



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 30th, 2020  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of the Rich Young Ruler and Christ (Matthew 19:16-26)*

### Prokeimenon. Mode 3.

#### Psalm 46.6,1

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### Προκείμενον. Ἦχος γ'.

#### ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 46.6,1

Ψάλατε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε.

Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 15:1-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ὃ εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν, ὃ καὶ παρελάβετε, ἐν ᾧ καὶ ἐστήκατε, δι' οὗ καὶ σώζεσθε· τίνι λόγῳ εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν, εἰ κατέχετε, ἐκτὸς εἰ μὴ εἰκὴ ἐπιστεύσατε. Παρέδωκα γὰρ ὑμῖν ἐν πρώτοις, ὃ καὶ παρέλαβον, ὅτι Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν κατὰ τὰς γραφάς· καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη· καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ κατὰ τὰς γραφάς· καὶ ὅτι ὤφθη Κηφᾶ, εἶτα τοῖς δώδεκα· ἔπειτα ὤφθη ἐπάνω πεντακοσίοις ἀδελφοῖς ἐφάπαξ, ἐξ ὧν οἱ πλείους μένουσιν ἕως ἄρτι, τινὲς δὲ καὶ ἐκοιμήθησαν· ἔπειτα ὤφθη Ἰακώβῳ, εἶτα τοῖς ἀποστόλοις πᾶσιν· ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων, ὡσπερὶ τῷ ἐκτρώματι, ὤφθη κάμοι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμι ὁ ἐλάχιστος τῶν ἀποστόλων, ὃς οὐκ εἰμι ἰκανὸς καλεῖσθαι ἀπόστολος, διότι ἐδίωξα τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ. Χάριτι δὲ θεοῦ εἰμι ὃ εἰμι, καὶ ἡ χάρις αὐτοῦ ἢ εἰς ἐμὲ οὐ κενὴ ἐγενήθη, ἀλλὰ περισσότερον αὐτῶν πάντων ἐκοπίασα, οὐκ ἐγὼ δέ, ἀλλ' ἡ χάρις τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ σὺν ἐμοί. Εἶτε οὖν ἐγώ, εἶτε ἐκεῖνοι, οὕτως κηρύσσομεν καὶ οὕτως ἐπιστεύσατε.

The Gospel According to Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, νεανίσκος τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ, γονυπετῶν αὐτόν, καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ἀγαθὸν ποιήσω ἵνα ἔχω ζωὴν αἰώνιον; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός. εἰ δὲ θέλεις εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ζωὴν, τήρησον τὰς ἐντολάς. λέγει αὐτῷ· ποίας; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε· τὸ οὐ φονεύσεις, οὐ μοιχεύσεις, οὐ κλέψεις, οὐ ψευδομαρτυρήσεις, τίμα τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴν μητέρα, καὶ ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ νεανίσκος· πάντα ταῦτα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου· τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ; ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· εἰ θέλεις τέλειος εἶναι, ὑπάγε πώλησόν σου τὰ ὑπάρχοντα καὶ δὸς πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολούθει μοι. ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ νεανίσκος τὸν λόγον ἀπῆλθε λυπούμενος· ἦν γὰρ ἔχων κτήματα πολλά. Ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι δυσκόλως πλούσιος εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν. πάλιν δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν, εὐκοπώτερόν ἐστι κάμηλον διὰ τρυπήματος ραφίδος διελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. ἀκούσαντες δὲ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐξεπλήσσοντο σφόδρα λέγοντες· τίς ἄρα δύναται σωθῆναι; ἐμβλέψας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· παρὰ ἀνθρώποις τοῦτο ἀδύνατόν ἐστι, παρὰ δὲ Θεῷ πάντα δυνατά ἐστι.

## A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

### MORE PERKS TO BEING OVER

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You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

You sing along with elevator music.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them, either.

You can't remember who sent you to this particular web page.

### ON GETTING OLD

You know you're getting old . . .

. . .when you feel like it's the morning after, and you didn't go anywhere the night before.

. . .when you look forward to a dull evening.

. . .when a little old lady helps you across the street, and it's your wife.

