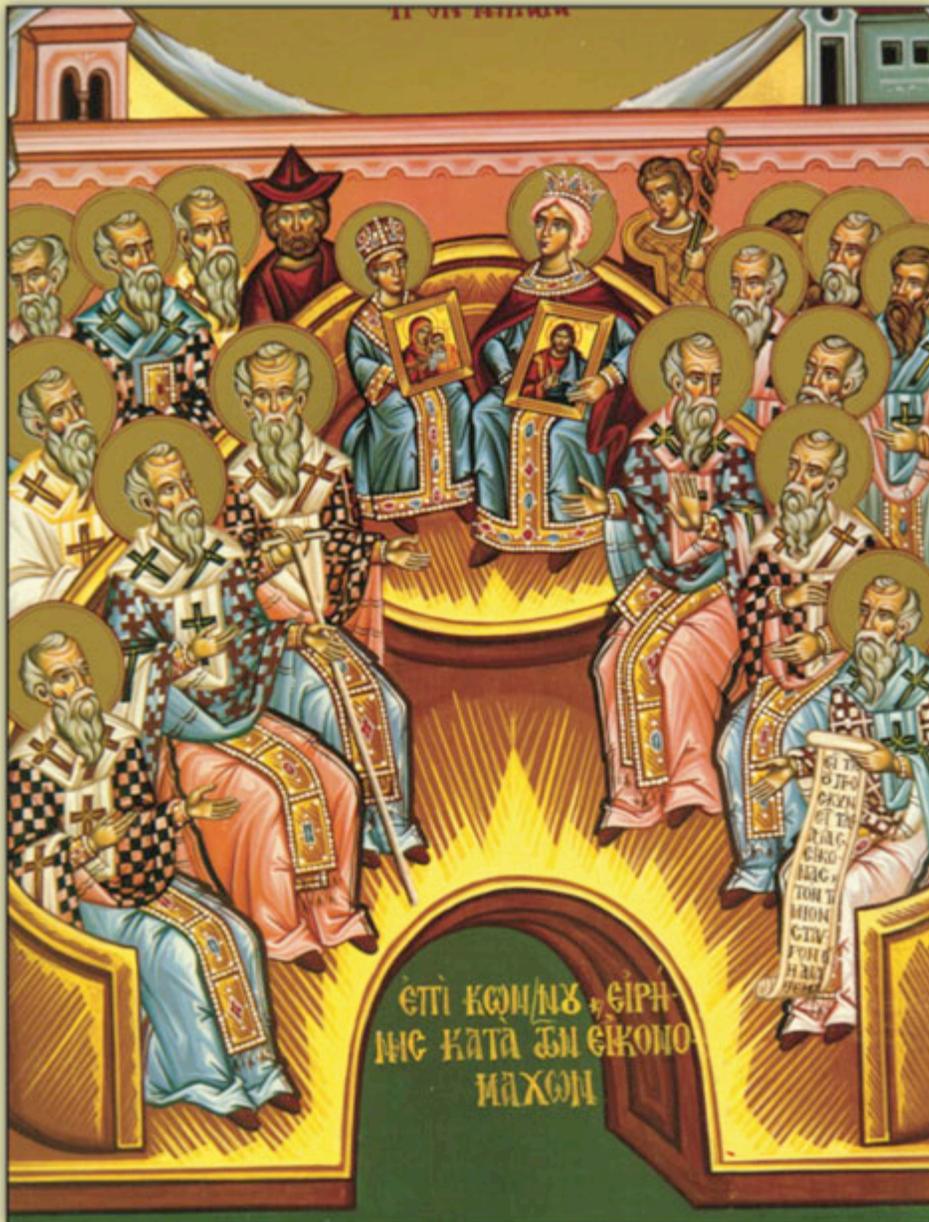


# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 11th, 2020  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4.**

