



SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 20th, 2023  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

# ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of the Unmercenary Servant (Matthew 18:23-25)*

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280  
Web site: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org) E-mail : [info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org)

**Prokeimenon. Mode 2**

**Psalm 117.14,18**

*The Lord is my strength and my song.*

*Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.*

*The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12*

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος β'**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18**

*Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.*

*Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.*

*Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 9:2-12 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα*

Ἀδελφοί, ἡ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ. Ἡ ἐμὴ ἀπολογία τοῖς ἐμὲ ἀνακρίνουσιν αὕτη ἐστίν. Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν φαγεῖν καὶ πιεῖν; Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα περιάγειν, ὥς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι, καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ Κηφᾶς; Ἡ μόνος ἐγὼ καὶ Βαρνάβας οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ μὴ ἐργάζεσθαι; Τίς στρατεύεται ἰδίοις ὀψωνίοις ποτέ; Τίς φυτεύει ἀμπελῶνα, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ καρποῦ αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐσθίει; Ἡ τίς ποιμαίνει ποίμνην, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ γάλακτος τῆς ποίμνης οὐκ ἐσθίει; Μὴ κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ταῦτα λαλῶ; Ἡ οὐχὶ καὶ ὁ νόμος ταῦτα λέγει; Ἐν γὰρ τῷ Μωϋσέως νόμῳ γέγραπται, Οὐ φιμώσεις βοῦν ἀλοῶντα. Μὴ τῶν βοῶν μέλει τῷ θεῷ; Ἡ δὲ ἡμᾶς πάντως λέγει; Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγράφη, ὅτι ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ὀφείλει ὁ ἄροτριῶν ἄροτριᾶν, καὶ ὁ ἀλοῶν τῆς ἐλπίδος αὐτοῦ μετέχειν ἐπ' ἐλπίδι. Εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν τὰ πνευματικὰ ἐσπειράμεν, μέγα εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῶν τὰ σαρκικὰ θερίσομεν; Εἰ ἄλλοι τῆς ἐξουσίας ὑμῶν μετέχουσιν, οὐ μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς; Ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐχρησάμεθα τῇ ἐξουσίᾳ ταύτῃ, ἀλλὰ πάντα στέγομεν, ἵνα μὴ ἐγκοπὴν τινὰ δῶμεν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 18:23-35 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ὁμοιώθη ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ὃς ἠθέλησε συνᾶραι λόγον μετὰ τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ. ἀρξαμένου δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσηνέχθη αὐτῷ εἰς ὀφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων. μὴ ἔχοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀποδοῦναι ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦπραθῆναι καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ τέκνα καὶ πάντα ὅσα εἶχε, καὶ ἀποδοθῆναι. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ δούλος προσεκύνη αὐτῷ λέγων· κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω. σπλαγχνισθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος τοῦ δούλου ἐκείνου ἀπέλυσεν αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ δάνειον ἀφῆκεν αὐτῷ. ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δούλος ἐκεῖνος εὗρεν ἕνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ, ὃς ὤφειλεν αὐτῷ ἑκατὸν δηνάρια, καὶ κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπιγε λέγων· ἀπόδος μοι εἴ τι ὀφείλεις. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ σύνδουλος αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν λέγων· μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ ἀποδώσω σοι. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἤθελεν, ἀλλὰ ἀπελθὼν ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς φυλακὴν ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ τὸ ὀφειλόμενον. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ σύνδουλοι αὐτοῦ τὰ γενόμενα ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ κυρίῳ ἑαυτῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα. τότε προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ λέγει αὐτῷ· δοῦλε πονηρέ, πᾶσαν τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην ἀφῆκά σοι, ἐπεὶ παρεκάλεσάς με. οὐκ ἔδει καὶ σὲ ἐλεῆσαι τὸν σύνδουλόν σου, ὥς καὶ ἐγὼ σε ἠλέησα; καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ πᾶν τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ. Οὕτω καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν, ἐὰν μὴ ἀφῆτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν.





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
**ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT**

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** will be offered by the family of CAROL POULOS in WHITEHALL directly after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Please join us. May her memory be eternal!

Many thanks are extended to the faithful parishioners who joyfully offered altar sacramental wine for the sacred eucharist and other rites of the Church. The LORD knows who you are and will abundantly bestow blessings on you and those for whom you care.

**Wedding Bells ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>**, for the nuptials of THOMAS CHARLES TSATSIS to AMANDA ROSE STANZIONE at 5:30 P.M. We wish the happy couple many years of joy, health, peace and life !  
**KALA STEPHANA TO THE PROMISED COUPLE !**

**PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE** has been transferred to THURSDAY EVENING- AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup>, as usual at 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. The ‘theme’ is MOTHER and Queen of ALL we are in the OCTAVE of the Assumption Feast and will be able to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary in Repose. **COME ! VISIT ! VENERATE !**

Marigold flower blossoms are the traditional bloom offered to the THEOTOKOS, hence it is named ‘mary’s gold’ marigold. Pick some from your home garden and place them at the ‘epitaphion’ of the Mother of God!

