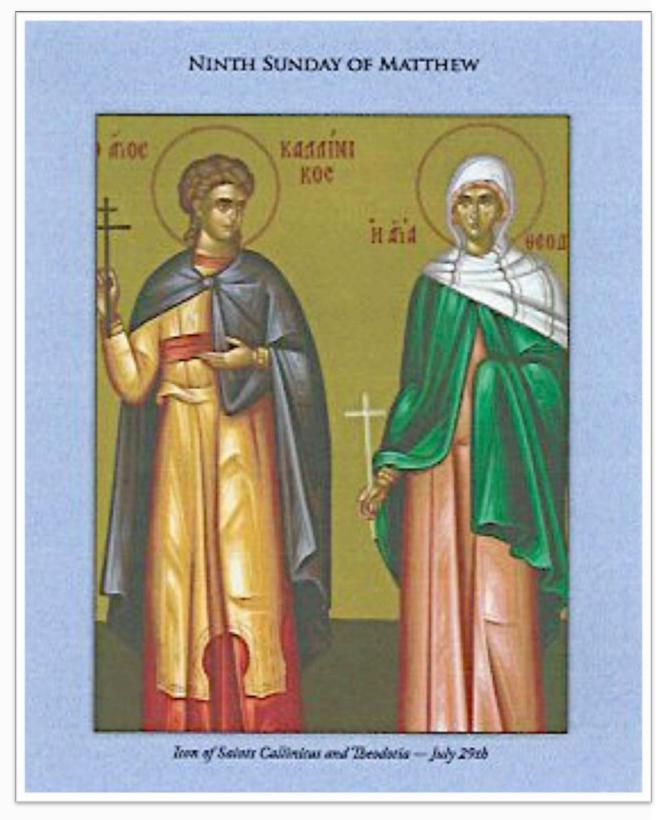


Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 29th 2018 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



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9th Sunday of Matthew Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 3:9-17 **Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4. Psalm 75.11,1**

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. δ'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὕξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίφ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν. Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 3:9-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα είναι απο

Αδελφοί, Θεοῦ γάρ ἐσμεν συνεργοί· θεοῦ γεώργιον, θεοῦ οἰκοδομή ἐστε. Κατὰ τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ τὴν δοθεῖσάν μοι, ὡς σοφὸς ἀρχιτέκτων θεμέλιον τέθεικα, ἄλλος δὲ ἐποικοδομεῖ. Ἔκαστος δὲ βλεπέτω πῶς ἐποικοδομεῖ. Θεμέλιον γὰρ ἄλλον οὐδεὶς δύναται θεῖναι παρὰ τὸν κείμενον, ὅς ἐστιν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Εἰ δέ τις ἐποικοδομεῖ ἐπὶ τὸν θεμέλιον τοῦτον χρυσόν, ἄργυρον, λίθους τιμίους, ξύλα, χόρτον, καλάμην, ἐκάστου τὸ ἔργον φανερὸν γενήσεται· ἡ γὰρ ἡμέρα δηλώσει, ὅτι ἐν πυρὶ ἀποκαλύπτεται· καὶ ἐκάστου τὸ ἔργον ὁποῖόν ἐστιν τὸ πῦρ δοκιμάσει. Εἴ τινος τὸ ἔργον μένει ὃ ἐποικοδόμησεν, μισθὸν λήψεται. Εἴ τινος τὸ ἔργον κατακαήσεται, ζημιωθήσεται· αὐτὸς δὲ σωθήσεται, οὕτως δὲ ὡς διὰ πυρός. Οὺκ οἴδατε ὅτι ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε, καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν; Εἴ τις τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ φθείρει, φθερεῖ τοῦτον ὁ θεός· ὁ γὰρ ναὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ἄγιός ἐστιν, οἵτινές ἐστε ὑμεῖς.

9th Sunday of Matthew The Gospel According to Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