**Daniel 3.26,27**

**Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.**

**Verse: For you are just in all you have done.**

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 δ'.**

**Δανιήλ 3.26-27**

**Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.**

**Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.**

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιουῖσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προϊῆσθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστιν καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰ δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιίστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. ἀίρετικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νοθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει, ὡν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σέ ἢ Τυχικόν, σπούδασον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προϊῆσθαι 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 Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείρειν τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπείρειν αὐτὸν ὁ μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ἰκμάδα· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αὐτῶν ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν κατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὦτα ἀκούειν ἀκούετω. Ἐπηρώτων δὲ αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἶη ἡ παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται γινῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσι καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ συνιῶσιν. ἔστι δὲ αὕτη ἡ παραβολή· ὁ σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν εἰσὶν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν. οἱ δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς πέτρας οἱ ὅταν ἀκούσωσι, μετὰ χαρᾶς δέχονται τὸν λόγον, καὶ οὗτοι ρίζαν οὐκ ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσι καὶ ἐν καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται. τὸ δὲ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ πλοῦτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ τελεσφοροῦσι. τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῇ, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσι καὶ καρποφοροῦσιν

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** that as prescribed by monastic tradition, the first of each month commences with the CONSECRATION of HOLY WATER. ( A G I A S M O S ) which is both consumed and sprinkled for blessing places and objects to the service of the Lord. This special service will be offered from 11:00 AM to 11:30 A.M. Bottles of Holy Water will be available for distribution. At this same service, those seeking recovery in spiritual and physical health may be anointed with EUCELAION upon request.

**PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES:** will commence the new ecclesiastical year with an afternoon meeting of the membership on MONDAY, October 19th, in WHITEHALL at 1:00 P.M. All women of the parish community are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served as usual. SEE YOU THERE?

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE DEMETRA CHAPTER #33** announces that the Annual Saint Demetrios luncheon honoring the Patron Saint of the organization will not be hosted this year due to the Pandemic civil authority regulations regarding indoor events. Regular monthly meetings ARE however scheduled as per usual on the first Monday of each month. at 4:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. The next scheduled session is MONDAY-NOVEMBER 02nd, the day before national elections. Please join the ladies.

**BOY SOCIETY:** of Saint Stephanos has come back strong to servicing the Sacred and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings. We have received overwhelming satisfaction and approval from those in church at worship and those via the live-streaming of our Sunday worship that their presence is inspiring and encouraging to return to church Sunday worship in person! Will we see you soon?

**BOY SCOUTS, CUB SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS** are all in full operation this month with each TROOP meeting on FRIDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. in the community center. Are your children signed up? WHY NOT? It's a wondrous experience for them.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** is open with registration filled for the students return or just beginning their HELLENIC EDUCATION in language, religion, history, literature and culture. Young children can and do adapt to second languages easily if they are given the learning opportunity. We salute our faculty of renown MRS. ZOE ANASTASAKOS, MRS. MARIA HALKIAS, and our newly appointed teacher MS. EMMANUELLA KATSIBATAKIS from GREECE. Our P.T.A. PRESIDENT is MRS. SILVIA RAPTIS who continues to expend time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our school and students. AXIOI OLOI!

**SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB:** meets every WEDNESDAY, in WHITEHALL at 1:00 P.M. With all the traditional events of birthdays, holidays, lunches, sweets and treats,.....and .....B I N G O ! You're all invited! Come on down any Wednesday and join in the fun, fellowship and relaxation of your generation.

**PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE** for the month of October is scheduled for TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 20th, at 6:30 P.M. Usually the session is held on Wednesdays, however there is a slight change this month. Scripture reading, exegesis, homily, witnessing, anointing and inspirational revelation all take place. Give it a try. You may be happily convinced. We commence at 6:30 P.M. and conclude with refreshments at 8:00 P.M. ALL ARE MOST WELCOMED.

**SAINT DEMETRIOS OBSERVANCE** will be celebrated by anticipation on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th in view of the liturgical restrictions. ARTOKLASIES are most welcomed. Please call the church office (718) 339-0280 and register your intentions to participate.

**COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVANCE** is scheduled for October 12th. The school, church and offices will be closed in recognition of the holiday. BRAVO CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.....were it not for you, most of us if not all of us would NOT BE HERE! The NINA, the PINTA and the SANTA MARIA...they started it all! Don't forget FERDINAND and ISABELLA.

