



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 15th, 2019
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of Saints Nikitas, Bessarion and Philotheos -- September 15th

Sunday after Holy Cross

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20

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 Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

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

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιούται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δέ, ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; Μὴ γένοιτο. Εἰ γὰρ ἂ κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἐμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δέ, οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Sunday after Holy Cross

The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 8:34-38, 9:1

Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἔλθειν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλη τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz will once again provide **free flu shots** for the community in partnership with Mt. Sinai Brooklyn and Maimonides Medical Center.

The flu shots will be administered at his district office.

1800 Sheepshead Bay Road on four dates.

With Mt. Sinai Brooklyn:

Friday, October 18 * 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13* 4:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m.

With Maimonides:

Wednesday, October 16 * 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29 * 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Please note that appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, call Assemblyman Cymbrowitz's office at (718) 743-4078

AGAPE FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR is being hosted by the **GALIATSATOS** family, spouse **Effie**, children and grandchildren in blessed memory of + **SPYROS GALIATSATOS**. Everyone is invited to Whitehall!
MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNALLY IN OUR HEARTS WITH NOSTALGIC LOVE.

DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will convene their first meeting of the fall **TOMORROW**, Monday September 16th, At 7:30 P.M. in The Community Hall. All members are urged to attend for programming.

PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE: is scheduled for Wednesday evening September 18th, at 6:30 P.M. -8:00 P.M. This is a spiritually renewing hour of homily, scripture, prophecy, prayer and anointing. Try it once and you will be with us each month thereafter.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB will convene their first Wednesday weekly session this Wednesday September 18th at 1:00 P.M. All senior citizens are welcome to refreshments, fun, fellowship, bingo and so much more. If you are over 55 years of age you are designated by national standards as a 'SENIOR'. In some cases over 50 you may be declared an 'antique'. It's your choice. **WE WELCOME ONE AND ALL!**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM: highlighting the theme **HOLY COMMUNION** and the **SANCTITY of SUNDAYS** sponsored by the Holy Archdiocese open to all the faithful. The event is hosted at the Saint Nicholas Parish of Flushing, N.Y. on Saturday, October 05th, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. It's a family event!

CONGRATULATIONS to our **PROTO-PSALTI LEONIDAS KOUTSOFLAKIS** and his wife who celebrate their 60th **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**. May our Lord bless them, their children and their children's children with joy.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY BY: GEORGIA BOUZAKIS offers the blessing **TODAY**, September 15th as she celebrates her birthday and the sacred birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGIA!

GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION: for the academic year 2019-2020 commenced Thursday September 12th, at 3:30 P.M. Orientation and **AGIASMOS** opening the faculty/student presentation was at 4:00 P.M. **GREEK SCHOOL CLASSES** commence **T O M O R R O W !!** School bells ring and children sing, it's back to Alpha, Beta, Gammaagain.

ARCHDIOCESEAN CONCLAVE: Father Eugene is privileged to attend two major clergy/laity conferences at the Holy Archdiocese as a representative – **DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT COUNCIL** Tuesday – September 24th – Headquarters NY - **NATIONAL ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL**-Hilton Thursday – Friday; October 17 – 18th.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN** it's 21st **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**)

MEMORIALS TODAY + **SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS** (our Church Secretary's beloved husband)
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK + **STACEY MICHAELS** + **JOAN HOOLE**

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RESURRECTING SAINT NICHOLAS

The Carnegie Hall debut of Maestro Yiannis Hadjiloizou conducting the Athens Philharmonic in Gustav Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 2 Resurrection highlights our longstanding commitment to and renewed urgency for the completion of the restoration of St. Nicholas National Shrine.

Celebrating the initiative of Ms. Katerina Naflpiti Panagopoulos who, in her capacity as the concert's producer, magnanimously dedicated all proceeds to the rebuilding, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America reminds you that donations are always welcome for this noble cause.

