



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 26th, 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Saints Adrian, Natalie and Joseph — August 26th

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280
Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org E-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

13th Sunday of Matthew
St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Προκείμενον. Ύμνος δ'.
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 16:13-24 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, γρηγορεῖτε, στήκετε ἐν τῇ πίστει, ἀνδρίζεσθε, κραταιοῦσθε. Πάντα ὑμῶν ἐν ἀγάπῃ γινέσθω. Παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί - οἴδατε τὴν οἰκίαν Στεφανᾶ, ὅτι ἐστὶν ἀπαρχὴ τῆς Ἀχαΐας, καὶ εἰς διακονίαν τοῖς ἁγίοις ἔταξαν ἑαυτοὺς - ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς ὑποτάσσησθε τοῖς τοιοῦτοις, καὶ παντὶ τῷ συνεργῶντι καὶ κοπιῶντι. Χαίρω δὲ ἐπὶ τῇ παρουσίᾳ Στεφανᾶ καὶ Φουρτουνάτου καὶ Ἀχαϊκοῦ, ὅτι τὸ ὑμῶν ὑστέρημα οὗτοι ἀνεπλήρωσαν. Ἀνέπαυσαν γὰρ τὸ ἐμὸν πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ ὑμῶν· ἐπιγινώσκετε οὖν τοὺς τοιοῦτους. Ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς αἱ ἐκκλησίαι τῆς Ἀσίας· ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς ἐν κυρίῳ πολλὰ Ἀκύλας καὶ Πρίσκιλλα, σὺν τῇ κατ' οἶκον αὐτῶν ἐκκλησίᾳ. Ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ ἀδελφοὶ πάντες. Ἀσπάσασθε ἀλλήλους ἐν φιλήματι ἁγίῳ. Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῆ ἐμῆ χειρὶ Παύλου. Εἴ τις οὐ φιλεῖ τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ἦτω ἀνάθεμα. Μαράν ἀθά. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μεθ' ὑμῶν. Ἡ ἀγάπη μου μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ἀμήν.

13th Sunday of Matthew
The Gospel According to Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 21:33-42 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄλλην παραβολὴν ἀκούσατε. ἄνθρωπός τις ἦν οἰκοδεσπότης, ὅστις ἐφύτευσεν ἀμπελῶνα καὶ φραγμὸν αὐτῷ περιέθηκε καὶ ὄρυξεν ἐν αὐτῷ ληνὸν καὶ ὠκοδόμησε πύργον, καὶ ἐξέδοτο αὐτὸν γεωργοῖς καὶ ἀπεδήμησεν. ὅτε δὲ ἤγγισεν ὁ καιρὸς τῶν καρπῶν, ἀπέστειλε τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ πρὸς τοὺς γεωργοὺς λαβεῖν τοὺς καρποὺς αὐτοῦ. καὶ λαβόντες οἱ γεωργοὶ τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ ὃν μὲν ἔδειραν, ὃν δὲ ἀπέκτειναν, ὃν δὲ ἐλιθοβόλησαν. πάλιν ἀπέστειλεν ἄλλους δούλους πλείονας τῶν πρώτων, καὶ ἐποίησαν αὐτοῖς ὡσαύτως. ὕστερον δὲ ἀπέστειλε πρὸς αὐτοὺς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ λέγων· ἐντραπήσονταί τὸν υἱόν μου. οἱ δὲ γεωργοὶ ἰδόντες τὸν υἱὸν εἶπον ἐν ἑαυτοῖς· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ κληρονόμος· δεῦτε ἀποκτείνωμεν αὐτὸν καὶ κατάσχωμεν τὴν κληρονομίαν αὐτοῦ. καὶ λαβόντες αὐτὸν ἐξέβαλον ἔξω τοῦ ἀμπελῶνος, καὶ ἀπέκτειναν. ὅταν οὖν ἔλθῃ ὁ κύριος τοῦ ἀμπελῶνος, τί ποιήσει τοῖς γεωργοῖς ἐκείνοις; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· κακοὺς κακῶς ἀπολέσει αὐτούς, καὶ τὸν ἀμπελῶνα ἐκδώσεται ἄλλοις γεωργοῖς, οἵτινες ἀποδώσουσιν αὐτῷ τοὺς καρποὺς ἐν τοῖς καιροῖς αὐτῶν. λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· οὐδέποτε ἀνέγνωτε ἐν ταῖς γραφαῖς, λίθον ὃν ἀπεδοκίμασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες, οὗτος ἐγενήθη εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας· παρὰ Κυρίου ἐγένετο αὕτη, καὶ ἐστὶ θαυμαστὴ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν;