**WE SALUTE THE CHOIR MEMBERS:** listed for their continued service to the sacred hymnology of our Byzantine tradition.

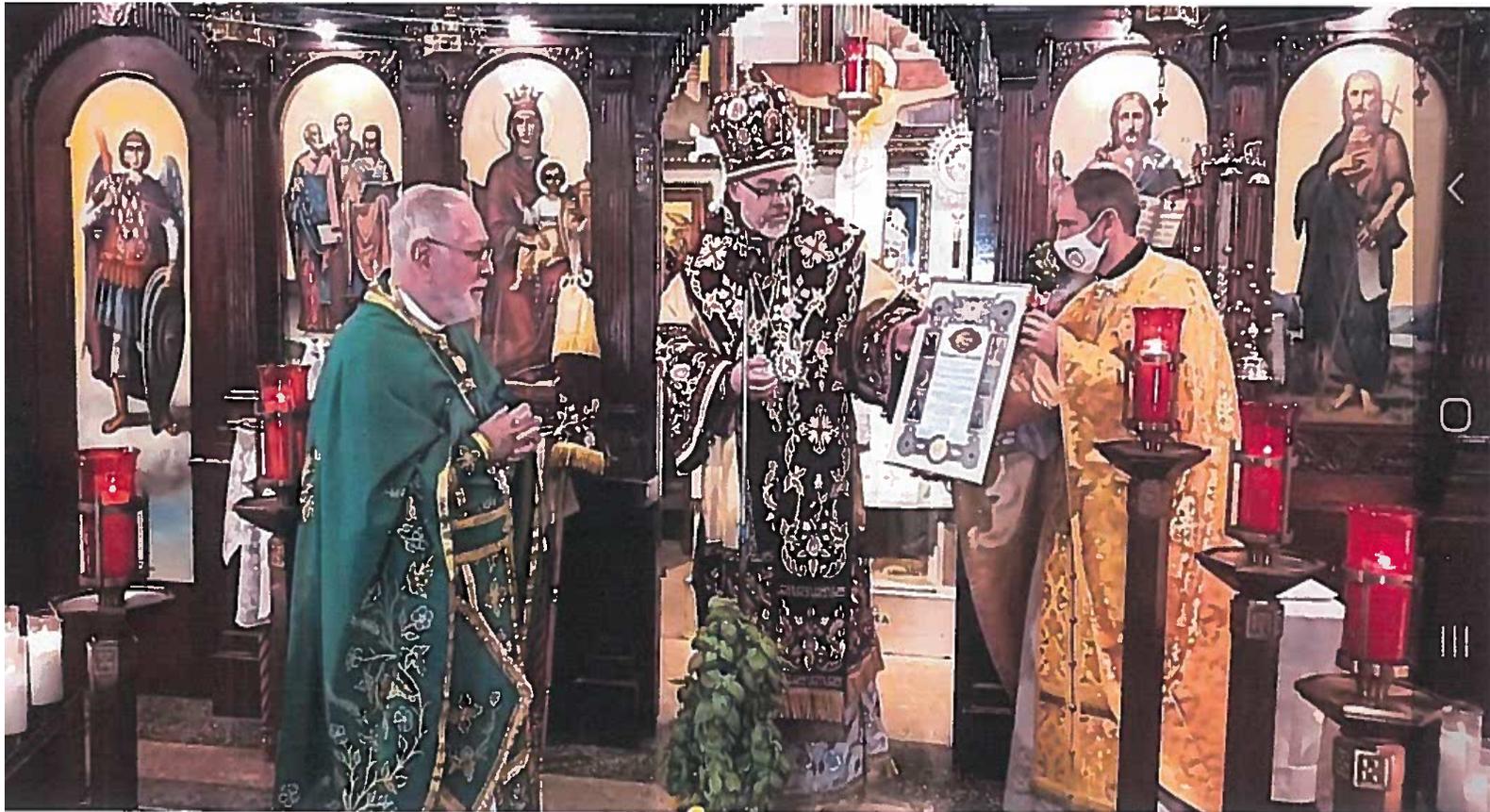
Katie Hambas ,  
Mary Ann Kolidas,  
Ari & Niki Apergis,  
Evanthia Basias,  
Demetrios Bouroutis,  
Georgia Bouzakis,