**CONGRATULATIONS** are being extended to Parish Council Member NICHOLAS PARAS who will be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> to Ms. MARIA GONAKI on the Island of Crete in Greece. We wish the couple every blessing from the Lord. **KALA STEPHANA!**

**GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS** are commencing. Please consider enrolling your child or grand-child in the program which fosters Hellenic scholarship learning language, history, religion and culture of GREECE. **IT IS THEIR HERITAGE and LEGACY!** It’s certainly worth the effort. **KALES SPOUDES !**

Feast of Saint Phanourios is fast approaching: **SUNDAY - AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>**. This remarkable holy centurion (ROMAN) was martyred on the Greek Island of Rhodes. This particular saint martyr suffered many persecutions of the flesh by his enemies. The tortures were many because as a Roman Officer he refused to recognize Caesar as both KING and GOD. He pledged his allegiance to Caesar as Emperor but NOT as god! Phanourios was a devout CHRISTIAN during the early persecutions of the fledgling faith. His mother was a devout ‘pagan’ offering her sacrifices to the myriad gods of Rome. Despite his constant appeals for her to accept JESUS as the CHRIST (Messiah of the world) she refused. This was a major disappointment for blessed Phanourios who was devoted to his maternal love. Each icon of the martyr evidences Phanourios holding a lighted candle searching throughout the heavens for his mother’s lost and wandering soul. Saint Phanourios is the ‘patron’ of lost things, lost causes, lost direction. If you lose something, call out in supplication for the saint’s assistance and it **SHALL BE FOUND!**

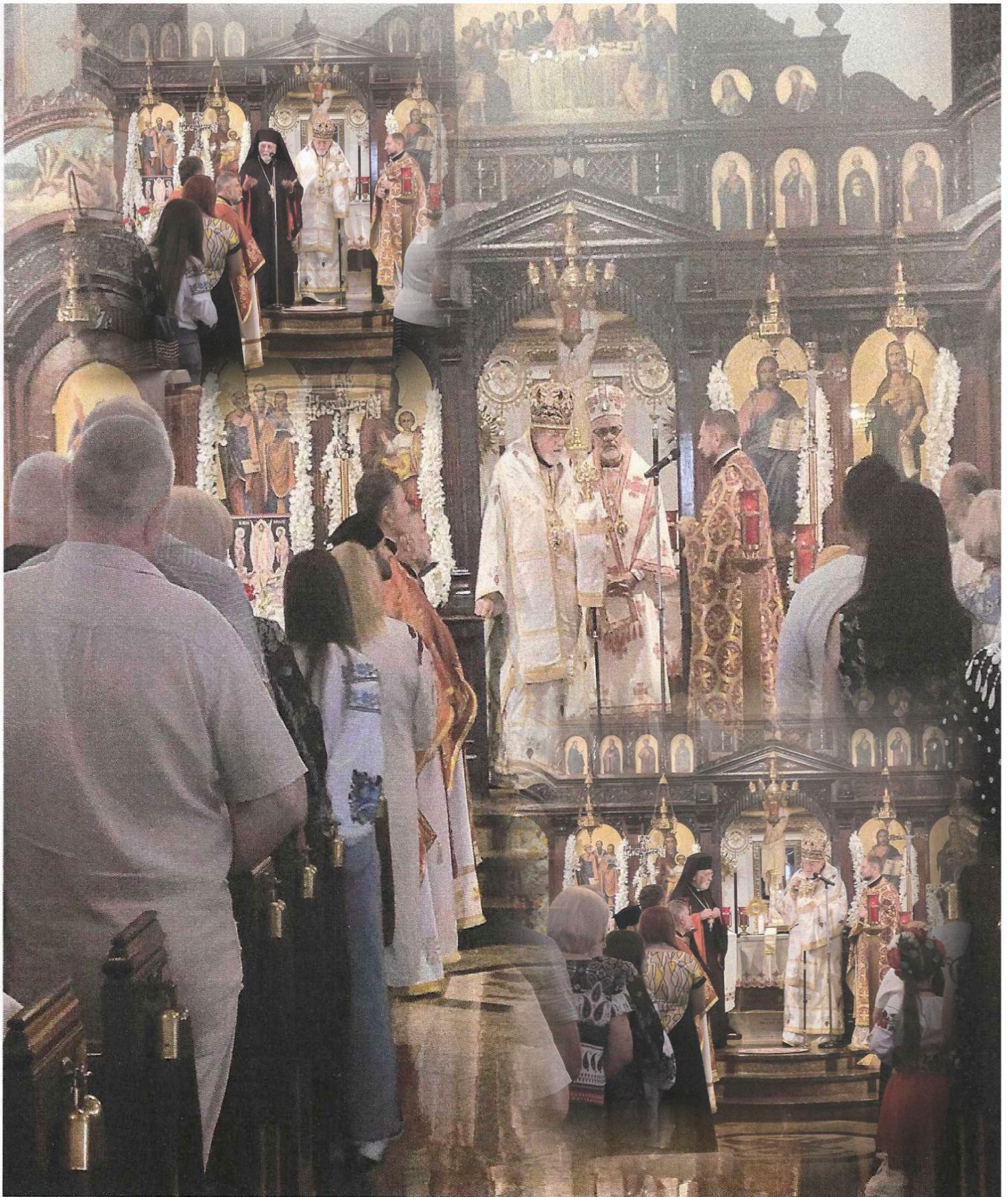
**PHANOUIROPITES** are special cakes that are prepared as thanksgiving to honor this martyr for ‘things FOUND’ Traditionally each cake or ‘pita’ is cut into portions to be shared with others celebrating his ‘heavenly birthday’ .....his holy martyrdom. I’m sure tht you have something to be thankful for that was lost. Come and share the JOY, the STORY, the CAKE.