. . .when you get winded playing chess.

. . .when you sink your teeth into a thick steak, and they stay there.

. . .when everything that doesn't hurt doesn't work.

. . .when the gleam in your eyes is the sun hitting your bifocals.

. . .when your children are older than you remember your parents being when you were young.

. . .when your mind makes contracts that your body can't keep.

. . .when you finally know all the answers, and no-body's asking you any questions.

. . .when the favorite part of the newspaper is the section under the heading "25 years ago today."

. . .when you sit down in a

rocking chair and can't get it going.

. . .when your knees buckle but your belt won't.

. . .when your back goes out more often than you do.

. . .when you get excited and your pacemaker makes the garage door go up.

. . .when your house is too big, and the medicine cabinet is too small.

. . .when you wake up and realize that the best part of the day is over.

. . .when you figure that if God wanted you to touch your toes, He would have put them on your knees.

. . .when your spouse says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you say, "Honey, we can't do both."

. . .when your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes, and you're not wearing shoes.

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A group of senior citizens were talking at the breakfast table in a Palm Springs nursing home.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"Yes, I know. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a third, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills makes me dizzy," another went on.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head.

Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Well, it's not that bad," said one woman cheerfully. "Thank God we can all still drive."

### OUCH

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

#### LET ME THINK FOR A SECOND

A little old lady was running up and down the halls in a nursing home. As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say "Supersex."

She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Flipping her gown at him, she said, "Supersex."

He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, "I'll take the soup."





## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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FR. EUGENE'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2020

### AGONIZING AS CHRIST

Who would or could have imagined today's chaotic state of the world on New Year's Eve a few months ago. The "handwriting is on the wall"! Clearly and directly our Heavenly Father reveals His distaste for the apostasy, disregard, defamation and sacrilege that humankind has initiated in His sight. Many have desecrated the sacred union between man and his GOD. The demonic creation revealed in the global outbreak of the CORONA -(COVID-19) pandemic is certainly NOT the will of God. He is agape, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation with all creation. He does not relish the interminable global suffering of His masterwork - humankind. Yes! We are His people, the masterpiece of His creative energy. Despite our claim as sons and daughters of the Most High, inheritors of light and the legacy of eternity, we failed miserably to measure up to such a lofty patrimony. We are found lacking in reverence, ignorant in repentance, diminished in adoration and reviling in avarice. What a disappointment we are to God our sustainer and savior.

The globe, the wholeness of planet earth is embraced by this satanically inspired virus. It is indiscriminant in its rage and painful horror unto death. COVID-19 chocks the very breathe of life from youth and elder alike. The woeful sinner suffers the curse of human failure. Likened to Jesus' suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane our souls are "sorrowful and troubled". We too, exclaim as the Lord Jesus agonized "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me". Who among us righteous or sinner has not supplicated to be spared the ravages of this invisible enemy and insidious disease? Indeed we would not wish it even upon our worst adversary. Lord preserve us all.

The solution may be manifold. The evidence is like the chosen apostles in the garden of Gethsemani that we too are "found, sleeping with heavy eyes". We are oblivious with cataracts to our duty before God. Awake them, rise up and surrender to the Most Holy Spirit. Each of us bend the knee to the WILL of God. Repent! Beg and seek forgiveness for our lethargy, malaise and selfish disregard of His Will. The hour truly is at hand. We can do no less.

There may be hopefully in God's Grace and Mercy a vaccine on the horizon which will alleviate some of our fear, horror and despair. We implore all to pray that such scientific insight be revealed to safeguard, heal and protect the human race. Cling humbly and joyously to Jesus who directs us to His embrace and none other. He is second to none! He is the panacea! He is the vaccine!

With all God's Blessings

V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas,  
Pastor



September 01, 2020  
Observance of the Indictus

Beloved Faithful in Christ Jesus

It has indeed been a long and arduous journey these last six months enduring the restrictions of the CORONA VIRUS. In full observance of civil and ecclesiastical authorities our parish suffered not one Corona Virus casualty in death! By public order we can host public services with a maximum of 70 attendees per service, wearing appropriate masks and social distancing in seating. You are most cordially invited to come back to church. Please accommodate us with a telephone call indicating the number of members attending with you and the date of visitation. We will make room for everyone appropriately.