9th Sunday of Matthew

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 14:22-34 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἡνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἔως οὖ ἀπολύση τοὺς ὅχλους. Καὶ ἀπολύσας τοὺς ὅχλους ἀνέβη εἰς τὸ ὅρος κατ' ἰδίαν προσεύξασθαι. ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης μόνος ἦν ἐκεῖ. Τὸ δὲ πλοῖον ἤδη σταδίους πολλοὺς ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἀπεῖχεν, βασανιζόμενον ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων, ἦν γὰρ ἐναντίος ὁ ἄνεμος. Τετάρτη δὲ φυλακῃ τῆς νυκτὸς ἦλθεν πρὸς αὐτοὺς περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν. Οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης περιπατοῦντα ἐταράχθησαν λέγοντες ὅτι Φάντασμά ἐστιν, καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ φόβου ἔκραξαν. Εὐθὺς δὲ ἐλάλησεν [ὁ Ἰησοῦς] αὐτοῖς λέγων, Θαρσεῖτε, ἐγώ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν, Κύριε, εἰ σὺ εἶ, κέλευσόν με ἐλθεῖν πρὸς σὲ ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα· ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλθέ. καὶ καταβὰς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιεπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα καὶ ἦλθεν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἄνεμον ἐφοβήθη, καὶ ἀρξάμενος καταποντίζεσθαι ἔκραξεν λέγων, Κύριε, σῶσόν με. Εὐθέως δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα ἐπελάβετο αὐτοῦ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, ᾿Ολιγόπιστε, εἰς τὶ ἐδίστασας; καὶ ἀναβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος. Οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοίφ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ λέγοντες, ᾿Αληθῶς Θεοῦ υἰὸς εἶ. Καὶ διαπεράσαντες ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν εἰς Γεννησαρέτ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

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.	
Wednesday	August 01st,	Holy Water Blessing (AGIASMOS)	11:00-11:30 A.M.
Wednesday	August 01st,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.
Friday	August 03rd,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.
Sunday	August 05th,	Pre-Feast of HOLY TRANSFIGURATION	10:00 A.M.
		Blessing of grape harvest	
HI	ERARCHAL VIS	SITATION of Metropolitan Anthony and Archbishop Daniel	
for	r the Ukrainian Li	iturgy honoring Saint Panteleimon Mission	
Co	mmunity BANQU	UET on the occasion of the 'name-day' – of the Ukrainian	
col	mmunity hosted a	t Three Hierarchs (WHITEHALL – 3:00 – 8:00 P.M.	
Monday	August 06th,	FEAST of the HOLY TRANSFIGURATION Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
		blessing of the 'first fruits'-grape harvest	11:00 A.M.
Tuesday	August 07th,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.
Thursday	August 09th,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.

ARTOKLASIA: today is offered by the family of SOPHIA DROUVALAKIS in honor and tribute to Saint Nektarios (d.1928) the Patron of all patients suffering from 'cancer'. We all know someone who may be suffering in silence, -- let's pray for them too.

ARTOKLASIA: today is offered by IOANNA KORKOFIGAS in honor of Saint Panteleimon.

Where does one begin t say WOW and THANK YOU! The festivities of last week's 'FATHER EUGENE BIRTHDAY # (?) were incredible.' Whitehall was filled to the utmost with young and elders alike. Special gratitude is expressed to the following faithful: MELINDA NAMATH, TEODOZIA, FLORYNA, GIORGI, LIVAN, GENNADIY, NEONILA, NADEZHDA and ALEXANDER, OLGA and PETER, TETYANA and VASILIY, TEIMURAZ BORIS, MICHAEL, SOPHIA ® DINA, LYUDMILA, NINA, SOPHIA, IRINA, LARISA and VASILIY, LARISA and IRINA, ZURAB and MARIAM, MARIANNA, MANANA, TATYANA, IVAN, TATIANA and MARK, THECLA JOHNIDES, DINA and LIZ RIGAS, JULIA DEMAKAKOS, GEORGIA DEMAKAKOS.

A major shout out of EVCHARISTO – to the Russian Community, with Fr. Mystislav, and the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY with Fr, Vasyl for their outpouring of song and toasting. The parish council, Philoptochos Society, and Senior Club along with the Altar Boy Society were well represented. Hugs and kisses to Haritini Pandis, John Eugenis, Angela Sakkas, Natalya Segal, Susan and Mary Jannace, Photini Daniil, Robert Malfi, the Bezugly Family, Olga and Peter Melis, Connie and Alex Ioannides, Dina Daniels, Bernice Williams, Maya, Georgia Bouzakis, Stella Oberle, Pamela and Dina Kelly, George, Annie and Chris Annis, Harout Doghramadjian, Anatoli Papadopoulou.... and many others with well wishes. Special note of gratitude to Maria Notaro of Aluotta Bakery and THREE STAR Restaurant owners Steve and George, as well as Billy Giannopoulos of Madison Florist.