Observance of the beheading of the BAPTIST JOHN: **MONDAY – AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup>**. Solemn Vespers welcome the faithful at the Gramercy Park CHURCH of Saint John the Baptist. 143 East 17<sup>th</sup>, Street – Manhattan at 7:00 P.M. celebrated by Bishop Athenagoras of Nanzianzos. The following morning **TUESDAY – AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>** the Divine Liturgy in solemn observance of the BEHEADING of the BAPTIST will be offered at 10:00 A.M. by the Pastor- Rev. Fr. Nicholas Samaras.

**ICON SHRINE VISITATION;** of the Baptist’s beheading will be available on the solea of the church proper from Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day week-end Sunday September 03<sup>rd</sup>. This ancient Icon in the strict Byzantine tradition is one of the prize artifacts of the Parish. **COME ! VISIT ! PRAY ! VENERATE! BE INSPIRED BY THE BAPTIST !**

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** + CAROL POULOS + NICHOLAS ZANETAKOS. +THEODORE PAPADAKIS  
+ STEPHANIE FELDMAN + ADELE THEOHARIS  
Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed !





On Sunday, August 13th, our parish was graced with the dual presence of His Beatitude METROPOLITAN ANTHONY and His Eminence ARCHBISHOP DANIEL of the UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH of AMERICA at the Anniversary celebration of the Mission of Saint Panteleimon (Patron Saint of ALL physicians and those in medical science). Father Vasyl Shak was elevated to PROTO-IEREVS for distinguished service in the vineyard of the Lord. Father Eugene was highlighted as the pioneer of this outreach in mission and addressed the overwhelming crowd of hundreds in attendance. Eight visiting clergy priests and deacons attended the celebration assisted by the Saint Sophia Seminary Choir. The music was astounding. A festive banquet was hosted in WHITEHALL for all guests.





# Brooklyn's First Pan-Orthodox Christian High School\*

\* target opening date September 2024



The Pan Orthodox Christian College Preparatory High School strives to provide an Orthodox Christ-centered atmosphere that enables students to become socially engaged, effective communicators and critical thinkers in a global environment. Students will be encouraged to fulfill their God-given potential. We envision a world in which the quality education students receive prepares them to be well rounded citizens with an Orthodox, Biblical Worldview, who will be successful leaders in their respective communities. [Mission Statement]



**In a Pan-Orthodox Christian High School**, our children will benefit from the same basic curriculum as any New York college prep high-school, enhanced with:

- Orthodox Christian Religious Teachings
- Faith-based Literature and Culture
- Spiritual Based Social Environment
- Traditional Orthodox Christian Languages, such as: Arabic, Georgian, Greek, Romanian, Russian, and Serbian.

**For more info and a sneak peak at the curriculum, please contact us at: [Info@panorthodoxhs.org](mailto:Info@panorthodoxhs.org), visit our website at [www.panorthodoxhs.org](http://www.panorthodoxhs.org) or scan the QR code to fill out a form.**



**“With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children, and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.”**

**— St. John Chrysostom**





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – imaafl@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2577

Κυριακὴ ΙΑ' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 18,23-35)  
20 Αὐγούστου 2023

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ἡ συγχωρητικότητα

«Κύριε, ποσάκις ἁμαρτήσῃ εἰς ἐμέ ὁ ἀδελφός μου καὶ ἀφήσω αὐτῷ; ἕως ἐπτάκις;» (Ματθ. 18,21)

**Ἡ εἰρήνη**, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε μυριοπόθητη. Ἀλλ' ὅσο εἶνε ποθητὴ, τόσο στὴν πρᾶξι εἶνε **δυσκατόρθωτη**. Ἡ ἱστορία εἶνε γεμάτη φρικτοὺς πολέμους ἐξ αἰτίας ἰδιοτελῶν συμφερόντων καὶ ἀδικιών. Οἱ ἄνθρωποι μὲ τὰ πάθη τους ἀποδεικνύονται ἀγριώτεροι κι ἀπὸ τὰ θηρία.