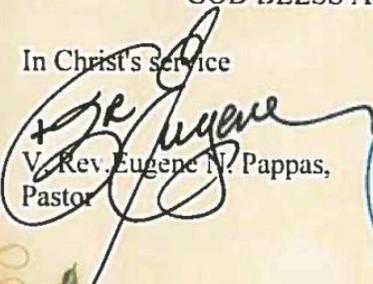
Special services MEMORIALS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, ARTOKLASIES, CONFESSIONS are certainly welcome at your convenience and scheduled date. Many such events were scheduled during the pandemic and have been conveniently re-scheduled. All sacraments are available upon request through the clergy. You may call now.

The dire consequences of the pandemic have been catastrophic to the income and stability of the parish and its outreach in service organizations, fraternal, social, philanthropic and academic service to the people. At this point in time unless otherwise directed, all organizations of the parish will have to coordinate with the Church Office to scheduling meeting or events for their members. Please cooperate with us as we apply good intentions with proper safety measures.

Outreach to one and all, near and far, has resulted in compassionate concern, encouragement and thanksgiving for the ON LINE LIVE STREAMING of our sacred services throughout LENT, HOLY WEEK, PASCHA, PENTECOST, EVERY SUNDAY, and the PANAGIA'S FEAST. Many thanks to our Parish Council which unreservedly extended assistance at every turn. Our APPEALS, by mail, face book and on line live-streaming, such as the CRISIS LETTER, VIRTUAL CANDLE LIGHTING, CENTURIAN CLUB have all met with success "to a degree". We still need assistance in stewardship to keep all ministries in full operation. May we please suggest your consideration of a donation of any amount to cover the many Sundays, Holy Days, Candle-lighting and offering baskets that you may have missed over the last SIX MONTHS. We will acknowledge your thoughtful donation at the altar of God in prayer as we intone your name and intention.

GOD BLESS ALL AND KEEP US SAFE, SOUND AND SECURE!

In Christ's service

  
V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas,  
Pastor





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκὴ Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-26610 - [info@yahoo.gr](mailto:info@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2318	Κυριακὴ 18' Ματθαίου (Μαθ. 19,16-26) 30 Αὐγούστου 2020	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Εἴμαστε ἑλλιπεῖς

«*Τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*» (Μαθ. 19,20)

**Ε**νας πλούσιος νέος, ἀγαπητοί μου, διηγείται τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Μαθ. 19,16-26), **πλησίασε τὸν Κύριό μας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν**. Τὸν πλησίασε μὲ σεβασμό, μὲ εὐκρινὴ διάθεσι, μὲ ἐνδιαφέρον νὰ μάθῃ ἀπὸ τὸν Θεῖο Διδάσκαλο τί πρέπει νὰ κάνῃ γιὰ νὰ ἔχῃ «*ζωὴν αἰώνιον*» (βλ. 19,16).

Ἔιχε ἐνδιαφέροντα πνευματικά. Θὰ ἔχε ἀκούσει, φαίνεται, προηγουμένως τὸν Κύριο νὰ κάνῃ λόγο γιὰ «*ζωὴν αἰώνιον*», ἢ εἶχε διαβάσει καὶ στὰ ἀναγνώσματα τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης ὅτι ὑπάρχει **ζωὴ αἰώνιος** (βλ. Ἰαν. 12,2). Ἔτσι ἀναψε μέσα του τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον. Σπάνιο φαινόμενο νεαροῦ! Ἄν τις καρδιὲς τῶν νέων, τῶν περισσοτέρων, συγκινοῦν, ἐλκύουν κ' αἰχμαλωτίζουν θέλητρα τῆς παρουσίας ζωῆς, τὴν καρδιά τοῦ νέου αὐτοῦ τὴν εἶχε συγκινήσει καὶ ἐλκύσει τὸ δράμα τῆς «*αἰωνίου ζωῆς*».