AGAPE FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR is being suspended this Sunday.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

UPCOMING CELEBRATION:

Sunday-	August 26th	Pre Feast of Saint Phanourios: Patron Saint of Lost Things, PHANOUIROPITES will be blessed for those unable to come to church on <u>MONDAY</u> August 27th	9:30 A.M
Monday	August 27th	LITURGY of SAINT PHANOURIOS Blessing of the 'cakes' (PHANOUIROPITES) Distribution to all in the congregation.	9:30 A.M.

Up-coming great feasts:

Wednesday August 29th, Observance of the be-heading of St. John the Baptist

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O forerunner; for you have proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, you rejoiced to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades; that God has appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Saturday September 8th, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (THEOTOKOS)

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, has proclaimed joy to the whole world, for from you has dawned the Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

The Orthodox Christian Church Calendar cites countless thousands of martyrs, saints patrons and doctors of the faith each day of the year. Usually the most famous and prime holy personages are recorded by name on each date. There are also events, feasts, and sacred observances that are listed on particular dates. Most of the dates and observances are FIXED and un-movable. However, there are specific dates such as Lent, PASCHA (Easter) and subsequent holy days that are MOVEABLE from year to year depending upon the calculations of the moon and seasons. Are you aware of YOUR patronal feast day (NAME-DAY). It maybe a fixed or a moveable date..... check with the clergy for affirmation.

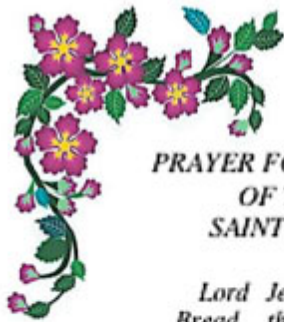
MANY THANKS: are expressed to the faithful and generous communicants offered wine, prosphora, artoklasies, incense, basiliko, and floral tributes to the observance of the Blessed Virgin Mary's heavenly ASSUMPTION (Koimisis Theotokou). JESUS WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO HONOR and REMEMBER WITH REVERANCE HIS MOST HOLY MOTHER MARY! God bless you all!

ICON of SAINT PHANOURIOS will be presented for veneration NEXT SUNDAY and MONDAY, August 26th, and 27th. Have you lost something? Have you been estranged from a loved one, a significant other, a meaningful person in your life? Are you looking for a job, a direction in life, a reconciliation, a restoration of a good relationship? Then it is to SAINT PHANOURIOS we entreat and supplicate for divine and heavenly intervention. IT WORKS!!!!

CHURCHING TODAY: SUNDAY AUGUST 26th,

'NIKO' first child and son of Salvatore and Susan (Sullivan) MELORE.
NA SAS ZESE!

