

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 16th, 2023  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



*Icon of the First Six Ecumenical Councils*

## Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2

### Psalm 31.11,1

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.

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. Ήχος πλ. β'

### ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 31.11,1

Εὐφράνθητι ἐπὶ Κύριον, καὶ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι.

Στίχ. Μακάριοι, ὧν ἀφέθησαν αἱ ἀνομίαι.

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαι σε διαβεβαιουῖσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προΐστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστιν καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις · μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιῖστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρετικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἁμαρτάνει, ὧν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὄταν 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 λείπῃ. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προΐστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἀσπασαι τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

## Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 5:14-19 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου. οὐ δύναται πόλις κρυβῆναι ἐπάνω ὄρους κειμένη· οὐδὲ καίουσι λύχνον καὶ τιθέασιν αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν μόδιον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν, καὶ λάμπει πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ. οὕτω λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καὶ δοξάσωσι τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλῦσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφῆτας· οὐκ ἦλθον καταλῦσαι, ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἕως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἐν ἡ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου ἕως ἂν πάντα γένηται. ὃς ἐὰν οὖν λύσῃ μίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων καὶ διδάξῃ οὕτω τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἐλάχιστος κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν· ὃς δ' ἂν ποιήσῃ καὶ διδάξῃ, οὗτος μέγας κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν.



**CHECK IT OUT!** We are up-dating our WEB-SITE at Three Hierarchs Parish and YOU are a most essential part of it. Please respond to the information listed on the centerfold page. **WE DO NEED YOUR e-mail address** to better communicate with you and the family instantly. Send us as many e-mail addresses as you wish.  
**COMMUNICATION IS THE ANSWER.**

**UP- COMING EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR:**

**Feast of Prophet Elias on THURSDAY – JULY 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chronia Polla to every Ilia, Elia, Ileana on your name-day!**

**Feast of Saint Marina on MONDAY - JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>,**

**Chronia Polla to every Marino, Marina, Mario**

**Feast of Saint CHRISTINA ON Monday – JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>,**

**Chronia Polla to every Christina, Chryssi, Chris**

**Feast day of SAINT PANTELEIMON on THURSDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>,**

**(OUR UKRAINIAN MISSION AT THREE HIERARCHS IS HONORED TO CARRY  
THE NAME OF SAINT PANTELEIMON) Chronia Polla to all in the mission.)**

**PRAYER and HEALING service:** offered each month is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY – JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>** from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Each month this encounter brings you to anointing, healing, prayers, homily, exegesis, and witnessing of the faith. The intimacy of the fellowship is enjoyed by all. We welcome everyone and anyone ( members and visitors to the parish) to share our table of renewal. Refreshments are always served at 8:00 P.M. **COME! SEE! LEARN! It's good!**

**THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!!!?** Is there a birthday, anniversary, graduation, new birth, engagement or wedding you may wish to joyously share with **GOD and MAN....** Do it through an 'ARTOKLASIA' in honor of that individual. Bring them to church on Sunday, and then 'surprise' them as their name is called out to come forward for the special blessing of the five loaves, wine and oil. It's a moment caught in time that will be forever cherished.

**SCOUTING TROOP PREPARES:** for the **ANNUAL CAMPING SOJORN.** Each year we are pleased to send many young boys to 'summer camp' for two weeks. This wonderous nature experience assists the young men in achievements towards their 'EAGLE' accomplishment. The period extends from Saturday – July 22<sup>nd</sup> through August 06<sup>th</sup>. Are your lads (sons' grandsons) members of the Parish Scouting Program? Take advantage of this enjoyable program making boys into men through Hellenism, Orthodoxy and Nature!

**ON VACATION TRIP?** We always remind our faithful while on vacation traveling in the U.S.A. or abroad – consult with Father Eugene for the closest church and Greek Orthodox community that may be in your vicinity. Always greet the clergy and announce where you come from and extend greeting from **THREE HIERARCHS and FATHER EUGENE.** You would be surprised to learn how well known our 'parish' is in the global map of faithful Orthodox communities. Going abroad? We can supply you with the nearest Greek Orthodox Church..... anywhere! Don't miss the opportunity to evangelize in the most remote places.

