



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 28th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Prokeimenon. Mode 4 Daniel 3.26,27

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ' Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 20:16-18, 28-36 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἐφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδεν γάρ, εἰ δυνατόν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἐφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. Ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα, τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. Διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἔπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νοουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. Καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. Ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα. Αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσιν μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπηρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὗται. Πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν, ὅτι οὕτως κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεύειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπεν, Μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. Καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεὶς τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ, σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσήυξατο.

The Gospel According to John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made." I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐπῆρε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐγήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωή, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣν εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφανέρωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωσαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστίν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξῆλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἔρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἔρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σὰ ἐστὶ καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμὰ, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσὶ, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σέ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἅγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφὴ πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σέ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

TODAY we honor the service and sacrifice of all the faithful who were inducted to the armed forces of the United States of America. Our War Memorial in the church front garden cities the efforts of the ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, COAST GUARD and now the new agency – SPACE FORCE! Let us never forget the ultimate sacrifices extended to all by our service people in uniform. The recessional music for the day evidences a nostalgic tribute to our ARMED FORCES.

Senior Club: will host their final session on Wednesday, May 31st, with a Coney Island LUNCH! Franks, hot beans, salads, sweets, candies, soda, wine coffee and cake will initiate the start of “SUMMER” recess. Come on down and join in the B I N G O fun!

AGIASMOS : The blessing of HOLY WATER for the month of JUNE will be celebrated on THURSDAY, JUNE 01ST, AT 11:00 A.M– 11:30 A.M. Take home some sacred water for the house, the vacation place, the car, and as a gift to those starting a voyage.

GOLDEN GREEKS Boy Scout Troop #531 will host the ANNUAL COURT of AWARDS for all the scouts who achieved meritorious achievements in nature, camping, and a myriad of other techniques. A reception will follow the ceremonies on FRIDAY, JUNE 02nd, at 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. The general public is cordially invited to honor the lads.

FINAL PSYCHOSABBATON: The Saturday of All Souls will be celebrated with reverent dignity for those who have ‘fallen asleep in the Lord’ this coming SATURDAY – June 03rd. Please take note that the services will commence at 8:30 A.M. and conclude at 10 A.M. Please use the enclosed form to submit the names to be intoned and commemorated. Kollyva may be ordered through the church office (718) 339-0280.

UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL 2023: Our Sister Mission Parish of Saint Panteleimon will host their Annual Ukrainian FESTIVAL on the week-end of Saturday – Sunday, June 3rd-04th commencing each day at 3:00 P.M. It’s a marvelous day of cultural exchange with traditional foods, sweets, music dance groups and so much music! Come and experience a trip to UKRAINE.

PENTECOST is observed next Sunday – June 04th at the KNEELING SERVICES of the Divine Liturgy. It is now 50 days since the Paschal celebration of the Resurrection. The HOLY SPIRIT is called to dwell under the roof of our soul and to sanctify our existence and purpose while cleansing us in repentance. COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Congratulations are extended to CHRIS VELLIOS who will be united in Holy Matrimony to Ms. FLORA NICHOLAUDIS on Saturday, June 03rd, at the Brooklyn Cathedral of Saints Constantine and Helen at 3:00 P.M. We wish the young couple KALA STEPHANA and welcome to our Parish Community!

ARCHDIOCESAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET: is scheduled for Tuesday June 6th at the Greentree Country Club, in New Rochelle, New York with a cocktail reception at 6:00 P.M. and the festive dinner at 7:00 P.M. Each parish of the Archdiocesan District (70 parishes) is to honor ‘ONE’ of their own dedicated volunteers who expend time, talent and treasure for the well-being and progress of the faith community. By UNANIMOUS CONSENT our FIRST HONOREE for this coveted award is STELLA (ANASTASAKOS) OBERLE who is the editor, graphic and lay-out designer of our Sunday Bulletin and all organizational flyers and colorful announcements. Stella has dutifully served in this time-consuming effort for many years. We salute her voluntary contribution that we each look forward to on Sunday mornings! BRAVA! BRAVA! AXIA! STELLA.....

