



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 19th, 2020

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of Elijah -- July 20th

. Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.

Psalm 31.11,1

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 31.11,1

Εὐφράνθητι ἐπὶ Κύριον, καὶ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι.

Στίχ. Μακάριοι, ὧν ἀφέθησαν αἱ ἀνομίαι.

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιουῖσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστὶν καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιίστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρέτικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει, ὧν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμπω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σέ ἢ Τυχικόν, σπουδάσον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπῃ. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἀσπασαί τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

The Gospel According to Matthew 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου. οὐ δύναται πόλις κρυβῆναι ἐπάνω ὄρους κειμένη· οὐδὲ καίουσι λύχνον καὶ τιθέασι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν μόδιον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν, καὶ λάμπει πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ. οὕτω λαμπάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καὶ δοξάσωσι τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλύσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφῆτας· οὐκ ἦλθον καταλύσαι, ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἕως ἄν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἐν ἡ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου ἕως ἄν πάντα γένηται. ὃς ἐὰν οὖν λύσῃ μίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων καὶ διδάξῃ οὕτω τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἐλάχιστος κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν· ὃς δ' ἂν ποιήσῃ καὶ διδάξῃ, οὗτος μέγας κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν.



A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

A TENANT complained to his superintendent, "It's 5 degrees outside and there's no heat in my apartment! You never do a thing around here!"

The superintendent responded, "I resent that! Didn't I fix your air conditioner just last week?"

"ANHEUSER-BUSCH has announced it will begin selling a new organic beer called 'Michelob Ultra Pure Gold.' As in, 'Sorry, all we have left is Michelob Ultra Pure Gold. —Seth Meyers

I WAS THE BEST door-to-door security alarms salesman for many years running. The trick was to just leave a brochure on the kitchen table if there was nobody home.

I SHOOT golf in the low 70s. When it gets colder than that, I quit.

I started with nothing. I still have most of it. When did my wild oats turn to prunes and all bran?

I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.

Funny, I don't remember being absent minded. If all is not lost, where is it?

It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished.

The first rule of holes: if you are in one, stop digging.

I tried to get a life once, but they told me they were out of stock.

I went to school to become a wit, only got halfway though.

It was so different before everything changed.

Some day's you're the dog, and some day's you're the hydrant.

Nostalgia isn't what it use to be.

A day without sunshine is like a day in Seattle.

I wish the buck stopped here! I could use a few.

Kids in the back seat cause accidents; accidents in the back seat cause kids.

It's not the pace of life that concerns me, it's the sudden stop at the end.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a trip around the sun

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

Never knock on death's door, ring the bell and run (He hates that).

Lead me not into temptation (I can find the way myself).

When you are finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else decide to play chess.

If you are living on the edge, make sure you're wearing your seatbelt.

There are two kinds of pedestrians. The quick and the dead.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.



EVENINGS AT 7 IN THE PARISH HALL

MON	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
TUE	ABUSED SPOUSES
WED	EATING DISORDERS
THU	SAY NO TO DRUGS
FRI	TEEN SUICIDE WATCH
SAT	SOUP KITCHEN

SUNDAY SERMON
9 A.M.

"AMERICA'S JOYOUS
FUTURE"





On the week-end edition of the GREEK NATIONAL HERALD newspaper July 11-12, 2020 our parish community was elated with he honoring of Mr. Haralambos (HARRY) Lambraakis as a Greek - American of distinction. Mr. Lambraakis whose service to the Three Hierarchs community spans 5 decades was cited for his TIME, TALENT and TREASURE surrendered to the Brooklyn Greek Orthodox faithful through the Parish Council, the Order of AHEPA, LACONIAN SOCIETY, NEW YORK CITY GREEK FEDERATION and many other efforts of outreach in fellowship and benevolence. Here pictured is the Council President John Eugenis offering a testimonial of praise.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WELCOME TO MY GUESTS





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γραμματεία τῆς Μονῆς Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaafllo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2306	Κυρ. Πατέρων Δ' Οἰκ. Συνόδου (Τίτ. 3,8-15) 19 Ἰουλίου 2020	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Βάλε κ' ἐσὺ ὑπογραφή!

«Πιστός ὁ λόγος» (Τίτ. 3,8)

Ἡ θρησκεία, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἡ πίστι στὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἡ λατρεία του, εἶνε ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ θεμελιώδη γνωρίσματα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Ἀνθρώπος χωρὶς θρησκεία εἶνε κάτι ἀφύσικο, κάτι ἐπικίνδυνο· εἶνε ἓνα θηρίο. Ἄμα βλέπετε ἄθρησκο ἄνθρωπο, φεύγετε μακριά.