Ἔιχε ὁμως εὐκολὴ ἢ κατάκτησι τῆς «*αἰωνίου ζωῆς*»; Καὶ τὰ πνευματικά ἐφόδια τούτου τοῦ νεαροῦ εἶνε ἄραγε ἄρκετὰ ὥστε νὰ βρῇ ἀνοιχτὴ τὴν θύρα τῆς ζωῆς αὐτῆς καὶ νὰ ἐξασφαλίσῃ μιὰ θέσι κοντὰ στὸν Κύριο;... Τέτοιες σκέψεις ἔκανε μὲ τὸ νοῦ του. Ἔιχε **ἀπορία** καὶ ἔψαχνε νὰ βρῇ μιὰ ἱκανοποιητικὴ **ἀπάντησι**. Τώρα λοιπὸν ἐρωτᾷ τὸ Ναζωραῖο, τὸν Διδάσκαλο· ἔχει **ἐμπιστοσύνη** στὴ δική του ἀπάντησι, γιὰτὶ ξέρει ὅτι ἡ ζωὴ του εἶνε ἁγία, ἔχει ἀγάπη, ἔχει τὴ δύναμι καὶ κάνει θαύματα, ὁ λόγος του μιλάει στὴν ψυχὴ. Ὅλα αὐτὰ παρεῖχαν σ' αὐτὸν τὸν νέο ἐγγύησι, ὅτι καὶ στὸ ζήτημα ποῦ τὸν ἀπασχολεῖ, τῆς «*αἰωνίου ζωῆς*», θὰ τοῦ δώσῃ ἀπάντησι ἐγγυημένη.

Καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπαντᾷ·

—«*Εἰ θέλεις εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ζωὴν, τήρησον τὰς ἐντολάς*».

Ὁ νέος ὁμως συνεχίζει νὰ ἐρωτᾷ·

—Ποιὲς εἶνε οἱ ἐντολές ποῦ ὀφείλω νὰ τηρῶ;

Ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοῦ ὑπενθυμίζει τὰ γνωστά·

—«*Τὸ οὐ φονεύσεις, οὐ μοιχεύσεις, οὐ κλέψεις, οὐ ψευδομαρτυρήσεις, τίμα τὸν πατέρα*

*καὶ τὴν μητέρα, καὶ ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτὸν*».

Οἱ ἐντολές τοῦ Θεοῦ λοιπὸν, νὰ ὁ **καθρέφτης**, στὸν ὁποῖο ὁ Ἰησοῦς συμβουλεύει τὸ νεαρό νὰ ρίξῃ προσεκτικὰ τὸ βλέμμα τῆς ψυχῆς του, γιὰ νὰ δῇ ἂν εἶνε **καθαρός** ἀπὸ τὰ ἁμαρτήματα αὐτὰ (τοῦ φόνου, τῆς μοιχείας, τῆς κλοπῆς, τῆς ψευδομαρτυρίας, τοῦ σεβασμοῦ στοὺς γονεῖς), ἂν γενικὰ εἶνε **στολισμένος** μὲ τὴν ἀρετὴ τῆς ἀγάπης πρὸς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Κι ὁ νεανίσκος μὲ παίρνει αὐτὸ τὸν καθρέφτη τῶν ἐντολῶν τοῦ Δεκαλόγου, ἐξετάζει τὸν ἑαυτὸ του, ρωτᾷε τὴ συνειδήσει του, ρίχνει τὸ βλέμμα καὶ στὸ παρελθὸν τῆς ζωῆς του· καὶ μὲ χαρὰ, τὴν ὁποία δημιουργεῖ στὴν ψυχὴ τῶν νέων μιὰ αἴσθησι ἀθωότητος, ἀπαντᾷ στὸν Κύριο ὅτι τὰ τήρησε **δλα**·

—«*Πάντα ταῦτα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου*».

