

Him. Awaiting to receive, as the Mother of all, every soul that leaves from this life, having decided to stretch out his hand to Christ!

A simple woman blesses the Virgin Mary (Lk. 11:27) as the mother who holds Christ in her womb and nursed him! Christ, however, asks us to listen to the word of God and to implement it, so that we can give a new meaning to our relationship with our parents, but also with the entire world. To follow the path and the way of the Virgin Mary. The journey of the Church. The repentance that makes us resurrect from our passions. The love that shares and liberates even from death!

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 2020, 11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*Apodosis of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, Our Holy Father Ireneaus, Bishop of Lyons. Our Holy Father Kallinikos, Patriarch of Constantinople, Lupus the Martyr, Our Righteous Father Nicholas of Sikelion, 38 Martyrs of Thrace, Our Holy Father Irenaeus, Bishop of Sirmium, Haralambos of Kalyvoiani.*

**-tone of the week :** *Second Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Eleventh Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9 : 2 - 12*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 18 : 23 - 25*

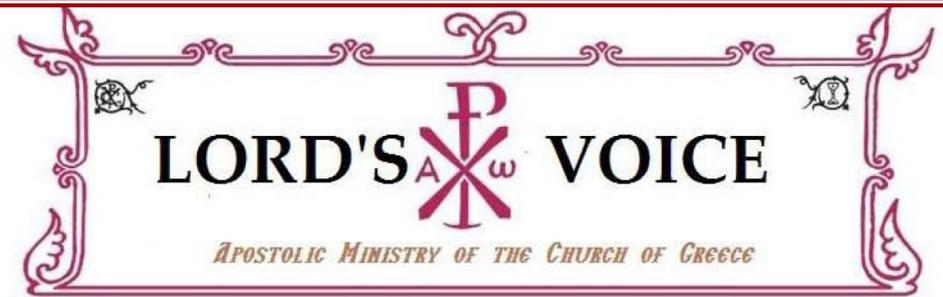
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 2020, 12TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*Apodosis of the Feast of the Forerunner, Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople, Phantinos the Righteous of Calabria, 16 Monk-martyrs of Thebes , 6 Martyrs of Melitene, The Synaxis of the Holy Hierarchs of Serbia , The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia, Fiacre the Hermit of Meaux.*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Matthew 18 : 23 - 25*

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## “BLESSED IS THE WOMB THAT BORE YOU”

One of man's greatest joys is to see his children progressing! To feel that the offspring of his womb is advancing in his life, surpassing the journey of his parents. The mother especially has this feeling, since she also feels the natural bond with her child. She carries him in her womb. She hears his heart within her. She feeds him with the umbilical cord. She imparts her emotions to him, the tenderness, but also the difficulties of her character, because the bond of mother-child is not only natural-biological, but also psychological. The embryo feels his mother's heartbeat and agony about how and when he will be born. When the mother leans her hand on her belly and feels the embryo's movements, she communicates with him. He is her child. And at the same moment, the child's birth, in essence, becomes a death and resurrection not only for himself, but also for the mother!

### The birth as death and resurrection

Death, because the coexistence within the womb ends. The toilless survival ends for the child, but also the feeling that life is within the mother's body. At the same moment however, the resurrection starts out, the exit, in other words, into a new way of life. For the mother,

## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 9: 2 - 12***

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he Deqasaid, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

the resurrection has to do with love. For the infant, it has to do with freedom. And both conditions give a new meaning to the relationship of mother and child. The mother, loving and caring for her child, is called to guide him, in his freedom, to become an autonomous personality, with his own identity. Without the mother ceasing to love, to be able to build his own world. To become a free person. To know why he is living, so that he can be able to live on his own. In the beginning, he will be crying to give a sign that he has needs. To eat, to sleep, to be clean, for them to pay attention to him. Gradually, the mother's love will make him speak, to express himself rationally, to seek to become independent. To learn to live and to relate on his own. Because survival does not suffice, if he is not dealing with creating relationships.

### **The joy for another progress**

And the journey of upbringing is healthy, when the child ceases seeing his own needs as his sole priority, and paying back the love that he received from his mother, he offers love both to her and to the entire world. So, for this reason also, the person of the father plays a very strong role, both in the pregnancy, as mainly in the upbringing

of the child. The father detaches the child from the relationship of dependency on his mother, and teaches him to share with others whatever he received, in other words, love. Thus, the person is led to freedom!

Usually the parents boast about their children's successes and behavior. How important would it be for us to be able to rejoice when they would tell us about our children: "He knows how to love! He knows how to share! He knows how to forgive! He knows how to be free! He knows how to give meaning of life to others! He knows how to live God and to share this life!

### **The Virgin Mary as a model!**

The Church reminds us of all these things through the Gospel excerpt that we read in all the great feasts of the Most Holy Theotokos as also that of her Dormition. The attribute of the Virgin Mary to be "Mother of Life" is the most important one that was given to a human "She was translated to life", after she first showed to the world what it means for a mother to raise her child and to leave him humanly free. To rejoice that she has him as her own, but also that he is the whole world's, of all human history! To live the exit of her child from her body "without pains" not as death, like all mothers, but as a gift of life for everyone! To not fear for the world's disapproval to the person of her son, to not hate the world, but to stretch out her maternal embrace and in the person of her son, to embrace and become the mother of all people! To remain in the Church as the strengthening of the apostles and all Christians! And at the moment of her dormition, at the moment of her death, to taste a new resurrection: the eternal one this time, in order to become the mediatrix and the one awaiting! A mediatrix in order for all of us to partake in the joy of the relationship with her Son and God, without the mistakes, the passions, the dependencies, the egocentrism, the haughtiness of mind, separating us from