



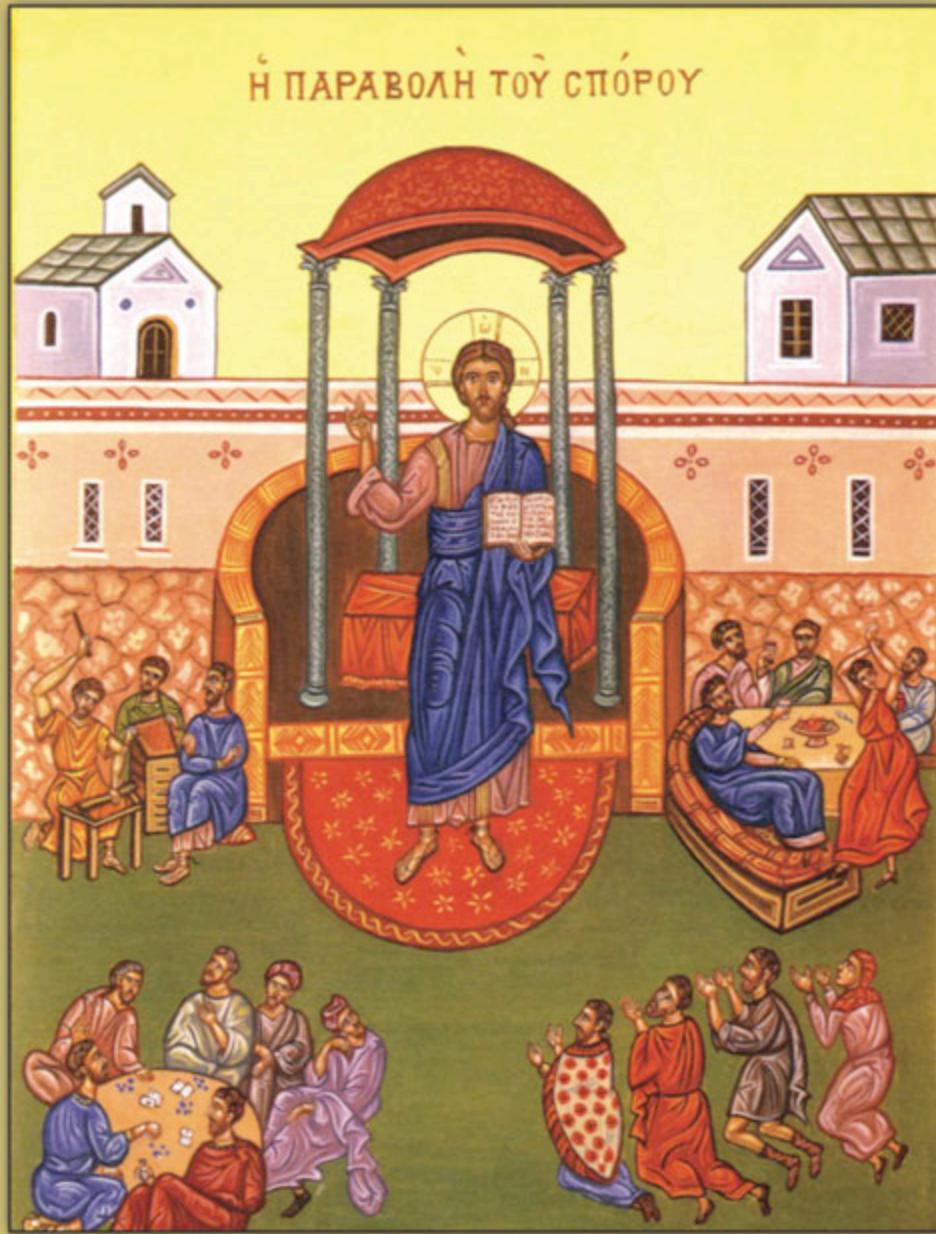
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

THREE HIERarchs GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 17th, 2021

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-15)

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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. Ἡχος δ'.

Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Εύλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν. Στίχ. "Οτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἵς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαι σε διαβεβαιοῦσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτα ἔστιν καλὰ καὶ ὡφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις · μωράς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γνεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιίστασο, εἰσὶν γάρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἱρέτικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιούτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει, ὃν αὐτοκατάκριτος. "Οταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σὲ ἡ Τυχικόν, σπουδάσον ἐλθεῖν πρός με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γάρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπῃ. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὥσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. "Ασπασαι τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

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 τήν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἔξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπεῖραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπείρειν αὐτὸν ὃ μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὄδόν, καὶ κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἔτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ίκμάδα· καὶ ἔτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αἱ ἀκανθαι ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἔτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀγαθήν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν κατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὡτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω. Ἐπηρώτων δὲ αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἴη ἡ παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται γνῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσι καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ συνιῶσιν. ἔστι δὲ αὕτη ἡ παραβολὴ· ὁ σπόρος ἔστιν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὄδόν εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἶτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἴρει 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 πλούτου 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 καρποφοροῦσι ἐν ὑπομονῇ. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὡτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE: This WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20th, at 6:30-8:00 P.M.
The theme of the study will be DISCOVERING SAINTS. Join us please.

HIS HOLINESS the PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW will arrive in New Jersey this FRIDAY,
October 23rd, on His Apostolic Pilgrimage to the United States.

GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM: on the occasion of the ‘OXI-DAY’ Observance students of our Greek School will present a short program of remembrance at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy NEXT SUNDAY- October 24th.

Saint Photios Shrine ESSAY CONTEST: please see the insert flyer for full details. With an \$1,000 (one thousand dollar prize) this is also an excellent opportunity for young Greek Orthodox students to employ their Hellenic genius in composition. Encourage your kids to try!

PATRIARCHAL APOSTOLIC VISIT commences on October 23rd, through November 03rd. His Holiness Patriarch Bartholemew will make visitation to NEW JERSEY, WEST VIRGINIA, South Bend *NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY (INDIANA, and NEW YORK CITY. The highlight of the pilgrimage will be the THYRANOXIA (Opening of the Doors) of the NATIONAL SAINT NICHOLAS SHRINE CHURCH at ‘ground-zero’ World Trade Center. Full details of the visit will be forth-coming for the public.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE: DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will convene for their first meeting of the season on MONDAY - OCTOBER 18th, in Whitehall at 7:30 P.M. The Ladies are preparing for their Patron Saint Holiday Observance of Saint Demetrios - HONORED October 26th, each year.

BOSTON CONFERENCE: heralding the +ELDER of AMERICA, Bishop Gerasimos of Abydou on Tuesday and Wednesday October 19-20 at Holy Cross Seminary, Malliotis Center. Father Eugene is a organizing member of the committee and will be featured in the documentary film produced for the event.

Check out the web site: www.bishopgerasimos.org

Saint Demetrios Liturgy will be celebrated on His feast day- Tuesday, October 26th. the Pre-Feast will be acknowledged on Sunday October 24th. Artoklasies are always welcomed to observe the feast day of this martyred Roman officer. Chronia Polla to everyone named Demetrios or Demetra. You've got lots to be thankful for....why not show it!

COSMOS F.M. (W.N.Y.E.- RADIO 91.5) has begun its annual ‘ FUND RAISER ‘ Join Father Eugene and Joanna Giannopoulos (Program Director) on the air in support of the one and only DAILY GREEK BROADCASTING PROGRAM in the United States of America. YES! DAILY BROADCASTING to the Hellenic and phil-Hellenic American audience across the globe. Father Eugene’s 23 year long broadcasting each Saturday on prime-time 1:00 P.M. has never missed a single Saturday! Join in the effort of support to HELLENIC BROADCASTINGnow!