Up-coming Holy Days: PSYCHOSABBATON - JUNE 03RD, (SATURDAY) 8.30 A.M.
 PENTECOST SUNDAY - JUNE 04TH Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Kneeling Prayers intoned for redemption

BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL – Two three day week-ends
Friday, Saturday, Sunday JUNE 9TH , 10TH ,AND 11TH / JUNE 16TH,17TH,18TH,

MEMORIALS TODAY + MR. TSY YAN CHZHOU beloved husband of HELEN.
 May the Lord have mercy on the faithful departed in Christ.



On Friday May 19th our Parish had the privilege of a visitation from the POLISH ORTHODOX CHURCH. His Eminence, the Bishop of Wausau, Poland came to venerate our altar and icon of the Three Hierarchs. A dialogue followed for nearly two hours, discussing 'global' Orthodox Christianity and the threats to THE CHURCH.



Sunday, May 21st, The CONEY ISLAND CHAPTER #200 of the ORDER of AHEPA celebrated the 'CENTENNIAL' of the founding of the mens's society in Atlanta, Georgia 1922 ! In the presence of the Supreme President Demetrios Kokotas, and the local President Harry Lambrakis, two members of the group were honored. Pictured are the esteemed honorees ANARGYROS APERGIS and JOHN LAMBRAKIS.
AXIOI ! AXIOI ! AXIOI !





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανναβιακή Γυναικίᾳ Ἰερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ΄ - Ἔτος ΙΗ΄
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 785

Κυριακὴ τῶν Πατέρων Α΄ Οἴκ. Συνόδου
28 Μαΐου 2023 (2001)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Στὴν πίστι τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων

Τὴν περασμένη Πέμπτη, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἦταν ἡ ἐορτὴ τῆς Ἀναλήψεως τοῦ Κυρίου. Σήμερα ἔχουμε ἄλλη μεγάλη ἐορτή· τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων τῆς Πρώτης (Α΄) Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου. **Τί εἶνε** αὐτοὶ οἱ πατέρες; **Τί χρεωστοῦμε** ἐμεῖς στοὺς πατέρας, ἂν εἴμαστε παιδιά τους;

Ἄς σταματήσουμε στὴ λέξι «**πατήρ**».

«**Πατήρ**». Εἶνε ἡ λέξι πού ἐν ἀπολύτῳ ἐννοίᾳ **παιριάζει** στοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἐκεῖνος εἶνε πατέρας. Καὶ ἐκεῖνος **ἀξιῶναι καὶ τὸν ἄνθρωπο** νὰ γίνῃ πατέρας. Μεγάλον πρᾶγμα ὁ ἄνθρωπος νὰ γίνῃται συνδημιουργὸς μετὰ τὸ Θεό, τρόπον τινὰ ἓνας μικρὸς θεὸς πάνω στὴ γῆ.

Ἄλλ' ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τοὺς φυσικοὺς πατέρας ὑπάρχουν καὶ **πατέρες πνευματικοί**. Θυμηθῆτε τὸ Μέγα Ἀλέξανδρον, πού ἔλεγε· «**Στὸν πατέρα μου ὀφείλω τὸ ζῆν, εἰς δὲ τὸν διδάσκαλό μου (τὸν Ἀριστοτέλη) ὀφείλω τὸ εὖ ζῆν**». Τέτοιοι πατέρες εἶνε οἱ διδάσκαλοι, οἱ καθηγηταί, οἱ διανοούμενοι, **οἱ καλλιεργοὺν τὸ πνεῦμα** στοῦ λαοῦ μας.