Ἀπὸ τὴν πρώτη στιγμή στὴν ἀρχαιότητα ποῦ ὁ ἀνθρώπος παρουσιάστηκε πάνω στὴ γῆ μέχρι σήμερα ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα πάντοτε καὶ παντοῦ θρησκεύει· καὶ στὸ Βόρειο Πόλο, καὶ στὴν διακεκαυμένη ζώνη· καὶ ὁ ἀγράμματος, καὶ ὁ ἐπιστήμονας· καὶ ὁ λευκός, καὶ ὁ μαῦρος· κι αὐτὸς ποῦ μένει στὴν καλύβια, κι αὐτὸς ποῦ κατοικεῖ στὸν οὐρανοξύστη· καὶ ὁ πρωτόγονος, καὶ ὁ διαστημάνθρωπος. Τὸ εἶχαν παρατηρήσει καὶ οἱ ἀρχαῖοι. Ὁ Πλούταρχος π.χ. λέει: Ὅπου κι ἂν πᾶς, δὲν θὰ βρῆς λαὸ νὰ μὴ θρησκεύη βλ. ἐστ. πρὸς Κολάτην τὸν Ἐπισκόπου» 2001,4 Νη, Ἰατροί, Πόθαι καὶ Θεοί σ. 199). **Κανείς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ ζήσει χωρὶς θρησκεία.**

Υπάρχουν πολλές θρησκείες. Ἄλλες ἔχουν σβῆσει, ὅπως ἐκείνη τῶν προγόνων μας ἀπ' τὴν ὁποία εἰμὲν μόνο τὰ μάρμαρα καὶ ἡ Ἀκρόπολις, καὶ ἄλλες ποῦ ζοῦν ἀκόμα καὶ τὶς ἀκολουθοῦν ἑκατομμύρια. Θρησκεύουν καὶ οἱ Εὐρωπαῖοι, καὶ οἱ Ἀμερικανοί, καὶ οἱ Γιαπωνέζοι, καὶ οἱ Ἰνδοί, καὶ οἱ Κινέζοι... ὅλος ὁ κόσμος.

Γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα· ἀραγε ἀπὸ τὸ πλῆθος ὄλων τῶν θρησκείων **ποιὰ εἶνε ἡ ἀληθινή;**

Στὴν ἐποχὴ μας παρουσιάστηκαν κάτι μοντέρνοι θεολόγοι, ποῦ λένε· Ὅποια θρησκεία καὶ νὰ ἔχης, καλὴ εἶνε· ὅλες εἶνε καλές.... Ὅπως, δηλαδή, πᾶς σ' ἓνα κατάστημα καὶ διαλέγεις, ἔτσι μπορεῖς νὰ μπῆς καὶ μέσα στὶς θρησκείες καὶ νὰ διαλέξης· ἀπὸ ὅλες αὐτὲς νὰ πάρῃς ὅ,τι σοῦ φαίνεται καλὸ καὶ νὰ φτειάξῃς τρόπον τινὰ ἓνα χαρμάνι, τὸ ὁποῖο τ' ὀνομάζουν **πανθρησκεία**, ὥστε μέσα σ' αὐτὴν νὰ συναντῶνται ὅλοι. **Λίγο ἀπ' ὅλα** δηλαδή.

Ἄλλ' αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε σωστό. Γιατί ἂν ὅλες οἱ θρησκείες ἦταν καλές, τότε ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν θὰ

ἐρχόταν στὸν κόσμο νὰ μᾶς διδάξῃ· δὲν ὑπῆρχε ἀνάγκη νὰ δημιουργηθῇ ἄλλη μιὰ θρησκεία, ἔφταναν αὐτὲς ποῦ ὑπῆρχαν· γιὰ νὰ κατεβῆ ὁ Χριστὸς στὴ γῆ καὶ νὰ ἐνανθρωπήσῃ, σημαίνει ὅτι αὐτὸ ἦταν ἀναγκαῖο, ἔπρεπε νὰ μᾶς δώσῃ **τὴ μία καὶ μόνη ἀληθινὴ θρησκεία.**