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:

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: + ANGELO RAVANOS









-- Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρα καὶ ἦκουσα φωνήν ὁπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιννος-- (Άπ. 1.10)

Έχδιδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακή Γυναικεία Ίερο Μονή Άγίου Αὖγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 -imaefio@yshoo.or

Περίοδος Δ΄ - "Ετος ΛΕ΄ Φλώρινα - αριθμ. φύλλου 2111 Κυριακή Θ' (Θ' Ματθ.) (Α' Κορ. 3,9-17) 29 Ἰουλίου 2018 Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ύλικὰ ἀξίας, ἢ εὐτελῆ;

«"Εκαστος βλεπέτω πῶς ἐποικοδομεῖ» (Α΄ Κορ. 3,10)

Ο ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ἀγαπητοί μου, παρομοιάζει τὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ μὲ μία οἰκοδομή. «Θεοῦ οἰκοδομή ἐστε», λέει (Καμή: εἶστε μία θεϊκὴ οἰκοδομή, γράφει στοὺς Χριστιανοὺς τῆς Κορίνθου οἱ ὁποῖοι εἶχαν πιστέψει στὸν Κύριο καὶ εἶχαν ἀποτελέσει τὴν πρώτη ἐκκλησία τῆς Κορίνθου.

Έπειδή τὸ δόγμα - ή ἀλήθεια γύρω ἀπὸ τὴν Έκκλησία εἶνε θεμελιῶδες κ' εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ γίνη κατανοητὸ ἀπὸ ὅλους, γι' αὐτὸ στὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ Κυρίου, τῶν προφητῶν, τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ τῶν ἀγίων πατέρων καὶ διδασκάλων χρησιμοποιούνται πολλές βοηθητικές εiκόνες καὶ παρομοιώσεις. "Αλλοτε λέγεται ὅτι ή Έκκλησία είνε ένα **σώμα** (μὲ κεφαλή τὸ Χριστό, ψυχὴ τὸ πανάγιο Πνεῦμα, καὶ μέλη ἐκείνους ποὺ βαπτίσθηκαν), ἄλλοτε μία κιβωτός (πλοῖο ποὺ ταξιδεύει, μὲ κυβερνήτη τὸ Χριστό, ναΰτες τοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ άγίους πατέρας καὶ ἐπιβάτες τοὺς Χριστιανούς), ἄλλοτε ενα αμπέλι (μὲ ῥίζα τὸ Χριστό, κληματόβεργες τοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ κλήματα τοὺς Χριστιανούς), ἄλλοτε ἔνα μικρὸ ποίμνιο - κοπάδι (μὲ καλὸ ποιμένα - τσοπᾶνο τὸν Κύριο καὶ πρόβατα έμᾶς), ἄλλοτε μία μικρὴ ζύμη - προζύμι, ἄλλοτε ἔνα συμπόσιο - τραπέζι κ.λπ..

Έδῶ λοιπὸν ἔχουμε τὴν εἰκόνα τῆς οἰκοδομῆς. Εἶνε μία ἀπὸ τὶς παρομοιώσεις, ποὺ χρησιμοποιεῖ ὁ ἀπόστολος γιὰ νὰ κάνη αἰσθητὴ καὶ κατανοητὴ τὴ διδασκαλία του. Ἡ Ἑκκλησία ὑψώνεται ἀνάμεσα στὸν κόσμο καὶ τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα σὰν τὸ μεγαλοπρεπέστατο καὶ αἰώνιο ἀνάκτορο τῆς ἀγαθότητος καὶ τῆς παντοδυναμίας τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἁξίζει λοιπὸν νὰ δοῦμε ποιό εἶνε τὸ θεμέλιο πάνω στὸ ὁποῖο στηρίζεται αὐτὸ τὸ μεγαλειῶδες οἰκοδόμημα, ποιοί εἶνε οἱ ἐργάτες ποὺ ἐργάζονται γιὰ τὴν αὕξησί του, καὶ ποιά εἶνε τὰ ὑλικὰ ποὺ χρησιμοποιοῦνται γιὰ τὴν ἀνέγερσί του.