### **CHOIR MEMBERS**

Despina Coutsouradis,	Harry & Toula Orthos,
Christina Gavaris,	Helen Pavlides,
Bob Geroulanos	Eleutheria Theologis,
Evanthea Karounos	Nick Serras
Robert Malfi,	Angie Vlahos,
Gerry Manuel,	Bernes Williams



On the solemn occasion of the visit of HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America on Sunday, October 04th, the Archbishop extended greetings to the Three Hierarchs faithful congregation with special salutations to Father Eugene in the embrace of brotherly love and admiration.



A presentation of an iconographic citation on behalf of the Primate and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of American, HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN ANTHONY was presented to Father Eugene for his altruistic outreach 25 years ago to the Slavic speaking people of Brooklyn of Orthodox Christian faith



Just from the photo, one can share in the joy and happy exchange of commentary between the Archbishop and Father Eugene. Father Vasili was instrumental in all the testimonial ceremonies. Many thanks to Fr. VASILI SHAK for his dedicated and inspirational services to the community. He is indeed among the 'best' !



Another gesture of appreciation was the investiture of Father Eugene with the ARCHIMANDRITE'S MITRE (CROWN) which is bestowed in the Slavic Church tradition to those who have achieved the appropriate rank of clergy.



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκὰ Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αἰγυυστίου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@yashoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2329	Κυριακὴ Δ' Λουκ. ἢ Πατ. Ζ' Οἰκ. Συν. (Ακ Β,4-15) 11 Ὀκτωβρίου 2020	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυυστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Σπορὰ Χριστοῦ καὶ σπορὰ διαβόλου

«Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ» (Λουκ. 8,5)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε Κυριακὴ καὶ ἡ Ἁγία Ὁρθόδοξος Ἐκκλησία μας ὤρισε νὰ ἐορτάζεται ἡ μνήμη τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων τῆς Ἐβδόμης (Ζ') Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου, πού καταπολέμησαν τοὺς εἰκονομάχους. Σήμερα ἐπίσης γίνεται ἔναρξις τοῦ κηρυκτικοῦ καὶ κατηχητικοῦ ἔργου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Ἐπικαίρως λοιπὸν ὡς εὐαγγελικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα ὠρίστηκε ἡ περίφημη **παραβολὴ τοῦ Σπορέως** (βλ. Λουκ. 8,4-15). Σὰς παρακαλῶ νὰ προσέξουμε τὴν ἀρχὴ τῆς παραβολῆς. Πῶς ἀρχίζει: «Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ» (Λουκ. 8,5).

Τί λέει; Μιλάει γιὰ σπόρο. Ἡ παραβολὴ στηρίζεται σὲ μιὰ εἰκόνα, ἕνα παράδειγμα συνηθισμένο στοὺς γεωργούς μας: εἶνε ὁ σπόρος.

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**Διακρίνουμε, ἀδελφοί μου, δύο εἶδη σπόρων.**

● Τὸ ἕνα εἶνε ὁ **φυσικὸς σπόρος**. Τὸν ἔχουμε συνηθίσει καὶ δὲν μᾶς κάνει ἐντύπωση. Ὑπάρχουν ἑκατομμύρια σπόροι διαφόρων φυτῶν ἀπὸ σπόρο βγαίνουν τὰ χορτάρια, τὰ σπαρτά, τὰ ὠραία ἄνθη, οἱ θάμνοι, τὰ δέντρα, τὰ δάση. Τί εἶνε ὁ σπόρος; Ἐνα μικρὸ πραγματάκι, συχνὰ μικρότερο κι ἀπ' τὸ κεφάλι τῆς καρφίτσας. Καὶ μέσα σ' αὐτὸ -ὦ Θεέ μου, πῶς ὑπάρχουν ἀπιστοί;- εἶνε κλεισμένο ἕνα **ἐργαστάσιο**, ἕνα χημεῖο! Θαυμάζεις τὰ ἐργαστάσια; Μηδὲν εἶνε αὐτὰ μπροστὰ σ' ἕνα μικρὸ σπόρο.

