

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 16th, 2019
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of Pentecost

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontos and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν. Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 2:1-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὠφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὥσπερ πυρός, ἐκάθισεν τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέροις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μηδοὶ καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἀραβεῖς, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέραις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Holy Pentecost

The Gospel According to John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ρεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἐμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὕτω γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστὸς· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυὶδ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἠθελον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἡγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὥς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἐλθὼν νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἰς ὧν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἐὰν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γνῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεύνησον καὶ ἶδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγγίγερται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR: Today is being hosted by the PARISH COUNCIL in WHITEHALL. Please join us for refreshments.

PENTECOST SUNDAY is observed TODAY JUNE 16th. This is the 50th day after Pascha and heralds the descent of the HOLY SPIRIT filled with GRACE ! This is the day we kneel in grateful anticipation of redemption and salvation. THIS IS OUR SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE and YOU should not miss this indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Open yourself and welcome in the Spirit Divine. Special Grace is imparted.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES: The Society's newly elected executive officers and governing board will take the Archdiocesan OATH of Office at the Divine Liturgy TODAY June 16th. We wish all the ladies every blessing to minister to the Lord's needy. AXIES! BRAVA to all the ladies.

The ladies will host their Annual Spring SOCIAL DINNER on Monday evening, June 17th, at PERRY'S RESTAURANT on Nostrand Avenue at 7:00 P.M. ALL members are cordially invited to reserve their seat and table through the Church office 718-339 0280 or by telephone to ELEFThERIA XENAKIS immediate Past President: 718 336 5127. It's a grand fun filled evening. JOIN US!

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRADUATIONS: will take place this FRIDAY June 21, in WHITEHALL at 9:30 A.M. 11:A.M. and 12:30 THREE CLASSES will be promoted individually. We salute the advantage of this FREE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM. Do you know a 4 year old this (2019-2020 year) that may be inscribed FREE of tuition, for the all day program. REGISTER THE CHILD TODAY !!! Early beginners.

UP-COMING DATES NOT TO FORGET: NOT TO BE MISSED –

ENTHRONMENT SERVICE of the new ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS of AMERICA at the HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL in MANHATTAN on Saturday – June 22nd, at 11:00-12:30 P.M. The faithful are invited to attend.

ARCH-EPISCOPAL LITURGY of the newly ENTHRONED ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS on the following day, SUNDAY JUNE 23RD., AT THE ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL. THE FAITHFUL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

UP-COMING SERVICES:

Great Vesper of Saint Peter and Paul - HEMPSTEAD CATHEDRAL
Friday , June 28th at 7:00 P.M.

Divine Liturgy of Saints PETER and PAUL at Three Hierarchs
Saturday, June 29th 9:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy of Holy Apostles at Three Hierarchs
Sunday, June 30th 10:30 A.M.

Chronia Polla to all celebrating their patron saint day.
Peter, Paul, Paulina, Apostolos, Petros

GENERAL ASSEMBLY for the Spring of 2019 is being convened on:

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH at 12 Noon. Registered members may participate and dialogue

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 COMMEMORATION ON JUNE 23RD: + AMALIA GEORGIA ANTOKAS + FR. JAMES TAVLARIDES
+ PRESVYTERA CATHERINE TAVLARIDES**



His Eminence
Metropolitan Methodios of Boston
Archiepiscopal Vicar

on behalf of the
holy Eparchial Synod of the
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

cordially invites you to
a luncheon in honor of

HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
of AMERICA

On the occasion of his Enthronement

Saturday, June 22, 2019
1:30 pm Luncheon

New York Hilton Midtown
1335 6th Ave
New York, NY 10019

RSVP required by June 10
212-774-0400 or EnthronementLuncheon@goarch.org



His Eminence
Metropolitan Methodios of Boston
Archiepiscopal Vicar

on behalf of the
Holy Eparchial Synod of the
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

cordially invites you to

The Enthronement of
HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
of AMERICA

Saturday, June 22, 2019
11:00 am

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
337 E 74th Street, New York, NY 10021