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA

MICHAEL HADJILOIZOU

Michael Hadjiloizou is considered to be the National Composer of Cyprus. His compositional output includes 6 Operas/Melodramas, 8 Cantatas for Choir and Orchestra, 12 Byzantine Oratorios for Choir and Orchestra, 14 Suites for Choir and Orchestra, 5 works for Solo Piano, 1 work for Solo Guitar, numerous short pieces for Wind Band, and countless Songs and Arrangements for SATB. He has published 1 collection of School Songs, and 5 Poetic Cycles. He has performed his Music worldwide, and his Opera/Melodrama 9th of July 1821 - The Song of Kyprianos is the most performed work of lyrical repertoire in Cyprus.

The Interlude from Act II from his 9th of July 1821 will be the first work to be conducted by his son, Yiannis, at this special Carnegie Hall debut.



Under the Auspices of HE Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Ms. Katerina Naflpiti Panagopoulos has the pleasure to present Maestro Yiannis Hadjiloizou and the Athens Philharmonic in their debut at Carnegie Hall. The concert is dedicated in Memoriam Pericles S. Panagopoulos, and all proceeds will be donated to the restoration of Saint Nicholas National Shrine.

Staged at Carnegie's famed Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, the program will open with the Interlude from Act II of Michael Hadjiloizou's Opera/Melodrama 9th of July 1821 - The Song of Kyprianos, followed by his sons, Yiannis Hadjiloizou's, own Servikos Cyprus Dance No.1.

The concert also features Latin-American Soprano Larisa Martínez, Greek-American Mezzo-Soprano Daveda Karanas, and the New York Choral Society, for a unique performance of Gustav Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 2 Resurrection, counting more than 250 musicians on the very stage where Mahler himself conducted his final concert.

Presented by
KATERINA NAFPLIOTI PANAGOPOULOS
ATHENS PHILHARMONIC
YIANNIS HADJILOIZOU
 MUSIC DIRECTOR

MAHLER RESURRECTION

CARNEGIE HALL DEBUT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019 AT 8PM
 Stern Auditorium / Pauley Hall Stage at Carnegie Hall

NY CHORAL SOCIETY, David Ripstein, Music Director
 Ivelina Kiselevskaya, Soprano; Irena-Lisa Mikellidou, Mezzo Soprano
 MICHAEL ADAMCZAK, Tenor Soloist; Adam P. Adams, Bass Soloist
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Established in 1891 and named after Andrew Carnegie, who funded its construction, Carnegie Hall is a 2,600-seat venue in Midtown Manhattan in New York City United States, located at 301 Seventh Avenue, occupying the east side of Seventh Avenue between West 56th Street and West 57th Street, two blocks south of Central Park.

Designed by architect William Burner Tuthill and built by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1891, it is one of the most prestigious venues in the world for both classical music and popular music.

Carnegie Hall has its own artistic programming, development, and marketing departments, and presents about 250 performances each season. It is also noted for its performing groups.

The hall has not had a resident company since 1962, when the New York Philharmonic moved to Lincoln Center's Philharmonic Hall. Carnegie Hall has 3,673 seats, divided among its three auditoriums.



KATERINA NAFPLIOTI PANAGOPOULOS

Ms. Panagopoulos long-esteemed artistry for the advancement of Hellenism have recently been recognized by the Greek State appointing her as honorary ambassador for Panagopoulos' Entertainment "The Joyous Arts of Archbishop Epiphaniou's Entertainment brought hope and renewed agency to the peoples of the Greek Orthodox world across Europe of America.

The U.S. Nicholas National Shrine's collaboration of our continued faith in the Archdiocese spiritual and cultural leadership in an exceptional setting. Being part of this effort to see the Shrine completed is a privilege mandated only by the pleasure of having an event of such high artistic value mark it. Mikrotto Hoffmanns vice another landmark to his distinguished career and highlights, through its professional artists, legacy for the visibility of our cause."