Καὶ ὅμως θὰ μπορούσε νὰ ἐπικρατήσῃ **στὸν κόσμο** ἡ εἰρήνη. Πῶς; Ὅχι ἀσφαλῶς μὲ ἓνα πόλεμο. Ἡ ἱστορία μαρτυρεῖ, ὅτι κανένας πόλεμος δὲν ἐβαλε τέρμα στοὺς πολέμους· ἡ εἰρήνη ποὺ ἐπιβάλλεται μὲ τὴ βία τῶν ὄπλων εἶνε σὰν χάρτινος πύργος. Ὑπάρχει ἄλλος τρόπος, ὑπάρχει «**ὁδὸς εἰρήνης**» (Ψαλμ. 13,3=Ρωμ. 3,17)· εἶνε τὰ λόγια ποὺ εἶπε ὁ Χριστός· «**Καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως**» (Λουκ. 6,31). Ὑπάρχει πιὸ ἀσφαλὴς τρόπος;

Καὶ ἂν στὴ γῇ δὲν ἐπικρατῇ ἡ παγκόσμιος εἰρήνη, **στὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ** τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔπρεπε νὰ ἐπικρατῇ, καὶ μάλιστα εἰρήνη βαθειά, ποὺ σὰν ποταμὸς θὰ δροσίζῃ τὶς ψυχές (βλ. Ἠσ. 48,18). Αὐτὸ εἶνε εὐκόλο. Μπορεῖ νὰ ἔχουν καὶ οἱ Χριστιανοὶ διαφορὲς ὡς ἀτελεῖς ἄνθρωποι, ἀλλὰ συναισθάνονται, ἀγωνίζονται καὶ ἔχουν ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο ἓνα κανόνα γιὰ τὴν ἐξομάλυνσι διαφορῶν καὶ τὴν εἰρήνευσι.

Τί λέει **ὁ κανόνας** αὐτός; Ὁφείλεις, Χριστιανέ, νὰ ζῇς εἰρηνικά μὲ τοὺς ἀδελφούς σου. Ἄν ἕνας ἀδελφὸς σὲ ἀδικήσῃ, μὴ διακόψῃς σχέσεις· συναντηθῇτε οἱ δύο σας μόνοι καὶ προσπαθῆστε μὲ πνεῦμα ἀγάπης νὰ λύσετε τὴ διαφορὰ· ἂν τὸ ἐπιτύχετε, νικήσατε τὸ σατανά. Ἄν ὅμως ἐκεῖνος δὲν θελήσῃ ν' ἀκούσῃ, πάρε μαζί σου ἓνα ἢ δύο ἄλλους ἀδελφούς, ὥστε νὰ ὑπάρχουν καὶ μάρτυρες, συναντηθῇτε μαζί του καὶ προσπαθῆστε νὰ συμφιλιωθῇτε. Ἄν καὶ πάλι δὲν ἀκούσῃ, ἀνάφερε τὸ ζήτημα στὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ, νὰ βοηθήσουν ὅλοι μὲ ἐπὶ κεφαλῇς τοὺς προεστώτες. Ἄν παρακούσῃ καὶ τὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ, τότε πλεον αὐτὸς ἀποκόπτεται καὶ δὲν θὰ ἔχῃτε σχέση μαζί του (βλ. Ματθ. 18,15-17).

Οἱ μαθηταὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἄκουγαν τὴ διδασκαλία του περὶ ἀγάπης καὶ ἀνεξικακίας, ἦταν ὅμως ἀκόμη στὸ πνεῦμα τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης ποὺ ἔλεγε «**Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου καὶ μισήσεις τὸν ἐχθρόν σου**» καὶ «**ὀφθαλμὸν ἀντὶ ὀφθαλμοῦ καὶ ὀδὸν ἀντὶ ὁδόντος**» (Ματθ. 5,43-5,38. Ἐξ. 21,24. Λευϊτ. 24,20. Δευτ. 19,21). Ἀλλὰ ὁ Πέτρος ἐνθουσιάζεται ἀπὸ τὴν ἀνωτερότητα τῆς καινῆς διδαχῆς καὶ ἐρωτᾷ τὸν Διδάσκαλο· «**Κύ-**