Ποιά λοιπὸν εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ θρησκεία; Ἀπαντᾷ ἡ σημερινὴ εὐορτή· ἡ Κυριακὴ τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς σαλπίζει. Ἀπαντοῦν ὄχι ἕνας καὶ δύο ἅγιοι, ἀλλὰ οἱ πατέρες καὶ διδασκαλοὶ τῶν ἑπτὰ Οἰκουμενικῶν Συνόδων, ὅπως λέει ὁ ἅγιος Νικόδημος ὁ Ἁγιορείτης. Καὶ πρὸ τῶν πατέρων ἀπαντᾷ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος· καὶ τί λέει σήμερα· **«Πιστός ὁ λόγος»** (Ἰβ. 3,8). Τί θὰ πῆ **«ὁ λόγος** ποῦ κηρύττουμε εἶνε **πιστός;** Ὅτι ἡ πίστι μας εἶνε **ἀξιόπιστη, εἶνε ἡ ἀληθινή.** Μέσα δηλαδή, στὰ ψέματα καὶ τὶς πλάνες ποῦ ὑπάρχουν, μέσ' στὰ χίλια «νομίσματα» ποῦ κυκλοφοροῦν, ὑπάρχει μιὰ πίστι ποῦ εἶνε ἡ ἀλήθεια, **καθαρὸ χρυσάφι**· κι αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ θρησκεία τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Γι' αὐτὴ τὴν πίστι μὴν ἔχεις καμμιά ἀμφιβολία. Ἄν ἀμφιβάλλῃς λίγο γι' αὐτὴ τὴ θρησκεία, τότε μὴν πατῆς στὴν ἐκκλησία. Ὅχι, δὲν σὲ δέχεται ἔτσι ὁ Χριστός! Νὰ ἔχῃς ἀπόλυτη πεποίθησι, ὅτι **ἡ πίστι μας εἶνε ἀληθινή.**

—Αὐτά, θὰ μοῦ πῆ κάποιος, νὰ τὰ λὲς στοὺς ἀγράμματος. Ἐγὼ πῆγα σχολεῖο, ἀνοιξα βιβλία, ξέρω γλώσσες. Ἐγὼ, γιὰ νὰ πιστέψω, θέλω ἀποδείξεις, **θέλω νὰ δῶ ντοκουμέντα.**

Ἄν ὑπάρχη, ἀγαπητοί μου, μιὰ θρησκεία μὲ ἀποδείξεις, αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ δική μας. Ἄν μπορῆς νὰ μετρήσῃς τὶς ἀκτίνες τοῦ ἡλίου, τότε μπορεῖς νὰ μετρήσῃς καὶ τὶς ἀποδείξεις ποῦ ἔχει ἡ ἀγία μας θρησκεία.

Ἡ πίστι μας δὲν εἶνε χθεισινή· ἔχει μεγάλη ἱστορία. Ὅπως ὁ πολυέλεος κρέμεται μὲ μιὰ ἀλυσίδα ἀπὸ τὸν τροῦλλο, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ πίστι μας κρέμεται ἀπὸ μιὰ χρυσὴ ἀλυσίδα, ποῦ ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ τὸν πρῶτο ἄνθρωπο τὸν Ἄδὰμ καὶ τὴν

Εὐα, περνάει ἀπὸ τὸν Ἀβραάμ, τὴν Ἐρυθρὰ θάλασσα, τὴν ἔρημο, τὸ Σινὰ μὲ τὸ Δεκάλογο, τὰ ὄρη καὶ τὶς πεδιάδες τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς, τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομώντος· περνάει ἀπὸ τὸν Ἰορδάνη, τὸ Γολγοθᾶ, τὶς φυλακὲς καὶ τ' ἀμφιθέατρα τῶν μαρτύρων, τὰ ἀσκητήρια τῶν ὁσίων· διαβαίνει χώρες καὶ αἰῶνες καὶ φτάνει ὡς ἐμᾶς· ἔχει ἀπειρους κρίκους καὶ ἀδιάσπαστη συνέχεια.