Μιά λεπτομέρεια. Τὸ 1922 κοντὰ στὸ Νεῖλο ποταμὸ οἱ ἀρχαιολόγοι ἀνακάλυψαν τὸν τάφο τοῦ φαραῶ Τουτανχαμών, τῆς 18ης δυναστείας τῆς Αἰγύπτου. Μέσα στὸν τάφο βρέθηκε κ' ἕνα χρυσοῦ δοχεῖο μὲ σιτάρι. Θαμμένο ἐκεῖ, σκέφτηκαν, τρεῖς χιλιάδες χρόνια μέσ' στὸ δοχεῖο, δὲν φυτρώνει πιά. Τὸ ἔσπειραν ὁμως καὶ φύτρωσε! Τέτοια **δύναμι κρύβει ὁ σπόρος**.

Καὶ σήμερα, παρ' ὅλη τὴν πρόοδο, ὅλοι οἱ ἐπιστήμονες νὰ μαζευτοῦν, ἕνα σπόρο δὲν μποροῦν νὰ κάνουν. **Φτάνει ἕνας σπόρος ν' ἀποδείξη, ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεός.**

Ὑπάρχει κ' ἕνα ἄλλο μυστικὸ στὸ σπόρο - τὸ λέει ὁ μέγας Βασίλειος στὶς ὁμιλίες του στὴν Ἐξαήμερο. Τὸ μυρμηγκὶ μαζεύει στὴ φωλιά του σπόρους, ἀλλ' ἐὰν αὐτοὶ βρεθοῦν σὲ ὑγρασία, φυτρώνουν. Τί κάνει λοιπὸν τότε; μὲ τίς δαγκάνες του κόβει τὸ σπόρο σὲ δυό, κι ὁ σπόρος **δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ φυτρώσῃ** (βλ. Ἐλ. Μπερ 28,196Α & ΒΒΠΕ 51,286,34-36). Ποιὸς τὸ δίδαξε νὰ τὸ κἀνῆ αὐτό;

Δὲν εἶμαι γεωπόνος ἢ φυσικὸς γιὰ νὰ προσθέσω κι ἄλλα θαυμαστά: λέω ἀπλῶς, ὅτι ἕνας σπόρος εἶνε ἕνα **θαῦμα**. Ἀλλὰ ἐμεῖς τὸ συνηθίσαμε καὶ χάσαμε τὸ θαυμασμό.

● Ἐκτὸς ὁμως ἀπὸ τὸ φυσικὸ σπόρο ὑπάρχει καὶ ὁ **πνευματικὸς σπόρος**, πού εἶνε ἀπείρως ἀνώτερος. Ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ σπόρος αὐτός;

Ἐξω ἀπὸ τὸ Πανεπιστήμιο Ἀθηνῶν εἶνε τὸ ἀγαλμα ἑνὸς μεγάλου προδρόμου τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς ἐπαναστάσεως, τοῦ **Ῥήγα Φεραίου**, κι ἀπὸ κάτω γράφει (μὲ ἀπλὰ λόγια): «Ὁ Φεραῖε, ἔσπειρες πολὺ σπόρο!». Μὰ τί σπόρο ἔσπειρε, ἀφοῦ δὲν ἦταν γεωργός; Ἐσπειρε τὸ κήρυγμα τῆς λευτεριάς, ἕναν ἄλλο σπόρο, καὶ τὸν πότισε μὲ τὸ αἷμα τῆς θυσίας του: ἔτσι βλάστησε τὸ δέντρο τῆς ἐλευθερίας. Σπόρος λοιπὸν εἶνε **οἱ ιδέες**, οἱ ὑψηλές καὶ μεγάλες ιδέες πού συγκλονίζουν τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα.