Ἄλλ' ὑπάρχουν καὶ οἱ **ἅγιοι πατέρες**, πού ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα. Αὐτοὶ δὲν εἶχαν παιδιά. Εἶχαν ἀφοσιωθῆ ἐξ ὀλοκλήρου στὴ μεγάλη τοὺς ἀποστολή. Ἦταν ἀφιερωμένοι στοῦ Θεοῦ. Μετὰ τὴ φωτεινὴ διδασκαλία τοὺς ἔθρεψαν τὰ πνεύματα τῶν ἀνθρώπων, μετὰ τοὺς κόπους καὶ τοὺς μόχθους τῶν καλλιέργησαν τὸ λαόν, καὶ μετὰ τὰ αἵματα καὶ τὶς θυσίες τοὺς γιγάντωσαν τὸ δέντρο τῆς χριστιανοσύνης. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ μεγάλοι πατέρες, «**πατέρες οὐρανόφρονες**» (Ἰερ. 3,17).

Ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ **ἔργο τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων**; Ἀφήνουμε ὅλα τὰ ἄλλα. Ἀπὸ τὰ ἔργα τοὺς ὑπάρχει ἓνα πού μένει ἀθάνατον. Τὸ ἀκοῦνε καὶ θὰ τὸ ἀκοῦνε ἐπὶ αἰῶνες γενεᾶς γενεῶν. Εἶνε τὸ Σύμβολο τῆς πίστεως, τὸ «**Πιστεύω...**».

Ἐορτάζουμε τοὺς πατέρας. Καὶ ἔργο τῶν πατέρων εἶνε τὸ «**Πιστεύω...**». Δὲν βρίσκεται ἄλλο τέτοιο ἔργο. Μὴ μοῦ μιλάτε γιὰ Πλάτωνα, γιὰ Ἀριστοτέλη, γιὰ ἀνθρώπινα κατασκευάσματα. Πάρτε αὐτὸ τὸ «**Πιστεύω...**» καὶ ζυγίστε το. **Τί σοφία ἔχει μέσα!** Εἶνε μεγαλοῦργημα, μνημεῖο ἀθάνατον γραμμένο στὴν ἐλληνικὴ γλῶσσα. Τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἐφώτισε τοὺς ἁγίους πατέρας γιὰ νὰ τὸ συντάξουν.

Ποία ἦταν ἡ ἀφορμὴ νὰ συνταχθῇ; Πῶς ἐγινε τὸ «**Πιστεύω...**»; Ἡ ἀφορμὴ δόθηκε ἀπὸ κάποιον πού ὠνομαζόταν Ἄρειος.

Ὁ **Ἄρειος** δὲν ἦταν τυχαῖο πρόσωπον. Ἦταν μορφωμένος, ἤξερε φιλοσοφία. Ἀλλὰ τί ἔπαθε· **ὑπερηφανεύθηκε**. Νόμιζε, ὅτι μετὰ τὸ μικρὸν τοῦ μυαλοῦ θὰ λύσῃ τὰ μυστήρια τῆς Θεότητος. Καὶ ἔπεσε ἔξω. Τί ἐδίδασκε; Αὐτὸ πού διδάσκουν καὶ οἱ **χιλιασταί**. Εἶπε· Ἀποκαλύπτομαι μπροστὰ στοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀλλὰ ὑπῆρξε μιὰ στιγμή στοῦ ἀπειρο παρελθόντος πού ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν ὑπῆρχε. **Ἦρνεῖτο, δηλαδὴ, στοῦ Χριστοῦ τὴν αἰδιότητα, τὴν αἰωνιότητα**, καὶ ἔτσι ἠρνεῖτο **τὴν Θεότητα**, τὸ θεμέλιον τῆς χριστιανοσύνης. Διότι θεμέλιον τῆς χριστιανοσύνης εἶνε, ὅτι ὁ **Χριστὸς εἶνε Θεός**.

