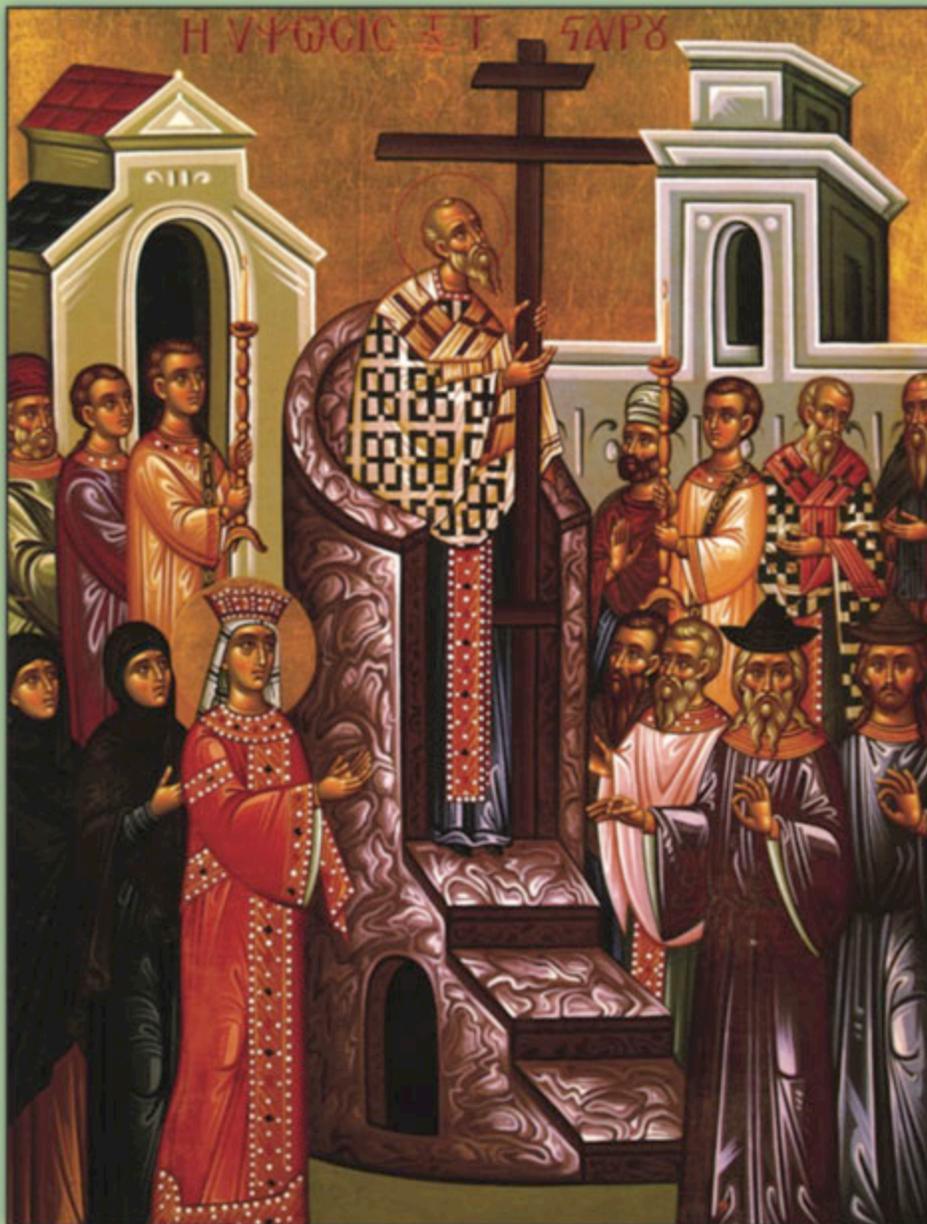


SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 20th, 2020
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

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 πλ. β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

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· ὃ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῆ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

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."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ 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 ἐμούς 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.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB: will host their FIRST autumn meeting ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7th, at 1:00 P.M. in ROSEHALL. Refreshments, lunches, celebrations and Bingo are held every Wednesday afternoon. JOIN US !

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE will be offered WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd , from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. Open to all!

BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 THE GOLDEN GREEKS opened their Friday night sessions with a ‘pizza party’ last Friday evening for all young lads in the parish community. It was a phenomenal success. We salute the young troopers who went to BOY SCOUT SUMMER CAMP this year.

GIRL SCOUTS: are also in full session for all young ladies in the community A special ‘CLOSURE SESSION’ the ceremonies heralding the accomplishments and successes of the troop in the last year would ordinarily have been observed in June however due to the ‘pandemic’ it was postponed to FRIDAY EVENING, September 25th, at 7:00 P.M. in the ROSE HALL. New scouts are invited to join !

CUB SCOUTS: have also joined the ranks with weekly Friday night meetings in WHITE HALL at 7 :00 P.M. boys aged 7- 12 may join the CUBBIES.

GREEK SCHOOL: officially opened with the traditional ‘agiasmos ‘ blessing of HOLY WATER on the Feast of HOLY CROSS EXALTATION – September 14th. We are anticipating a flourishing year of academic success in the study of HELLENIC language, history, tradition, custom, and ethnic identity and pride. BRAVO STA PAIDIA KAI GONEIS! KALI PROODOS to our dedicated faculty Mrs. Zoe Anastasakos and Mrs. Maria Halkias. The Principal of the School is the Pastor.

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY LADIES: will host a Philoptochos Board Meeting on Sunday, September 20th, directly after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy at 12:00 noon. The GENERAL MEETING of the Ladies Philoptochos for all members will be hosted at 1P.M. on MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, IN WHITEHALL. Refreshments will be served and hosted by the committee in charge.

FRATERNAL GROUPS;

A.H.E.P.A. (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) will call to ORDER their members on MONDAY – OCTOBER 5th, at 7:00 P.M. Best wishes to Coney Island Chapter #200 !

DAUGHERS of PENELOPE: DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will convene their first full membership meeting on MONDAY, OCTOBER 5th, in WHITEHALL AT 7:00 P.M. All women of the Parish are cordially invited to join the hard working fellowship of philanthropy through Hellenism.

CHOIR MEMBERS: the bugle has sounded its call for all CHOIR MEMBERS to ascend the choir loft on SUNDAY – October 4th, for the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. This is also the National Observance of Church Musicians Day with the traditional FEAST OF SAINT RONAMOS the MELODIST. DO, RE, MI, FA, SO LA, TI, DO and so on and so on

ALTAR BOYS SOCIETY of SAINT STEPHANOS: have regrouped after a hiatus of six months due to the social distancing of COVID-19. It was both a pleasure and pride to witness the young men serving at the ALTAR last week. We respect their reverence, service and dedication to GOD!

MEMORIAL TODAY: + IOANNIS VORIAS +ALEXANDER GIORDADZE +LIDIA +VYACHESLAV + XENIA and + AGRIPPINA +RUSLAN BRATUN +ZURAB PESVIANIDZE

October 4, 2020



HONORING
CHURCHMUSICIANS
ACROSS the
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



**Greek Afternoon
School
Registration**

Children aged 5 through 13 years old may be inscribed for weekday Greek Language, History, Religion and Culture lessons from Monday through Thursdays 3:45 P.M to 5:45 P.M.



Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ
Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

Registration Commences

Monday September 14th – 3:00. - 4:00 P.M

Agiasmos 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Classes Begin Tuesday September 15th 3:45 P.M.

Books and Tuition: 1 child \$650 per year

2 children \$950 per year

For further details contact the church Office at 718 -339-0280



Principal V. Rev. Fr. Eugene Pappas



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γραμματεία τῆς Μονῆς Ἁγίου Αἰγυθίου Οὐαλίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@yashoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2323	Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὴν Ὑψωσιν (Γαλ. 2,16-20) 20 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 πρωί	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυθίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
--	--	---

«Μέσα μου ζῆ ὁ Χριστός»!