Στὴν κορυφὴ ὄλων τῶν ιδεῶν εἶνε ἡ ἀπόλυτη ἀλήθεια, τὸ **Εὐαγγέλιο!** Μὴ μοῦ μιλάτε γιὰ ἄλλα πράγματα: εἶνε μικρὰ καὶ ἀσήμαντα μπροστὰ στὸ διαμάντι, στὸ λόγο τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Τὸ εἶπε ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Κύριος: «Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι» (Ματθ. 24,35. Λουκ. 21,33. Μάρκ. 13,31. πρβλ. π. 28,11). Ὁ «σπόρος» λοιπὸν εἶνε ἡ **ἀλήθεια πού ἔσπειρε ὁ Κύριός μας Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς** καὶ ὑπάρχει στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο.

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Μεταξὺ σπόρου φυσικοῦ καὶ σπόρου πνευματικοῦ ὑπάρχουν **ὁμοιότητες**.

Ὁ **φυσικὸς σπόρος**, ἂν πέσῃ σὲ δρόμο χλιοπατημένο, δὲν φυτρώνει: ἂν πέσῃ σὲ ἔδαφος

πετρώδες, φυτρώνει μὲν ἀλλὰ δὲν μπορεῖ ν' ἀναπτυχθῆ, γιατί «δὲν ἔχει ρίζα», δὲν κατορθώνει νὰ ριζώσῃ βαθειὰ στὸ ἔδαφος· ἂν πέσῃ σὲ ἔδαφος γεμάτο ἀγκάθια, φυτρώνει ἀλλὰ τ' ἀγκάθια τὸν «συμπνίγουν»· μόνο ἂν πέσῃ σὲ ἔδαφος καλλιεργημένο, καθαρὸ ἀπὸ πέτρες κι ἀγκάθια, φυτρώνει, καὶ τὸ ἕνα φτάνει καὶ νὰ ἑκατονταπλασιασθῆ. Αὐτὰ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος.

Ποιὸς εἶνε τώρα ὁ **πνευματικὸς σπόρος**;

Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἔτσι ὑπάρχουν ψυχὲς ποὺ εἶνε στὴν πρώτη κατηγορία, εἶνε σὰν τὸν χλιοπατημένο δρόμο ποὺ ἀναστενάζει. Ἄν ἀκουγόταν ἀπὸ κάτω ὁ βόγγος του, ἢ γῆ θά ἔλεγε· Πετάξτε ἀπὸ πάνω μου τὴν ἀσφαλτο, θέλω νὰ βλαστήσω! Τώρα ὅμως, ὅπως στὴν ἀσφαλτο ἂν τυχόν πέσῃ σπόρος ἔρχονται τὰ πουλιά καὶ τὸν παίρνουν, ἔτσι εἶνε καὶ οἱ **ἀδιόφοροι** ἀκροαταί. Τί σπόρος εἶνε π.χ. στὴν ἐκκλησία ἢ θεία λειτουργία, ἢ ἐκεῖνοι οἱ θεσπέσιοι ὕμνοι ποὺ ἀκούστηκαν σήμερα γιὰ τοὺς ἁγίους πατέρας, ὁ ἀπόστολος, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, τὸ κήρυγμα! Αὐτοὶ ὅμως δὲν παίρνουν τίποτα! «Στοῦ κουφοῦ τὴν πόρτα ὅσο θέλεις χτύπα». Νὰ ἢ πρώτη κατηγορία, ὁ πεπατημένος δρόμος.

Ἡ δευτέρη κατηγορία τῶν ἀκροατῶν εἶνε οἱ **ἐνθουσιῶδεις**. Ἀκοῦνε, ἀρέσκονται, παρουσιάζουν κάποια βλάβη, ἀλλὰ γιὰ λίγο· μετὰ ἐγκαταλείπουν «διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ἰκμάδα».