**25<sup>th</sup> Year Opening Anniversary of the 'RADIO MINISTRY of Father Eugene's MATTERS of CONSCIENCE BROADCASTS** each Saturday afternoon prime-time 1 -2 :00 P.M. on **COSMOS RADIO W.N.Y.E. 91.5 FM.** This stellar programming includes relative subjects involving medicine, education, religion, politics, legislation, morals and ethics facing the 'globe'. The program is now cosmic (global) through the inter-net links. **DO YOU LISTEN IN?**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** During the summer months are daily from 11:00 – 4:00 P.M. The facility complex school, halls, gymnasium, and meeting rooms are closed for the summer months until mid-September. Only upon request and approval will the facility be available for after-hour events. **PLEASE OBLIGE.**

**AUGUST MAILING** for the Feast of the **VIRGIN MARY'S KOIMISIS ( ASSUMPTION)** will be posted on July 20<sup>th</sup>, Look for yours in the mail. Registered stewards of the Parish receive all printings. **ARE YOU ONE OF THEM? WHY NOT:**

**WINE DONATIONS** for the altar are requested. Please see the clergy if interested. Donations of a bottle or a case are always welcomed. Father Eugene will give direction to specific wine used.

**TODAY: JULY 16<sup>th</sup>, + REV. FR. POLYCARPOS RAMEAS**



You are Cordially invited to the  
celebration of

Fr. Eugene's Birthday # \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday July 23rd, 2023

12:00 Noon Whitehall

Open to Everyone

Fun



Fun

Happy  
Birthday

Take the Quiz How old is :

1: Father Eugene?

39

☐

70

☐

80

☐

other (be kind)

☐

2: Would Father Eugene  
miss us (the congregation)  
if he were on vacation?

yes

☐

sometimes

☐

no

☐

3: If Father Eugene teases you,  
does that mean he loves you?

yes

☐

maybe

☐

no

☐

4: What is Father Eugene's  
baptismal name?

Gregory

☐

Sue

☐

Nicholas

☐

Coffee, Cake, Sweets



Fun





Οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες

# Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

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**Light a Candle**

Read letters from the Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

During the summer months we will be in the process of updating our Web-Site. Pictures, announcements, flyers, past and present will be available with ease. Search our gallery for memories. Emails allow us to send the church bulletin to your home to be seen on your phone or computer giving you information on news and events.

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**Triumphant**

*New  
And  
Old  
Memories*



Those who are unable to attend have a chance to be part of Sunday services. The Web-site allows you to light a candle with a comment if you wish at our "Light a Candle" area,,

*E-mail*



Please give inf. to Church Office

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280

Web site: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org) E-mail : [info@threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](mailto:info@threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανονικὴ Γυναικίᾳ Ἰερὸν Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imaaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imaaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ'	Κυρ. Πατ. Δ' Οἰκ. Συνόδου (Ματθ. 5,14-19)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2568	16 Ἰουλίου 2023	

## “Οσοι πιστοί, σταθῆτε φῶς!

« Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου » (Ματθ. 5,14)

Ἐάν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ρίξουμε ἓνα προσεκτικό βλέμμα στὸν κόσμο ποὺ δημιουργήσε ὁ Θεός, θὰ δοῦμε κάτι καταπληκτικό· ὅτι **ὅλα τὰ δημιουργήματα**, ἀπὸ τὰ μικρότερα ἕως τὰ μεγαλύτερα, **ἔχουν κάποιο σκοπό**. Ὅπως σ' ἓνα αὐτοκίνητο καὶ ἡ τελευταία βίδα ἔχει τὸ σκοπὸ της, ἔτσι καὶ σὲ ὁλόκληρο τὸ σύμπαν τὰ πάντα ἔχουν σκοπιμότητα· τίποτα τυχαῖο.