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)



**PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING
OF THE CAKE OF
SAINT PHANOURIOS**

Lord Jesus Christ, the Heavenly Bread, the abundant provider of constant nourishment through the centuries, the giver of good things, the one who gave to Prophet Elias the Nourishment which was not planted on the earth, the hope of the hopeless and the help of those in need, and the Savior of our souls. Bless these gifts and those that have brought them to the glory and honor of the glorious Great Martyr Phanourios. Grant the giver of this cake, O Good One, all earthly abundant graces. Grant them happiness by your grace and show them the way to salvation. Quickly provide their heart's petitions and all their requests. Guide them in fulfilling your commandments so that forever in penitence and in heartfelt joy, they may praise and glorify Thy Divine and Majestic Name, through the intercessions of the most Blessed Theotokos, the holy and glorious Martyr Phanourios, the miracle-worker and all Your Saints. Amen

**ΕΠ' ΕΥΛΟΓΙΑ ΠΙΤΤΑΣ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΑΝΟΥΡΙΟΥ**

Κυριε Ιησου Χριστε' ο ουρανιος Αρτος, ο της Βρωσεως της μενουσης εις τον αιωνα πλουσιοπαροχος χορηγος, ο δοτηρ των αγαθων ο δι' Ηλιον τροφην αγεωργητον πηρασας, η ελπις των απηλπυμενων, η βοηθεια των αβοηθητων και σωτηρια των ψηχων ημων. Ευλογησον τα δωρα ταυτα και τους ταυτα Σοι προσκομι σαντας. εις δοξαν Σου και τιμην τον αγιου ενδοξου Μεγαλομαρτυρου Φανουριου Παρασχου δε, Αγαθε, τοις εντρεπασσαι τοθς πλακουντας τουτους, παντα τα εγκοσμια και υπερχοσμια αγαθα Σου, δειξοην αυτοθς οδοθς προς σωτηριας. Τα αιτηματα των καρδιων αυτων και πασαν την βοθλην αυτων ταχεως πληρωσον, οδηγων αυτου προς εργασιαν των εντολων Σου, ινα δια παντοσ εν ευφροσυνη και αγαλιασι νηνωσι και δοξαζωσι το παντιμον και μεγαλοπρεπεσ ονομα Σου πρεβειαισ της Υπερευλογημενεσ Θεοτοκον, του Αγιου ενδοξου νεομαρτυρου Φανουριου του Θαυματουρνου και παντων Σου των Αγιων. Αμην



**SAINT PHANOURIOS' CAKE
PHANOUROPITA**

Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 c. orange juice | ½ tsp. ground cloves |
| ½ c. brandy | 2 c. all – purpose flour |
| 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter | 2 tsp. double –acting baking powder |
| 2c. golden raisins | ½ tsp. baking soda |
| ½ c. sugar | 2 Tbsp. grated orange peel |
| ½ c. honey | ½ c. sesame seeds (optional) |
| ½ c. salt | ½ c. brandy |
| 1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon | |



Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Combine orange juice, brandy, butter, raisins, sugar, honey, salt, cinnamon, and cloves in a large heavy – bottomed sauce pan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 10 minutes, or until thick and syrupy. Set pot in cold water to cool mixture completely.

Sift flour, baking powder, and baking soda into cooled syrup. Beat vigorously for 8 to 10 minutes, or until batter is smooth and bubbly. Stir in grated orange peel.

Turn into well-buttered 7 inch fluted tube pan or 8 inch loaf pan. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. Bake for 1 – 1-1/2 hours, or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Sprinkle with brandy and cool cake in pan. Makes 12 to 16 servings.



His Sacred Icon Will Be In Procession For Veneration.

SAINT PHANOURIOS

August 27th,

Saint Phanourios who lived during Roman times, was in conflict with an idolatrous world because his Christian belief in Jesus Christ would not permit him to deny His indisputable virtuous beginning. As a result, the twelve martyrdoms St. Phanourios suffered comprise for us, as Christians, a motivating strength to endure and adhere to an ethical Christian worthiness. Presently, Saint Phanourios is a constant inspiration for us to emerge victorious from an unceasing struggle against those who lack faith as well as modern day injustices. This Saint teaches us through practical sacrifices, that, though we are not fighting a Roman army or sinister ruler, we must today confront the clever traps of materialism and secular