Τοὺς ἀκροατὰς τῆς τρίτης κατηγορίας –ἐδώ ἀνήκουν οἱ περισσότεροι σήμερα– ὁ Κύριος τοὺς παρομοιάζει μὲ τόπο γεμάτο ἀγκάθια ποὺ εἰκονίζονται τρεῖς μέριμνες. Εἶνε οἱ **ἀγχώδεις** τύποι ποὺ λέει ἡ ψυχολογία. Καμμιά ἄλλη ἐποχὴ δὲν εἶχε τέτοια ἀγωνία· τί θὰ κάνουμε, τί θὰ γίνουμε!... Ἡ ἀνθρωπότης ζῆ κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν δαμόκλειο σπάθη μιᾶς πυρηνικῆς ἀπειλῆς.

Δὲν καρποφορεῖ ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ παρὰ μόνο σ' ἕνα ἐλάχιστο μέρος του, ὅταν πέφτῃ σὲ ψυχὲς καλλιεργημένες· ἐκεῖ φέρνει καρπὸ ἀκόμα καὶ «ἑκατονταπλασίονα». Στὸ σύνολο ὅμως ὑπάρχει **ὀλιγοκαρπία**. Εἶνε ζήτημα ἐὰν ἕνας στοὺς χίλιους ἐφαρμόζῃ τὰ λόγια τοῦ Κυρίου. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε σήμερα «Ὁ ἔχων ὧτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω» (Ματθ. 13:9).

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Ἐν τούτοις, ἀγαπητοί μου, παρατηρεῖται καὶ **πολυκαρπία!** Περίεργα, θὰ μοῦ πῆτε· δὲν εἶνε ἀντιφατικὸ; πῶς λές, ὅτι ὑπάρχει ὀλιγοκαρπία καὶ μετὰ λές καὶ πολυκαρπία; Νὰ τὸ ἐξηγήσω.

Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ Σπορέως ὁ Κύριος εἶπε καὶ τὴν **παραβολὴ τῶν ζιζανίων** (Ματθ. 13:24). Ἔνας, λέει, ἔσπειρε στὸ χωράφι του καλὸ σπόρο. Ἀλλὰ τὴ νύχτα ὁ ἐχθρὸς του πῆγε καὶ ἔσπειρε ζιζάνια. Ἔτσι, ὅταν κάρπισε ὁ

σπόρος, φάνηκαν καὶ τὰ ζιζάνια. Τί θέλει νὰ πῆ ὁ Κύριος· ὅτι, ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸ σπόρο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, **σπέρνει κι ὁ σατανᾶς ἄλλο σπόρο**.

–Μὰ ὑπάρχει σατανᾶς; τί εἶν' αὐτὰ ποὺ λές;

Ὅσο εἶνε βέβαιο ὅτι ὑπάρχει νύχτα, ἄλλο τόσο βέβαιο εἶνε ὅτι ὑπάρχουν σκοτεινὲς δυνάμεις, πίσω ἀπ' τὶς ὁποῖες εἶνε ὁ κοσμοκράτορας «τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου» (Ἐφ. 6:12). Καὶ αὐτὸς σπέρνει. Ἰδίως στὴν ἐποχὴ μας γίνεται φοβερὴ **σπορὰ διαβόλου** ἀπ' τὸ πρωὶ ὡς τὸ βράδυ, μάλιστα στὴ νέα γενεά, δηλαδή· αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀκούγονται στὸ δρόμο ἀπὸ φίλους, στὰ σχολεῖα καὶ πανεπιστήμια ἀπὸ δασκάλους, αὐτὰ ποὺ γράφουν οἱ ἐφημερίδες, ὁ κατακλισμὸς τοῦ ἐντύπου, αὐτὰ ποὺ μεταδίδει τὸ ραδιόφωνο καὶ ἡ τηλεόρασι. Πρὸ ἐτῶν στὸ Βόλο κοριτσάκι 7 ἐτῶν, μόλις γύρισε ἀπ' τὸ σχολεῖο, εἶπε στὴ μάνα του· Δὲν ὑπάρχει Θεός!... Ἐντρομη ἐκεῖνη λέει –Τί εἶν' αὐτὰ ποὺ λές, παιδί μου; ποιὸς σοῦ τὰ ἔπε; –Ἡ δασκάλα μας!