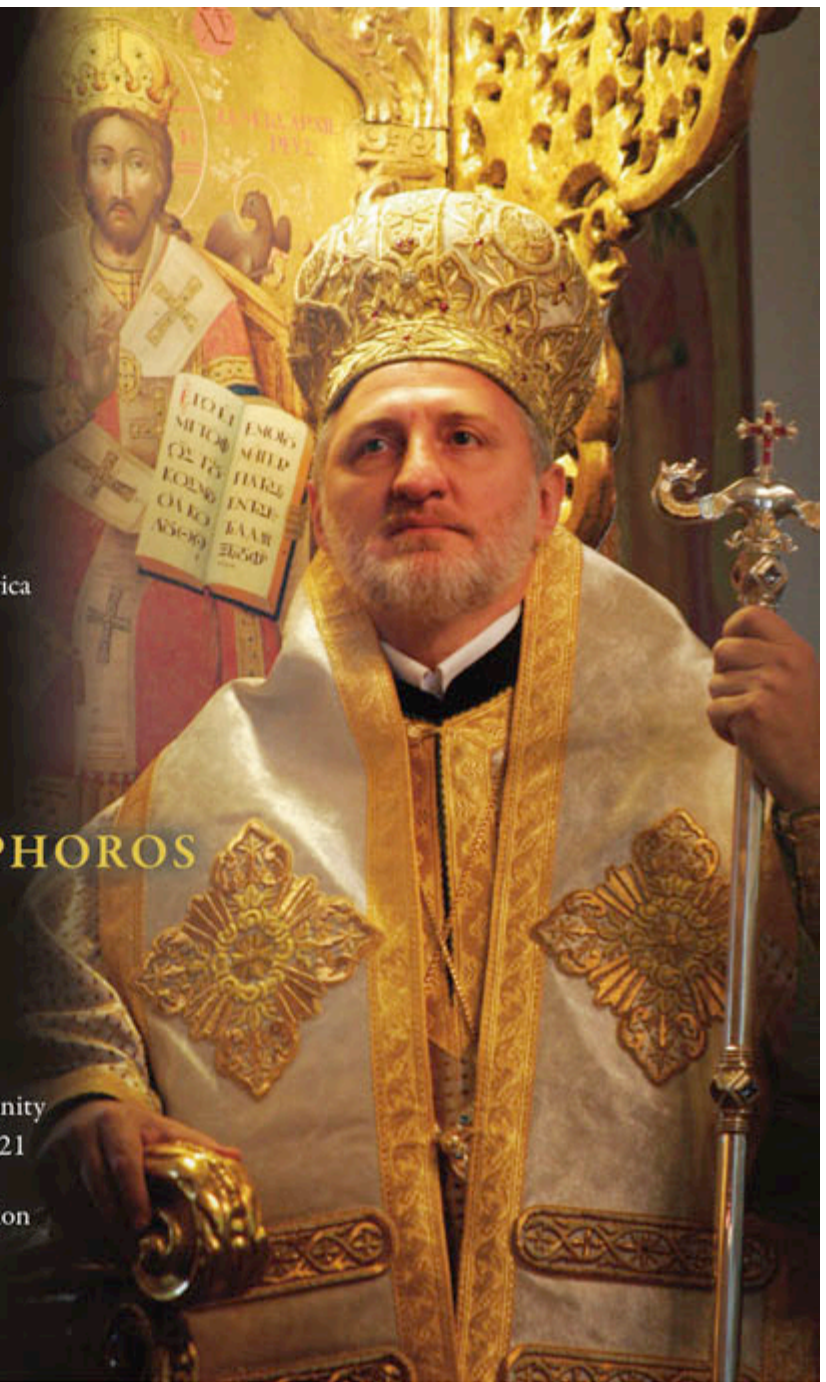
Your presence and prayerful participation
at this sacred and historical event
is most appreciated.

On the occasion of the Enthronement
a Luncheon will be held

Saturday, June 22, 2019
1:30 pm

New York Hilton Midtown
1335 6th Ave, New York, NY 10019

RSVP required by June 10
212-774-0400 or
EnthronementCeremony@goarch.org





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imazflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2197

Κυριακὴ τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς (Πράξ. 2,1-11)
16 Ἰουνίου 2019

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ «βιαία πνοή»

«Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἤχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι» (Πράξ. 2,2)

Εἶνε Πεντηκοστή, ἀγαπητοί μου. Οἱ ἅγιοι ἀπόστολοι καὶ οἱ ὑπόλοιποι μαθηταὶ τοῦ Κυρίου τὴν ἡμέρα αὕτῃ βρίσκονται συγκεντρωμένοι **στο ὑπερῶο**, ἓνα εὐρύχωρο δωμάτιο - μιὰ μικρὴ αἴθουσα, στὸν ἐπάνω ὄροφο ἐνὸς σπιτιοῦ τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων.