**ριε, ποσάκις ἁμαρτήσῃ εἰς ἐμέ ὁ ἀδελφός μου καὶ ἀφήσω αὐτῷ; ἕως ἐπτάκις;**» (Ματθ. 18,21). Τὸ νόημα τῆς ἐρωτήσεως εἶνε· Ναί, Κύριε, εἶμαι πρόθυμος νὰ δεῖξω ἀνεξικακία, ἀλλὰ μέχρι ποῦ πρέπει νὰ φτάσῃ ἡ συγχωρητικότητά μου; οἱ ῥαββίνοι, στηριζόμενοι σὲ χωρία τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης (βλ. Ἀμ. 1,3. Ἠβ. 33,29-30), λένε νὰ συγχωροῦμε μέχρι τρεῖς φορές· ἐγὼ ἀκούγοντάς σε προχωρῶ πιὸ πέρα καὶ λέω ἐπτά φορές· δὲν φτάνει;... Ὁ Πέτρος ξεπερνώντας τὰ ὅρια τῶν ῥαββίνων περιμένει ν' ἀκούσῃ ἔπαινο ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο· ἦταν ὅμως ἀκόμη μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ὁ Κύριος ἀπαντώντας τοῦ δείχνει ἓναν ἀπέραντο ὠκεανὸ ἀγάπης, γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο δὲν ὑπάρχουν ἀριθμοὶ μετρήσεως. Ἡ ἀγάπη δὲν εἶνε φειδωλή, δὲν μετριέται· σκορπίζει ἀφειδῶς τὰ δῶρα τῆς, εἶνε μεγάλη ὅπως καὶ ὁ Θεός· διότι «**ὁ Θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστὶ**» (Α' Ἰω. 4,16). Ὅχι λοιπὸν «**ἐπτάκις**», Πέτρο, ἀλλὰ «**ἐβδομηκοντάκις ἐπτά**» (Ματθ. 18,22), δηλαδὴ **ἀπερίοριστα, συνεχῶς καὶ διὰ παντός ν' ἀγαπᾷς καὶ νὰ συγχωρῇς**. Μπορεῖς τόσο;

Ὁ Πέτρος ἀκούσε καὶ σιῶπῃσε. Τί νὰ σκεπτόταν; Ἀπὸ τὸ ἓνα μέρος ἡ ἰουδαϊκὴ παράδοσι μὲ τὴν περὶ ἀγαπῆς καὶ συγχώρησι, ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ λατρευτοῦ Διδασκάλου, ποὺ τοῦ ἔδειχνε ὅχι σταγόνες ἀγάπης ἀλλὰ ἓνα ὠκεανὸ ἀπέραντο. Πῶς νὰ τὸν διαπλεύσῃ τὸ μικρὸ βαρκάκι τῆς ἐβραϊκῆς ψυχῆς; **Ἐπρεπε ἡ ψυχὴ του νὰ δεχθῇ Πνεῦμα ἅγιο.**

\*\*\*

Ὁ Κύριος, γνωρίζοντας τὴ διάθεσι τοῦ Πέτρου, δὲν ἀρκέστηκε μόνο στὴν ἀνωτέρω προτροπή, ἀλλὰ ἔρχεται τώρα καὶ μὲ μία ὠραία **παραβολή, τοῦ βασιλέως καὶ τοῦ ἀσπλάχνου δούλου** (βλ. ἔ.ἀ. 18,23-35), νὰ παραστήσῃ ἐποπτικώτερα τὴ διδασκαλία του. Ἐδῶ φαίνεται ἀπὸ τὸ ἓνα μέρος ἡ εὐσπλαχνία τοῦ παμβασιλέως Κυρίου, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶνε πρόθυμος νὰ σβῇσῃ ἀπὸ τὰ βιβλία τῆς αἰωνιότητος ἓνα τεράστιο χρέος ἁμαρτιῶν (ποὺ παριστάνεται μὲ **μύρια τάλαντα**, ποσὸ ποὺ ξεπερνᾷ τὰ δύο ἑκατομμύρια χρυσὲς λίρες), κι ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο ἡ ἀσπλαχνία τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ποὺ, ἐνῷ στὸν ἴδιο δόθηκε ἄφεσις ἀναριθμητῶν ἁμαρτιῶν, ἐν τούτοις αὐτὸς δὲν ἐννοεῖ νὰ συγχωρήσῃ τὸν ἀδελφὸ του, ἀλλὰ τὸν πιέζει καὶ τὸν πνίγει γιὰ ἓνα ἐλάχιστο χρέος (ποὺ εἰκονίζουν τὰ **ἐκατὸν δηνάρια**, περίπου ἑκατὸ δραχμές). Ὅποιοι διαβάξῃ τὴν παραβολὴ δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ μὴ φωνάξῃ· **Ὁ εὐσπλαχνία Θεοῦ, ὦ ἀσπλαχνία ἀνθρώπου!**



**Ἡ εὐσπλαχνία τοῦ Θεοῦ!** Ζαλίζεται ὁ νοῦς μας ὅταν ἀναλογιζώμαστε τὸ μέγα αὐτὸ μυστήριον. Τί δὲν ἔκανε ὁ Θεὸς γιὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπο! **Κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος πῶς φέρεται** ἀπέναντί του; τὸν εὐχαριστεῖ, τὸν δο-  
ξάζει, τὸν σέβεται, τὸν λατρεύει;

