



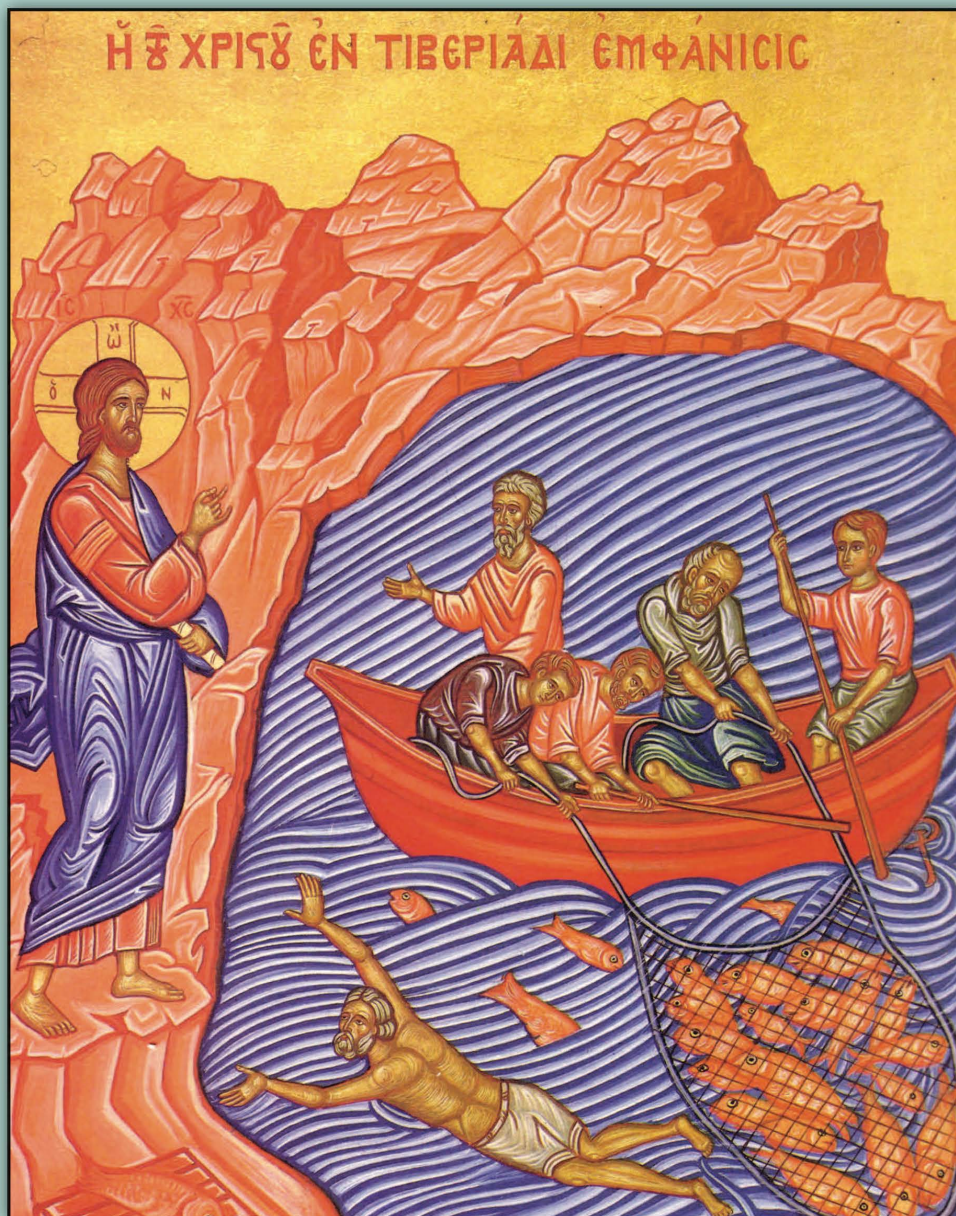
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 24th 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Catch of Fish*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4**  
**Psalm 67.35,26**  
*God is wonderful among his saints.*  
*Verse: Bless God in the congregations.*

*The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*

*TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'**  
**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26**  
**Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.**  
**Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.**

*Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 3:10-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα*

*Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἳά μοι ἐγένετο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οἷους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα· καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται. Πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.*

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 5:1-11 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

*At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

*Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, καὶ εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἄλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους. ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγρην. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγνυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἐτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντος συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρω τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἄνθρωπος ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρᾳ τῶν ἰχθύων ἢ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἳ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἄνθρωποις ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν*



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

**TODAY:** We are honored and pleased to welcome Fr. JAMES CALOGREDES who is offering the Divine Liturgy as celebrant in place of Fr. Eugene, the Pastor. After a long period of nearly four years without a vacation (DUE TO THE COVID SHUT-DOWN) Father Eugene has taken a one week respite and will return to the ALTAR next Sunday, October 01<sup>st</sup>. Please join us in receiving Fr. Calogredes with agape at the Fellowship Hour.

Up – coming CHURCHING of a new born daughter ‘VIKTORIYA MEENA’ of Vijay and Yekaterina (Desyarnikova) KITSON is scheduled for Sunday October 01<sup>st</sup>. NA SAS ZESE!

**ANAVRITIOTI SOCIETY:** will honor our Parish with their Annual Observance in solemn dedication to the PANAYIA PHANEROMENI (Our Lady of the Sign) with a ARTOCLASIA, MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, and FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION open to all in WHITEHALL on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 01<sup>ST</sup>. JOIN US!

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** The October monthly AGIASMOS ( Holy Water Blessing) usually offered on the FIRST of the MONTH , has been transferred to TUESDAY – OCTOBER 03<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 A.M. His Eminence has called for a CLERGY MEETING on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Nuptial Blessings are extended to Ms. Georgia Karalis who will be united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage to Mr. Nicholas Tsolakis on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE:** Grand celebration and anniversary of FOUNDERS DAY is scheduled for the ROSEHALL on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12 NOON. Please support our Demetra Chapter on this 30<sup>th</sup>, Jubilee Event. Check the insert flyer for all the details. SEE YOU THERE?

Archbishop Elpidophoros’ Patronal Name-day Dinner is announced for SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>. In New York City. Further details will follow shortly.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:** on the evening of Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, through the all night vigil to Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> the Oil Streaming Tearful ICON of PANAGIA KARDIOTISSA will arrive at Three Hierarch Church. Her last appearance was over six years ago during the Lenten observance of the Holy Salutations to the Theotokos. Thousand of faithful from various churches creeds, races and ethnic groupings flooded the church all night long for an anointing and veneration of the miraculous healing presence of the Virgin Mother of God. Many clergymen heard confessions all through the night in preparation for the morning Divine Liturgy and reception of the EUCHARIST. Further details of the visitation, schedule of services and anointing will be forthcoming as the date approaches. This wonder working healing icon comes to us from Taylor, Pennsylvania where it is continually visible for reverence and prayer. NOW, she comes to US: WE ARE INDEED GRATEFUL!

**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 !

**SENIOR CLUB CALENDAR:** is printed for all to participate any Wednesday afternoon at 1 P.M.

**MEMORIALS OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>,** + PARASKEVAS (PERRY) KOKOTAS, + DIONYSIOS (DENNIS ) GONATAS  
Up- Comings Memorials: SUNDAY , OCTOBER 08<sup>TH</sup>, +ANTHONY JANNACE + MARITSA KONSTAS

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!









## Senior Club Newsletter September - October 2023



Wednesday September 20th, 1:00 P.M.

Opening HOME- COMING  
B.I.N.G.O.  
Sweets, treats, and more sweets!  
Coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Wednesday September 27th, 1:00 P.M.

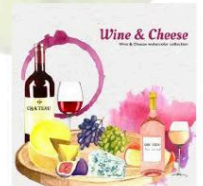


ORGANIZATIONAL DAY- join in the  
planning of the autumn season  
events, trips, field days!  
B.I.N.G.O.  
Autumn cakes and buns sweets  
Coffee and soft drinks

Wednesday October 04th, 1:00 P.M.