Ταλαίπωρε Ἄρειε! Δὲν ἀνοίγεις τὸν **Ἰωάννην**; Ἀμέσως θὰ τὸν ἀκουγες νὰ λέῃ· Χριστέ, εἶσαι ὁ Θεός· «**Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος**» (Ἰω. 1,1). Δὲν ἀνοίγεις τὸν **Παῦλον**; Θὰ τὸν ἀκουγες νὰ λέῃ, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε «**ὁ ὢν ἐπὶ πάντων Θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας**» (Ρωμ. 9,5), «**ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν βασιλευόντων καὶ κύριος τῶν κυριευόντων**» (Ἀ. Τιμ. 6,15; Δὲν ἀνοίγεις τὴν **Ἀποκάλυψιν**, νὰ δῇς ἐκεῖ, ὅτι ὁ Κύριος εἶνε αὐτὸς πού κρατᾷ ἐν τῇ φούχτᾳ τοὺς ἐπτά ἀστέρες, καὶ ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶνε «**τὸ Α καὶ τὸ Ω, ἡ ἀρχὴ καὶ τὸ τέλος**» (Ἀπ. 1, 8· 21·3, 1· 21,6);

Μὰ γιατί νὰ πᾶμε σ' αὐτούς; Δὲν ρωτοῦ-

σες, Ἄρειε, τὸν ἴδιο τὸ Χριστό, πού κάθησε στὸ скаμνὶ κατηγορούμενος; Ὁ Καϊάφας τοῦ ἀπηύθυνε τὸ ἐρώτημα· «Ἐσύ εἶσαι ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ;». «Ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἐσιώπα». Τὸν ἐρωτᾷ γιὰ δεύτερη φορά. Καὶ τότε ὁ Χριστὸς μπροστὰ σὲ ὅλους λέει· Ναί, ἐγὼ εἶμαι καὶ «*ῥησεσθε τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καθήμενον ἐκ δεξιῶν τῆς δυνάμεως καὶ ἐρχόμενον ἐπὶ τῶν νεφελῶν τοῦ οὐρανοῦ*» (Μαθ. 26:62-64). Ὁ ἴδιος λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς τὸ εἶπε. Καὶ ὅταν ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς ἄκουσε αὐτὴ τὴ «βλασφημία», ὅπως τὴ νόμιζε, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἔλεγε τὸν ἑαυτοῦ Θεό, διέρρηξε τὰ ἱμάτιά του, καὶ ὅλοι τοὺς εἶπαν· «*Ἐνοχος θανάτου ἐστί*» (ἰδ. 65-66). Ἐπομένως αὐτὸς ὁ Χριστὸς ὡμολόγησε τὴν καλὴ ὁμολογία, ὅτι εἶνε Θεός.

Ἐπείσε λοιπὸν ἔξω ὁ Ἄρειος. Καὶ γι' αὐτὸ τaráχθηκε τότε ἡ οἰκουμένη. Εἶχε ἀποκτήσει μαθητάς· μοναχοὺς, ἱερεῖς, ἐπισκόπους. Ὁ μέγας Κωνσταντῖνος, ὅταν εἶδε τὴν ταραχὴ, συνεκάλεσε τὸ 325 μ.Χ. τὴν Πρώτη (Α') Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδο στὴ Νίκαια τῆς Βιθυνίας, στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία. Ἐκεῖ συγκεντρώθηκαν οἱ πατέρες.

Νά καὶ ἔρχονται! Τοὺς βλέπετε; Ἀπὸ τὴν Κύπρο ἔρχεται ὁ ἅγιος Σπυρίδων, ἀπὸ τὴ Λυκία ὁ ἅγιος Νικόλαος... Νά οἱ μεγάλοι πατέρες! Μεταξὺ αὐτῶν εἶνε ἀσκηταί, πού ζοῦσαν στὴν ἔρημο μέσα σὲ σπηλιές· ἦταν ὁμολογηταὶ τῆς πίστεως, πού οἱ ἀντίθεοι τοὺς εἶχαν βγάλει τὰ μάτια μὲ πυρουνία. Μεταξὺ αὐτῶν ἦταν καὶ ὁ μεγαλύτερος ἀπ' ὅλους, τὸ ἀστέρι τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ὁ μέγας Ἀθανάσιος. Διότι δὲν ἔχει μόνο ὁ οὐρανὸς ἀστέρια, ἔχει καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία τὰ ἀστέρια τῆς. Δὲν ἀκούσατε τὸν ὕμνο, τὸ δοξαστικόν, «...ἀστέρες πολὺφωτοι τοῦ νοητοῦ στερεώματος»; 318 ἀστέρια ἦταν οἱ πατέρες τῆς Α' Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου.