«*Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός*» (Γαλ. 2,20)

Ἄν υπάρχουν λόγια, ἀγαπητοί μου, ποὺ φανερώσουν μέχρι ποιοῦ βαθμοῦ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος ἦταν ἐνωμένος μετὰ τὸ Χριστό, ἐγὼ δὲν δυσκολεύομαι σήμερα νὰ πῶ, ὅτι βρήκα ποιά εἶνε. Λέω λοιπὸν χωρὶς ἀμφιβολία, ὅτι τὰ λόγια ποὺ δείχνουν πιὸ καθαρά πόσο ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος εἶχε ταυτίσει τὸν ἑαυτό του μετὰ τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, εἶνε αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀκούσαμε στὸ σημερινὸ ἀποστολικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα: «*Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός*» δὲν ζῶ δηλαδὴ πλέον ἐγώ, ἀλλὰ μέσα μου ζῆ ὁ Χριστός (Γαλ. 2,20). Δὲν ξέρω ἂν συμφωνήτε. Ἄν ἔχετε ἀντίρρηση, διαβάστε παρακαλῶ πάλι ὅλες τὶς 14 ἐπιστολὰς τοῦ Παύλου καὶ ὁ,τι ἄλλο ἀπ' τὰ δικά του λόγια σφύζειται στίς Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων, καὶ βρῆτε μου ἐσεῖς ἂν ὑπάρχη κάτι πιὸ ἐκφραστικό.

«*Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός*»! Τί λόγος αὐτός! Τρόπον τινὰ ὁ Παῦλος ἐκένωσε, ἄδειασε, τὸν ἑαυτό του καὶ στὴ θέσι του ἔβαλε τὸ Χριστό. Πῶς ἐγίνε αὐτό; Ἀπὸ τὴ μεγάλη ἀγάπη ποὺ ἐνωθε γιὰ τὸν Κύριο. Καὶ πῶς νὰ μὴν τὸν ἀγαπᾷ; Ἀφοῦ ὁ Χριστὸς πρῶτος μετὰ τὴν ἐνανθρώπησί του «*ἐκένωσεν ἑαυτὸν μορφὴν δούλου λαβών*» (Φιλ. 2,7): Ὅταν ἕνας Θεὸς κενώνη τὸν ἑαυτό του πρὸς χάριν τοῦ Παύλου, τί θὰ κάνη ὁ Παῦλος γιὰ τὸν Σωτῆρα καὶ Λυτρωτὴ του; Κενώνει - ἀδειάζει κι αὐτὸς τὸν ἑαυτό του καὶ τὸν γεμίζει μ' Ἐκεῖνον ποὺ τὸν λύτρωσε ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία.

Ἄς θυμηθοῦμε, τί ἔβλεπε ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Παῦλος στὸν ἑαυτό του; Αὐτός, ὁ ἄλλοτε πολέμιος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ποὺ μετὰ μανία «*ἐδίωκε τὴν ἐκκλησίαν*» (Κτ. Κορ. 15,9; Γαλ. 1,13), μετὰ τὴ μετάνοιά του, ἐρευνᾷ, ἀνακρίνει τὴ συνείδησί του, καὶ διαπιστώνει τί ὑπάρχει τώρα μέσα του. Εἶνε συγκλονιστικὰ αὐτὰ ποὺ γράφει στὴν πρὸς Ῥωμαίους ἐπιστολή του, στὸ 7ο κεφάλαιο. Ἀναπαύομαι ἐσωτερικά, λέει, καὶ γλυκαίνομαι στὸ νόμο τοῦ Κυρίου· βλέπω ὅμως ἐπάνω στὰ μέ-

λη μου νὰ κυριαρχῆ ἕνας ἄλλος νόμος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀντιστρατεύεται στὸ νόμο τῆς ψυχῆς μου καὶ μ' αἰχμαλωτίζει στὸ νόμο τῆς ἁμαρτίας ποὺ κυριαρχεῖ ἐπάνω στὰ μέλη μου. Νιώθω νὰ 'νε δεμένο ἐπάνω μου ἕνα πτώμα, κ' ἐγὼ ὁ ζωντανὸς δεσμεύομαι καὶ μολύνομαι ἀπὸ τὴ φθορὰ ποὺ κυριαρχεῖ στὸ πτώμα. Ζῶ ἕνα δράμα. Πόσο ταλαιπώρος ἄνθρωπος εἶμαι ἐγώ, ποὺ ζῶ αὐτὸ τὸν διχασμὸ καὶ τὴ φρικτὴ σκλαβιά! Ποιὸς θὰ με γλυτώσῃ ἀπ' αὐτὸ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ θανάτου... Κ' ἐκεῖ ποὺ τὸ δράμα τοῦ Παύλου φτάνει στὸ ἀποκορύφωμα, ἐρχεται ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ τὸν ἐλευθερώνει, καὶ τότε αὐτὸς με βαθεῖα εὐγνωμοσύνη λέει: «*Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ Θεῷ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν*», ποὺ μ' ἐλευθέρωσε «*ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ θανάτου*» (βλ. Ρωμ. 7,25-8,2).