Ἔχει λοιπὸν ἀπειρες ἀποδείξεις. Δὲν ἔχω καιρὸ ἀλλ' οὔτε κ' ἐσεῖς ἔχετε ὄρεξι. Ὁ σημερινὸς κόσμος ἔχει ὄρεξι γιὰ τὸν διάβολο, μὰ δὲν ἔχει ὄρεξι γιὰ τὸ Χριστό, κ' ἐγὼ δὲν ἔχω διὰθεσι νὰ σᾶς κουράσω ὥστε νὰ λέτε, Πότε θὰ τελειώσῃ ὁ ἱεροκῆρυκασι! Μὲ λίγα λόγια μόνον θὰ σᾶς πῶ, **γιατί ἡ πίστι μας εἶνε ἀληθινή.**

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος», λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος. Μὴν ἔχεις οὔτε μῦθο ἀμφιβολίας γιὰ τὴν πίστι μας. Μελέτησε τὰ κείμενα τῶν θρησκευτῶν κι ἀφοῦ μαζέψῃς τί λένε ὅλοι οἱ λαοί, πάρε ζυγαριὰ καὶ βάλε ἀπ' τὸ ἓνα μέρος τὰ βιβλία τους κι ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Θὰ δῆς, ὅτι τὰ λίγα λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου βαραίζουν ἀσυγκρίτως περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὶς διαφορὰς θρησκείας τοῦ κόσμου τούτου. Ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ τὰ φτάσῃ; **Ἄφθαστα, ἀσύγκριτα τὰ λόγια του.**

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». Κάποτε οἱ φαρισαῖοι ἔστειλαν ὑπηρέτες νὰ συλλάβουν τὸ Χριστὸ τὴν ὥρα ποῦ ἐκεῖνος δίδασκε. Αὐτοὶ προσηλώθηκαν στὰ λόγια του ὅπως ἡ μέλισσα ὅταν τρυγᾷ ἐπάνω στὸν ἀνθὸ κι ὅπως τὸ βρέφος θὰ τηλάζει στὸ μαστὸ τῆς μάνας του. Καὶ στ' ἀφεντικὰ ἀπήντησαν· «*Οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος*» [Ματθ. 7, 46]. **Ὁ λόγος του πείθει καὶ ἀφοπλίζει.**

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». Γιατί αὐτὰ ποῦ εἶπε ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν ἦταν θεωρίες· ὁ βίος του εἶνε ἅγιος, «*ἡ ἀρετὴ του ἐκάλυψε τοὺς οὐρανοὺς*» [Ματθ. 3, 3]. Εἶπε «*Μὴ θησαυρίζετε θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς*» [Ματθ. 6, 19]· καὶ ὁ ἴδιος ἦταν ὁ πιὸ φτωχὸς, ὁ ἀκτῆμων. Εἶπε «*Τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα σου*» [Ματθ. 7, 10 κ.ε.λ.]· καὶ ὁ ἴδιος πάνω ἀπ' τὸ σταυρὸ φρόντισε τὴν Παναγία Μητέρα του. Εἶπε, ν' ἀγαποῦμε καὶ τὸν ἐχθρό [Ματθ. 5, 44, Λουκ. 6, 27-28, 35], καὶ συγχώρησε τοὺς δημίους του· «*Πάτερ, ἄφες αὐτοῖς*», εἶπε [Λουκ. 23, 34]. **Εἶπε καὶ ἔπραξε.**

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». Οἱ προρρήσεις του βγαίνουν. Στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα εἶπε γιὰ τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομώντος, ὅτι δὲν θὰ μείνῃ «*λίθος ἐπὶ λίθον*» [Ματθ. 24, 2, Μαρκ. 13, 2], καὶ ὄντως ὅλα γκρεμίστηκαν· καὶ μέχρι στιγμῆς οἱ τόσο πλούσιοι Ἑβραῖοι δὲν μπόρεσαν νὰ χτίσουν νέο ναὸ. **Οἱ προφητεῖες του πραγματοποιοῦνται.**

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». Γιατί ὁ Χριστὸς **ἔκανε κάνει καὶ θὰ κἀν θαύματα.** Ἀμέτρητα τὰ θαύ-

ματά του ὅπως ἀμέτρητες εἶνε οἱ τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς, οἱ σταγόνες τῆς βροχῆς, τὰ ἄστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ ὄχι μόνον τὰ δικά του ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἀποστόλων, τῶν ἁγίων, τῶν πιστῶν.

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». Γιατί; Δὲν σᾶς εἶπα τίποτα· γιατί τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε σὰν τὸ δυναμίτη. Ὅπως ὁ δυναμίτης σπάει τὸ γρανίτη, ἔτσι τὰ λόγια του σπᾶνε καρδιές. Γιὰ διαβάστε· φονιάδες μετανόησαν, διεφθαρμένες γυναῖκες σωφρόνησαν, ληστὲς ἔγιναν ἐλεήμονες. Ὡς Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ποῦ παίρνεις τὸ κάρβουνο καὶ τὸ κάνεις διαμάντι, παίρνεις τὸ λύκο καὶ τὸν κάνεις ἀρνί, παίρνεις τὸ κοράκι καὶ τὸ κάνεις περιστέρι!