Ἐν τούτοις, παρὰ τὴν αἴσθησι αὐτὴ καὶ τὴ μαρτυρία τῆς συνειδήσεώς του, ὁ νέος δὲν νιώθει βεβαιότητα, δὲν θεωρεῖ τὸν ἑαυτὸ του ἐξασφαλισμένο γιὰ τὴν «*αἰώνιον ζωὴν*». Ἐξακολουθεῖ ν' ἀνησυχᾷ· φοβᾷται, μήπως γιὰ κάποια ἑλλειψι, γιὰ κάποιο ἁμάρτημα ποῦ διαφεύγει τώρα τὴν προσοχή του, κριθῆ τότε ἀκατάλληλος νὰ εἰσέλθῃ στὴ χώρα ἐκεῖνη τῆς αἰωνίου εὐτυχίας καὶ μακαριότητος. Ξέρετε πῶς μοιάζει ὁ νέος αὐτός; εἶνε σὰν ἐκεῖνον ποῦ, ἔχοντας τὴν ἀπόφασιν νὰ ταξιδέψῃ, νὰ πάῃ στὴν Ἀμερικὴ, τὴ χώρα ποῦ ὀνειρεύεται, φροντίζει μὲ κάθε ἐπιμέλεια νὰ ἔχῃ ἐν τάξει τὸ διαβατήριό του ἀπὸ κάθε πλευρὰ, ὥστε νὰ μὴν τοῦ παρουσιαστῆ κανένα ἐμπόδιο ἀλλὰ μὲ ἀσφάλεια νὰ φτάσῃ καὶ νὰ ἐγκατασταθῇ ἐκεῖ ποῦ ὀνειρεύεται. Μὲ τέτοια ἐπιθυμία στὴν καρδιά γιὰ τὴν «*αἰώνιον ζωὴν*», ὁ νέος θὰ κάνη στὸν Κύριο μιὰ ἀκόμη ἐρώτησι, τὴν τελευταία, τὴν ὁποία σὰς παρακαλῶ νὰ προσέξουμε κ' ἐμεῖς **ἰδιαίτερως**·

—«*Τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*».

Λέει, δηλαδή, στο Χριστό: Διδάσκαλε, τις εντολές που μου ανέφερες τις τήρησα όλες από την παιδική μου ηλικία· αλλά φτάνει αυτό για τη βασιλεία των ούρανών; Μήπως μου λείπει κάτι ακόμη, μήπως έχω καμιά έλλειψη, που υπάρχει κίνδυνος να μου κλείση την θύρα του παραδείσου; «*Τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*».

Καὶ δὲν ἔπεφτε ἔξω. Καλῶς ἀνησυχούσε. Ἄφου λοιπὸν ἐπιμένει καὶ τὸ ζητάει μόνος του, ὁ Χριστὸς θὰ τοῦ τὸ ἀποκαλύψῃ. Μὲ τὸ θεϊκό του βλέμμα, ποὺ ὄχι ἀπλῶς εἰσδύει κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπιφάνεια ἀλλὰ προχωρεῖ καὶ ἐποπτεύει τὰ βάθη τῆς ψυχῆς, βλέπει τὴν ἔλλειψη καὶ τοῦ ἐντοπίζει τὸ μυστικὸ καρκίνωμα, τὸ πάθος ποὺ τὸν κατέχει· εἶνε ἡ **φιλαργυρία!** Μὲ κάθε σοβαρότητα λοιπὸν, μὲ τὴν θεία αὐθεντία, τοῦ λέει: «*Εἰ θέλεις τέλειος εἶναι (ἂν θέλῃς τὴν ἠθικὴ τελειότητα καὶ τὴ σωτηρία σου), ὕπαγε πώλησον σου τὰ ὑπάρχοντα καὶ δός πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολουθεῖ μοι*» (βλ. 10:21).

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Ἄς σταθοῦμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὸ σημεῖο αὐτὸ κι ἂς μὴ ἐξετάσουμε τώρα τί στάσι τήρησε ἐν συνεχείᾳ ὁ νέος. Ἄς μείνουμε γιὰ λίγο ἐδῶ καὶ ἂς σκεφτοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὴν σπουδαία ἐρώτησι τοῦ νέου: «*Τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*».