Ἐκεῖ νά κι ὁ Ἄρειος. Μαῦρος σὰν τὸ κοράκι, σκοτεινὸς σὰν τὸν διάβολο, μὲ τὴ φιλοσοφία του, μὲ τὰ βιβλία του, νὰ ζητᾷ νὰ διαλύσῃ τὸν Χριστιανισμό. Τὸν κάλεσαν οἱ πατέρες, πάλεψαν, ἀνοιξαν πόλεμο μεγάλο. Μία μέρα, δύο μέρες, τρεῖς μέρες... Ἐνα μῆνα βάσταξε ἡ Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδος. Προσπάθησαν μὲ τὸ καλόν, μὲ ἐπιχειρήματα, μὲ θαύματα – γιὰ καὶ θαῦμα ἔκανε ὁ ἅγιος Σπυρίδων. Τοῦ ἔδειξαν τὴν ἁγία Τριάδα, τὸ ὁμοούσιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ πρὸς τὸν Πατέρα. Τίποτε αὐτὸς! Οὐ μὲ πείσεις, κὰν με πείσης.

Αὐτοὶ λοιπὸν συνέταξαν τὸ «Πιστεύω...». Τό ᾠγραψε μὲ τὸ χεράκι του ὁ μέγας Ἀθανάσιος· «Πιστεύω εἰς ἓνα Θεόν...». **Τί μεγάλα λόγια!** Δὲν ὑπάρχει ζυγαριὰ νὰ τὰ ζυγίσῃς.

Τελειώνω, ἀδελφοί μου. Τὸ «Πιστεύω...» αὐτὸ ἦρθε ὁ διάβολος στὴ γενεὰ μας τὴν κατηραμένη, πῆρε γομολάστιχα καὶ σβήνει ἓνα - ἓνα τὰ ἄρθρα του. Ὁ ἓνας λέει· Μὰ ὑπάρχει ἁγία Τριάδα; Ὁ ἄλλος· Μὰ ὑπάρχει Θεός; Ὁ ἄλλος· Μὰ εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς πραγματικὸς Θεός; Ὁ ἄλλος· Μὰ ποῦ λέει, ὅτι ἡ Παναγία εἶνε ἀειπάρθενος; εἶνε ἀληθινὰ αὐτά;... Σιγὰ - σιγὰ κόβουνε, γκρεμίζουνε. Ζήτημα εἶνε σήμερα ἂν μέσα στοὺς χίλιους ἓνας ὑπογράψῃ καὶ νὰ λέῃ· Πιστεύω κ' ἐγὼ ὅπως ὁ ἅγιος Σπυρίδων, ὅπως ὁ ἅγιος Νικόλαος, ὅπως ἡ γιαγιά μου. Αὐτὸ τὸ Πιστεύω ἔχει σβήσει.

Καὶ τώρα τί πιστεύουμε; Ἐγὼ, λέει ὁ ἓνας, πιστεύω στὸ χρήμα, δηλαδὴ στὸ μαμωνά. Ἐγὼ, λέει ὁ ἄλλος, πιστεύω στὴ γυναῖκα· ὅχι στὴν καλὴ γυναῖκα, ἀλλὰ στὴν κακὴ καὶ διαβολεμένη γυναῖκα, στὴν αἰσχρὰ παλλακίδα. Ἐγὼ, λέει ὁ ἄλλος, πιστεύω στὸ γλέντι, στὴ διασκέδασι. Ἐγὼ, λέει ὁ ἄλλος, πιστεύω στὸν τουρισμό. Ὁ ἄλλος παρακάτω πιστεύει στὴν ἐπιστήμη. Τί νὰ σοῦ κάνουν ὁμως ἡ ἐπιστήμη καὶ τὰ πλούτη, ἀγαπητέ μου, ὅταν εἶσαι μπροστὰ στὸν πόνο, μπροστὰ στὸ θάνατο, ὅταν μέσα στὸ σπῖτι σου ἔχῃς φέρετρο, ὅταν κλαῖς σ' ἓνα τάφο; Ἀπλῶς μπορεῖς μ' αὐτὰ ν' ἀγοράσῃς ἓνα μαντήλι γιὰ τὰ δάκρυά σου. Νά τί διαφέρεις ἀπὸ τὸν ἄλλο. Ὁ μὲν φτωχός, ὅταν κλαίῃ, δὲν ἔχει μαντήλι νὰ σκουπιστῇ καὶ τὰ δάκρυά του πέφτουν στὸ χορτάρι. Ἐνῶ ὁ πλούσιος ἔχει ντουζίνες μεταξωτὰ μαντήλια νὰ σκουπίσῃ τὰ δάκρυά του. Ἀλλὰ τὰ δάκρυα, εἴτε πέφτουν κάτω στὸ χορτάρι τῆς γῆς εἴτε πέφτουν στὰ μεταξωτὰ μαντήλια, δάκρυα εἶνε πού ἔχουν τὸν ἴδιο πόνο...