YIANNIS HADJILOIZOU

AND THE ATHENS PHILHARMONIC

IN SUPPORT OF SAINT NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE



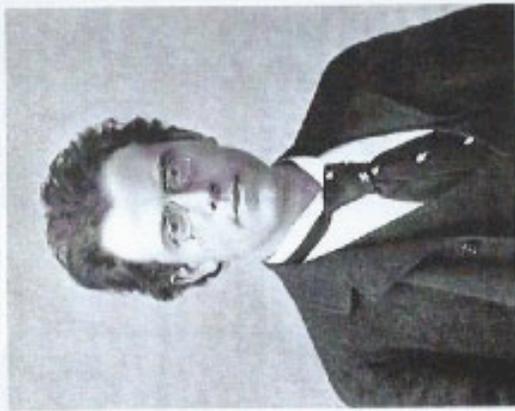
YIANNIS HADJILOIZOU

Conductor, Composer, and Pianist Yiannis Hadjiloizou, whose career has seen him perform in over 30 countries and 5 continents, remarked on his upcoming Carnegie Hall debut:

"It is with a great sense of responsibility, honour, and enthusiasm that I return to the United States to present my father's work and my own, as well as Mahler's Resurrection Symphony at the very stage where the great Austrian composer left his last mark. Archbishop Epiphaniou and Ms. Panagopoulos are two personalities of utmost leadership qualities, unique sensitivities for the betterment of humankind, and unparalleled ethos, charisma, and ability, and I feel humbled to contribute to their great cause. I am also fascinated by the professionalism of everyone at Carnegie Hall, an international landmark thanks to the efforts of Isaac Stern, and can't wait to share my Music with New Yorkers and international audiences alike."



GUSTAV MAHLER

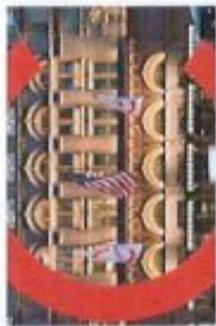


MAHLER 2

Symphony No. 2 by Gustav Mahler, known as the Resurrection Symphony, was written between 1898 and 1904, and first performed in 1905. This orchestral work was one of Mahler's most popular and successful works during his lifetime. It was his first major work that established his lifelong view of the beauty of the life and resurrection. In this large work, the composer further developed the diversity of sound of the orchestra and created a "world of his own" aspects already seen in his First Symphony. The work has a duration of 80:00 and is conventionally marked as being in the key of C major. It was voted the 19th-greatest symphony of all time in a survey of conductors carried out by the BBC Music Magazine. It is scored for large Orchestra and Chorus, and two Soloists.

Mahler conducted his final concert at the very stage where Yiannis Hadjiloizou will now debut, conducting the Austrian master's great Resurrection Symphony.

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Andante moderato
- III. In ruhig fließender Bewegung
- IV. Uk'licht
- V. Im Tempo des Scherzos



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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Έγενόμην 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 – imaafflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2223

Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὴν Ὑψωσιν (Μάρκ. 8,34 – 9,1)
15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2019

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ὁ μεγαλύτερος θησαυρὸς

«Τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον εἰὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ;» (Μάρκ. 8,36-37)

Μεγάλα καὶ συγκλονιστικά εἶνε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὰ λόγια τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. **Ὅποιος τ' ἀκούσῃ καὶ τὰ ἐφαρμόσῃ, αὐτὸς σώζεται.** Εἶνε συμβουλὲς κάποιου ὁ ὁποῖος μᾶς ἔχει ἀγαπήσει περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὸν πατέρα μας, συμβουλὲς ἀπὸ ἓνα στόμα ποῦ εἶπε πάντοτε τὴν ἀλήθεια καὶ ποτέ δὲν ἐξαπάτησε κανένα. Εἶνε **λόγια τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ**, γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖον οἱ προφῆτες εἶχαν προαναγγεῖλει, καὶ οἱ ἀπόστολοι ποῦ τὸν ἐξῆσαν τὸ ἐπιβεβαίωσαν, ὅτι δὲν «εὐρέθη δόλος ἐν τῷ στόματι αὐτοῦ» (Ἠσ. 53,9 = Α' Πέτρ. 2,22)· **δὲν εἶπε ποτέ ψέμα, δὲν μίλησε ποτέ ἀπατηλά.**

Τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ τὰ εἶπε ὅταν πλησίαζε τὸ τέλος τῆς ἐπιγεῖας ἀποστολῆς του καὶ εἶνε ἰδιαιτέρως βαρυσήμαντα.