Ἀλλοίμονο! κάθε λεπτὸ τῆς ὥρας γίνεται ἓνα πλήθος ἁμαρτιῶν. Νὰ μπροστὰ σὲ ὅλους ἢ πλά-  
στιγγα τῆς θείας δικαιοσύνης. Ἀμαρτωλοὶ, ἐλᾶτε·  
ζυγιστῆτε ὅλοι, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, φτωχοὶ καὶ πλού-  
σιοι, λαὸς καὶ ἄρχοντες, ἀγράμματοι καὶ ἐπιστήμο-  
νες. Ἕνας, ποὺ ζυγίστηκε, βρέθηκε νὰ χρωστᾷ  
**«μύρια τάλαντα»** (ἐ.ἀ. 18,24). Καὶ ἂν ἀθροίζονταν τὰ χρή-  
ῳν, μπορεῖτε νὰ φανταστῆτε τί ἱμαλᾶια ἁμαρτι-  
ῳν θὰ σχηματίζονταν; Γιὰ ὅλα αὐτὰ τὰ ἁμαρτήμα-  
τα, τὰ ἀνομήματα, τὰ ἀδικήματα, τὰ ἐγκλήματα, τίς  
βλαστήμιες καὶ τίς ἄλλες ἀσέβειες, γιὰ ὅλα τὰ βδε-  
λυρὰ καὶ ἀποτρόπαια, ποὺ διαρκῶς μαζεύονται, θὰ  
ἔπρεπε ν' ἀνοίξουν οἱ καταρράκτες τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, νὰ  
σειστῇ ἡ γῆ, νὰ πλημμυρίσουν ποταμοὶ καὶ θάλασ-  
σες, νὰ σβῆσῃ ὁ ἥλιος, νὰ πέσουν τὰ ἀστρα... Ἀλλὰ  
ὁ Θεὸς μακροθυμεῖ! **Κ'** ἐπειδὴ ὁ ἄνθρωπος δὲν μπο-  
ρεῖ νὰ ἐξοφλήσῃ τὸ χρέος του, ἀντὶ νὰ ρίχτῃ αὐτὸς  
στὶς αἰῶνες φυλακές, ὑψώνεται στὸ σταυρὸ ὁ μο-  
νογενὴς Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ μὲ τὴν ὑψίστη ἐξιλα-  
στήριον θυσία τοῦ λυτρῶναι τὸν φταίχτη.

Συναμαρτωλὲ ἀδελφέ μου! Σκέφτηκες ποτὲ τὴν  
ἄπειρη εὐσπλαχνία τοῦ Θεοῦ; Ἦσουν ἔνοχος, χρω-  
στοῦσες μύρια τάλαντα. Ἐκατὸ χρόνια νὰ ζοῦσες  
σὲ μιὰ σπηλιά μὲ προσευχές, νηστείες καὶ ἄσκησι  
σκληρὴ, ἦταν ἀδύνατο νὰ λυτρωθῇς μόνος σου, ἂν  
δὲν ἐρχόνταν στὸν κόσμον ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Σώθη-  
κες μὲ τὸ αἷμα Ἐκείνου.** Μιὰ σταγόνα, ἓνα ἡκεκτρό-  
νιο τοῦ τιμίου αἱματός του φτάνει γιὰ νὰ σβῆσῃ τὸ  
πλῆθος τῶν ἁμαρτημάτων σου. Στὸ ὄνομα Ἐκείνου  
ὁ ἱερεὺς σου δίνει τὴν ἄφεσι τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν.

Ναί, παίρνεις ἄφεσι ἁμαρτιῶν. Ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ ἓναν ὄ-  
ρο, ποὺ θέτει ὁ Κύριος στὴν παραβολή· **νὰ συγχω-  
ρῇς κ' ἐσὺ ἀπ' τὴν καρδιά σου ἐκεῖνον ποὺ φταίει σ' ἐ-  
σένα.** Πῆρες ἓναν ὠκεανό, δῶσε κ' ἐσὺ μιὰ σταγόνα.  
Σοῦ χαρίστηκε ἓνα δισεκατομμύριο, πολὺ εἶνε νὰ  
χαρίσῃς μιὰ δραχμή; Τὸ ἀπαιτεῖ τὸ οὐράνιο συμφέ-  
ρον σου· γιατί ὄχι καὶ τὸ ἐπίγειο. Γιατὶ σὲ ῥωτᾷ·  
ποιὸς κάνει ἡσυχὸ ὕπνο, ἐκεῖνος ποὺ δὲν συγχω-  
ρεῖ ἢ ἐκεῖνος ποὺ ἀπ' τὴν καρδιά του συγχωρεῖ τὸν  
ἀδελφὸ του; Ἐκείνου ποὺ συγχωρεῖ δροσίζει τὴν  
καρδιά του ἢ αὖρα τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· ἐκεῖνου  
ποὺ δὲν συγχωρεῖ τὴν δαγκώνει τὸ ἀπαίσιο φίδι  
τῆς ἐκδικήσεως.