Ἐνωμένοι μεταξύ τους μὲ τὴν ἀδελφικὴ ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν κοινὴ προσευχή, σὰν ἓνας ἄνθρωπος, ἀναπολοῦν μὲ ἀγαλλίασι τὸν γλυκὺ Διδάσκαλό τους, ποὺ πρὶν δέκα ἡμέρες ἀνελήφθη στοὺς οὐρανοὺς. Ζώντας μέσα σὲ μιὰ θεϊκὴ ἀτμόσφαιρα, **περιμένουν τὴν ἐκπλήρωσι τῆς ὑποσχέσεως** τοῦ Θεοῦ. Δηλαδή;

Ὁ Χριστὸς τὸ βράδυ τοῦ μυστικοῦ δείπνου τοὺς εἶπε ἐπανελημμένως καὶ πολὺ καθαρά: Ἐγὼ θὰ παρακαλέσω τὸν οὐράνιο πατέρα «καὶ ἄλλον παράκλητον δώσει ὑμῖν, ἵνα μένη μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, τὸ Πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὃ ὁ κόσμος οὐ δύναται λαβεῖν» (ἔλ. 14,16-17). Καὶ πάλι: «Ὅταν ἔλθῃ ὁ παράκλητος ὃν ἐγὼ πέμψω ὑμῖν παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς, τὸ Πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας ὃ παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς ἐκπορεύεται, ἐκεῖνος μαρτυρήσει περὶ ἐμοῦ» (ἴδ. 15,26). Καὶ πῶς κάτω: «Ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐκεῖνος, τὸ Πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὁδηγήσει ὑμᾶς εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν ἀλήθειαν» (ἴδ. 16,13). Καὶ ἄρκετὰ νωρίτερα ἀπὸ τὴν σταυρικὴ **θυσία** τοῦ τοῦς εἶχε προετοιμάσει: «Ὅταν κάποτε λόγῳ τῆς πίστεώς σας σ' ἐμένα θὰ σᾶς ὁδηγοῦν νὰ δικαστῇτε, μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τί θὰ πῇτε στὴν ἀπολογία σας, γιατί «τὸ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα» θὰ σᾶς διδάξῃ «ἐν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἃ δεῖ εἰπεῖν» (ἰωκ. 12,12). Καὶ ἄλλοτε πάλι τοὺς μίλησε «περὶ τοῦ πνεύματος» ποὺ θὰ ἔπαιρναν «οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν» (ἴδ. 1,7,38). Αὐτὰ τότε.

Καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἀνάστασί του ὁ Κύριος, στὸ διάστημα τῶν σαράντα ἡμερῶν ποὺ παρέμεινε ἀκόμῃ ἐπάνω στὴ γῆ, τοὺς εἶχε πεί κατ' ἐπανάληψιν, νὰ μὴν ἀπομακρυνθοῦν ἀπὸ τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἀλλὰ νὰ περιμένουν «τὴν ἐπαγγελ-

λίαν (τὴν πραγματοποιήσει δηλαδὴ τῆς ὑποσχέσεως) τοῦ πατρὸς», γιὰ τὴν ὁποία πολλὰς φορές, ὅπως εἶδαμε ἐδῶ, τοὺς εἶχε βεβαιώσει. Προσέθεσε μάλιστα τὴν ἐξῆς βαρυσήμαντὴ δήλωσι: «Ἰωάννης μὲν (ὁ Πρόδρομος) ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν Πνεύματι ἀγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας» (Πράξ. 1,4-5).