Νὰ πῶς φτάνει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, μετὰ ἀπὸ τὴν ταλαιπωρία ποὺ ζῆ χωρὶς τὸν Κύριο, νὰ παραδίδεται τώρα ὀλοκληρωτικὰ στὸ Χριστό, νὰ ἀρνήται τὸν ἑαυτό του, νὰ κενώνη - ἀδειάζῃ τὸν ἑαυτό του, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ποὺ ζῆ νὰ 'νε πλέον ὄχι ἡ δική του ἀλλὰ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Δὲν ζῶ, λέει ὁ Παῦλος, δὲν ζῶ ἐγώ, ὁ διώκτης τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ, ὁ βλάσφημος, ὁ διχασμένος, ὁ ταλαιπώρος, ποὺ θέλει παντοῦ καὶ πάντοτε νὰ ἐπικρατῆ τὸ δικό του θέλημα. Αὐτὸς ὁ Παῦλος, μετὰ τὶς κακίες καὶ τὰ ἐλαττώματά του ἔχει πλέον πεθάνει. Δὲν ζῆ. Ἀπ' τὴ στιγμή ποὺ γνώρισε τὸ Χριστό, πίστεψε καὶ βαπτίστηκε στὸ ὄνομά του, μέσα στὰ βάθη τῆς ψυχῆς του ἐγίνε κάτι θαυμαστό· πέθανε ὁ σαρκικός ἄνθρωπος καὶ γεννήθηκε ὁ νέος ἄνθρωπος. Ζῆ μέσα του ὁ Χριστός!

«Ζῆ μέσα μου ὁ Χριστός!». Μεγάλα λόγια αὐτὰ, ἀγαπητοί μου, ποὺ δὲν τὰ καταλαβαίνουν ὅλοι. Λίγες μόνο ψυχὲς μποροῦν νὰ τὰ ἐπαναλάβουν. Οἱ ἄλλοι, οἱ πολλοί, τὸ πλήθος, δὲν τὰ καταλαβαίνουν, γιὰτὶ δὲν ἔχουν ζήσει

τῆ ζωῆ πού ἐζησε ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος καὶ ὅσοι ἀκολούθησαν τὸ παράδειγμά του.

Οἱ πολλοὶ ζοῦν, ἀλλὰ ὄχι τῆ ζωῆ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ζοῦν τὴν κατώτερη ζωῆ, τῆ ζωῆ τῶν αἰσθήσεων, τῆ ζωῆ τοῦ κτήνους. Ὅλη τους ἡ κίνησι περιορίζεται μέσα στὸ στενὸ κύκλο πού ὀρίζουν οἱ πέντε αἰσθήσεις τοῦ σώματος· τῆς ἀκοῆς δηλαδή, τῆς ὁράσεως, τῆς ὄσφρησεως, τῆς γεύσεως καὶ τῆς ἀφῆς. Ὅσοδήποτε ὠραία καὶ ἂν φαίνεται στοὺς πολλοὺς ἡ ζωὴ αὐτή, εἶνε πάντως ζωὴ κατώτερη, ζωὴ τὴν ὁποία ζοῦν καὶ τὰ κτήνη, γιατί κι αὐτὰ ἔχουν τέτοιες αἰσθήσεις· ἀκοῦνε, βλέπουν, ὀσφραίνονται, γεύονται, αἰσθάνονται γενικά· κάποια ζῶα μάλιστα ἔχουν μερικὲς αἰσθήσεις πῶς ἰσχυρὲς ἀπὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο (π.χ. ὁ ἀετὸς τὴν ὄρασι, ὁ σκύλος τῆς ἀκοῆς, τὸ πρόβατο τὴν ὄσφρησι κ.λπ.).