Ἄς τὸν ἀκούσουμε λοιπόν.

* * *

Λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἀδελφοί μου, ὅτι **ὁ Χριστὸς κάλεσε ὅλο τὸ λαὸ καὶ τοὺς μαθητὰς του** καὶ τοὺς εἶπε· «*Ὅστις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι*»· ὁποῖος θέλει νὰ γίνῃ ἀκόλουθός μου, τὸν καλῶ νὰ ἀπαρνηθῇ τὸν ἑαυτό του, νὰ σηκώσῃ τὸ σταυρό του καὶ νὰ μὲ ἀκολουθῇ (Μάρκ. 8,34).

Πολλοὶ ἔχουν τὴν ἐντύπωσι ὅτι ὁ Κύριος κήρυξε μόνο τὴν εἰρήνη καὶ τὸ «*Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους*» (Ἰω. 13,34-15,12,17). Ναί, ἀλλ' ὄχι μόνο αὐτὰ. Μὲ τὸ ὅλο κήρυγμά του ὁ Κύριος ἔκανε φανερὸ ὅτι ἄρχισε μία πνευματικὴ μάχη, ὅτι **κήρυξε ἓναν ἀόρατο πόλεμο.** Πόλεμο ἐναντίον τῶν τριῶν ἀσπόνδων ἐχθρῶν μας· τοῦ πονηροῦ διαβόλου, τοῦ ἁμαρτωλοῦ κόσμου καὶ τοῦ παλαιοῦ ἀνθρώπου ποῦ φέρουμε μέσα μας.

Τώρα λοιπόν **κάνει ἐπιστράτευσιν** καὶ καλεῖ μαχητὰς. Θέλει νὰ κἀνῃ ἐπιλογή τῶν στρατιωτῶν του· ἀλλὰ δὲν θέλει στρατιῶτες ἀναγκαστικούς, **θέλει ἐθελοντὰς,** γι' αὐτὸ λέει·

«Ὅποιος θέλει...». Δὲν βιάζει κανένα ὁ Κύριος. Ὁ καθένας εἶνε ἐλεύθερος ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ ἢ νὰ ἀρνηθῇ τὸ προσκλητήριό του.

Ὅσοι ὅμως θελήσουν ν' ἀκολουθήσουν τὸ Χριστό, πρέπει νὰ γνωρίζουν καὶ νὰ ἀποδέχωνται τὶς ὑποχρεώσεις ποῦ ἀναλαμβάνουν, νὰ ξέρουν –ἄς ποῦμε μὲ σημερινὴ γλῶσσα– τὸν **κανονισμό** τοῦ στρατεύματός του. **Τί ζητάει λοιπὸν ἀπὸ μᾶς ὁ Κύριος** γιὰ νὰ εἶμαστε πραγματικά ἀκόλουθοί του; **Τρία** πράγματα ἀκούσαμε στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο.

✓ Πρῶτον, **«ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτόν»**, ν' ἀπαρνηθοῦμε τὸν ἑαυτό μας. Τί σημαίνει τὸ ν' ἀρνηθῇ κανεὶς τὸν ἑαυτό του; **ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ ἑαυτός μας** ποῦ πρέπει νὰ τὸν ἀποστραφοῦμε, νὰ τὸν μισήσουμε καὶ νὰ τὸν ἐγκαταλείψουμε; Μήπως εἶνε τὸ σῶμα μας; Ὁχι· διότι τὸ σῶμα εἶνε δημιουργημὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, δὲν εἶνε κάτι κακό. Γιὰ νὰ καταλάβουμε τί ἐννοεῖ ἐδῶ ὁ Κύριος, πρέπει νὰ ἔχουμε ὑπ' ὄψιν μας, ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος δὲν εἶνε τώρα ὅπως τὸν ἔπλασε στὴν ἀρχὴ ὁ Θεός· δὲν εἶνε τώρα δίκαιος, εὐθύς, ἐν-ἀρετος. Ἡ ἁμαρτία τὸν διεστρεψε καὶ τὸν ἐμόλυνε· διαμόρφωσε μέσα του ἓναν ἄλλον ἄνθρωπο, διεφθαρμένο, ποῦ ῥέπει πρὸς τὸ κακὸ καὶ τὴν καταστροφή του. Τὸ αἰσθανόμαστε καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι· ὑπάρχει μέσα μας καὶ κάποιος κακὸς σύμβουλος ποῦ μᾶς σπρώχνει ἀλλοῦ. Καὶ τί συμβουλευεῖ· νὰ δείχνουμε κακία, νὰ θυμώνουμε, νὰ λέμε ψέματα, νὰ συκοφαντοῦμε, νὰ βλαστημοῦμε, νὰ ἀδικοῦμε, νὰ κλέβουμε, νὰ πιανώμαστε στὰ χέρια σὰν τ' ἀγρίμια, ἀκόμη καὶ νὰ σκοτωνώμαστε.