Wine and Cheese Festival!  
Tasting of the fruit of the vine  
and a variety of cheeses and dips.  
B.I.N.G.O.  
Coffee, tea and MORE WINE!



Wednesday October 11th, 1:00 P.M.



COLUMBUS DAY TRIBUTE  
Italian cookies, biscotti  
coffee tea, soda  
B.I.N.G.O.

Wednesday October 18th, 1:00 P.M.



*Light a Candle*



PANAGIA KARDIOTISSA Tale of  
miracle working anointing.  
Distribution of the 'VISITING'  
ICON on this Friday evening!

Lecture by Fr. Eugene  
Sweets, treats, coffee.  
B.I.N.G.O.

Wednesday October 25th, 1:00 P.M.



OXI-DAY Observance 1940!  
Flag waving, patriotic hymns  
BLUE and WHITE colors of the day.  
Grecian farmers luncheon,  
Hearty soup, horiati salata,  
Psomi tou fourno, and WINE!  
B. I. N.G.O.

We are indeed pleased to welcome so many back to the 'table' in ROSEHALL. Some of our members have taken ill and we pray for their recovery and happiness. Always remember that if the weather proves inclement, telephone the church to verify the meeting is scheduled.....winter is around the corner with snow and ice.



Georgia Stamos  
Co-President



Demetri Bouroutis  
o-President







# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αἰγυυσίου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imazflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imazflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2585	Κυριακὴ Α' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 5, 1-11) 24 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 πρῶτ	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυυσίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Ἄς Τὸν ἀκολουθήσουμε!

«Ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ» (Λουκ. 5,11)

**Ἀ**κούγεται ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ Κυρίου. Μᾶς καλεῖ ν' ἀφήσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὰ πάντα καὶ νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθήσουμε. **Ν'** ἀφήσουμε τὰ πάντα; Δηλαδή τὰ σπίτια μας, τὰ ἐργαστήριά μας, τὰ ἐπαγγέλματά μας, τὶς ποικίλες ἀσχολίες μας; Ὅχι. Διότι ὅλα αὐτὰ καλοῦνται νὰ τ' ἀφήσουν, ὅπως εἶδαμε, ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ὡς ἀπόστολοι κλήθηκαν σὲ εἰδική, ἔκτακτη ἀποστολή, ποὺ ἀπαιτεῖ ἀπόλυτη αὐταπάρνησι καὶ ἀφιέρωσι. Ἀλλὰ τότε τί ἐννοοῦμε ὅταν λέμε ὅτι ἐκεῖνος ποὺ θέλει ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ τὸν Κύριο πρέπει ν' ἀφήσῃ τὰ πάντα;

Ἀκοῦστε. Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὰ πράγματα ποὺ ἀποτελοῦν τὸν ὑλικὸ πλοῦτο, ποὺ ὅλοι καὶ οἱ πιὸ φτωχοὶ ἀκόμη, ἔχουν σὲ κάποια ποσότητα, ὑπάρχει κ' ἕνας ἄλλος πλοῦτος, πλοῦτος ὄχι ὑλικός, ὄχι ὁρατός, πλοῦτος ὄχι εὐλογημένος ἀλλὰ καταραμένος, ὁ ὁποῖος μὲ συνέργεια τοῦ σατανᾶ ἔχει συγκεντρωθῇ σὲ μυστικές ἀποθήκες. Καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ πλοῦτος εἶνε τὰ ἐλαττώματα, οἱ κακίες, τὰ πάθη. Παρ' ὅλη τὴν ψυχικὴ καὶ σωματικὴ φθορὰ ποὺ προκαλοῦν τὰ πάθη, ἐν τούτοις ὁ ἄνθρωπος τὰ ἀγαπᾷ, τὰ περιβάλλει, τὰ τρέφει, καὶ δὲν ἐννοεῖ ἐπ' οὐδενὶ νὰ τ' ἀποχωριστῇ. Ὑπάρχουν δὲ καὶ περιπτώσεις, ὄχι σπάνιες, ποὺ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαπᾷ τὸ πάθος τοῦ περισσότερο κι ἀπὸ ἀγαπητὰ πρόσωπα καὶ πράγματα. Ὅ,τιδήποτε καὶ ἂν τοῦ ὑποσχεθῇ, δὲν ἀποχωρίζεται π.χ. ὁ ἀλκοολικός τὴν οἰνοποσία, ὁ χαρτοπαίκτης τὴν χαρτοπαιξίᾳ, ὁ ἀκόλαστος τὴν σάρκα. Πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα τὸ ποτήρι, τὸ χαρτί, ἡ ἡδονή· πόσα κτήματα, πόσα σπίτια καὶ καταστήματα καὶ ἐργοστάσια, πόσες τεράστιες περιουσίες δὲν δαπανήθηκαν γιὰ τὴν ἱκανοποίησιν τῶν ἀκορέστων παθῶν;