Πῶς ν' ἀντέξῃ ὁ ἄνθρωπος! Τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα; Ρωτήστε τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο. Τί λέει· Ὁ,τι σπέρνεις θὰ θερίσῃς (Ματθ. 13), εἶνε νόμος αἰῶνιος. Τὸ μεγάλο ἐρώτημα, λοιπόν, εἶνε· **τί σπέρνουμε;** Πατρίδα μου, χώρα ἄλλοτε ἁγίων καὶ μαρτύρων καὶ ὁμολογητῶν, τώρα τί σπέρνεις μέσα στὶς ψυχὲς τῶν παιδιῶν σου; **Σπέρνεις ἀθεΐα; θὰ θερίσῃς ἐγκλήματα.** Ἄνθρωπος ποὺ δὲν πιστεύει στὸ Θεό, εἶνε ἰκανὸς γιὰ ὅποιο-δήποτε κακό· μὴ τὸν βάλετε στὸ σπῆτι σας. Σπείραμε λοιπόν ἀθεΐα· τί περιμένουμε;

Κλαίω κι ἀναστενάζω, γιατί μὲς ἀπὸ τὴ νέα γενεά, ποὺ κατηχεῖται μὲ ἀθεΐα καὶ ἀπιστία, θὰ βγῆ μιὰ γενεά ἐγκληματικὴ. Δὲν φταῖνε τὰ παιδιά, **οἱ σπορεῖς φταῖνε** (γονεῖς, δάσκαλοι, καθηγηταί, δημοσιογράφοι κ.λπ.) ὄργανα τοῦ διαβόλου, τῶν σκοτεινῶν δυνάμεων· αὐτοὶ εἶνε κυρίως οἱ **ὑπεύθυνοι τῆς σατανικῆς σπορᾶς**.

Ἔνας φιλόσοφος εἶδε νὰ ὀδηγοῦν στὴ λαίμητόμο τῆς Γαλλικῆς ἐπαναστάσεως ἕνα νεαρὸ ἐγκληματῆ νὰ τοῦ κόψουν τὸ κεφάλι, καὶ εἶπε· Γιατί; αὐτὸ τὸ κεφάλι εἶχε μέσα σπόρους καλοῦς· ἂν καλλιεργοῦνταν, θὰ ἦταν ἕνας ἅγιος· κακοὶ σπορεῖς τὸν ἔκαναν ἐγκληματῆ.

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**Σποριῶδες τοῦ καλοῦ** λοιπόν, ποὺ μ' ἀκούτε, **σπέρνετε!** Γονεῖς, δάσκαλοι, καθηγηταί, ἱεροκήρυκες, σπείρετε στὶς ψυχὲς ὄλων καὶ πρὸ παντὸς τῶν παιδιῶν τὰ θεϊκὰ λόγια. Κι ἂς εὐχηθοῦμε ὅλοι, διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου νὰ καρπίσῃ πάλι ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὰ ζιζάνια νὰ ἐκριζωθοῦν, καὶ νὰ ἐπικρατήσῃ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ στὸν κόσμον· 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 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 Image of God Within*

There was once a very interesting psychological experiment carried out on a college campus. A researcher asked twelve volunteers to assist her in studying how the general public would respond to a person with a physical deformity. Each one of the students was placed in a separate room without mirrors. Next, a make-up artist was sent in to each room to paint a life-like facial scar on the left cheek of each volunteer.

When this was done, the researcher then came into each room and privately told each volunteer that she had to make some last minute adjustments to the scar. While pretending to make adjustments the scar, the researcher actually wiped off the make-up! The students, however, still believed that they had a scar on their left cheek. They were then sent out to various loca-

tions to observe how the public responded to their scar. Upon returning at the end of the day, each student reported that they were treated rudely and that people stared at the "scar."

The study provided the students with a good lesson in self-image. If we dislike ourselves, we may convince ourselves that others dislike us as well and we will treat them accordingly. How many arguments and personality conflicts could be avoided if only we remembered that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. This Sunday commemorates the restoration of icons (holy images) at the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787. Let us take this occasion to remind ourselves that the Holy Image of God is within each of us and that we are all unique and precious in God's eyes!

**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)