Αὐτὸν λοιπὸν τὸν κακὸ ἑαυτό μας, τὸν «*παλιὸν ἄνθρωπον*» (Ρωμ. 6,6. Ἐφ. 4,22. Κολ. 3,9), αὐτὸν **τὸν παλιάνθρωπο**, πρέπει ν' ἀπαρνηθοῦμε· νὰ μὴ τὸν λυπηθοῦμε, ἀλλὰ νὰ τὸν διώξουμε ἀποφασιστικά ἀπὸ τὸ σπῆτι τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Γιατί ἂν αὐτὸς μείνῃ, ἐμεῖς θὰ καταστραφοῦμε.

✓ Δεύτερον, «*ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ*». Τί σημαίνει αὐτὸ τὸ νὰ σηκώσουμε τὸ σταυρὸ μας; Σταυρὸς εἶνε τὸ ξύλο ἐπάνω στοῦ ὁποῖο ἀπέθανε ἀτιμωτικά ὁ Κύριος. Ὅπως λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς ὑπέμεινε τὸν σταυρὸ του, βάδισε δηλαδὴ ἀποφασιστικὰ πρὸς τὸν θάνατο, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ Χριστιανὸς ἔχει τὸ δικό του σταυρὸ· πρέπει δηλαδὴ νὰ εἶνε ἕτοιμος νὰ ὑποστῇ κάθε θυσία, μέχρι θανάτου, γιὰ τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὸ ἅγιο θέλημά του. Ὁ στρατιώτης ὑποφέρει καὶ ταλαιπωρεῖται γιὰ τὴν ἐπίγεια πατρίδα, κ' ἐμεῖς νὰ εἴμαστε ἀποφασισμένοι καὶ τὸ αἷμα μας ἀκόμη νὰ δώσουμε γιὰ τὴν οὐράνια πατρίδα.

✓ Καὶ τρίτον, «*ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι*». Νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθοῦμε, νὰ ὑποτασσώμεθα σ' αὐτόν, νὰ τηροῦμε ὅλες τὶς ἐντολές του, νὰ τὸν μιμούμεθα. Ὅπου ὁ Χριστὸς, ἐκεῖ κ' ἐμεῖς. Ὅπως τὰ πουλάκια στοῦ ἀκουσμα τῆς φωνῆς τῆς κλώσσης τρέχουν κοντὰ της, ἔτσι κ' ἐμεῖς σὲ κάθε κλήσι τοῦ Χριστοῦ νὰ τρέχουμε πατώντας ἐπάνω στὰ ἴχνη του. Εἶνε «*ὁ ἀρχηγὸς τῆς σωτηρίας*» (Ἐβρ 2:10), ὁ Σωτήρας μας, ὁ Θεὸς μας· νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθοῦμε πιστὰ καὶ σταθερά, μὲ ἀκρίβεια καὶ προθυμία, διαρκῶς, ἰσοβίως.

Ἀλλὰ γιατί νὰ γίνον τόσοι κόποι; γιατί νὰ ὑποφέρουμε ὅλα αὐτά; γιὰ ποιόν; Δὲν τὰ ζητάει ὁ Χριστὸς αὐτὰ γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του, δὲν τὰ ἔχει ὁ ἴδιος ἀνάγκη· τὰ ζητάει γιὰ μᾶς, γιατί ἐμεῖς ἔχουμε τὴν ἀνάγκη. Σκοπὸς του εἶνε, νὰ σωθῇ ἡ ψυχὴ μας.