Ἄν ὁμως τὸ πλῆθος τῶν ἀνθρώπων δὲν ἔχουν ἔως τώρα γνωρίσει τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ ζοῦν ἀκόμα μιὰ πεζὴ καὶ ἄχαρη ζωὴ, **ἐκεῖνοι πάντως** πού ὄχι ἀπλῶς **πίστεψαν** στὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν καὶ **βαπτίσθηκαν** στὸ ἅγιο Ὄνομά του, ἀλλὰ μετὰ τὸ βάπτισμά τους, στὴν ὠριμὴ ἡλικία, ἄρχισαν καὶ **νὰ ζοῦν** κατὰ τὶς ἐντολές του καὶ **ν' ἀγωνίζονται** καθημερινῶς «τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα τῆς πίστεως» (Ἰ. Τιμ. 6:12 Β' Τιμ. 4:7) καὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς, αὐτοὶ δοκιμάζουν ἕναν **ἄλλο τρόπο ζωῆς**· ζοῦν τὴν ὑψηλότερη καὶ ἀγιώτερη ζωὴ πού μπορεῖ νὰ ποθῆσῃ καὶ νὰ πραγματοποιήσῃ ἄνθρωπος, ζοῦν τὴ χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ.

Ἡ χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ εἶνε ἡ ὑψηλότερη βαθμίδα, τὸ ὑψηλότερο σκαλοπάτι, πού μπορεῖ ν' ἀνεβῆ ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Τὴν δοκίμασαν γιὰ λίγο οἱ τρεῖς μαθηταὶ τοῦ Κυρίου στὸ Θαβῶρ τὴν ὥρα τῆς Μεταμορφώσεως· τὴν ἐζησαν καὶ ὅλοι οἱ πιστοὶ μαζί με τὴν Παναγία τὴν ὥρα τῆς Ἀναλήψεως του στοὺς οὐρανοὺς. Ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὴ δὲν ἔχει πρόγραμμα τὸ «**Φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αὔριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν**» (Μκ. 22:13 = Κ' Κορ. 15:32) πρόγραμμα πού μπορεῖ νὰ ἔνευρετο γιὰ τὰ ἄλογα ζῶα, νὰ ἰκανοποιῆ τὰ ζωντανὰ πού βόσκουν στὸ λιβάδι –κι αὐτὰ ὄχι πάντοτε!–, ὄχι ὁμως τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ἡ χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ ἔχει μὲν τὶς ρίζες της καὶ ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ, ἀλλὰ ὑψώνει τὴν κορυφὴ της πρὸς τὰ ἐπάνω, πρὸς τὸν οὐρανὸ, πρὸς τὸ Θεό. Καὶ τελικὰ φέρνει τὸ Χριστὸ ἀπὸ τώρα στὴν καρδιά τοῦ πιστοῦ· **ὁ πιστὸς Χριστιανὸς γίνεται χριστοφόρος**, φέρει ἐντὸς του καὶ ζῆ τὸν Χριστόν!

Καὶ τί σημαίνει, ἀδελφέ μου, τὸ νὰ ζῆ μέσα στὴν καρδιά σου ὁ Χριστός; Σημαίνει νὰ σκέπτεσαι ὅπως σκεπτόταν ὁ Χριστός, νὰ αἰσθάνεσαι ὅπως αἰσθάνονταν ὁ Χριστός, νὰ θέλῃς

καὶ νὰ κάνῃς ὅπως ἤθελε καὶ ἐπραττε ὁ Χριστὸς στὸ διάστημα τῆς ἐπιγείου ζωῆς του. Σημαίνει, νὰ ρυθμίζῃς τὴ ζωὴ σου σύμφωνα μετὰ τὸ πρότυπο τῆς ζωῆς ἐκείνης πού ἐζησε ὁ Χριστός. Σημαίνει, νὰ ὑποτάξῃς τὸ θέλημά σου στὸ θέλημα τοῦ Χριστοῦ μέχρι τέτοιου σημείου, ὥστε μέσα ἀπὸ σένα νὰ φαίνεται καὶ νὰ ἐνεργῆ ὁ Χριστός.