\*\*\*

Ὅλοι, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅσοι φέρουν τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ  
Χριστιανοῦ πρέπει νὰ εἶνε **πρόθυμοι νὰ δώσουν  
συγχώρησι** σὲ ὅποιον ἔφταιξε μὲν, ἀλλ' ἀναγνωρί-  
ζει τὸ σφάλμα του καὶ λέει· Συγχωρῆστε με γιὰ ὅ,τι  
κακὸ σὰς ἔκανα καὶ στὸ ἐξῆς ἀλλάζω διαγωγὴ... Τί;  
νὰ μὴ δώσουμε συγγνώμη σὲ τέτοιον ἄνθρωπο; νὰ  
κλείσουμε τὰ σπλάχνα μας; νὰ γίνουμε θηρία; Αὐτὸ  
καὶ μόνο φτάνει γιὰ νὰ μᾶς κλείσῃ τὴν θύρα τῆς  
βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν.

Ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλὸς ἀναφέρει στὶς διδα-  
χές του (βλ. ἡμέτ. ἔργ. σσ. 163 κ.ἐ.) τὸ ἐξῆς φοβερὸ παράδειγμα  
ἀπὸ τὴν ἐποχὴ τῶν διωγμῶν. Δύο Χριστιανοὶ φίλοι,  
**ὁ ἱερέας Σαπρίκιος καὶ ὁ Νικηφόρος,** εἶχαν μεταξὺ  
τους μιὰ διαφορὰ· ὁ Νικηφόρος ἔφταιξε σὲ κάτι

στὸν Σαπρίκιον, κατόπιν μετανόησε καὶ ζητοῦσε  
συγχώρησι, ὁ ἄλλος ὅμως δὲν τὸν συγχωροῦσε. Ὁ  
Σαπρίκιος ὠμολόγησε τὸν Χριστό, τὸν ἔπιασαν καὶ  
τὸν ὠδηγοῦσαν πλεον στὸ μαρτύριο. Ὁ Νικηφόρος  
ἔτρεχε πίσω του κλαίγοντας καὶ ζητώντας συγχώ-  
ρησι, ἀλλὰ ὁ Σαπρίκιος ἔμενε ἀμετάπειστος. Γι' αὐ-  
τὴ τὴν σκληροκαρδία του ὅμως, ἐνῶ τὸ ξίφος τοῦ  
δημίου ἦταν ἔτοιμο νὰ πέσῃ καὶ νὰ τοῦ χαρίσῃ τὸ  
στεφάνι τοῦ μάρτυρος, ἡ θεία χάρις τὸν ἐγκατέλει-  
ψε· δειλίασε καὶ ἀρνήθηκε τὸν Χριστό. Καὶ τότε τὴ  
θέσι του πήρε ὁ ταπεινὸς Νικηφόρος, ποὺ μαρτύ-  
ρησε ἀντὶ αὐτοῦ (ἐορτάζει στὶς 9 Φεβρουαρίου).

Δὲν φτάνει, ἀδελφοί, νὰ συγχωροῦμε μόνο ἐκεί-  
νους ποὺ μετανοοῦν καὶ ζητοῦν συγγνώμη· στὸν  
κύκλον τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ συγχωρήσεως πρέπει νὰ βά-  
λουμε **κ' ἐκεῖνους ποὺ** ἐξακολουθοῦν νὰ **μᾶς μι-  
σοῦν** καὶ θέλουν τὸ κακὸ μας. –Νὰ παραδοθοῦμε,  
θὰ πῆτε, στοὺς σφαγεῖς μας, ν' ἀφήσουμε νὰ πατή-  
σουν ἐπὶ τῶν πτωμάτων μας;... Ὑπάρχουν γι' αὐ-  
τοὺς **«αἱ τεταγμέναι ἐξουσίαι»**, ποὺ δὲν φέρουν **«εἰ-  
κὴ τὴν μάχαιραν»** (Ρωμ. 13,1-4) καὶ θὰ ἐκπληρώσουν τὴν  
ἀποστολή τους. Ἐσὺ μὴ γίνεσαι κράτος, μὴ γίνεσαι  
μάχαιρα, μὴν τρέφεις μέσα σου τὸ φίδι τῆς ἐκδι-  
κήσεως. Ὑψωσε τὴν καρδιά σου στὸν Ἐσταυρωμέ-  
νον, ποὺ γιὰ τοὺς δημίους του εἶπε **«Πάτερ, ἄφες  
αὐτοῖς· οὐ γὰρ οἶδασι τί ποιοῦσι»** (Λουκ. 23,34). Τότε μό-  
νο μπορεῖς νὰ λὲς **«Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ...καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν  
τὰ ὀφειλόμενα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίμεν τοῖς ὀ-  
φειλέταις ἡμῶν»** (Ματθ. 6,12). Διαφορετικά, γίνεσαι θεομ-  
παίχτης· καὶ ὁ **«Θεὸς οὐ μυκτηρίζεται»** (Γαλ. 6,7).

