργάτες** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἶχαν τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ Παύλου, θυσίαζαν τὸ ἐγὼ τους καὶ ζητοῦσαν τὴ δόξα μόνο τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, καμμία ἀντιζηλία καὶ ἰδιοτέλεια δὲν θὰ εἶχε θέσι ἀνάμεσά τους, ἀλλὰ θὰ ὁμοιοῦσαν καὶ θὰ συνεργάζονταν ἀποδοτικά.

Κι ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο μέρος, ἂν οἱ **σημερινοὶ πιστοὶ** εἶχαν καλλιεργηθῆ με ἀληθινὸ ἐκκλησιαστικὸ φρόνημα καὶ τὰ κριτήριά τους ἦταν ὄχι σαρκικὰ ἀλλὰ πνευματικὰ, καὶ εἶχαν τὴν ἰκανότητα νὰ διακρίνουν τὸν δοῦλο ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο, τὸν νυμφαγωγὸ ἀπὸ τὸν Νυμφίον, τὴ σκιά ἀπὸ τὴν πραγματικότητα, τὸ προσωρινὸ ἀπὸ τὸ αἰώνιον, τότε ἀσφαλῶς ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας θὰ ἦταν ἀπηλλαγμένη ἀπὸ σχίσματα καὶ φατρίες καί, καθὼς θὰ ἦταν ὅλοι «*κατηρητισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοί καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ*», με τὴν ἴδια νοοτροπία καὶ τὸ ἴδιο φρόνημα (ἔλ. 1,10), θὰ μπορούσε νὰ ἐπιδράσῃ βαθύτερα καὶ ἀποτελεσματικώτερα στὴν κοινωνία καὶ ν' ἀποδώσῃ περισσότερους καρπούς πρὸς δόξαν 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

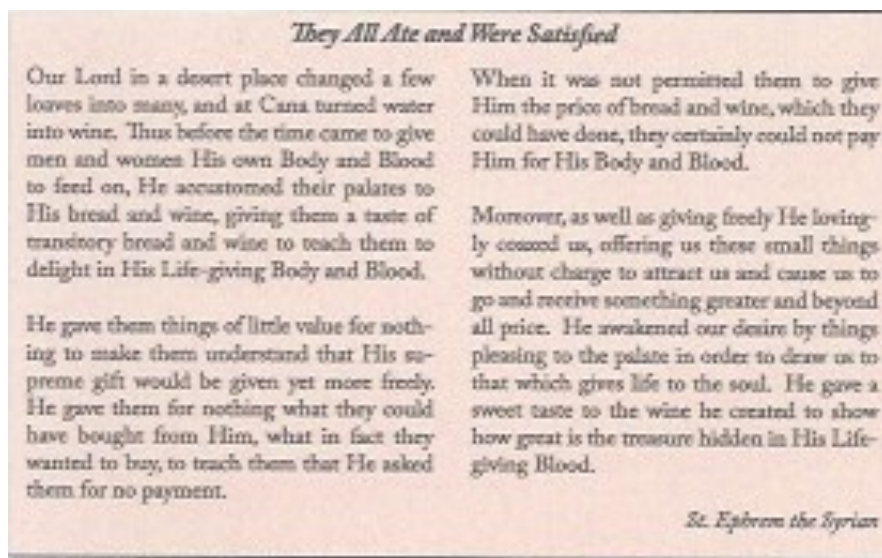
SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR

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



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