Τώρα λοιπόν, δέκα μέρες μετὰ τὴν ἀνάληψι τοῦ Κυρίου, ἡ στιγμὴ ποὺ περίμεναν ἦρθε: **τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο κατεβαίνει!** Τὸ σπίτι ὅπου ἦταν συναθροισμένοι οἱ ἀπόστολοι μεταβάλλεται σὲ κολυμβήθρα, μέσα στὴν ὁποία δέχονται τὸ βάπτισμα ὅλοι. Καὶ τὰ ἀποτελέσματα τοῦ βαπτίσματος αὐτοῦ γίνονται ἀμέσως φανερά. Οἱ ἀπόστολοι μιλοῦν ὄχι πιά σὰν νήπια ἀλλὰ σὰν σοφοί, μνησμένοι στὰ μυστήρια τοῦ οὐρανοῦ: ἀρχίζουν νὰ λένε λόγια ἀσυνήθιστα στὴ γῆ, θεϊκά, ὑπερφυσικά: νὰ «ἀποφθέγγωνται», ὅπως ψάλλει ὁ ὕμνος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, «ξένοις ῥήμασι, ξένοις δόγμασι, ξένοις διδάγμασι, τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος» (ᾠδὴ Πεντηκ.).

Τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο κατεβαίνει. Καὶ **πῶς κατεβαίνει;** «Ὅσπερ ἤχος φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας» καὶ «ὡς γλῶσσαι πυρός». Ὁ ἱερὸς συγγραφεὺς τῶν Πράξεων τῶν ἀποστόλων περιγράφει τὸ θεῖο γεγονός ὡς ἐξῆς. «Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἤχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι: καὶ ὠφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισέ τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες Πνεύματος ἁγίου» (Πράξ. 2,2-4).

Ἀφήνοντας πρὸς τὸ παρὸν τὸ «γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός», ὃς ἐξετάσουμε σήμερα μὲ συντομία, γιατί τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο κατεβαίνει ὡς «βιαία πνοή», **σὰν σφοδρὸς ἄνεμος.**

Ἡ κάθοδος τοῦ παναγίου Πνεύματος, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὡς «βιαίας πνοῆς», σύμφωνα μὲ

τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ τῶν πατέρων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἔρχεται **νὰ φανερώσῃ στὸν κόσμον τὴ δύναμι καὶ τὴν ὀρμητικότητά του**. Παρατηρήστε τί γίνεται ὅταν φυσήξῃ δυνατὸς ἄνεμος. Ὅπως ἕνας τυφώνας ὅπου πνεύσῃ σαρώνει στὸ πέρασμά του ὅ,τι βρῇ κ' ἔχει τὴ δύναμι νὰ παίρνῃ στέγες σπιτιῶν καὶ νὰ ξερριζώνῃ δέντρα, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ χάρις τοῦ παναγίου Πνεύματος, ὅταν πνεύσῃ σὲ ψυχὲς δεκτικές, ἔχει τὴ δύναμι νὰ ξερριζώνῃ τ' ἁμαρτωλὰ πάθη, ποὺ σὰν τὰ γέρικα καὶ βαθύρριζα δέντρα τοῦ δάσους φαίνονται πανίσχυρα καὶ ἀνεκρίζωτα. Μπροστὰ στὴ δύναμι τῆς θείας χάριτος καὶ κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνέργεια τοῦ παναγίου Πνεύματος τίποτε δὲν μπορεῖ ν' ἀντισταθῇ. Ὅταν ἡ θεία χάρις πνεύσῃ στὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ μετανοημένου ἁμαρτωλοῦ, ὡς ὑψώνωνται τὰ πάθη σὰν πανύψηλα δέντρα κι ὡς πιέζουν τ' ἁμαρτήματα σὰν βουνα τὴν καρδιά· τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο θὰ τὰ παρασύρῃ σὰν ἄχυρα καὶ θὰ τὰ θάψῃ γιὰ πάντα στὸ πέλαγος τοῦ θεϊκοῦ ἐλέους.

Τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο κατεβαίνει στὴν ἁμαρτωλὴ Γῆ σὰν «**πνοὴ βιαία**», γιὰ νὰ δηλωθῇ ἀκόμη καὶ **στοὺς ἴδιους τοὺς ἁγίους** ἀποστόλους καὶ ὄλους τοὺς ἐργάτες τοῦ Κυρίου, ὅτι στὴν προέλασι τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ τὴν ἐξόρμησι τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ ἀνὰ τὰ ἔθνη **καμμιὰ δύναμι δὲν θὰ μπορέσῃ ν' ἀντισταθῇ**. Τὸ κήρυγμα σὰν ζωογόνο πνοὴ θὰ εἰσχωρήσῃ παντοῦ καὶ θὰ φέρῃ τέτοια ψυχικὴ ἀνακούφισι, σὰν ἐκεῖνη ποὺ νιώθει κανεὶς ὅταν, ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἀσφυκτιᾷ ἀπὸ ἔλλειψι ἀέρος καὶ κινδυνεύει νὰ πεθάνῃ, ἔρχεται σ' ἐπαφὴ μὲ ἕνα δροσερὸ καὶ ζωογόνο ρεῦμα ἀέρος.

Ἀλλὰ θὰ πῇ κανεὶς· Ὁ κόσμος δὲν θὰ ἔνδεος δεκτικός. Ἀσφαλῶς θὰ ὑπάρχουν πάντοτε κ' **ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ θὰ ἀρνηθοῦν** τὴν εὐεργετικὴ πνοὴ τοῦ Παρακλήτου καὶ ἀπὸ συνειδητὴ ἐπιλογὴ καὶ ἠθελημένη κακία ὄχι μόνο θὰ κλείσουν ὄλους τοὺς ψυχικοὺς πόρους των, ὥστε νὰ μὴν αἰσθανθοῦν τὴν δροσοβόλο αὖρα τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, ἀλλὰ καὶ θὰ θελήσουν νὰ φέρουν προσκόμματα στὸ ἔργο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας· τί θὰ γίνῃ λοιπὸν μ' αὐτοὺς;

Θὰ πνεύσῃ, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ γι' αὐτοὺς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο ὡς «**βιαία πνοή**»· ἀλλὰ ἡ πνοὴ αὕτη δὲν θὰ εἶνε εὐεργετικὴ, θὰ εἶνε τιμωρητικὴ, θὰ εἶνε πνοὴ ποὺ **θὰ τοὺς συνταράξῃ καὶ θὰ τοὺς λικμίσῃ**. Γιὰ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους αὐτοὺς τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου θὰ πάρῃ τόση ὀρμὴ καὶ τέτοια ὀξύτητα, ὥστε θὰ ἐνεργήσῃ σὰν θύελλα καὶ σὰν ἀνεμοστρόβιλος· θὰ κατεδαφίσῃ τὰ σαθρὰ οἰκοδομήματα τῆς ἀπιστίας καὶ θὰ ἐξευτελίσῃ τὰ γελοῖα ὑποκείμενα ποὺ νό-

μισαν πὼς μποροῦν ν' ἀνακόψουν τὴν προέλασι τοῦ «**λευκοῦ ἵππου**» τοῦ «**λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ**», ποὺ «**ἐξῆλθε νικῶν καὶ ἵνα νικήσῃ**» (Ἀπ. 6,1-2 19,11-13).

Τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο «**ὅπου θέλει πνεῖ**» (Ἰω. 3,8), **ἡ πνοὴ καὶ ἡ κίνησί του εἶνε ἀσύλληπτη**. Ἐχει μύριους τρόπους γιὰ νὰ διεισδύσῃ καὶ στὶς πιὸ μυστικὲς πτυχὲς τῆς ἀνθρώπινης καρδιάς, ὥστε οἱ ἐχθροὶ του, ποὺ πάνω στὴ μανία τους φράζουν ὠρισμένα ἐξωτερικὰ παράθυρα τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ νομίζοντας πὼς ἔτσι ἐμποδίζουν τὴν πίστι νὰ ἐπιδρᾷ στὴ ζωὴ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, φαίνονται κωμικοί. Ὡ, πόσο μικροὶ καὶ γελοῖοι ἀποδεικνύονται! Κλείνουν ἕνα παράθυρο, ἀλλὰ νὰ ὅπου αὐτοὶ κλείνουν τὸ ἕνα παράθυρο, γιὰ νὰ μὴ εἰσέλθῃ τὸ ζωογόνο ρεῦμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐκεῖ ἡ χάρις τοῦ παναγίου Πνεύματος ἀνοίγει διάπλατα δέκα παράθυρα καὶ θύρες, ἀπ' ὅπου μπαίνει τόσο ὀρμητικὴ ἡ δύναμι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὥστε βρισκόμαστε καὶ πάλι ἐμπρὸς στὸ θαῦμα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς· «**καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὁλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ** (=ὅπου) **ἦσαν καθήμενοι**» (Πράξ. 2,2). Ναί! Θαυμάζουν οἱ ἄπιστοι τῶν ἡμερῶν μας πὼς παρ' ὅλη τὴν ἀντίδρασί τους ὑπάρχουν οἰκογένειες, καὶ χωριά, καὶ πόλεις, ποὺ θρησκεύουν· θαυμάζουν καὶ ἀποροῦν, γιὰτὶ δὲν γνωρίζουν ὅτι τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο πνέει στὶς καρδιὲς κατὰ τρόπο ἀόρατο καὶ μυστηριώδη.