Πάρτε παράδειγμα τὸν ἥλιο. Ἐχει σκοπὸ· ἀποστολή του εἶναι νὰ φωτίζει, νὰ θερμαίνει, νὰ ζωογονῇ τὴν γῆ. Μπορεῖτε νὰ φανταστήτε τὸν κόσμο χωρὶς τὸν ἥλιο; Σκοτάδι καὶ ἄβυσσος· θὰ σταματοῦσε ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Οἱ ἐπιστήμονες λένε ὅτι, ἂν σβήσῃ ὁ ἥλιος, τότε ὅλες μαζὶ οἱ ΔΕΗ τοῦ κόσμου δὲν μποροῦν ν' ἀναπληρώσουν τὴν ἡλιακὴ ἐνέργεια οὔτε μιᾶς μέρας! Μεγάλα καὶ θαυμαστά τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ τὸ ἄλλο σοβαρό· ὅλη αὐτὴ ἡ ἐνέργεια, δισεκατομμῦρια κιλοβάτ, παρέχεται δωρεάν, δρασμὴ δὲν πληρώνουμε! Ἀχάριστοι ἐμεῖς, τυφλοὶ καὶ ἀναίσθητοι, «γενεὰ ἀπίστος καὶ διεστραμμένη» (ἡβλ. Ματθ. 17, 17. Λοκ. 9,41). Ἐνῶ ἐδῶ βλέπεις τὴ Δ.Ε.Η. τὴν τσιγγούνα καὶ δὲν χαρίζει τίποτα. Ἦρθε στὴ μητρόπολι ἓνα φτωχαδάκι, μιὰ γερόντισσα. –Δέσποτα, μοῦ κόψανε τὸ ρεῦμα. –Γιατί; –Δὲν ἔχω νὰ πληρώσω τὸ λογαριασμό... Ὑπάρχουν δίπλα μας κάποιοι ποὺ στεροῦνται.

Δωρεὰν ὁ ἥλιος. **Ποιὸς ὅμως εὐγνώμονες** γιὰ τὴ δωρεὰ αὐτὴ καὶ τὴν αὐγὴ μὲ τὴν ἀνατολή λέει «Δόξα σοι τῷ δείξαντι τὸ φῶς»· (ὡβλ.).

Ὁ ἥλιος λοιπὸν στὸν οὐρανό, τὸ φεγγάρι, οἱ ἀστερισμοί, οἱ κομήτες καὶ ὅ,τι ἄλλο ὠραῖο· στὴ γῆ τῶν ποταμῶν τὰ ρεῖθρα, ἡ θάλασσα, τὰ δέντρα, τὰ πουλιά, **τὰ πάντα** στὸν ὁμορφό κόσμο **ἔχουν σκοπό**. Τίποτα δὲν εἶναι ἄσκοπο.

Καὶ γεννᾶται ἐρώτημα. Ἐάν ὅλα ἔχουν σκοπό, **ποιὸς εἶναι ὁ σκοπὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου**; ἄσκοπος εἶναι; πῶς βρέθηκε ἐδῶ; ποιὸς εἶναι ὁ σκοπὸς τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ζωῆς;

Ἐ, σ' αὐτὸ ἀπαντᾷ σήμερα ὁ Χριστὸς μι-

λώντας στοὺς μαθητὰς του καὶ δι' αὐτῶν σὲ ὅλους τοὺς Χριστιανοὺς ὅλων τῶν αἰώνων.

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Ὅσοι, ἀδελφοί μου, πιστέψαμε στὸ Χριστό, βαπτισθήκαμε στὸ ἅγιο ὄνομά του καὶ λεγόμαστε Χριστιανοί, ἔχουμε στὴ ζωὴ μας ἓνα μεγάλο σκοπό, μιὰ μεγάλη ἀποστολή· νὰ ζοῦμε στὸ φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ στὰ πρόσωπά μας τὸ φῶς αὐτὸ νὰ ἀκτινοβολῇ γύρω μας· **νὰ εἴμαστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου**. Ἐτσι λέει σήμερα· « Ὑμεῖς ἐστε (=σεῖς εἴστε) τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου » (Ματθ. 5,14).

**Φῶς**, καὶ φῶς μέγα, ἥλιος, εἶναι ὁ Χριστός. Ὁ φυσικὸς ἥλιος, λέει ἡ ἐπιστήμη, θὰ σβήσῃ μιὰ μέρα ὅπως σβήνουν τὰ λυχνάρια, οἱ πολυέλεοι, ὅλα τὰ ὑλικά φῶτα· ἀλλὰ τὸ ἄλλο φῶς, αὐτὸ ποὺ ἐκπέμπει ὁ ἐσταυρωμένος Λυτρωτής, ὄχι. «Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι» (Ματθ. 24,35. ἡβλ. 13,31. Λοκ. 21,33. Πρβλ. 3η 20,11). Φῶς ὁ Χριστός· φῶς τὰ λόγια του, ἡ διδασκαλία του, ἡ ζωὴ του, τὰ θαύματά του, ἡ ἀνάστασί του. Μόνο αὐτὸς μπορεῖ νὰ λέῃ «Εγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου» (ἡ. 8,12).