Congratulations to our son of the Parish, Jimmy Kokotas who will be initiated as an ARCHON of the PATRIARCHAL THRONE on Sunday, October 31st, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of New York by His Holiness Patriarch Bartholemew. Mr. Kokotas was elevated to the Presidency of International A.H.E.P.A. of the Supreme Lodge of Washington D.C.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Each month on the FIRST (01st) or if it be a SUNDAY, then the very next day...02nd, the AGIASMOS SERVICE (thirty minutes) is offered with fresh holy water to take home, to share with others, to bless graves and homes.....and automobiles. This water you may drink and sprinkle on your threshold, beds, and doorways for protection and dedication in the name of JESUS CHRIST. See you on the first from 11:00 -11:30 A.M.

Traditionally on the middle WEDNESDAY EVENING of the month we host the PRAYER AND HEALING service, witnessing, prayer and spiritual healing DOES TAKE PLACE, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. You should join us and receive the Divine Grace of the HOLY SPIRIT’S presence.

MEMORIAL TODAY : + NANCY VARDAKIS
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + PAULINE NIKOLAKAKOS
MEMORIAL OCTOBER 31: + KATINA PLEVRTIS

TODAY Loukoumada Sunday 12 Noon



Full Packaged Dish to go
\$10. (ten dollars)



Sponsored by: Three Hierarchs



Philoptochos Society

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HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

FR. ALEXANDER KARLOUTSOS
Spiritual Advisor



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October 5, 2021

V. Rev. Eugene Pappas
Retired Greek Orthodox Clergy of America
2732 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11235
info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

Dear Father Pappas,

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, will be honoring the three scientists whose extraordinary efforts led to Covid vaccines: Dr. Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pfizer; Dr. Ugur Sahin, MD, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of BioNTech; and Dr. George D. Yancopoulos, MD, Ph. D., Founding Scientist, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is given each year to a person, persons or organization whose life and mission reflect the noble principles of human rights and religious freedom. Drs. Bourla, Sahin and Yancopoulos, with the blessings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, will be joining the list of distinguished past recipients, including President Joe Biden, former Presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Archon Mikhail Gorbachev and Admiral James Stavridis.

The Archons are most pleased to invite you as our honored guest to this auspicious event in tribute of the scientists scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the New York Hilton Hotel. The Banquet (Black Tie) begins at 7:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom, preceded by a Reception at 6:00 pm.

Kindly, contact Father Alexander Karloutsos, as soon as possible, at (212) 570-3550, regarding your plans to attend. We will gladly answer any questions you might have at that time.

With the hope that you will accept our invitation, I remain,

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

Archon Aktouarios

National Commander



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Έκδιδεται ἑπτά τῆν Κονοβιοκή Γυναικεία Λεπά Μονή Αγίου Αύγουστου Φλώρινης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – maaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Ετος ΛΗ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2413

Κυρ. Πατ. Ζ' Οἰκ. Συνόδου (Τίτ. 3,8-15)
17 Οκτωβρίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αύγουστινος Ν. Καντιώτης

Οἱ ἄκαρποι

«Μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὡσιν ἄκαρποι» (Τίτ. 3,14)

Ολοι οἱ Χριστιανοί, ἀγαπητοί μου, πρέπει νὰ φιλοτιμοῦνται νὰ εἰνε καρποφόρα δένδρα τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Κάθε γεωργὸς ἢ ἀμπελουργός, ποὺ κοπιάζει φυτεύοντας καὶ καλλιεργώντας ἔναν ἄγρο ἢ ἀμπελῶνα ἢ κῆπο, ἀσφαλῶς δὲν κάνει ἀσκόπως ὅλους ἑκείνους τοὺς κόπους καὶ τὰ ἔξοδα ἀποβλέπει καὶ προσδοκᾷ στὸν κατάλληλο καιρὸν νὰ λάβῃ τοὺς καρποὺς τῶν θυσιῶν του. "Ἔται καὶ ὁ Θεῖος ἀμπελουργὸς περιμένει ἀπὸ μᾶς καρπούς· δχι βεβαίως πρὸς ἕδιον δφελος, ἀλλὰ γιὰ τὴ δικῆ μας σωτηρία.