 "Όπως κάθε οἰκοδομὴ ἔχει τὸ θεμέλιό της, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ἡ θεῖκὴ οἰκοδομή, ἔχει τὸ θεμέλιό της καὶ αὐτό, σύμφωνα μὲ τὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, εἶνε ὁ Ἰησούς Χριστός: «Θεμέλιον ἄλλον οὐδεὶς δύναται θεῖναι (=νὰ θέση) παρὰ τὸν κείμενον, ὅς έστιν Τησούς Χριστός» (ἐλλή). Τὸ θεμέλιο αὐτὸ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας κανείς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ άλλάξη καὶ κανείς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ κλονίση. Καὶ άκριβῶς γιατὶ θεμέλιό της εἶνε ὁ Θεάνθρωπος Ίησοῦς Χριστός, γι' αὐτὸ ἡ Ἐκκλησία, παρὰ τὶς τόσες ἐπιθέσεις ποὺ δέχτηκε καὶ δέχεται, μένει ἀσάλευτη. Δὲν ἔπεσε ῶς τώρα, ὅπως ἀποδεικνύει ή αίματοβαμμένη ἱστορία της καὶ ἡ ἀδιάψευστη παρουσία της, κι οῦτε θὰ πέση στὸ μέλλον· κανένας σεισμὸς δὲν θὰ μπορέση νὰ τὴν κλονίση, ὅπως βεβαιώνει καὶ έγγυάται ό ἴδιος ό Χριστός, ποὺ εἶπε ὅτι «Πύλαι ἄδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς». ὅλες οἰ δαιμονικές δυνάμεις δέν πρόκειται νὰ τὴ νικήσουν (Μιπ). 16,18]. Καὶ ὄχι άπλῶς θὰ ἀποτύχουν οί ἐπιθέσεις ἐναντίον της, ἀλλὰ καὶ καθένας ποὺ θὰ ἐπιχειρήση νὰ τὴ βλάψη θὰ συντριβῆ ό ἴδιος, θὰ σπάση τὸ κεφάλι του ἐπάνω στὸ Βράχο τῶν αἶώνων (\$1. Λοικ 20.18. Νοτέ 21.44),

Τὸ θεμέλιο λοιπόν ἐτέθη, γιὰ νὰ χτιστῆ ἐπάνω σ' αὐτὸ ἡ Ἐκκλησία. Κι ἀπὸ τότε διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰώνων ἡ ἀποστολή της προωθεῖται
σὲ κάθε χώρα καὶ φυλή, γιὰ ν' ἀνοίγη συνεχῶς ἡ ἀγκάλη της, νὰ ἐπεκτείνωνται τὰ ὅριὰ
της, νὰ ὑψώνεται καὶ νὰ δοξάζεται ἡ βασιλεία
της, καὶ νὰ προσθέτη ὁ Θεὸς διαρκῶς νέα μέλη στὶς τάξεις της' «ὁ Κύριος προσετίθει τοὺς
σωζομένους καθ' ἡμέραν τῆ ἐκκλησία» καὶ ὅλο καὶ περισσότερο «προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ Κυρίῳ πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν»
Πρίξ ἐξ΄ ἡξίξ. Ἡ Ἑκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ δὲν παύει νὰ καλῆ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους νὰ ἐγκαταλεί-

ψουν τὶς προλήψεις καὶ τὶς πλάνες, καὶ νὰ πιστέψουν καὶ νὰ βαπτισθοῦν στὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὸ μόνο ποὺ ἔχει δοθῆ στοὺς ἀνθρώπους γιὰ νὰ σωθοῦν (βλ.Πρά, 4,12). Γιατί ὅπως ἔνας είνε ό θεμέλιος λίθος, ἔτσι μία είνε καὶ ἡ πίστις ποὺ ἀπαιτεῖται γιὰ νὰ γίνη δεκτὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος στὴν Ἐκκλησία. Μὲ τὴν πίστι αὐτὴ προσκολλάται στὸ θεμέλιο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ συνδέεται μὲ ὅλα τὰ ὑπόλοιπα μέλη της. Θεμέλιο τῆς οἰκοδομῆς εἶνε ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. θεμέλιο αἰώνιο καὶ ἀμετακίνητο.