✓ «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» τέλος – γιατί; Γιατί ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς ἴδρυσε τὴν Ἐκκλησία του, ἔπεσαν πάνω της ὅλα τὰ θηρία, ποτόμι αἷμα χύθηκε, διώκτες καὶ αἵρεσιάρχες **τὴν πολέμησαν, μὰ δὲν μπόρεσαν νὰ κάνουν τίποτα.** Ἄν ἡ θρησκεία μας ἦταν ἀνθρώπινο κατασκεύασμα, θὰ εἶχε διαλυθῆ. Καὶ νὰ σᾶς πῶ μιὰ πικρὴ ἀλήθεια ἐδῶ ποῦ ἔφτασα; Ἄν ἡ θρησκεία μας ἦταν κατασκεύασμα τῶν παπάδων καὶ τῶν δεσποτάδων, ἐμεῖς οἱ ῥασοφόροι μὲ τὰ σκάνδαλά μας θὰ τὴν εἶχαμε διαλύσει. Μὰ δὲν εἶνε ἔργο ἀνθρώπινο, ἔχει ρίζα θεϊκή. Κι ἂν ἀκόμη ὁ διάβολος κἀνὴ πανστρατιά, δὲν θὰ μπορέσῃ ποτέ νὰ τὴν καταλύσῃ. Μπορεῖ νὰ γκρεμίσῃ τὶς ἐκκλησιὰς καὶ νὰ κρεμάσῃ τοὺς παπᾶδες, μὰ ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας θὰ μείνῃ εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων. **Ἡ νίκη ἀνήκει στὸ Χριστό!** [1η Κορ. 15, 57· 2η Κορ. 17, 14· 1η Τιμ. 5, 4· 6η Τιμ. 16, 33].

Μά... μά... Τί «μά»; **ὑπάρχει ἀκόμα «Μά»;** «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» φωνάζει ὁ Δαυὶδ, «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» φωνάζει ὁ Παῦλος, «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» φωνάζει ὁ Πέτρος, «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» φωνάζουν μυριάδες ἁγίων, «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» φωνάζει τὸ αἷμα. Δὲν πιστεύετε σ' ἐμένα; Αὐτὴ ἡ γῆ ποῦ πατοῦμε, κάθε σπιθαμὴ τῆς –δὲν μιλάω γιὰ ἄλλα ἔθνη, μιλάω γιὰ τὸ μικρὸ τοῦτο ἔθνος–, στὸ Μοριά, στὴ Ρούμελη, στὸ Μεσολόγι, στὴν Ἠπειρο, στὴ Μακεδονία, στὰ νησιά, στὴν Κρήτη καὶ στὴν Κύπρο, ὅπου νὰ σκαλίσης, θὰ βρῆς κάτω ὅσα ἁγίων καὶ μαρτύρων ποῦ θυσιάστηκαν γιὰ τὸ Χριστό. «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος». **Ἔλα, Χριστιανέ, νὰ βάλῃς κ' ἐσὺ τὴν ὑπογραφή σου κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ «Πιστεύω» τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, καὶ ὅλοι μαζί νὰ ποῦμε·**

«Χριστέ, σέ τοῦτα τ' ἄπιστα καταραμένο χρόνια, ποῦ δὲν πιστεῖουν τίποτα οὔτε ἀγαποῦν κανένα» [1η Κορ. 13, 2], ἐγὼ πιστεύω. **«Πιστεύω, Κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ»** [Μαρκ. 9, 24]. «Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος» ἀμήν.

(f) **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 2020 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

Elijah's (Elias') Journey

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to Bethel." Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The guild prophets who were in Bethel went out to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master from you?" He replied, "Yes, I know that. Be still."

Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two went on together. Fifty of the guild prophets followed and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood next to the Jordan.

Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water: it divided, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed over,

Elijah said to Elisha, "Request whatever I might do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." He replied, "You have asked something that is not easy. Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it happen. He cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariot and steeds!" Then he saw him no longer. He gripped his own garment, tore it into two pieces, and picked up the mantle which had fallen from Elijah. Then he went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan. Wielding the mantle which had fallen from Elijah, he struck the water and said, "The LORD, the God of Elijah - where is he now?" He struck the water: it divided, and he crossed over. (2 Kings 2:1-15)

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

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 22nd 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 radio)