Αὐτὰ τὰ πάθη ἀποτελοῦν τὰ ὑπάρχοντα, τὰ κύρια ὑπάρχοντα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ποὺ καλεῖται αὐτὸς ν' ἀφήσῃ, ν' ἀποχωριστῇ καὶ ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ τὸ Χριστό (βλ. Λουκ. 14,33). Τὸ ν' ἀφήσῃ κανεὶς ὑλικά ἀγαθὰ καὶ νὰ τὰ διαθέσῃ ὑπὲρ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὑπὲρ τῆς κοινῆς ὠφελείας, εἶνε βέβαια πρᾶξεις ἐπαινετῆς, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε τόσο δύσκολο ὅσο τὸ νὰ κόψῃ τὰ ἐλαττώματά του, τὶς κακίες καὶ τὰ πάθη του. Εὐκόλα οἱ ἀπόστολοι ἄφησαν τὰ πλοῖα καὶ τὰ δίκτυα, ἀλλὰ πόσο δύσκολα ἀπαλλάχθηκαν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἀπὸ πλανεμένες ἀντιλήψεις, ἐλαττώματα καὶ

κακίες ποὺ εἶχαν! Τὰ πάθη προσκολλῶνται ἐπάνω στὴν ὑπαρξί μας ὅπως στὴ χελώνα τὸ δασυράκι. Αὐτὰ γίνονται δευτέρη φύσι, κακὴ φύσι. Καὶ «φύσιν πονηρὰν μεταβαλεῖν οὐ ῥάδιον», τὸ ν' ἀλλάξῃ ἡ κακὴ φύσι δὲν εἶνε εὐκόλο, ἔλεγαν οἱ ἀρχαῖοι πρόγονοί μας (Μένανδρος).

Ὅλα ὅσα ἀποτελοῦν τὴν κακὴ περιουσίαν τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας, αὐτὰ καλεῖται ν' ἀπαρνηθῇ, ν' ἀποτάξῃ, νὰ ρίξῃ μακριὰ του σὰν παλιὸ ρούχο ἐκεῖνος ποὺ θέλει ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ τὸν Χριστό. Κι ὅτι αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ βάθος τῆς ἐννοίας τῆς ἀποτάξεως τὸ βλέπει κανεὶς στὴν ἀκολουθία τοῦ μυστηρίου τοῦ βαπτίσματος. Τὶς πονηρὲς συνήθειες, τὶς κακίες, τὰ πάθη, κάθε τι ποὺ ἀποτελεῖ τὴ συντροφιά τοῦ σατανᾶ, καλεῖται ν' ἀπαρνηθῇ ὁ βαπτιζόμενος ἂν θέλῃ ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ τὸν Κύριο. Καὶ ὁ Χριστός, «ὁ ἀναβαλλόμενος φῶς ὡς ἡμάτιον» (=αὐτὸς ποὺ ντύνεται σὰν ρούχο τοῦ τοῦ φῶς) (βλ. 1Θ2), δὲν θὰ τὸν ἀφήσῃ γυμνόν, ἀλλὰ θὰ τὸν ντύσῃ μὲ νέο ἔνδυμα, μὲ νέα ἄφθαρτη στολή. Καὶ ἄφθαρτη στολή εἶνε οἱ ἀρετὲς τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ποὺ πρέπει νὰ γίνουν καὶ ἀρετὲς τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ.