Τὴν ἐρώτησι αὐτή, ποὺ ἔδωσε τὴν ἀφορμὴ στὸν Θεῖο Διδάσκαλό μας ν' ἀποκαλύψῃ τὰ βαθύτερα ἐσώψυχα τῆς ψυχῆς τοῦ νεαροῦ – καὶ ἴσα νὰ τοῦ ὑποδείξῃ τὸν ἀσφαλῆ δρόμο τῆς σωτηρίας, τὴν ἐρώτησι αὐτή, ἀδελφοί μου, ἀφου ἐνδιαφερόμαστε κ' ἐμεῖς γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία, ἂς τὴν κάνουμε τακτικὰ στὴ **συνείδησί μας**.

Μὴ ἐπαναπαυόμαστε σὲ κάτι ψίχουλα ἀρετῆς, ποὺ μὲ τὴ βοήθεια τοῦ Κυρίου ἔχουμε τυχόν κατορθώσει. Μὴ νομίζουμε ὅτι, ἐπειδὴ δὲν φονεύσαμε, δὲν πορνεύσαμε, δὲ μοιχεύσαμε, δὲν κλέψαμε, δὲν ἀδικήσαμε, δὲν ψευδωρκήσαμε, εἴμαστε τάχα καὶ ἐν τάξει μὲ τὸ νόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἴμαστε καλοὶ Χριστιανοὶ καὶ ἄξιοι νὰ κληρονομήσουμε τὴν «*αἰώνιον ζωὴν*». Μὴν κοιμώμαστε ἡσυχῶ μετὰ τὴν ἰδέεσ αὐτές. Γιατὶ καὶ τὸ παράδειγμα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ τόσα ἄλλα παρόμοια παραδείγματα μᾶς διδάσκουν, ὅτι καὶ σὲ ψυχὲς **φαινομενικὰ ἅγιες** ὑπάρχουν ἐλαττώματα καὶ πάθη, ἐλλείψεις καὶ κακίες, ἱκανὲς νὰ στερήσουν ἀπὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο τὴν «*αἰώνιον ζωὴν*».

Νὰ μὴ λησμονοῦμε, ὅτι ἡ **καρδιά** τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἶνε ὁ βαθύτερος ἀπ' ὅλους τοὺς ζωτανοὺς κόσμους καὶ κανεὶς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ καυχῆθῃ ὅτι τὴν ἔχει ἐξερευνησῆ σὲ ὄλο τὸ βάθος τῆς. Μέσα τῆς ὑπάρχει πάντοτε κάποια

**ἀκαθαρσία**, σὰν ἐκείνην ποὺ ἔκανε καὶ ἕναν προφητάνακτα Δαυὶδ, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶχε μετανοήσει εὐλικρινά, νὰ προσεύχεται στὸ Θεὸ καὶ νὰ τὸν παρακαλῇ: Κύριε, «*ἐκ τῶν κρυφίων μου καθάρισόν με*» (Ψαλ. 13). Καθάρισέ με, Κύριε, ἀπὸ τὰ μυστικὰ καὶ κρυμμένα ἁμαρτήματά μου, ἀπὸ ἀθλίους καὶ ἀνομολόγητους λογισμούς, ἀλλὰ κι ἀπὸ τὰ ἐν ἀγνοίᾳ πταίσματά μου ποὺ οὔτε κἂν τὰ ξέρω ἢ τὰ ὑποψιάζομαι.

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«*Τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*». Ἐάν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀρχίσουμε ν' ἀπευθύνουμε τακτικὰ καὶ εὐλικρινά τὴν ἐρώτησι αὐτή σὰν προσευχὴ στὸν Κύριο, τότε ἐκεῖνος, ὅπως φανέρωσε στὸ νεανίσκο τὸ πάθος τῆς ψυχῆς του, θὰ φανερώσῃ καὶ τῆς δικῆς μας ψυχῆς τὴν ἀδυναμία. Κι ἂν ρωτᾶτε, **πῶς θὰ τὴ φανερώσῃ;** σὰς ἀπαντῶ.

