

treated unjustly in something. If however, such is the glory of our Saints, according to the infallible experience of our Church, so that we are not able to define its majesty, and for the Apostle Paul to be assuring us also that this is what is partial and not what is complete, then we can easily understand why man's imagination is incapable and the perceptive ability is surpassed, since they cannot even approach what Holy God has infallibly promised "to those who love Him"!

Why is God "unjustly treating" His Saints? For our sake, the Apostle Paul will say! For us, so that we do not feel them cut off from us, so that we don't feel that they "were settled", "taken care of" and consequently they have no reason to care for us. But also so that we not consider that in God's love there are favored and distinguished ones. Finally, all these things are happening in the dimension of one more exhortation, of one more supplication, of one more encouragement for us to make the big decision and to appear diligent to God's calling to us, living His will in our life. Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015 THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS, *The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra, Our Righteous Father Panagis (Paisios) Basias, Tarasios & John the Martyrs, Sebastian the Wonderworker, Zenais the Martyr.*

tone of the week: *Plagal of the Fourth Tone,*

Eothinon *First Eothinon,*

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40;12:1-2*

GOSPEL *Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30*

NEXT SUNDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW,

The Holy Prophet Elisseus (Elisha), Methodius the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople, Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna

EPISTLE *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16*

GOSPEL *Matthew 4:18-23*



63RD YEAR

JUNE 7, 2015

PAMPHLET # 23 (3236)

THE WONDROUS ODD THING

It is maintained that today's Sunday of All Saints, which comes as a continuation of Sunday of Pentecost, comprises the proof of the Holy Spirit's activity in history, as it shows forth with the infinite multitude of All Saints, the results of the indwelling (in other words revelation) of the Comforter. Even though this applies, today's Epistle Reading does not focus its attention on the infinite fruits of the sanctifying work of our Church. On the contrary it comes to refer to those who from another optical corner, capable not of making us rejoice, but that we question very deeply and from this to decide to undertake our responsibilities from our Christian status.

About All Saints the Apostle Paul speaks to his compatriot Jews and through them to the pleroma of the Church throughout the ages. And he initially describes the variety of the tortures which they underwent for the sake of Faith, but also the wondrous things they achieved, working miracles for the people of God and enduring the myriads of things without yielding, to the dismay of their persecutors. And while one would expect Paul to continue praising the proven people of God and stressing that all these people were not forgotten with death, nor were they defeated because they died at the hands of their executioners, but on the contrary they were victorious since they are living eternally, and the believers of all centuries, of all ages and places remember and

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 67.35,26

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

honor them, whereas on the contrary no one honors and respects those who once were eminent rulers, the Apostle projects something else.

What is real

The Apostle Paul in the most pivotal turn of his speech, referring to All Saints emphatically stresses that the world is not worthy of them. "Of whom the world was not worthy"! The total creation,

with all people, if one compares it with the multitude of All Saints, ascertains that the first is desperately lacking! This world does not benefit the Saints! It is not worthy of possessing treasures of such morality and spiritual value! The world has not done something to be able to claim the existence of Saints in it.

And nevertheless the Lord of Glory allows their presence among us and their mediating intervention for us after their exit from this life. We are not worthy of them and nevertheless, they are after Holy God, our most important fellow succourers, our helpers, our protectors, our own people...And thus we feel them in the Church, so for this reason also, we call upon them, having however a feeling that we are very lacking from them. In the persons of our Saints we feel and grasp where the Grace of the All Holy Spirit can elevate man! But also how accountable we are, who while we realize the capability which God gives us and the invitation He addresses to us, we prefer to turn our back to holiness and claiming it, being occupied with the vanity of the darkness of this world.

What is unbelievable

As comprehensible as the previous thing is which the Apostle Paul said about the Saints, so odd is that which he adds. And all those Saints, even though they received a praising witness for their Faith, did not enjoy the promise of heavenly inheritance, because God foresaw for us something better, so that they not receive salvation to the perfect degree without us, but for us to all enjoy it together. The Saints, who forbore so many things for the Lord's Name and Glory, do not yet partake in the fullness of all that God promised as man's inheritance! They don't enjoy the fullness of Paradise! They are not yet resting in the eternal restoration! Whatever they are enjoying they are rejoicing in it partially! It is obvious that each gift of God, even in part, is incomprehensible for man's mind and in this sense, the Saints don't feel that they are missing something, or that they are being