Ὑπάρχουν, ἀγαπητοί μου, χιλιάδες «πιστεύω» σήμερα στὸν κόσμον· «πιστεύω» ἀμαρτωλά, σατανικά. Ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτὰ τὰ «πιστεύω», ἐσεῖς διαλέξετε τὸ «Πιστεύω...» τῶν πατέρων. Κρατήστε το σφιχτά, ἥρωικά. Καὶ ἂν μέσα στὸ σπῖτι σου καὶ στὴν κοινωνία δὲν πιστεύῃ κανένας, κι ἂν ἔρθουν χρόνια πού μείνῃς μόνος, ἐσύ παιδί μου κράτησε τὸ «Πιστεύω...» τῶν πατέρων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας. Καὶ μὲ τὸ «Πιστεύω...» στὰ χεῖλη νὰ σφραγίσῃς τὴ ζωὴ σου. Τὰ τελευταῖα λόγια μας πάνω στὴ γῆ ἂς εἶνε αὐτά· «Πιστεύω, Κύριε» (ἰδ. 938) καὶ «Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου» (ἰουκ. 24).

Αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων· 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

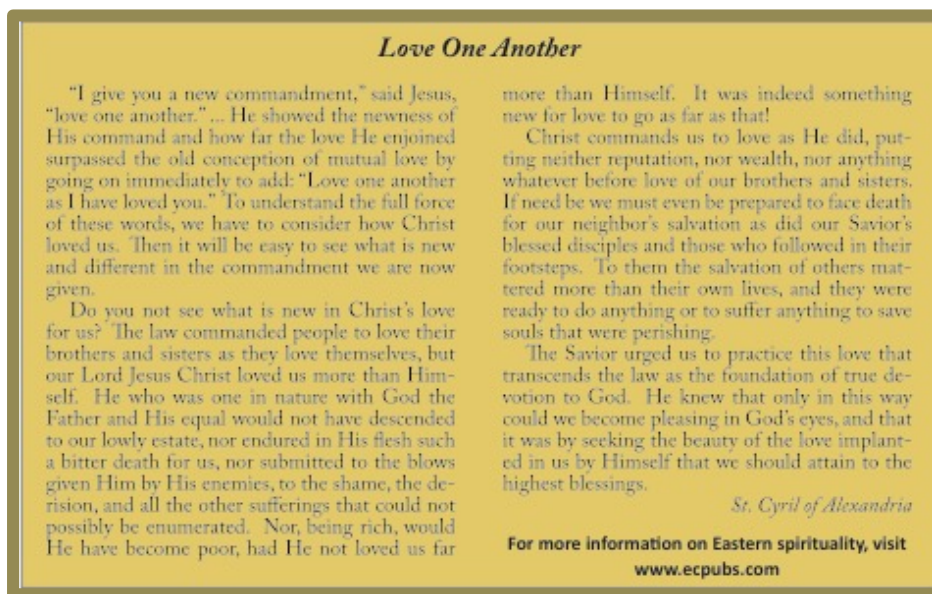
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

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 2023 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.



RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 25th 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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