atheism that collectively attempt to destroy the ranks of Christianity. There is one story about the saint that inspires us. It is said that his mother was a great pagan sinner who refused to accept Christianity. Saddened by her decision to deny Christ, St. Phanourios prayed fervently for his mother's salvation. While he was being tortured and about to surrender his soul to God, St. Phanourios prayed: "For the sake of these my sufferings, Lord, help all those who will pray to You for the salvation of Phanourios sinful mother". Lost and forgotten for many years, the recovery of his icon in Rhodes by the monks of a monastery revealed twelve scenes depicting the persecution that the saint had suffered. This is the reason that St. Phanourios is known as the patron saint of the lost things. He is depicted holding a candle searching for his mother's lost soul! The Pita is made so that the Saint will reveal to someone a lost object, or direct an unemployed person to a job, reveal action to be taken, restore health to someone who is sick and other similar situations. It is offered after vespers to approximately forty persons expressing the characteristic phrase: "May God grant rest to the soul of Saint Phanourios ' mother".



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γ' ἑνωτικὴ τερτὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-23610 - imsaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΗ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 806²

Κυριακὴ ΙΓ' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 21,33-42)
26 Αὐγούστου 2018 (201)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Κακοὶ καὶ καλοὶ γεωργοὶ

«Κακοὺς κακῶς ἀπολέσει αὐτοὺς, καὶ τὸν ἀμπελῶνα ἐκδώσεται ἄλλοις γεωργοῖς, οἵτινες ἀποδώσουσιν αὐτῷ τοὺς καρποὺς ἐν τοῖς καιροῖς αὐτῶν» (Ματθ. 21,41)

Περὶ γεωργῶν, ἀγαπητοί μου, περὶ γεωργῶν ὁμιλεῖ σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Οἱ γεωργοί, ποὺ ὁ Θεὸς τοὺς ἐμπιστεύθηκε τὸ ἀμπέλι του, ἀποδείχθηκαν **κακοί**· δὲν ἀπέδωσαν τοὺς καρποὺς ποὺ περίμενε. Γι' αὐτὸ στὸ τέλος τῆς παραβολῆς λέει, ὅτι τοὺς κακοὺς γεωργοὺς θὰ τοὺς τιμωρήσῃ ὅπως τοὺς ἀξίζει, καὶ θὰ παραδῶσῃ τὸ ἀμπέλι σὲ ἄλλους γεωργοὺς, **καλοὺς** γεωργοὺς, ποὺ θ' ἀποδώσουν τοὺς καρποὺς στὸν οὐράνιο ἰδιοκτήτη.

Στὸ ἀμπέλι λοιπὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ, δηλαδὴ στὴν Ἐκκλησία, ἄλλοι εἶνε κακοὶ γεωργοὶ καὶ ἄλλοι καλοί. Καὶ ποιοὶ εἶνε οἱ γεωργοί; Γεωργοὶ εἶνε οἱ ἐργάτες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, **οἱ κληρικοί**. Γι' αὐτὸ κ' ἐμεῖς θὰ μιλήσουμε γιὰ τοὺς κληρικούς· **πρῶτα γιὰ τοὺς κακοὺς**, καὶ ἐν συνεχείᾳ γιὰ τοὺς καλοὺς κληρικούς.

● Ὑπάρχει, ἀγαπητοί μου, μία τρομερὴ **προφητεία**, ποὺ τὴν εἶπε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός, καὶ στὶς μέρες μας ἐκπληρώνεται. Τὸν ρώτησαν· «Ποιά εἶνε τὰ σημάδια ὅτι ἔρχεται ἡ καταστροφή τοῦ κόσμου; Κ' ἐκεῖνος ἀπήντησε· «Ἦταν ἐποχὴ ποὺ οἱ κληρικοὶ ζοῦσαν σὰν ἄγγελοι· δὲν ἀγαποῦσαν τὰ λεφτά, δὲν ἀγαποῦσαν τὴ δόξα, δὲν εἶχαν πάθη, στέκονταν ψηλά μέσα στὴν κοινωνία· καὶ τότε οἱ λαϊκοὶ ζοῦσαν σὰν ἄνθρωποι. Θὰ ἔρθουν ὁμως, λέει, χρόνια κατηραμένα, ποὺ θὰ πέσῃ καὶ θὰ ἐξευτελισθῇ ὁ κλήρος. Καὶ τότε, ὅταν οἱ παπᾶδες θὰ ζοῦν σὰν τοὺς λαϊκοὺς, οἱ λαϊκοὶ θὰ ζοῦν σὰν τὰ κτήνη· καὶ τότε θὰ ἔρθῃ τὸ τέλος τοῦ κόσμου.