Ὡ Πνεῦμα πανάγιο! σύ, τὸ τρίτο Πρόσωπο τῆς παναγίας Τριάδος· σύ, ποὺ κατὰ τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς «**ὡς βιαία πνοή**» κατέβηκες στὸ ὑπερῶο τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων καὶ ἐτέλεσες τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑπερφυσικὰ ἐκεῖνα γεγονότα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας· **πνεῦσε**, σὲ παρακαλοῦμε, καὶ **στὶς δικές μας καρδιές**. Πνεῦσε, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς δροσίσης· γιὰτὶ ζοῦμε ἐν μέσῳ «**καμίνου ἐπταπλασίως καιομένης**» (Πρβλ. Δαν. 3,19,22), ποὺ πυρακτώνεται ἀπὸ τὴ φλόγα τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Πνεῦσε, γιὰ νὰ ξερριζώσῃς τὰ πάθη· γιὰτὶ ἡ ψυχὴ μας ἀναστενάζει κάτω ἀπὸ τὴ θανατηφόρο σκιά τῶν δέντρων τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Πνεῦσε **μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ σου**, γιὰ νὰ ἐξαφανιστοῦν τὰ ἔλη τῆς θρησκευτικῆς ἀδιαφορίας. Πνεῦσε καὶ μέσα **στὴν ἀνθρωπότητα** σὰν θύελλα, γιὰ νὰ «**συντρίψῃς τοὺς ὑπεναντίους**» καὶ νὰ τοὺς σκορπίσῃς «**ὥσει χνοῦν κατὰ πρόσωπον ἀνέμου**» (Πρβλ. Ἐξ. 15,7. Ψαλμ. 17,43), αὐτοὺς ποὺ πολεμοῦν τὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Πνεῦμα πανάγιο, σὲ παρακαλοῦμε, «**ἐλθέ καὶ σκήνωσον ἐν ἡμῖν καὶ καθάρισον ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης κηλίδος· καὶ σῶσον, Ἀγαθέ, τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν**» (δοξαστ. ἀπ. Πεντηκ.)· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

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: \$300 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 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 2019 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

There is Life in the Church because in the Church is the Spirit

My brothers and sisters, if you want the Holy Spirit to dwell in you, listen carefully. Our spirit, by means of which each individual lives, is called the soul. And look what the soul does in the body. It gives life to all the limbs. It sees with the eyes, hears with the ears, smells with the nose, speaks with the tongue, works with the hands, walks with the feet. It is present at one and the same time in all the limbs to make them live. It gives life to all the limbs and to each limb its function. It is not the eye that hears, not the ear that sees, not the eye or the ear that speaks. Yet they are nonetheless alive. The ear is alive, the tongue is alive. Their functions are different, the life is the same.

The Church of God is like that. By means of some believers she performs miracles, by means

of others she teaches the truth; by means of some she keeps virginity, by means of others she respects marital fidelity. The tasks are different, the life is the same. What the soul is to the body of a human being, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, the Church. The Holy Spirit does for the whole Church what the soul does for the body of the individual. Look then and see what you ought to fear and what you ought to avoid. If the body suffers an amputation (for example of a finger or a hand or a foot) does the soul go with the limb that has been cut off? While it was in the body, that limb was alive; when it is cut off it loses its life. It is like that with Christians. They are alive only while they are in the Body. If they are cut off from the Body, the Holy Spirit is no longer with them.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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