Ὅταν λοιπόν, Χριστιανέ, ἀκοῦς στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ὅτι οἱ τέσσερις ἀλγεῖς «ἀφέντες ἅπαντα» ἀκολούθησαν τὸν Χριστό, σκέψου ἐπάνω σ' αὐτὸ καὶ θέσε στὸν ἑαυτὸ σου τὸ ἐρώτημα· Οἱ ἀπόστολοι ἄφησαν ὅ,τι ὑλικὸ εἶχαν χάριν τοῦ Κυρίου· ἐγὼ τί ἄφησα πρὸς χάριν του; τί στοίχισε σ' ἐμένα ἡ πίστι μου ὡς τώρα; Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο δὲν μὲ ὑποχρεώνει νὰ ἐγκαταλείψω τὸ ἐπάγγελμά μου· μὲ καλεῖ ὅμως νὰ κάνω ἄλλου εἶδους θυσία· νὰ ἐγκαταλείψω τὶς κακίες μου συνήθειες, ὅλα ἐκεῖνα ποὺ ἀποτελοῦν τὸν «παλιὸν ἄνθρωπον» (βλ. βλ. Εφ. 4,2 καὶ 3,9). Τὰ ἄφησα ὅλα; ἢ μήπως ἐγκατέλειψα μόνο μερικὲς κακὲς συνήθειες ποὺ δὲν μοῦ στοίχίζουν καὶ πολὺ, κρατῶ ὅμως ἀκόμη ὠρισμένα ἀγαπητὰ μου πάθη, ποὺ γιὰ νὰ ἐλαφρύνω τὴ βαρὺτητα τοῦ τὰ λέω ἐπιεικῶς ἄνθρωπινες ἀδυναμίες, μὰ ἀδυναμίες ποὺ τόσο καταδικάζει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ;

Αὐτὲς τὶς ἐρωτήσεις πρέπει ν' ἀπευθύνῃ στὸν ἑαυτὸ του κάθε ἀκόλουθος τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διότι τὸ ν' ἀκολουθήσουμε τὸν Κύριο, ποὺ εἶνε ἡ σωτηρία μας, εἶνε τὸ σοβαρώτερο ζήτημα τῆς ζωῆς μας, καὶ



ἀλλοίμονο ἂν μερικὲς ἀδυναμίες δὲν ἀποφασίσουμε νὰ τὶς ἐγκαταλείψουμε· **θὰ μείνουμε μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο**. Ὑπάρχει μεγαλύτερη συμφορὰ ἀπ' αὐτὴν; Γί' αὐτὸ πρέπει μὲ τὴ βοήθειά του νὰ πετάξουμε ἀπὸ πάνω μας κάθε ἁμαρτωλὸ φορτίο καὶ ὡς εὐζωνοὶ στρατιῶτες νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθήσουμε στὴ μαρτυρικὴ καὶ δοξασμένη πορεία.

Μ' αὐτὴ τὴν πνευματικὴ ἔννοια ἂν ἐννοήσουμε τὸ «ἀφέντες ἅπαντα», **μπορεῖ ὁ καθένας νὰ μιμηθῇ τοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ τὸν Κύριο**. «Ἄφες τὴν πονηρὰν συνήθειαν μόνον», ἔσπευσε μόνον τὴν κακὴ συνήθεια, φωνάζει ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος, «καὶ μένων οἶκοι μετὰ τῶν σεαυτοῦ δυνήσῃ σωθῆναι ῥαδίως», καὶ μένοντας στὸ σπίτι μαζί μὲ τοὺς δικούς σου εὐκολὰ θὰ μπορέσης νὰ σωθῇς (ἐκτὸς Ματθ. ὁμ. 18 γ' Ρ. 57, 220).

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Ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ θελήσῃ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ν' ἀπαλλαγῇ ἀπὸ κάθε κακὴ συνήθεια, πρέπει νὰ ἔλθῃ σὲ **συν-αίσθησι** τῆς ἀθλιότητος ποὺ δημιουργοῦν τὰ ἀνθρώπινα πάθη καὶ νὰ κράξῃ πρὸς τὸν Κύριο, ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ τὸν σώσῃ.

Ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος δίνοντας μιὰ εἰκόνα τῆς ἀθλιότητος τῶν παθῶν λέει, ὅτι ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὴ δὲν διαφέρει καθόλου ἀπὸ ἓνα «**δεσμωτήριον**», **μιὰ φυλακὴ** (ἐκτὸς Ρ. 57, 222). Σὲ μιὰ φυλακὴ θὰ ἔβλεπε κανεὶς δυστυχισμένους καταδίκους νὰ 'νε δεμένοι μὲ βαρεῖς ἀλυσίδες· καὶ στὴ ζωὴ ἐτούτῃ, ἂν ἀφήσῃς τὴν ψεύτικη φαντασμαγορίαν τοῦ πλούτου τῶν ἡδονῶν καὶ τῆς δόξης καὶ παρατηρήσῃς στὸ βάθος τὴν ψυχὴ κάθε ἀνθρώπου, θὰ δῇς ὅτι δὲν διαφέρει ἀπὸ ἓνα κατάδικο· σέρνει κι αὐτὴ βαρεῖα δεσμὰ καὶ ὑποφέρει. Δεσμὰ καὶ ἀλυσίδες εἶνε τὰ πάθη τῆς. Ὁ πλεονέκτης πλούσιος π.χ. στιγμὴ δὲν ἀναπαύεται· ὅσο περισσότερα πλούτη ἀποκτᾷ, τόσο πιὸ βαρεῖα γίνονται τὰ δεσμὰ του, κ' ἔχει ἀπὸ πάνω του ἓνα φοβερὸ δεσμοφύλακα ποὺ δὲν τὸν ἀφήνει νὰ ξεμυτίσῃ ἀπ' τὸ κελλί ἀλλὰ συνεχῶς τὸν σπρώχνει πιὸ μέσα· ποιοὺν τὸν ἔρωτα τῶν χρημάτων.

**Εἶνε δέσμιες οἱ ψυχές!** Ταλαίπωροι ἄνθρωποι, ὅσο κι ἂν φαίνονται σωματικὰ ἐλεύθεροι, ζοῦν σὺν τοὺς φυλακισμένους ποὺ αὐστηροὶ δεσμοφύλακες τοὺς χτυποῦν μὲ μαστιγία. Καὶ τὸ χειρότερο εἶνε ὅτι τὰ δεσμὰ, ποὺ χαλκεύει ἡ ἁμαρτία γι' αὐτοὺς, μόνοι τους τὰ δέχονται πάνω τους, μὲ τὴ θέλησί τους. Ἐνα σχετικὸ ἀνέκδοτο εἶνε τὸ ἑξῆς.

Κάποιος **τύραννος** τῆς παλαιᾶς ἐποχῆς διέταξε ἓνα τεχνίτη καὶ κατασκευάσῃ μιὰ **ἀλυσίδα** ὥρι-σμένου μήκους μὲ τὴν ὑπόσχεσι ὅτι θὰ τὸν ἀμείψῃ ὅπως πρέπει. Αὐτὸς ἔφτιαξε τὴν ἀλυσίδα, ἀλλὰ ὁ τύραννος τοῦ εἶπε νὰ διπλασιάσῃ τὸ μήκος τῆς· κατόπιν πάλι νὰ τὸ διπλασιάσῃ· κ' ἔτσι ἡ ἀλυσίδα ἔγινε πολὺ μακριὰ καὶ βαρεῖα. Καὶ ἡ **ἀποβίη**, ποὺ ἔδωσε, ποιά ἦταν· διέταξε νὰ τοῦ δέσουν μ' αὐτὴν χερία καὶ πόδια καὶ νὰ τὸν ρίξουν ἰσοβίως **στὴ φυλακὴ!**

Κάτι παρόμοιο κάνει καὶ ὁ μέγας τύραννος τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος, ὁ διάβολος. Διατάζει καθένα ποὺ τὸν ἀκολουθεῖ τυφλά, νὰ φτειάξῃ τὴν ἀλυσί-