Τὶ ἐννοεῖ ὅταν λέει, ὅτι **οἱ παπᾶδες θὰ ζοῦν σὰν τοὺς λαϊκοὺς**; Δηλαδή· πάει στὸ καφενεῖο ὁ λαϊκός, θὰ πᾶη καὶ ὁ κληρικός. Πάει στὸν κινηματογράφο ὁ λαϊκός, θὰ πᾶη καὶ ὁ

κληρικός. Κουρεύει τὰ μαλλιά του ὁ λαϊκός, θὰ τὰ κουρέψῃ καὶ ὁ κληρικός. Παίζει φουτμπῶλ ὁ λαϊκός, θὰ παίξῃ καὶ αὐτός. Παίζει χαρτιά ὁ λαϊκός, θὰ παίξῃ καὶ αὐτός. Καὶ στὸ χορὸ ἀκόμα πάνε. Βγάζουν τὸ ράσο καὶ τὸ καλυμμαῖχι τους καὶ χορεύουν. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ **μοντέρνοι παπᾶδες**, ποὺ θέλουν νὰ πνεύσῃ ἓνα νέο ρεῦμα στὴν Ἐκκλησία. Ἄλλ' ὁ ὀρθόδοξος κόσμος τοὺς ἔχει σιχαθῆ.

Τὰ εἶπε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς, καὶ **τώρα γίνονται**. Μείναμε δυστυχῶς λίγοι νὰ διαμαρτυρωμαστε. Δὲν ξέρω τί θὰ γίνῃ ἂν αὐριο ἔρθῃ ἄλλη κατάστασι· ἐμεῖς, ὅσο μπορούμε, θὰ κρατήσουμε τὴν τιμὴ τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας, καὶ ἀδιαφοροῦμε τί λένε καὶ κάνουν οἱ νεωτερισταί.

Ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλὸς λέει· «Ὅταν οἱ παπᾶδες θὰ ζοῦν σὰν τοὺς λαϊκοὺς, τότε οἱ λαϊκοὶ θὰ γίνουν σὰν τὰ κτήνη, καὶ τότε θὰ ἔρθῃ τὸ τέλος τοῦ κόσμου. Καὶ τώρα ἀκοὺς πλέον τοὺς λαϊκοὺς νὰ λένε· «Ἐ, κι ὁ παπᾶς τὸ κάνει αὐτό... Ὁ παπᾶς πάει στὸ θέατρο, ὁ παπᾶς πάει στὸν κινηματογράφο, ὁ παπᾶς πάει στὸ γήπεδο, ὁ παπᾶς πάει ἐδῶ, ὁ παπᾶς πάει ἐκεῖ. Ἡ παπαδιά του φοράει μίνι, τὰ κορίτσια του γυρίζουν δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά, τὰ ἀγόρια του ἔχουν γίνεϊ τεντυμπόηδες. Τί διαφέρει, σοῦ λέει, ὁ παπᾶς ἀπὸ τὸ λαϊκό; **Ἐπάγγελμα καὶ μαγαζὶ εἶνε ἡ ἐκκλησία...** Γι' αὐτὸ καὶ ὁ λαὸς ἔχει ἀποκτηνωθῆ.