Οἱ Χριστιανοί, ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ποὺ διὰ τοῦ ἀγίου βαπτίσματος φυτεύονται στὸν κῆπο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, τρέφονται μὲ τὰ ιερὰ μυστήρια καὶ τὸν θεόπνευστο λόγο τῆς ἀληθείας, ποτίζονται συνεχῶς ἀπὸ «τὸ ὅδωρ τὸ ζῶν» (ἱω. 4,10-11) καὶ ἀπολαμβάνουν τόσες ἄλλες περιποιήσεις τῆς θείας προνοίας, δὲν εἰνε εὐλογὸ νὰ αἰσθάνωνται ἀπέναντι στὸ Χριστὸ τὸ χρέος νὰ τοῦ ἀποδώσουν καρπούς; Όφείλουν δχι ἀπλῶς νὰ ἀνθίζουν ἀλλὰ καὶ νὰ καρποφοροῦν, νὰ παράγουν δηλαδὴ καρποὺς χριστιανικῆς πίστεως καὶ ἀρετῆς.

Τὴν ὑποχρέωσι αὐτὴν ἀκριβῶς ἔρχεται νὰ ὑπενθυμίσῃ σήμερα, Κυριακὴ τῶν ἀγίων Πατέρων τῆς Ἐβδόμης (Ζ') Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος. Μὲ τὴν ἀπόστολικὴ περικοπὴ ἀπὸ τὴν πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολή του, ποὺ ἀκούσαμε (βλ. Τίτ. 3,8-15), ἀπευθύνεται στοὺς πιστοὺς τῆς ἐποχῆς του ἀλλὰ καὶ κάθε ἐποχῆς.

Οἱ Χριστιανοί τοῦ ποιμνίου σου, τονίζει ὁ κορυφαῖος ἀπόστολος στὸν μαθητὴ του Τίτο, τὸν πρώτο ἐπίσκοπο τῆς Κρήτης, δὲν πρέπει νὰ ἀρκοῦνται μόνο σὲ μὰ ἀπλῆ ἀκρόασι τῶν θείων ἀληθειῶν καὶ σὲ συζητήσεις θρησκευτικὲς μεταξὺ τους. Ἀφοῦ δέχτηκαν τὴ διδαχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, δφείλουν καὶ νὰ ζοῦν σύμφωνα μ' αὐτὴν, νὰ ἐκτελοῦν τὶς θείες ἐντολές.

Διαφορετικά, ἔὰν ἀρέσκωνται μόνο στὸ νὰ ἀκοῦνε χωρὶς νὰ ἔφαρμόζουν δ, τι διδάσκει ὁ Χριστός, τότε μοιάζουν μὲ δέντρα ἄκαρπα, καὶ ἡ εὔθυνη τους δὲν εἰνε μικρή. Διότι ὁ Κύριος δὲν χορηγεῖ τὸν ἀνεκτίμητο πλοῦτο τοῦ ἐλέους του καὶ τὸν πανάκριβο θησαυρὸ τῆς χάριτος του ἀσκόπως, γιὰ νὰ μένη ἀνενέργητος.

Καὶ καταλήγει σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος· «μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προίστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὡσιν ἄκαρποι» (βλ. 3,14). "Ἄς μαθαίνουν, δηλαδή, οἱ Χριστιανοί μας νὰ πρωτοστατοῦν σὲ καλὰ ἔργα, νὰ προνοοῦν γιὰ τὶς παρουσιαζόμενες ἀνάγκες τῶν ἀδελφῶν βοηθώντας τους ἐμπράκτως. "Ἔται δὲν θὰ εἰνε δέντρα ἄκαρπα, ἀλλὰ μὲ τὴν ἀγάπη ποὺ θὰ δείχνουν καὶ τὴν ἐλεημοσύνη ποὺ θὰ κάνουν θὰ φέρουν καρπὸ πολύτιμο.