Ὅπως λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου, ἔτσι καὶ **οἱ ἀληθινοὶ Χριστιανοὶ εἶναι τὰ φῶτα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος**. Τὸ σκοτάδι ποὺ ἐπικρατεῖ, ἡθικὸ καὶ πνευματικὸ, ποὺ ἦταν ἀνίκανα νὰ τὸ διαλύσουν τὰ φῶτα τῶν σοφῶν τῆς ἀρχαίας καὶ τῆς νέας ἐποχῆς, διαλύθηκε μὲ τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ τὴ ζωὴ τῶν πρώτων Χριστιανῶν. Ἐδειξαν ὅτι ἡ ἀρετὴ δὲν εἶναι μιὰ οὐτοπία· εἶναι μιὰ ζωντανὴ πραγματικότητα. Φῶς ὑπῆρξαν **οἱ ἀπόστολοι** μὲ τὸ κήρυγμα, τὸ παράδειγμα καὶ τὴ θυσία τους· «Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου». Φῶτα ἐπίσης, ἀστέρια πρώτου μεγέθους, ποὺ σελάγισαν στὸν πνευματικὸ οὐρανό, ἦταν οἱ **πατέρες καὶ διδάσκαλοι** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας (μέγας Βασίλειος, ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος, θεολόγος Γρηγόριος κ.ἄ.). Καὶ φῶτα, ποὺ ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα, ὅπως ἀκοῦμε στοὺς αἶνους, «**ἀστέρες πολὺφωτοι τοῦ νοητοῦ στερεώματος**» (βλ. ἀν. Κυρ. Πατ.), ὑπῆρξαν **οἱ 630**

**πατέρες τῆς Τετάρτης (Δ') Οἰκουμένης Συνόδου**, πού συνήλθαν στή Χαλκηδόνα, ἀπέναντι ἀπὸ τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολι, καὶ κατεδίκασαν τοὺς μονοφυσίτες αἰρετικούς.

Ὅπως λοιπὸν οἱ ἅγιοι ἐκεῖνοι στάθηκαν συνεπεῖς καὶ ὑπῆρξαν φῶτα, ἔτσι κ' ἐμεῖς στὴ γενεά μας νὰ σταθοῦμε συνεπεῖς καὶ νὰ γίνουμε φῶτα. Μικρὰ βεβαίως φῶτα· δὲν φτάνουμε στὸ ὕψος ἐκείνων, τῶν ὁμολογητῶν καὶ μαρτύρων. Ὅσοι πάντως **βαπτίστηκαν** ὀρθοδόξως, αὐτοὶ **ντύθηκαν τὸν Χριστὸ** (βλ. Ρωμ. 6,3-13, Γαλ. 3,27) καὶ φυσιολογικά, μέσα στὴν πονηρὴ καὶ διεστραμμένη γενεά μας, **λάμπουν ὡς φῶτα**.

**Ν'** ἀναφέρω **μερικά παραδείγματα**:

✓ Φῶς μέσα στὴν οἰκογένεια θά 'σαι σὺ ὁ **πατέρας**· ἓνας μικρὸς ἥλιος, πού μὲ τὴ ζωὴ καὶ τὰ λόγια του φωτίζει τὴ γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ παιδιά του. Βράδισσε; σύναξε τὴ φανίλια σου γιὰ προσευχή. Ξημέρωσε; πρὶν ἀπὸ κάθε ἔξοδο κάλεσέ τους ὅλους νὰ δοξάσετε τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὴν καινούργια μέρα. Σὲ μιὰ ὠρισμένη ὥρα ἀνοίξετε τὴ Γραφή, διαβάστε μιὰ περικοπή. Εἶνε Τετάρτη καὶ Παρασκευή; νήστεψε σὺ καὶ δίδαξε τὴ νηστεία σὲ ὅλους· ἔχει αὐτὸ μεγάλη σημασία. Ξημέρωσε Κυριακὴ καὶ χτύπησαν τὰ σήμαντρα; φτερά στὰ πόδια νὰ ἐκκλησιασθῇτε, ν' ἀκούσετε *«Εἰδομεν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν...»*. Σοῦ λέω· ἐσὺ κάποτε θὰ πεθάνης, ἀλλὰ τὰ λόγια σου δὲν θὰ λησμονηθοῦν.