● Λέγοντας βέβαια αὐτὰ γιὰ τὸν κλήρο δὲν παίρνουμε σβάρνα ὄλους τοὺς κληρικούς. Ξέρουμε πολὺ καλά, ὅτι ὑπάρχουν καὶ κληρικοὶ ποὺ εἶνε **καλοὶ γεωργοὶ** καὶ τηροῦν τὴν ἀξιοπρέπειά τους. Μπορεῖ οἱ περισσότεροι νὰ ἔχουν ξεφύγει, ἀλλὰ ὑπάρχει καὶ ἓνα μικρὸ ποσοστὸ εὐλαβῶν ἱερέων.

Σύμφωνα μὲ τὴ διδασκαλία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας

μας ὁ παπᾶς πρέπει νὰ εἶνε **σὺν ἄγγελος** μέσα στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν. Παλαιότερα ἕνας Ἄγγλος περιηγητὴς πῆγε στὴν Κύπρο, κι ὅταν ἐπέστρεψε στὴν Ἀγγλία εἶπε: Εἶδα στὴν Κύπρο ἄγγελο! Ὅταν τὸν ρώτησαν, ποῖός εἶνε ὁ ἄγγελος, λέει: **Ὁ Κυπριανός**· ἅγιος ἄνθρωπος, ἀφιλάργυρος, νὰ τὸν ἔψαχνες δὲν εἶχε οὔτε ἕνα γρόσι· ἄνθρωπος τῆς προσευχῆς καὶ τῆς νηστείας... Ποῖός ἦταν αὐτός ὁ Κυπριανός; Ὅταν τὸ 1821 κηρύχθηκε ἡ ἐπανάσταση, ξεσηκώθηκαν καὶ οἱ Κύπριοι. Ἐλευθεριά! φώναξαν. Τότε οἱ Τουρκαῶδες πῆραν μαχαίρια, γεμίσανε καράβια, βγήκαν στὴν Κύπρο καὶ ῥημάξανε τὸ νησί. Πιάσανε τὴ νύχτα τὸν Κυπριανὸ καὶ τὸν κρεμάσανε –τρεις μέρες ἦταν κρεμασμένος ὁ ἅγιος Κυπριανός– καὶ μαζί του σκοτώσανε τριακόσους παπᾶδες καὶ ἄλλους προύχοντες τοῦ νησιοῦ.

Νάτος ὁ καλὸς γεωργός! σὺν ἄγγελος στέκει πάνω ἀπὸ τὸ νησί αὐτὸ καὶ τὸ εὐλογεῖ.

Καὶ ὄχι μόνο τότε ὁ Κυπριανὸς στὴν Κύπρο, ἀλλὰ καὶ σ' ὅλη τὴν Ὁρθόδοξο Ἐκκλησία σὲ κάθε ἐποχὴ **δὲν λείπουν** οἱ καλοὶ γεωργοί, οἱ φύλακες ἄγγελοι τῆς ἀμπέλου. Ἄγγελοι καὶ καλοὶ γεωργοὶ εἶνε οἱ τόσοι μαρτυρικοὶ ποιμένες τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας, εἶνε **ὁ κάθε καλὸς ἐπίσκοπος καὶ ὁ κάθε καλὸς παπᾶς**.

Μπορεῖ τότε οἱ παπᾶδες νὰ ἦταν ἀγράμματοι, ἀλλὰ εἶχαν στὴν καρδιά τους τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὴν Ἑλλάδα. **Ἄχ, ποῦ εἶνε αὐτοὶ οἱ παπᾶδες!** Τώρα, μορφωμένοι, σὲ σχολὲς καὶ πανεπιστήμια, μὲ τὰ γαλλικά τους καὶ τὰ ἀγγλικά τους, μὲ τοὺς σβέρκους τους ξυρισμένους, μὲ τὰ μαλλιά τους κομμένα, μὲ τὰ ρασάκια τους σιδερωμένα... Ἀπὸ ἀγιωσύνη ὅμως; Ἐκεῖνοι τότε εἶχαν ἀξία· θυσιάζονταν γιὰ τὸ ποίμνιο.