Ποιός θὰ εἰνε ὁ καρπός; Δὲν θὰ εἰνε τόσο ἡ χρηματικὴ ἢ ἄλλη ύλικὴ βοήθεια ποὺ θὰ λάβῃ ὁ φτωχὸς γιὰ τὶς βιοτικὲς ἀνάγκες του. Ὁ σπουδαιότερος καρπός δὲν εἰνε ύλικός καὶ πρόσκαιρος· εἰνε πνευματικὸς καὶ αἰώνιος. Τὸ μεγάλο κέρδος δὲν εἰνε ἡ κοινωνικὴ ἀνακούφισι, ἡ βοήθεια στὴν ἐπιβίωσι τοῦ ἀνθρώπου σὲ τοῦτο τὸν κόσμο· γι' αὐτὸ φροντίζουν καὶ τὰ κράτη μὲ τὰ ἀρμόδια ὑπουργεῖα τους. Τὸ μέγα κέρδος εἰνε ἡ αἰώνιος σωτηρία – τίνος· ἐκείνου ποὺ ἀσκεῖ τὴν ἀγάπη ἐμπράκτως.

Τὰ καλὰ ἔργα! νά, ἀγαπητοί μου, τί ἀπαιτεῖ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος ἀπὸ κάθε Χριστιανὸ ποὺ βαπτίστηκε στὴν ιερὰ κολυμβήθρα καὶ ἀνήκει στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Χωρὶς τὰ καλὰ ἔργα ὁ Χριστιανὸς μένει ἄκαρπος. Σὲ τίποτε δὲν θὰ τὸν ὠφελήσῃ οὕτε τὸ χριστιανικὸ του δνομα, οὕτε οἱ θρησκευτικὲς συζητήσεις καὶ ἀκροάσεις στὶς ὁποῖες συμμετέχει, οὕτε οἱ ἔορτὲς καὶ τὰ πανηγύρια ὅπου συ-

χνάζει. "Εργα ζητάει ό Παῦλος, καλά έργα ζητάει ό Χριστός καὶ ἡ ἀγία του Ἐκκλησία.

Καὶ ποιά εἶνε τὰ καλὰ έργα; "Ολοι τὰ γνωρίζουμε, ἀλλὰ δὲν τὰ ἐκτελοῦμε. Καλὸς έργο εἶνε διπλακή τὴν πίστι στὸν Χριστό, ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν εὐσπλαχνία του. Καλὸς έργο εἶνε ἡ ἐλεημοσύνη. Καλὸς έργο εἶνε ἡ ὄλικὴ καὶ ἡ θικὴ ὑποστήριξη τῶν ἔργατῶν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Καλὸς έργο εἶνε ἡ θυσία τοῦ ἁγίου χάριν τοῦ πλησίου. Καλὸς έργο εἶνε γενικά κάθε ἀρετή. Στὰ έργα αὐτὰ οἱ Χριστιανοί πρέπει δχι ἀπλῶς νὰ συμμετέχουν, ἀλλὰ καὶ νὰ πρωτοστατοῦν, νὰ εἶνε μπροστά, ὅδηγοι καὶ ἐμπνευσταί, αὐτοὶ ποὺ θὰ παροτρύνουν καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους ἀδελφούς των στὸν καλό.

Τὰ καλὰ έργα! Τὰ ἐκτελοῦμε; Τότε εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί πραγματικοί· μοιάζουμε μὲ δέντρα καρποφόρα, ποὺ μὲ τοὺς καρπούς των ἀνταμείθουν τὸν κηπουρὸν γιὰ τοὺς κόπους ποὺ καταβάλλει σὲ δῆλη τὴ διάρκεια τοῦ ἔτους. **Δὲν τὰ ἐκτελοῦμε;** Τότε εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί ψεύτικοι· μοιάζουμε μὲ δέντρα ἄκαρπα. Παρατηρήστε τὸ ἄκαρπο δέντρο. "Εχει κλαδιά, φύλλα, ὥραια ἐμφάνιση· ἔαν δημοσιεύει! Άλλ' ἔαν ἀπὸ τὴ θεωρία κατεβῇ στὴν πρᾶξη, τί ἀπογοήτευσι! Έρευνᾶς τὴ ζωὴ του ως ἀτόμου, ως πολίτου, ως οἰκογενειάρχου, καὶ δὲν βρίσκεις καρπό, δὲν συναντᾶς οὔτε μία περίπτωσι, ποὺ διαθρωπος αὐτὸς νὰ ἐφαρμόζῃ στὸν βίο του τὴν χριστιανικὴ διδασκαλία. Εἶνε διαστοχής ἄκαρπος. "Εχει φύλλα (γνώσεις, θεωρίες), μὰ δὲν ἔχει καρπό (ἔργα πίστεως, χριστιανικά).