**Ὅποιος δὲν συγχωρεῖ ἁμαρτάνει σοβαρά.** Καὶ  
συχνὰ δυστυχῶς γιὰ τὸ ἁμάρτημα αὐτὸ δὲν ὑπάρ-  
χει συναίσθησι. Πολὺ κοπιᾶζουμε οἱ πνευματικοὶ νὰ  
πέισουν μαλωμένους νὰ συμφιλιωθοῦν. –Ὅποιον-  
δήποτε ἄλλον κανόνα βάλετε μου, ἀλλὰ νὰ συγχω-  
ρήσω αὐτὸν ποὺ μὲ ἔβλαψε; ποτέ!... Τρομερὸ δαι-  
μόνιο ἢ ἐκδίκησι· ἡ συγχωρητικότητα θεωρεῖται ἀ-  
δυναμία, ἐνῶ κατὰ τοὺς λόγους τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε  
ἀρετὴ, ἡρωισμὸς τοῦ πνεύματος.

Πρὸς ἐσᾶς τέλος, **ἐργάτες τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου,** στρέ-  
φομαι· γιατί ἐσεῖς δοκιμάζεστε περισσότερο. Ὁ κό-  
σμος τῆς ἀπιστίας καὶ τῆς διαφθορᾶς δὲν σᾶς συγ-  
χωρεῖ, γιατί ὑψώνετε φραγγέλλιο, μαστιγώνετε τίς  
κακίες τους, στηλιτεύετε τὰ ἁμαρτήματά τους. Ἄν  
ἦταν δυνατόν, θὰ σᾶς σταύρωναν στὴν πλατεῖα τῆς  
πόλεως· ψέματα, διαβολὲς καὶ συκοφαντίες εἶνε τὸ  
νόμισμα μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο σᾶς πληρώνει ὁ κόσμος τοῦ  
σατανᾶ. Ἐσεῖς λοιπὸν τί θὰ κάνετε; θὰ ζητήσετε  
ἐκδίκησι; Ὁχι. Ἀνυποχώρητοι στὶς ἀρχές τοῦ Εὐ-  
αγγελίου, ἐνῶ εἴστε ὀριμεῖς ἐλεγκταὶ τῆς πλάνης  
καὶ τῆς κακίας, νὰ εἴστε ὅμως συμπαθεῖς καὶ συγ-  
χωρητικοὶ πρὸς ἐκεῖνους ποὺ σᾶς μισοῦν καὶ σᾶς  
ἀνεβάζουν σὲ σταυρό. Παρακαλέστε τὸν Κύριον νὰ  
σᾶς δώσῃ ἀνεξικακία. Συγχωρῆστε. Πῆτε κ' ἐσεῖς  
τὰ λόγια τοῦ πρωτομάρτυρος Στεφάνου **«Κύριε, μὴ  
στήσης αὐτοῖς τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ταύτην»** (Πράξ. 7,60). Ὑπάρ-  
χουν κάτι ἀρωματώδη δέντρα, ποὺ ὅταν τὰ κόβουν  
περιλούζουν μὲ εὐωδιά τὸ τσεκούρι ποὺ τὰ χτυπᾷ.  
Ἔτσι κ' ἐσεῖς, ἀρωματώδη δέντρα μέσα στὴν Ἐκ-  
κλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, νὰ λούζετε μὲ τὸ ἄρωμα τῆς  
οὐράνιας συγγνώμης τὸν κόσμον ποὺ σᾶς πληγώνει  
καὶ σᾶς σταυρώνει.

(†) **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.

### *How Often Shall I forgive?*

When Peter asked Him whether he should forgive his brother sinning against him up to seven times, the Lord replied, "Not up to seven times but up to seventy times seven times." In every way He teaches us to be like Him in humility and goodness. In weakening and breaking the impulses of our rampant passions He strengthens us by the example of His leniency, by granting us in faith pardon of all our sins. For the vices of our nature did not merit pardon. Therefore, all pardon comes from Him. In fact, He pardons even those sins that remain in one after confession.

The penalty to be paid through Cain was established at sevenfold, but that sin was against a man, against his brother Abel, to the point of murder. But with Lamech the penalty was established at seventy times seven times, and, as we believe, the penalty was established on those re-

sponsible for the Lord's Passion. But the Lord through the confession of believers grants pardon for this crime. By the gift of baptism He grants the grace of salvation to His revilers and persecutors. How much more is it necessary, He shows, that pardon be returned by us without measure or number. And we should not think how many times we forgive, but we should cease to be angry with those who sin against us, as often as the occasion for anger exists. Pardon's frequency shows us that in our case there is never a time for anger, since God pardons us for all sins in their entirety by His gift rather than by our merit. Nor should we be excused from the requirement of giving pardon that number of times (i.e., seventy times seven), since through the grace of the gospel God has granted us pardon without measure.

*St. Hilary of Poitiers*

Visit [www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com) for more publications.

WEB SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit

**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](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live radio](#))

YOUR E-MAILING address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally.

See Website: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)