δα του, νὰ δουλέψῃ δηλαδὴ πάλι καὶ πάλι τὴν ἁμαρτία, κι ὅταν αὐτὴ καταντήσῃ πάθος, τότε κλάψτε τον, ὁ ἄνθρωπος γίνεται ἀλυσσοδεμένος σκλάβος τοῦ σατανᾶ. Ποιὸς φταίει; Ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

Σ' αὐτὴ τὴ φρικτὴ κατάστασι δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλη διέξοδος παρὰ μόνον ἐκείνη ποὺ συνιστᾷ ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος· **νὰ παρακαλέσουμε τὸν Λυτρωτὴ τῶν ψυχῶν νὰ σπάσῃ τὰ δεσμὰ, νὰ διώξῃ τὸ δεσμοφύλακα, νὰ μᾶς ἀπαλλάξῃ ἀπὸ τὰ πάθη καὶ νὰ κἀνῃ τὴν ψυχὴ μας ἐλαφρότερη κι ἀπ' τὰ φτερὰ τοῦ ἀετοῦ**. Πρέπει ὅμως κ' **ἐμεῖς νὰ συνεργήσουμε** ἀπὸ τὴν πλευρά μας βάζοντας «**σπουδὴν**» (=προσπάθεια) καὶ **γνώμην** (=θέλησι, ἐπιθυμία) καὶ **προθυμίαν ἀγαθὴν**» (ἐκτὸς θ' ἀπαλλαγούμε ἀπὸ τὰ κακὰ ποὺ μᾶς τυραννοῦν καὶ θὰ καταλάβουμε σὲ τί σκλαβιά ζούσαμε καὶ τί ἐλευθερίαν ἀπολαμβάνουμε τώρα ἀκολουθώντας τὸν Κύριο!).

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Ἀγαπητέ μου, ἀναρίθμητα παραδείγματα διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰώνων βεβαιώνουν, ὅτι μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο ἐπικρατεῖ μαύρη δουλεία, ἐνῶ κοντὰ του βασιλεύει ἐλευθερία, ποὺ πηγάζει ἀπὸ τὴ θυσία τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀπὸ τὸ τίμιο αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ὑστερα λοιπὸν ἀπὸ τόσα παραδείγματα καὶ τόση πείρα, **διστάζεις ἀκόμη ν' ἀκολουθήσῃς τὸν Κύριο;** Διῶξε κάθε δισταγμὸ καὶ πάρε τὴν ἀπόφασιν.

Συναμαρτωλοὶ ἀδελφοί μου, ἂς ἀκούσουμε τὴ μουσικὴ φωνὴ ποὺ μᾶς καλεῖ καὶ «**ἀφέντες ἅπαντα**» ἂς ἀκολουθήσουμε τὸν Ἰησοῦ ὅπου κι ἂν πάῃ.