✓ Εἶσαι **δάσκαλος**; Ἐχεις εὐρύτερο κύκλο, τὰ παιδιά τοῦ σχολείου. Θὰ σταθῇς ἀνάμεσά τους σὰν ἓνας φάρος μὲ τὴ στάσι καὶ τὴ διδασκαλία σου. Εὐλογημένα τὰ ἔθνη πού ἔχουν Χριστιανούς δασκάλους μὲ διάθεσι θυσίας, ὅπως ἐκεῖνοι οἱ ἄμισθοι τοῦ κρυφοῦ σχολείου τῆς Τουρκοκρατίας ἢ οἱ ἡρωίδες δασκάλες στὰ χρόνια τοῦ Μακεδονικοῦ ἀγῶνος, ὅχι αὐτοὶ πού διδάσκουν τὴν ἀπατηλὴ θεωρία τοῦ Δαρβίνου, πῶς ὁ ἄνθρωπος κατάγεται ἀπὸ τὴ μαῖμού, καὶ τὴν παρουσιάζουν ὡς ἐπιστημονικὴ ἀλήθεια· ὅταν λές τέτοια ψέματα, τὸ σχολεῖό σου ἐκπέμπει σκότος καὶ ὄχι φῶς.

✓ Ὁ ἀκόμη εὐρύτερος κύκλος εἶνε ἡ κοινωνία, ἡ πολιτεία. Ἄν εἶσαι λοιπὸν Χριστιανὸς **ἄρχοντας**, ἔχε πρότυπά σου τὸν μέγα Κωνσταντῖνο, τὸν Βατάτζη, τὸν Καποδίστρια, τὸν Πλαστήρα. Στάσου μπροστὰ στὸ λαό σου σὰν πυρὸς ἀναμμένος. Δώσ' του τὸ καλὸ παράδειγμα, κυβέρνησε μὲ ἀνιδιοτέλεια κατὰ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ὁ λαὸς ἀκολουθεῖ, ὅπως βεβαιώνει ἡ ἱστορία ἀπὸ τὸν καιρὸ τοῦ Περικλέους καὶ τοῦ Ἀριστείδου· συνηθίζει νὰ ἐξομοιοῦται πρὸς τὸ ἦθος τῶν ἀρχόντων του.

✓ Ἄν εἶσαι **στρατιωτικὸς**, στάσου λαμπάδα. Ἐχε πρότυπα τοὺς ἁγίους Προκόπιο, Γεώργ-

γιο, Δημήτριο, τοὺς Θεοδώρους... Γνώρισα στρατιῶτες τοῦ Πλαστήρα, πού μιλοῦσαν μὲ δάκρυα γιὰ τὸ ἦθος καὶ τὴν ἀκεραιότητά του. Στὸ σύνταγμά του ἔλαμπε ἡ αὐτοθυσία, ἡ ἀγνότης, ἡ γενναιοῦτης, ἡ παρθενία του, ὁ πατριωτισμός του, τὸ ὑψηλὸ φρόνημά του.

✓ Εἶσαι **ἐπιστήμονας**; Ἐχεις ἄλλο κύκλο γύρω σου. Ἦρχνε τὸν προβολέα σου στὰ σκότη. Νὰ εἶσαι φῶς τῶν ἐγγραμμάτων καὶ πεπαιδευμένων, ὁδηγὸς τῶν φοιτητῶν σου. Ἐργάζου εὐσυνειδήτα καὶ ἐλεύθερα. Καὶ νὰ φρονῇς ταπεινά· ὁ Σωκράτης ἔλεγε *«Ἐν οἷδα, ὅτι οὐδὲν οἷδα»* καὶ προέτρεπε *«Γνώθι σαυτόν»*.