Καὶ τώρα στοῦ εὐαγγελίου μᾶς λέει, **τί μέγας θησαυρὸς εἶνε ἡ ψυχὴ μας**. Δὲν ὑπάρχει τίποτα ἰσάξιο μ' αὐτήν, τίποτα δὲν ἀντισταθμίζει τὴν ἀξία της. Φαντασθῆτε μιὰ ζυγαριά, ἡ ὁποία κλίνει πρὸς τὸ ἓνα μέρος, γιατί ἐκεῖ ὑπάρχουν ὅλα τὰ πολύτιμα πράγματα τοῦ κόσμου τούτου· μόλις ὅμως στοῦ ἄλλου μέρους βάλουμε μιὰ ψυχὴ, τὴν ψυχὴ ὅχι ἐνδὸς ἐπωνύμου καὶ διασήμου ἀνθρώπου ἀλλὰ τὴν ψυχὴ ἀκόμη καὶ τοῦ πιὸ ταπεινοῦ καὶ ἀσήμου θνητοῦ, ἀμέσως ἡ ζυγαριά κλίνει πρὸς τὰ ἐκεῖ. Τόση εἶνε ἡ ἀξία τῆς ψυχῆς· μεγαλύτερη ἀπὸ τὴν ἀξία ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου! Αὐτὸ λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιον· «*Τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ;*» (Μάρκ 8:36-37).

Ἐπειδὴ ὅμως δὲν ἔχουμε συνειδητοῖς τῆς ἀξίας πού ἔχει αὐτὸς ὁ πολύτιμος θησαυρὸς μας, ἀπερίσκεπτα τὸν **ξεπουλάμε μὲ πολὺ φτηνὰ ἀνταλλάγματα**· γιὰ λίγη ἐφήμερη διασκέδασι, γιὰ λίγο βρώμικο χρήμα, γιὰ λίγη μάταιη δόξα. Πόσο ἀνόητοι εἴμαστε! Ἄν ἔχης μιὰ λίρα, δὲν

τὴν δίνεις γιὰ νὰ πάρης μιὰ δεκάρα· ἂν ἔχης ἓνα πολύτιμο ρολόι, δὲν τὸ πουλᾶς γιὰ ἓνα πακέτο τσιγάρα· δὲν σὲ συμφέρει νὰ πουλᾶς τὸ σιτάρι ἢ τὸ καλαμπόκι ἢ τὸ βαμβάκι ἢ τὰ ἐσπεριδοειδῆ ἢ τὸ γάλα πού παράγεις ἐὰν δὲν σοῦ πληρώσουν τὴν ἀξία τους· διαφορετικὰ, εἶνε σὰν τὰ τὰ πετᾶς στοῦ ρέμα. Προσέχεις, καὶ καλὰ κάνεις, νὰ μὴ ζημιωθῆς στὰ ὑλικά· γιατί ὅμως δὲν προσέχεις, ἔξ ἴσου τοῦλάχιστον, νὰ μὴ ζημιωθῆς καὶ στὰ πνευματικά, πού ἔχουν ἀσυγκρίτως μεγαλύτερη ἀξία;