### (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

(†) Ὁ Πολωνὸς λογοτέχνης Έρρίκος Σιέγκμιεβιτς σὲ διήγημά του μὲ τίτλο «Ἀκολουθήσαμεν Αὐτόν» περιγράφει μὲ τέχνη τὴ θλιβερὴν κατάστασι τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ψυχῆς στὸ πρόσωπο μιᾶς εὐγενοῦς Ῥωμαίας κόρης, τῆς Ἀνταίας. Αὐτὴ παντρεύτηκε τὸν πατρίκιον Κίνα, ποὺ τοποθετήθηκε διοικητὴς τῆς Ἀλεξανδρείας· τὸ ἐκλεκτὸ ζευγάρι ἔπλεε σὲ πελάγη κοσμικῆς χαρᾶς... Τοὺς βρῆκε ὅμως δοκιμασία, πόνος ἀνεξήγητος. Ἡ Ἀνταία προσβλήθηκε ἀπὸ μυστηριώδη ἀσθένεια, ποὺ τὴν κατέτρωγε ψυχικὰ καὶ σωματικὰ· ἐπὶ πλεον κάποιον φοβερὸ ὄραμα τὴν ἀναστάτωνα καὶ τὴ βύβριζε σὲ ἀπελπισία· μαραινόνταν σὺν λουλούδι ποὺ τὸ τοίμπησε φαρμακερὸ ἔντομο. Κανένα φάρμακο, κανένας γιατρὸς ἢ μάγος ἢ φιλόσοφος δὲν μπόρεσε νὰ τὴν γιάτρῃ. Ἀπελπισμένος ὁ Κίνας ἔφερε τὴν Ἀνταία στὴν Παλαιστίνην ὅταν ἡγεμόνας ἐκεῖ ἦταν ὁ γνωστός τους Πόντιος Πιλάτος. Καὶ ἔφτασαν ἐκεῖ πότε· τὴν ἡμέραν ποὺ θὰ σταυρωνόταν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. Κ' ἐπειδὴ ἡ ἀσθενὴς ἐπιθυμοῦσε νὰ δῇ τὸν κατάδικον, ὁ Πιλάτος φρόντισε, ὥστε τὸ φορεῖο ποὺ θὰ τὴν μετέφερε νὰ στηθῇ σὲ σημεῖο τῆς ὁδοῦ πρὸς τὸ Γολγοθᾶ, ἀπ' ὅπου θὰ μπορούσε νὰ δῇ τὴν πομπή. Καὶ εἶδε... Νὰ ὁ Ἰησοῦς φορτωμένος τὸ σταυρὸ περνᾷ. Στὸ ἀντίκρουσμα τῆς μορφῆς του ἡ Ἀνταία συγκλονίστηκε ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνώτερα αἰσθήματα, ἀνέλαβε δυνάμεις, σηκώθηκε πάνω στὸ φορεῖο, εἶδε τὸν βασιλέα τοῦ πόνου καὶ τοῦ μαρτυρίου καὶ ἄρχισε νὰ τὸν ραίνει μὲ θυμὸν... Τὰ χεῖρά της ψιθύρισαν· «Εἶσα ἡ Ἀληθεῖα!...». Ἀπὸ τὴ στιγμὴ ἐκείνη ἡ Ἀνταία θεραπεύθηκε. Καὶ ὁ δούσιτος σύζυγός της πιστεύει. Σὲ προτροπὴ τῆς ἀκούγεται αὐτὸς νὰ λέγῃ· «Ἄν ὄντως μᾶς καλεῖ, ὅς **τὸν ἀκολουθήσουμε**». Αὐτὸ εἶνε σὲ σύντομη περιλήψιν τὸ διήγημα, πλᶆσμα βέβαια πλούσιον φαντασίας τοῦ συγγραφέα, ἀλλὰ παριστάνει ζωηρὰ δύο πραγματικότητες· τὴν ἀγωνία τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ψυχῆς καὶ τὴ λύτρωσιν τῆς ἀπὸ τοῦ Χριστοῦ (βλ. ἐκτὸς 5, 175-180 περ. «Χρ. 328», το βιβλίον τὸ ἀπετέλει θετὸς ε. 134 καὶ ἐκ θετὸς ε. 13, ε. 5 καὶ, ἐκτὸς περ. 182, ε. 13 καὶ).

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**

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**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.

*Christ Continues to Catch People*

He told Simon and his companions to sail off a little from the land and to let down the net for a draught. But they replied that they had been toiling the whole night and had caught nothing. However, in the name of Christ, they let down the net, and immediately it was full of fish. By a visible sign and by a miraculous type and representation, they were fully convinced that their labor would be rewarded, and the zeal displayed in spreading out the net of the gospel teaching would be fruitful. Within this net they should most certainly catch the shoals of the heathen. But note that neither Simon nor his companions could draw the net to land. Speechless from fright and astonishment for their wonder had made them mute, they beckoned to their partners, to those who

shared their labors in fishing, to come and help them in securing their prey. For many have taken part with the Holy Apostles in their labors, and still do so, especially those who inquire into the meaning of what is written in the holy Gospels. Yet besides them there are also others: the pastors and teachers and rulers of the people, who are skilled in the doctrines of truth. For the net is still being drawn, while Christ fills it, and calls to conversion those who, according to the Scripture phrase, are in the depths of the sea, that is to say, those who live in the surge and waves of worldly things.

*Saint Cyril of Alexandria*

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