

in need, to do a small or larger toil in their life, in order to show that they are thanking God and fellow man for the love!

The eucharistic relationship, the blessing that becomes an offering and our participation in every work, material and spiritual, comprise elements of the mystery which characterizes the relationship of God and man. In an age that demands from the Church the material philanthropy, with people as its passive receivers, faith seeks the activation and the participation of everyone in the struggle for the relationship with Christ. This is also the final meaning of every miracle

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020, 8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW,**

*Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr , Holy Glorious New Martyr Theodore of Dardanellesr, Phocas the Martyr, Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury*

**TONE OF THE WEEK :** *Grave Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Eigth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 14 : 14 - 22*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020, 9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*The Holy Apostle Matthias , Anthony the Martyr of Alexandria, Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, , Constantine, Patriarch of Constantinople, Euthymios the Hieromartyr, Metropolitan of Rhodes*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 14:22-34*

VOICE OF THE LORD', a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the "Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece". Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher -Director . Metropolitan of Phanouriou Agathangelos, Composition, tel. 210.7272.331. Execution, tel. 210.7272.338. It is distributed for free by the sacred churches. From the Press of the Apostolic Ministry.



**68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AUGUST 2, 2020 PAMPHLET # 31 (3505)**

## THE SPIRITUAL SATIATION

In one of the most human moments of His earthly activity, Christ will take in his hands "five breads and two fish" and "having looked up to heaven" (Mt. 14:19) He will bless and will make five thousand men, as well as women and children be fed through these, who were listening to Him for one day in the desert!

### Begin from God

The fact impresses us that Christ, before doing the miracle, and while He was holding in His hands the human food, lifted up His eyes to heaven and blessed the matter. With this movement, the Lord shows that everything leads up to God. It is He who created the world, He gives us the goods for our survival, He strives for our needs, He gives us His word, for us to satiate our spiritual hunger for meaning for life. Christ's movement of turning to heaven, reveals precisely this. To show man that for every good of this or of eternal life, man is called to turn to God as his father, and to leave himself to the mystery of response which springs out of love.

This does not mean human inertia. The miracle happened then. The mystery, however, is lived constantly through man's eucharistic relationship of man and God. Man is called to look up to

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 14: 14 - 22*

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds

---

heaven every moment of his life. To glorify and thank God for everything that He gives him, even if this seems like a cross and trial. To entrust God as father. And to enjoy whatever he has received, even if this seems small and unimportant, with a spirit of doxology and gratitude. "Begin from God". It is a path which, without underevaluating human toil, leaves each of us to understand that toil and trust give birth to the mystery. But also, that "man shall not live by bread alone" (Mt. 4:4).

### **Offering to others**

The blessing that Christ granted to the bread and to the fish, is the second point; it is the visible sign of the miracle. I bless means, I'm saying a good word. It means, I seek from God the abundance in whatever I'm setting out, or in whatever I'm holding. The abundance however, includes also, the offering to others. Because this was the reason why Christ blessed the material goods. Not in order to

establish people as rich from these, but in order to support them, to give them the joy to seek the fullness, not only of the soul, from his word, but also of the body, from the food. So, for this reason also, the Church blesses each human work. Not in order to establish it as a goal in and of itself. But in order to give man to understand that the mystery of his relationship with God sanctifies his journey, not however, in order for he himself to be set up as self sufficient, egocentric and to leave himself to the enjoyment of the goods for himself. Each of our works is blessed when it aims at the offering to others. Otherwise, it is materialized and may be altered into a trap, which will swallow us.

### **Participation in the works of love**

Finally, Christ will give to His disciples the material goods to share them in their turn to the people. Each movement, each work, spiritual and material, needs its servants. Christ himself did not distribute the food, not only for practical reasons, but also because He wanted to show His disciples that every work cannot be individual. It needs a collective activity, which would include the others also as receivers of the mystery, of the blessing, of love. Often people seem to await our food ready, material and spiritual. It is worth it however, for us to contribute if not to its preparation, at least to its offering and its spreading.

Christ did not do the miracle for people whom He met by chance, but for those who toiled, hearing Him the entire day. And He sent His disciples, in order to show people that He is not alone, as also that each one is able to contribute to whatsoever work. Because it is certain that to the disciples in the gathering of the remnants, that reached to twelve big baskets, some of the people also helped Him, who ate and were satiated. The Church is calling us to do this in every philanthropic movement. To give with joy, but also to urge whoever is