"Ετοι ήταν ἡ ἄκαρπη συκιά ποὺ πλησίασε δικύριος ζητώντας καρπό, δὲν βρήκε δημοσιεύεις τὴν ἔξηρανε [βλ. Μαρ. 21,16-20; Μάρκ. 1,13-14,21]. Ήταν εἰκόνα τῆς συναγωγῆς τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης. Καὶ διερός ύμνωδὸς τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐβδομάδος φάλλει· «Τῆς ξηρανθείσης συκῆς διά τὴν ἄκαρπίαν τὸ ἐπιτίμιον φοβηθέντες, ἀδελφοί, καρπούς ἀξίους τῆς μετανοίας προσάξωμεν Χριστῷ, τῷ παρέχοντι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος» [ἰπέσ. αν. Μ. Δεπ.]. Δηλαδή· Νὰ φοβηθοῦμε, ἀδελφοί, τὴν τιμωρία τῆς συκιᾶς ποὺ ἔξηρανε δικύριος, καὶ νὰ φέρουμε στὸν Χριστὸν καρπούς ποὺ νὰ δείχνουν τὴ μετάνοιά μας, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς δώσῃ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος του.

Πόσο λίγα καὶ σπάνια εἶνε σήμερα τὰ καλὰ

έργα! Πόσο λίγοι εἶνε οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τῆς ἐμπράκτου ἀγάπης! Καὶ ἀντιθέτως πόσο πολλοὶ εἶνε οἱ ἄκαρποι! Ἀλλὰ ὁ Κύριος, ὃς Ιδιοκτήτης τοῦ ἀγροῦ τοῦ κόσμου καὶ καλλιεργητὴς τῶν ψυχῶν μας, ἔρχεται, γιὰ νὰ συλλέξῃ τοὺς καρπούς τῶν ἀρετῶν. "Ερχεται, γιὰ νὰ ξερριζώσῃ τὰ δέντρα τὰ ἄκαρπα. Δὲν ἀκοῦς τί λέει στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο; «"Ηδη καὶ ἡ ἀξίνη πρὸς τὴν ρίζαν τῶν δένδρων κεῖται· πᾶν οὖν δένδρον μὴ ποιοῦν καρπὸν καλὸν ἐκκόπτεται καὶ εἰς πῦρ βάλλεται» [Μαθ. 3,9-10]. Η ἀξίνη εἶνε δίπλα στὴ ρίζα τῶν ἄκαρπων δέντρων, ἔτοιμη νὰ τὰ ξερριζώσῃ· λοιπὸν κάθε δέντρο ποὺ δὲν κάνει καρπὸν καὶ δέντρο κόβεται καὶ ρίχνεται στὴ φωτιά.

"Ἄδελφέ μου! ἐσύ τί εἶσαι; "Άν εἶσαι δέντρο καρποφόρο, χαρὰ σ' ἐσένα! πλησιάζει ἡ ἡμέρα ποὺ ὁ Κύριος θὰ σὲ ἀνταμείψῃ, θὰ συλλέξῃ τὸν καρπὸ σου μὲ ἀσφάλεια στὴν ἀποθήκη τῆς αἰωνίου ζωῆς· προσπάθησε λοιπὸν νὰ παραγάγης ἀκόμη περισσότερους καρπούς πίστεως.