Τὸν καιρὸ τῆς τουρκοκρατίας **στὸ χωριὸ Ἀκρίτας - Φλωρίνης** ἦταν ἕνας παπᾶς λεβέντης, καλὸς γεωργός, **ἄγγελος προστάτης**. Εἶχαν στὸ χωριὸ ἕνα ὁμορφὸ κορίτσι. Οἱ Τουρκαῶδες νύχτα, σὺν τὸ γεράκι, ἄρπαξαν τὸ κορίτσι καὶ τὸ πήγανε στὸ χαρέμι. Ποῖός νὰ μιλήσῃ; Ὁ παπᾶς ἔκλαιγε δυὸ μέρες. Ὁ ντελὴ - παπᾶς –ἔτσι τὸν λέγανε (δηλαδὴ ὁ τρελλὸς - παπᾶς, γιατί εἶνε τρελλὸς γιὰ τὸν κόσμον ὁποῖος βγαίνει ἀπὸ τὴν πεπατημένη ὁδὸ)– μιὰ νύχτα πηδάει τοὺς φράχτες καὶ τὰ ντουβάρια, μπαίνει μέσα στὸ χαρέμι, ἄρπάζει τὴ Χριστιανοπούλα, τὴ φέρνει πίσω, καὶ μετὰ φεύγει στὴ Ρωσία γιὰ νὰ γλυτώσῃ... Τέτοιοι ἦταν οἱ ἱερεῖς. Προστάτες τῶν χηρῶν καὶ ὀρφανῶν, φιλόανθρωποι καὶ ἐλεήμονες, μὲ ἀπέραν-
τη πατρικὴ ἀγάπη στὴν καρδιά τους.

Ἄς μνημονεύσουμε ὅμως καὶ τὸν **ἐπίσκοπο Φλωρίνης Πολύκαρπο**. Ἄν δὲν ἦταν αὐτός, δὲν θὰ ἔταν ἐλευθέρη ἡ Φλώρινα. Τὸ λένε τὰ ἐπίσημα χαρτιά τοῦ ἐπιτελείου. Ἔβλεπε, ὅτι οἱ Σέρβοι κατεβαίνουν. Πῆραν τὸ Μοναστήρι, κι ἀπὸ ὦρα σὲ ὦρα θὰ ἔπαιρναν καὶ τὴ Φλώρινα. Τότε στέλνει ἕνα παπᾶ τὰ μεσάνυχτα· πέρασε τὰ φυλάκια, βρῆκε τὸ στρατὸ καὶ τοὺς εἶπε: «Ἄν δὲν τρέξετε, ἡ Φλώρινα πέφτει στὰ χέρια τῶν Σέρβων». Νύχτα τότε, μὲ κρύο καὶ βροχὴ, μὲ μεγάλο καλπασμὸ τοῦ ἵππικοῦ, μόλις πρόλαβαν. Τοὺς περίμενε ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴ Μητρόπολι. Τοὺς ἀσπάσθηκε καὶ ὑψώθηκε ἡ ἐλληνικὴ σημαία. Ποῖός τὸν θυμᾶται σήμερα;

Ἄγγελοι προστάτες καὶ καλοὶ γεωργοὶ τοῦ βασανισμένου λαοῦ μας εἶνε οἱ κληρικοί, ποῦ μὲ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ κρατοῦνε τὸ λαὸ μας. Πῶς ἔμεινε ἡ Κύπρος τρεῖς χιλιάδες χρόνια; Πέρασαν κατακτηταὶ καὶ κατακτητὰ. Δὲν κατάρθωσαν νὰ σβήσουν τὴ φλόγα. Ποῖός τὴν κράτησε ἀναμμένη; **Ὁ παπᾶς. Αὐτὸς βάζει λάδι καὶ μένει ἀσβηστὴ ἡ καντήλα** τῆς Ἑλλάδος. Μάλιστα, αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας μὲ τοὺς καλοὺς γεωργοὺς τῆς.

