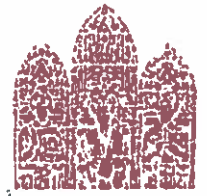




# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



FR. EUGENE'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2022

## PEACE IS NOT ELUSIVE

*"My love shall never leave you,  
nor my covenant of peace be shaken....." Isaiah 54"10*

On a global level and expanse we are inundated through the hysterical news media of violence abounding among nations, schools, marketplaces, houses of worship and places of family leisure. Is there no place safe? Certainly there is no place "sacred"! In naivety we wonder about the "peace" that God promises to His people and whose evidence is but illusory. Almighty God has tasked us to seek and employ peace in our deliberations, decisions and activities. Nothing less suffices to satisfy the Will of God. This is not impossible at all. The evidences of God's love and peace in our midst is realized by the priority that YOU ARE ., in His eyes.

The Prophet Isaiah sounded a clarion call to the Hebrews in their Babylonian exile of debased tyranny. The Temple is destroyed, as is their holy city of peace (IERO-SALEM). All has become a wasteland in ruins with a people dispersed like the wind-blown chaff of the seed. Isaiah as other messengers of God before him gave dire warnings to the chosen people of their wretched idolatrous behavior, injustices, and apostasy. In exile, removed from all that is considered familiar and legacy, the masses seek consolation, comfort and hope. The covenant which the Lord graciously surrendered to them as His chosen ones is now broken as a blasphemous desecration. The promise of unquestionable peace, protection and favor seems no more than a 'fantasy' at best. Same among us share this despair with childlike wonderment surrounded in unrest, violence and unparalleled belligerence.

Preparedness is what the Divine Will calls for. You and I are called to invest in the promises of God to a faithful people. Promises that are broken are betrayals of trust. We've all experienced this in our lifetime. Do not betray your trust in the Lord for PEACE in your life. God does choose to work with us and through us in our efforts towards peace of mind and life. Each time we opt for forgiveness instead of revenge or retaliation we are opting for peace. We can create a just world, a happy environment and a peaceful co-existence with God and our fellow man. Let's promote peace wherever there is evidence or semblance of discord, be it, at home, work, relationship or soul searching. Let's all invest in God's promise of peace and apply it to all ...at all times and under all circumstances. He will tolerate no less! Keep the 'promise' and foster peace.

Kalo Dekapentavgousto,

V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas  
Archimandrite, of the Ecumenical Throne