✓ Εἶσαι, τέλος, **ἱερεὺς ἢ ἀρχιερεὺς** τοῦ Ὑψίστου; Ἐ, τότε ἡ εὐθύνη σου αὐξάνει· εἶσαι περίοπος, περιάκουστος· καὶ οἱ λεπτομέρειες τοῦ βίου καὶ τῶν λόγων σου μωμοσκοποῦνται. Γι' αὐτὸ πρόσεχε. Ἐχε πρότυπο τὸν ἱερὸ Χρυσόστομο ὡς πρεσβύτερο στὴν Ἀντιόχεια καὶ ὡς ἐπίσκοπο στὴν Βασιλεύουσα, γιὰ νὰ εἶσαι λαμπάδα καιομένη, *«φῶς τοῦ κόσμου»*.

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Καθένας, ἀδελφοί μου, ἂς ἀναρωτηθῇ· Πῶς θὰ ἦταν ἡ πατρίδα καὶ ὁ κόσμος μας, **ἂν ἐμεῖς** (γονεῖς, δάσκαλοι, ἄρχοντες, ἀρχιερεῖς, παπᾶδες) **ἦμασταν μικροὶ Κοσμάδες Αἰτωλοί**;

Χαρακτήρισαν τὸν αἰῶνα μας **«αἰῶνα τῶν φώτων»**. Δὲν ἀρνοῦμαι ὅτι στὰ ὑλικά προώδευσσε. Τί μὲ τοῦτο; Ἠθικῶς καὶ πνευματικῶς πῆγε πίσω, ἀποκτηνώθηκε. Προτιμῶ ἓνα δράμι ἀρετῆς, ἓνα γραμμάριο ἀγιωσύνης, ἀπὸ ἓνα τόννο ἀνθρώπινης σοφίας. Ὁ Πλάτων εἶπε· *«πᾶσα ἐπιστήμη χωριζομένη δικαιοσύνης καὶ τῆς ἄλλης ἀρετῆς, πανουργία καὶ οὐ σοφία φαίνεται»* (Μενέξ 286e-287a περ. «Εὐλογητὰ ἔργα», 540 ἀπρ. 2007, σ.112). **«Αἰώνας φώτων»**; Τί κρίμα! Ἐνας Εὐρωπαῖος εἶπε·

*«...καὶ νὰ με δῶ μὲ τόσα φῶτα,*

*ἐγὼ μωρός, ὅσο καὶ πρῶτα!»* (Γιάτ, ἄκουσέ).

Ὑστερα ἀπὸ τόσα πανεπιστήμια καὶ ἀκαδημίες, εἴμαστε πάλι στὸ σκοτάδι. Ὁ αἰώνας μας, εἶνε ὁ πιὸ σκοτεινός· μετὰ ἀπὸ δύο παγκοσμίους πολέμους καὶ τόσοις ποταμούς αἱμάτων, **μυαλὸ δὲν βάλαμε· πᾶμε γιὰ τὸν «Ἀρμαγεδῶνα»** τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως (16,16). Πουλήστε τὸ πουκάμισό σας κι ἀγοράστε Ἀποκάλυψι, νὰ δῆτε ἐκεῖ τὸ δράμα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος.

Σὲ τέτοιες ἡμέρες ζοῦμε. **Ν'** ἀπελπιστοῦμε; **Ὁχι!** Ἀς ἐργαστοῦμε, ἂς κοπιάσουμε ὅλοι, νὰ λάμψη μέσα μας καὶ γύρω μας ὁ Χριστός, τὸ φῶς τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, πού δίνει ποιότητα στὴν ἀνθρωπίνη ζωὴ· τὰ ἄλλα εἶνε μηδέν. Ἐτσι καὶ ἡ μικρὴ μας πατρίδα θὰ γίνῃ πάλι πηγὴ φωτός καὶ θὰ μπορῇ νὰ πῇ στὸν κόσμο· *«Δεῦτε λάβετε φῶς ἐκ τοῦ ἀνεσπέρου Φωτός...»* (ἱερεὶς Λυσί).

**(f) 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.

*Authority of the Council - Authority of the Church*

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation. Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major

assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable. The official voice of the catholicity and the koinonia of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

*Metropolitan Emilianos*

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