Τὸ Ἑλληνικὸ κράτος ἐν τούτοις ἀπέναντι στὴν Ἐκκλησία ἔδειξε αἰσχρὴ διαγωγή. Θέλετε νὰ σᾶς πῶ μιὰ ἱστορία; Ὅταν ἐλευθερώθηκε ὁ τόπος, στὴ Μητρόπολι Φλωρίνης συνέβη τὸ ἔξης. Ἦρθαν, ἀπὸ κάτω, διοικηταὶ, νομάρχες (οἱ περισσότεροὶ μασόνιοι). Καὶ τί ἔκαναν; Ἄ, λένε, τώρα δὲν θέλουμε ἐκκλησιεῖς καὶ παπᾶδες. Καὶ πῆγαν μιὰ μέρα νὰ κατασχέσουν τὴ Μητρόπολι, νὰ βγάλουν ἔξω τὸ δεσπότη, γιὰ νὰ κάνουν τὸ κτήριο σχολεῖο!... Ἔτσι περιφρονεῖται τὸ ράσο.

Ἀλλὰ σᾶς τὸ λέω ἐγώ, ποῦ ξέρω τὴν πατρίδα· ἡ **Ἑλλάδα εἶνε καλὸ περιβόλι**, ἔχει καλὸ χῶμα. Ἄμα ὅμως τ' ἀφήσῃς, θὰ γεμίσῃ ἀγκάθια. Καὶ αὐτοὶ ποῦ καλλιεργοῦν τὸ περιβόλι εἶνε οἱ κληρικοί. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ καλοὶ γεωργοί. Ἄν τὸ σκάψουμε, ἂν τὸ ποτίσουμε μὲ τὰ δάκρυά μας, ἂν τὸ καλλιεργήσουμε, αὐτὸ τὸ περιβόλι θὰ τινάξῃ ρόδα καὶ θὰ γίνῃ ἡ πιὸ ὠραία χώρα τοῦ κόσμου.

Ἀγαπητοί μου! Ὅλοι ν' ἀγωνισθοῦμε, γιὰ νὰ γίνῃ ἡ πατρίδα μας κράτος Θεοῦ. Ἄν ἀρχίσῃ **μία ἠθικὴ καὶ θρησκευτικὴ ἐπανάσταση**, ἡ Ἑλλάδα θὰ ἀναγεννηθῇ, θὰ γίνῃ βασιλεία Θεοῦ, ἀστὲρι φωτεινὸ, καὶ ὅλοι θὰ δοξάζουμε τὸν Χριστὸ· ὄν, παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ὑμεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνο**

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

His Body, His Blood

Because we are composed of a dual nature, soul and body, we need a dual birth and dual nourishment. We receive our birth by means of water and Spirit, that is, by Holy Baptism. We find our nourishment in the bread of life, that is, in Jesus Christ himself. When the moment arrived for Him to undergo death for us of His own free will, on the night in which He was to be handed over to His enemies, He established a new covenant with His disciples, and through them with all those who believe in Him. He washed his disciples' feet, offering in this a symbol of Holy Baptism. Then, breaking the bread, He gave it to them saying: "Take and eat; this is my body which will be broken for you for the forgiveness of sins." In the same way He gave them the cup with the wine and the water saying: "Drink, this is my blood." If sky, earth, water,

iron and air have been created by the Word of God, so much more certainly this noble being called humanity has been formed by Him. And if the Word himself became flesh by the pure blood of the Virgin, will He not be able to make the bread His body and the wine and water His blood? In the beginning God said: "Let the earth bring forth green grass." And so after that the earth, watered by the rain, in obedience to God's command, brings forth its fruits. Then God said: "This is my body, this is my blood," adding: "Do this in memory of me." After that, all the mystery takes place, thanks to His all-powerful Word, and proclaims its faith in the Lord. It is a new kind of planting. The rain comes down on it, that is to say, the power of the Spirit comes down, and overshadows it.

St. John of Damascus

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