- Οἱ ἐργάτες, ποὺ ἐργάζονται γιὰ τὴν πρόοδο τῆς οἰκοδομῆς, εἶνε οἱ ἀπόστολοι καὶ οἱ διάδοχοί τους, οί ἄγιοι πατέρες, οί ποιμένες καὶ διδάσκαλοι της Έκκλησίας, οἱ ὁποῖοι σὲ κάθε ἐποχὴ κοπιάζουν καὶ ἀγωνίζονται γιὰ τὴ συντήρησι καὶ ἐπέκτασι τῆς οἰκοδομῆς, νιὰ νὰ καταρτίζωνται βαθύτερα τὰ μέλη της καὶ νὰ έλκύωνται καὶ νὰ προστίθενται σ' αὐτὴν νέα μέλη. Καὶ ἄλλοίμονο στοὺς ἐργάτες ἐκείνους -έπισκόπους, Ιερεῖς, Ιεροκήρυκες- ποὺ ὅχι μόνο δὲν προσθέτουν στὴν οἰκοδομὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ενα μικρό έστω λιθαράκι, άλλὰ μὲ τὴν ἀδράνεια ἢ καὶ τὴ σκανδαλώδη διαγωγή τους γκρεμίζουν ὄ,τι ἔχτισαν μὲ δάκρυ καὶ αἶμα προηγούμενοι έργάτες τῆς Έκκλησίας.
- Καὶ τέλος τὰ ὑλικά. Μὲ τὴν πίστι ὁ ἄνθρωπος προστίθεται ώς μέλος στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστού, τὴν θεία οἰκοδομή, καὶ μὲ τὰ καλὰ έργα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς κοσμεῖ τὴν θεία οἰκοδομή, συνεισφέρει ὅ,τι πολύτιμο διαθέτει, ὥστε αὐτὴ νὰ λαμπρύνεται μὲ νέα διαμάντια.

Άλλ' ἐδῶ παρουσιάζεται διαφορά μεταξὺ τών Χριστιανών. Διότι δὲν προσφέρουν ὅλοι τὰ ίδια πράγματα. Ὁ ἔνας προσφέρει «χρυσόν», άρετή ποὺ λάμπει σὰν τὸν βασιλέα τῶν μετάλλων, ὁ δεύτερος προσφέρει «ἄργυρον», έργα καὶ κατορθώματα λαμπρὰ μὲν άλλὰ κατώτερα ἀπὸ τοῦ προηγουμένου, ὁ τρίτος «λίθους» πολυτίμους. Κάποιοι άλλοι όμως προσθέτουν «ξύλα, χόρτον, καλάμην» [ἐἰ.1/2], ὑλικὰ εὐτελή. Ὁ ἄγιος Νικόδημος ὁ Άγιορείτης ἐξηγεῖ· «Χάριν λόγου κτίζομεν ἐπάνω εἰς τὸ θεμέλιον αὐτὸ τὴν παρθενίαν καὶ ἀναμίαν ὡσὰν χρυσάφι, τὸν δὲ τίμιον γάμον ώσὰν ἀσήμι, τὴν ἀκτημοσύνην ώσὰν πέτρας πολυτίμους, την έν τῷ πλούτῳ ἐλεημοσύνην ώσὰν ἔνα ἄλλο κατώτερον είς τὴν τιμιότητα. "Αλλος δὲ πάλιν κτίζει ἐπάνω εἰς τὸ θεμέλιον τῆς πίστεως τὰ κακὰ ἔργα, τὰ όποῖα καὶ αὐτὰ ἔχουν βαθμοὺς καὶ μέτρα ἀναμεταξύ των. Χάριν λόνου, κτίζει τινὰς έπάνω είς αὐτὸ τὴν ἀκαθαρσίαν τῶν σαρκικῶν παθῶν ἀσὰν χόρτον, τὴν φιλαργυρίαν

καὶ πλεονεξίαν ώσὰν καλαμίαν τοῦ θερισμένου χωραφίου, τὰ όποῖα εὐκολώτερα καίονται άπὸ τὰ ἄλλα, τὴν μέθην καὶ τὸν γέλωτα καὶ τὰ χορατεύματα ώσὰν ξύλα» (Έρμγκικείς τὸς ιδ Έπιπολὸς τοῦ ἀπ. Παύλου, τάμ. Α΄, ἔκδ. «"Ορθόδοδος Κυψέλη», Θεσσαλονίκη 1969, σ. 4081.

Έὰν κάθε Χριστιανός, ἀφ' ἦς στιγμῆς μετανόησε καὶ πίστεψε στὸ Χριστό, ἐφιλοτιμεῖτο νὰ συνεισφέρη «χρυσόν» καὶ «ἄργυρον» καὶ πολυτίμους «λίθους» στὴν οἰκοδομὴ τῆς Έκκλησίας, ή Έκκλησία μας θὰ ἔλαμπε καὶ θὰ ἄστραφτε μέσα στὸ σημερινὸ σκοτάδι, ὅπως λάμπουν καὶ ἀστράφτουν τὰ διαμάντια μέσ* στή νύχτα. Άλλὰ τώρα; "Ω τώρα! οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τοῦ σημερινοῦ καιροῦ «χόρτον» καὶ «καλάμην» καὶ «ξύλα», ὅ,τι ψεύτικο, εὐτελὲς καὶ πρόστυχο ύλικὸ ύπάρχει, αὐτὸ προσφέρουν στήν οἰκοδομή τῆς Έκκλησίας καὶ τὸ φοβερώτερο εἶνε ὅτι, ἐνῷ προσφέρουν αὐτά, φαντάζονται ὅτι προσφέρουν «χρυσόν» καὶ «ἄργυ-

ρον». Τί ὑπερηφάνεια, τί τύφλωσις!