Ἔχει ποικίλους **τρόπους καὶ μέσα**. Θὰ τὴ φανερώσῃ μὲ τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ πνευματικοῦ μας πατέρα, τοῦ ἐξομολόγου μας, τὸν ὁποῖο ἐμπιστευθήκαμε καὶ ὑπακούουμε. Θὰ τὴ φανερώσῃ μὲ ἀδελφικὲς ὑποδείξεις πιστῶν φίλων μας, ποὺ θὰ μᾶς μιλήσουν εὐλικρινά. Θὰ τὴ φανερώσῃ καὶ διὰ μέσου ἐνοχλητικῶν παρατηρήσεων ἐχθρῶν μας, ποὺ χωρὶς νὰ τὸ θέλουν μᾶς ὠφελοῦν. Θὰ τὴ φανερώσῃ ἀκόμη καὶ μέσα ἀπὸ δικές μας πτώσεις καὶ σφάλματα, ποὺ διδάσκουν καὶ αὐξάνουν τὴν πνευματικὴ πείρα μας. Δι' ὅλων αὐτῶν τῶν μέσων, καὶ ἄλλων ἀκόμη **μυστικωτέρων**, ὁ Κύριος μᾶς ὁδηγεῖ νὰ γνωρίσουμε καλύτερα τὸν ἑαυτὸ μας, νὰ δοῦμε τὰ σκοτεινὰ σημεῖα τοῦ χαρακτήρος μας καὶ τὰ λάθη τῆς ζωῆς μας, ὥστε νὰ λάβουμε κάποια μέτρα γιὰ τὴν διόρθωσί μας καὶ τὴν πνευματικὴ μας προκοπή.

Μὲ τὸν τρόπο αὐτόν, σιγά - σιγά, **θὰ τελειοποιούμεθα** συνεχῶς καὶ θὰ βαδίζουμε πάντα πρὸς τὰ ἐμπρός, μὲ σκοπὸ νὰ πλησιάσουμε πρὸς τὴν κατάκτησι τῆς αἰώνιου ζωῆς. Ἀλλὰ καὶ ἂν ἀκόμη ὑποτεθῇ ὅτι φτάσαμε στὴν κορυφὴ τῆς ἀγιότητος, ποτέ μὴν πάψουμε νὰ προσφεύγουμε στὸν Κύριο καὶ μὲ πολλὴ ταπεινῶσι νὰ τοῦ λέμε τούτη τὴν προσευχή:

Κύριε, ἴδου ὁ δούλος σου, εἶμαι ἔτοιμος. Ἐξετέλεσα τὴς διαταγὲς ποὺ ἔδωσες, καὶ περιμένω νέες διαταγὲς σου. Ποθῶ νὰ τελειοποιηθῶ στὴν πίστι καὶ στὴν ἀγιότητα, θέλω νὰ γίνω εὐάρεστος σ' ἐσένα ὅσο μπορῶ περισσότερο. Λοιπὸν «*τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ;*». **Φανέρωσέ μου τὴς ἐλλείψεις ποὺ ἀκόμη ἔχω.** «*Ἀποκάλυψον τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς μου*» καὶ «*δεῖξε μου δρόμο στὸν ὁποῖο νὰ πορευθῶ*» μὲ ἀσφάλεια (Ψαλ. 16:11-12), γιὰ νὰ εἰσέλθω στὴν «*ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον*».

(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**

### *The Danger of Riches*

One day, an Indian boy found a large pearl. It represented the fulfillment of all his hopes and dreams. His days of hardship and toil would be over. He would never have to work again. But, when he tried to sell the pearl, his real problems began. Buyers tried to trick him, bandits tried to attack him, and even his friends tried to manipulate him. Possessing great wealth was nothing like he expected it would be, so he took the pearl and threw it back into sea.

The boy in this story is quite a contrast to the young man of whom Jesus spoke in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. Jesus spoke of a young man who desired to be justified by God. He had faithfully kept all the commandments, but Jesus told him that there

was one thing he still needed to do: sell all he had and give to the poor. With that, the young man went away saddened because he was not able to easily part with all his possessions. Jesus then spoke one of His most enduring statements, "It will be easier for a camel to pass through the needles eye, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 21:24)

What type of hold do our possessions have on us? Are we willing to share what we have with others, including our time, our talents, as well as our treasure? Everything that we have is a gift from God, which must be freely shared with others as a gift. Our Lord Himself tells us, "The gifts you have freely received, now give as a gift." (Matthew 10:8)

**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)**

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](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)