Καταλαβαίνεις τώρα ὅτι, μέσα σὲ μιὰ τέτοια ζωὴ, ἀσφαλῶς **δὲν ὑπάρχει χωρὸς γιὰ ἁμαρτία**, γιὰ ὁποιοδήποτε εἶδος ἁμαρτίας. Γιατί ὀλόκληρη τὴ διάνοια, τὴν καρδιά, τὴ θέλησι κατέχει καὶ κυβερνᾷ ὁ Χριστός. Ὅλα ὅσα λέει, αἰσθάνεται καὶ πράττει ἕνας τέτοιος ἄνθρωπος, ἔχουν τὴ σφραγίδα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

«Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός» [α. 22]. Στὴν καρδιά τοῦ Παύλου **«ζῆ» ὁ Χριστός**· Αὐτὸ σημαίνει, ὅτι ἡ χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ του εἶνε συνεχῆς καὶ ἀδιάλειπτη. Γιατί αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ γινώρισμα τῆς ζωῆς, ἡ **συνέχεια**. Δὲν ἐζησε, δηλαδή, ὁ Παῦλος τὸ Χριστὸ κατ' ἀραιὰ διαστήματα, ὅπως τὸν ζοῦμε οἱ περισσότεροι ἀπὸ μᾶς τοὺς λεγομένους Χριστιανούς. Τὸν αἰσθάνονταν ὅλες τὶς ἡμέρες καὶ ὥρες τῆς ζωῆς του νὰ κυριαρχῆ στὴν ὑπαρξί του. Δὲν ἐζησε οὔτε μιὰ στιγμή χωρὶς τὸ Χριστό. Ὁ Χριστὸς εἶχε μόνιμα καὶ σταθερὰ τὸ θρόνον του μέσα στὴν καρδιά τοῦ Παύλου. Καμμιὰ δύναμι δὲν ἦταν ἰκανὴ νὰ τὸν ἐκθρονίσῃ ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ. Ἔτσι ἐξηγεῖται πῶς εἶχε τὸ θάρρος νὰ λέῃ καὶ νὰ γράφῃ λόγια ὅπως τὰ ἀκόλουθα.

«Τίς ἡμᾶς χωρίσει ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Χριστοῦ; θλίψις ἢ στενοχωρία ἢ διωγμὸς ἢ λιμὸς (=πείνα) ἢ γυμνότης ἢ κίνδυνος ἢ μάχαιρα;... Πέπεισμαι γὰρ (=εἶμαι βέβαιος) ὅτι οὔτε θάνατος οὔτε ζωὴ οὔτε ἄγγελοι οὔτε ἀρχαὶ οὔτε δυνάμεις οὔτε ἐνεστώτα οὔτε μέλλοντα οὔτε ὑψώματα οὔτε βάθος οὔτε τίς κτίσις ἐτέρα δυνήσεται ἡμᾶς χωρίσει ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Θεοῦ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Κυρίῳ ἡμῶν» (Ῥωμ. 8:35-39).

Μακάρι κ' ἐμεῖς, ἀδελφοί μου, **ἀρχίζοντας** **τώρα** ἀποφασιστικά, εἰλικρινὰ καὶ μετὰ ὄρεξι, μιὰ συνεχῆ καὶ ἐντατικὴ προσπάθεια –πρὸ παντὸς δὲ μετὰ τὴ **βοήθεια τῆς θείας χάριτος**– νὰ πλησιάσουμε καὶ νὰ ἐνωθοῦμε θερμὰ μετὰ τὸν σωτήρα καὶ λυτρωτὴ μας Χριστό· τόσο θερμὰ, ὥστε νὰ φτάσουμε κάποτε, πρὶν φύγοιμε ἀπὸ τὴ ζωὴ αὐτή, **νὰ ἐπαναλάβοιμε** κ' ἐμεῖς συνειδητὰ καὶ μετὰ ἐπίγνωσι τὸ μεγάλο λόγο τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου **«Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός»**.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὔγουστίνος**

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

Whatever Their Size, Carry Them

"Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it." One who knew the meaning of Jesus' words so well was Flannery O'Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, - not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: "I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don't have it miss one of God's mercies ..."

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God's mercies? Yet Jesus'

words in the Gospel are just as strong: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps."

In some way Flannery O'Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord's footsteps. But she didn't do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

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