"Άν δημοσιεύει δέντρο ἄκαρπο, τότε μὴ χάνεις καιρό. Δὲν βλέπεις τὴν ὄργη τοῦ Θεοῦ, ποὺ εἶνε ἔτοιμη νὰ πέσῃ δημοσιεύεις ἡ ἀξίνη τοῦ γεωργοῦ; Θὰ σὲ κόψῃ καὶ θὰ σὲ ρίξῃ στὴ φωτιά. Γιατί κοιμᾶσαι ἀμέριμνος; Δὲς τὴ γύμνωσι σου, τὴν ἄκαρπία σου. Τόσα χρόνια σὲ ποτίζει, σὲ κλαδεύει, σὲ περιποιεῖται διοράνιος Κηπουρός, κ' ἐσύ δὲν ἔχεις κάνει καμμιά προκοπή. Εἶσαι δικάρπος. Δεῖξε συναίσθησι γι' αὐτό. Κλάψε, πέσε στὰ γόνατα τῆς θείας εὐσπλαχνίας. Ζήτησε μιὰ μικρή παράταση τοῦ θεϊκοῦ ἔλεους καὶ πές μὲ συντετριμμένη καρδιά·

"Οἶμοι, τί ὡμοιώθην ἔγῳ τῇ ἄκαρπῳ συκῇ, καὶ πτοοῦμαι τὴν κατάραν σύν τῃ ἐκκοπῇ; ἀλλ' ἐπουράνιε γεωργὲ Χριστὲ δικύριος, τὴν χερσωθεῖσάν μου ψυχὴν καρποφόρον ἀνάδειξον, καὶ ως τὸν ἀσωτὸν υἱὸν δέξαι με καὶ ἐλέησόν με» [Παραληγ. ἡγ. πλ. σ. Δευτ. ἀπόσ. αἰν. καπνικτ.]. Άλλοι μόνο μου, δηλαδή, πῶς ἔγινα δημοσιος μὲ τὴν ἄκαρπη συκιά, καὶ φοβᾶμαι δτὶ δικύριος θὰ μὲ καταραστῇ καὶ μὲ κόψῃ! ἀλλὰ σύ, ούρανιε γεωργὲ Χριστὲ δικύριος, τὴν ψυχὴ μου ποὺ χερσωθηκε ἀνάδειξε τὴν καρποφόρο, καὶ δέξου με σὰν τὸν ἀσωτὸν υἱὸν καὶ σῶσε με.

Κύριε, ούρανιε Γεωργὲ τῶν καρδιῶν μας! Μέχρι σήμερα ὑπῆρξα ἔνα ἄκαρπο δέντρο μέσα στὸν κήπο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας σου. Δὲν ἔχω νὰ σου παρουσιάσω κανένα καλὸς έργο. Υπόσχομαι δημοσιεύεις τῷ τώρᾳ θὰ βάλω τὰ δυνατά μου, ώστε νὰ γίνω κ' ἔγῳ ἔνα δέντρο καρποφόρο. Ζήτω, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεος σου. Μή μὲ ξερριζώσῃς σὰν τὴν ἄκαρπη συκιά, καὶ σῶσε με!

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστηνος

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

Listening to the Word of God

In the icon of the Parable of the Sower on the front cover of the bulletin we see Jesus sowing seeds of Divine Wisdom – His words – to four groups of people. Only one group, however, is listening attentively. The other three hear but do not listen. Rather, they are preoccupied with the “anxieties, riches and pleasures of this life.” (Luke 8:14)

Which group are we in? We hear the Word of God spoken and preached in church each week, but do the cares and concerns of life and living cause us to quickly forget the lessons and examples taught by Jesus?

If we fail to integrate the teachings of Christ into our daily life, are we very different than the members of those three groups who heard but did not act on the Word of God? Consider the simple lesson from the following illustration:

Young Johnny reached for the ringing phone one Saturday evening, and his father told him, “If it’s that guy from work calling, tell him I’m not home!” Later that evening, the family went out for dinner. Johnny’s mother noticed that the waitress had undercharged them. “That’s bad for them but good for us!” laughed mom. On the way home, dad explained to Johnny that the new radar detector he recently had installed on his car was to “beat the police” and avoid speeding tickets. Later that night, as Johnny finished his Sunday school lesson, he reflected on what a good Saturday it had been. It was much better than last Saturday when his parents grounded him for cheating on his math test.

What lessons do we teach by the examples we set?

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 23rd 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)**

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