Άλλὰ ὁ Παϋλος ἔχει ὀρθάνοιχτα τὰ μάτια του καὶ βλέπει τὴν οἰκοδομή, βλέπει τὸ θεμέλιο, βλέπει τοὺς ἐργάτες, βλέπει αὐτοὺς ποὺ προσκομίζουν διάφορα ύλικὰ σ' αὐτήν. Καὶ έντρομος, μήπως κανείς ἀπὸ τοὺς Χριστιανούς του ύστερήση στὸ ἔργο αὐτὸ τῆς οἰκοδομής, φωνάζει: «"Εκαστος βλεπέτω πῶς ἐποικοδομεί» ξά 3.10. 'Ο καθένας ας κοιτάξη τί προσφέρει στη λαμπρότητα της Έκκλησίας. Τὰ ἔργα του εἶνε ἢ ἡ δόξα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἢ τὸ αίσχος τοῦ χριστιανικοῦ ὀνόματος. Καὶ γιὰ νὰ μάς φιλοτιμήση όλους καὶ νὰ μᾶς φοβίση, προειδοποιεῖ ὅτι τὸ ἔργο τοῦ καθενὸς θὰ τὸ δοκιμάση «τὸ πῦρ» (ἐἰζι), ἡ φωτιὰ τῆς δικαίας κρίσεως τοῦ Κυρίου. Αὐτὴ ἡ φωτιὰ θὰ κάψη ὄ,τι εἶνε σαθρὸ καὶ ἄθλιο, ἐνῷ θὰ λαμπρύνη ό,τι είνε στερεό καὶ ώραῖο.

Δὲν μᾶς φοβίζει, ἀδελφοί μου, ή ἀπειλὴ αὐτή; Καθώς εἵμαστε ἔνοχοι, ας πέσουμε στα γόνατα καὶ ᾶς ποῦμε στὸν Ίδρυτὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν·

Κύριε, ἀνήκουμε κ' ἐμεῖς στὴν Ἐκκλησία σου, τής όποίας σὺ εἶσαι τὸ θεμέλιο. Πιστέψαμε κ' έμεῖς σ' έσένα. Άλλὰ πλὴν τῆς πίστεως δὲν προσφέραμε στὸν ἄγιο ναό σου πολύτιμα πετράδια άρετῆς, δὲν λαμπρύναμε τὴν Έκκλησία σου μὲ πράξεις θεοφιλεῖς. Σὲ παρακαλούμε, Κύριε, βοήθησέ μας, ὥστε νὰ ἐκτιμήσουμε τὴ θέσι ποὺ μᾶς ἔδωσες μέσα στὴν Έκκλησία σου καὶ νὰ νιώσουμε βαθειὰ τὴν προτροπή τοῦ ἀποστόλου σου «"Εκαστος βλεπέτω πῶς ἐποικοδομεῖ».

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

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

Baptism is Iconic Imitation

How different and paradoxical is what happened to us who received holy Baptism! We did not really die, nor were we really buried, not even were we really enactfied and raised again. Everything that took place was iconic imitation. Yet they constituted for us our true salvation. Christ was actually cracified and buried, and truly rose again. He freely bestowed on us all these things, so that we might truly gain salvation by imitatively purticipating in the sufferings of Christ. What a surpassing love for humanity! Christ allowed nails to be attached to His immaculate hands, and suffered anguish. To me, however, He finely bestows salvation without pain or soil but by making me a communicant of His suffering.

Let no one suppose that Baptism is merely for the forgiveness of sins and adoption, as John's baptism was only for the forgiveness of sins. We should fully know that that Baptism effects in us the cleansing of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, and additionally, it is equivalent to the sufferings of Christ. For this reason Paul shouts and says, "Are you not aware that all of us who were baptized in Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? So, we were buried with Him by baptism into death" (Rom. 6:3-4). ... I beneath you, then, to constantly maintain in your memory those things which you have sufficiently learned...

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

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