Εἶνε φρικτὸ, ἀδελφοί μου· πουλάμε τὴν ἀθάνατη ψυχὴ μας σὲ ἓνα **μεγάλου ἀπατεῶνα, τὸν σατανᾶ**. Καὶ γιατί τὴν πουλάμε; γιὰ ἓνα τίποτα! Ὑπάρχουν λαοὶ στὴν Ἀφρική, στὴν Αὐστραλία, στοῦ νότιο Ἀμερικῆ, πού οἱ δῆθεν πολιτισμένοι τοὺς ὀνομάζουν *ὑποανάπτυκτους*. Ζοῦν σὲ ἡμιᾶγρια κατάστασι στὴ φύσι, μέσα σὲ δάση ἢ κοντὰ σὲ ποτάμια. Ἐκεῖ βρίσκουν πολύτιμα πράγματα, διαμάντια καὶ μαργαριτάρια, ἀλλὰ αὐτοὶ δὲν γνωρίζουν τὴν ἀξία τους, τὰ θεωροῦν χαλίκια. Ὑρισμένοι ὅμως Εὐρωπαῖοι ἔμποροι, πού διακρίνουν ὅτι αὐτὰ εἶνε πολύτιμοι λίθοι, τὰ βάζουν στοῦ μάτι καὶ κατορθώνουν νὰ τὰ πάρουν ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀγρίους. Τί κάνουν· τὰ ἀνταλλάσσουν μὲ κάτι μικροαντικείμενα, μεταλλικά ἢ γυάλινα πού λάμπουν, πολύχρωμα ὑφάσματα, διάφορες γυαλιστερὲς χάντρες, κομπολόγια κ.λπ.. Ὅταν οἱ ἰθαγενεῖς βλέπουν τὰ ἀντικείμενα αὐτὰ ἐνθουσιάζονται, τὰ ἀνταλλάσσουν χωρὶς ἄλλη σκέψι μὲ τὰ δικά τους, καὶ ἔτσι οἱ Εὐρωπαῖοι μαζεύουν τὰ μαργαριτάρια καὶ τὰ διαμάντια. Κάτι τέτοιο παθαίνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς· ὁ σατανᾶς ξέρει τὴν ἀξία τῆς ψυχῆς, μᾶς δελεάζει καὶ μᾶς ξεγελάει μὲ τὴν ἁμαρτία, πού τὴν κάνει νὰ φαντάζῃ σὰν γυαλιστερὴ χάντρα.

Ἄς κατανοήσουμε, ἀδελφοί μου, πόσο μεγάλη ἀξία ἔχει ἡ ψυχὴ. Γιὰ μιὰ ψυχὴ, τὴν ἁμαρτωλὴ Σαμαρείτιδα, ὠδοιπόρησε ὁ Θεάνθρωπος· καὶ γιὰ τὶς ψυχὰς ὅλων μας σταυρώθηκε, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ. Εἶνε λοιπὸν ὁ μεγαλύτερος θησαυρὸς πού ὑπάρχει. Γι' αὐτὸ ἄς τὸν φυλάξουμε, ἄς τὸν προστατεύσουμε.

Καὶ ἄς **φροντίσουμε** γιὰ τὴν ψυχὴ μας. Νὰ τὴν στολίσουμε μὲ τὸ φόρεμα κάθε ἀρετῆς· τῆς πίστεως, τῆς ἐλπίδος, τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς ταπεινώσεως. Καὶ τότε ὁ Κύριος θὰ μᾶς βραβεύσῃ, ὅταν θὰ ἔλθῃ πάλι στὸν κόσμον τὴν «*ἡμέραν ἐκείνην τὴν φοβεράν*» (ματθ 24), γιατί δεῖξαι με μέρμυρα γιὰ τὴν ψυχὴ μας καὶ δὲν τὴν παραδώσαμε στὰ χέρια τοῦ ἐχθροῦ μας.

(†) **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: \$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

Exalting the Cross

For each of us, salvation means no more and no less than taking up daily the same cross of Christ, accepting each day what it brings as the will of God, offering back to God each morning all the joys, works, and sufferings of that day. But those are abstract words. What it means, in practice, is spelled out as always by the poor old body. It means getting up each morning and going to bed exhausted. It means the routine, not the spectacular. It can mean drudgery, pain, putting aside pleasures, happiness, or the love the human heart craves until another time, so that what is necessary at the moment can be done.

It means working for others, touching the lives of others, through the medium of the body. How many times, tired and worn

out and near collapse from the slave labor conditions of the camps, did I think I could not ask another step of the body, did I think in pain and irony of those words "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak"? Truly, man is a creature composed of body and soul, and we work out our salvation in this vale of tears through the medium of the flesh.

It is the first gift God and our parents fashion for us; it sustains and supports us through a long life and makes possible both joys and sorrows; and when at last we are parted from it in death, it surely deserves whatever rest it can get before it rises to be glorified at the last judgment.

Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org