

But, glorifying and thanking God who sent our Lord Jesus Christ, for us to become witnesses of His longsuffering and charity to our persons. For us to see the joy of holiness, which validates our life not temporally, but eternally.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE** , Xenia, Deaconess of Rome , Vavylas the Holy Martyr, Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ , Philo the Wonderworker, Bishop of Karpasia in Cyprus

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

**EOTHINON** : Eleventh Eothinon

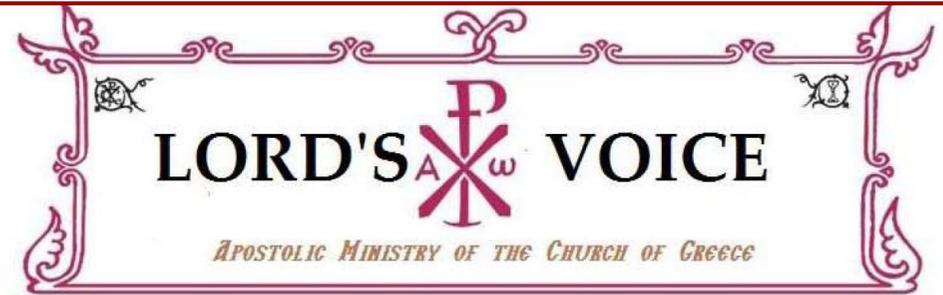
**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 18:35-43

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE** , Cyrus & John the Unmercenarys , Holy Women Martyrs Theodote, Theoktiste and Eudoxia, Our Righteous Father Arsenius of Parus, Elias Ardounis the New Righteous-Martyr of Mount Athos Aed from Ferns

**EPISTLE READING** :St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

**GOSPEL READING** :Luke 9:1-10



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JANUARY 24 2021 PAMPHLET # 04 (3530)**

### WHAT WILL WE LEAVE BEHIND?

In our life we function almost always with the sense of the present. We see our needs and our desires, it is difficult however, for us to think in the depth of time. Sometimes we may set plans for our later life. Rarely however, do we think that aside from whatever material things we have, and we will hand down to those who follow, there also is the spiritual dimension of our being, our relationship with God. And this has to do not only with our family and life, but also with our persons themselves. Our Church calls us to become models of faith in Christ for whoever comes after us and for us to help them to be led to eternal life. "For an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life." (1 Tim. 1:15).

How possible is this for us Christians, when we are living in a secularized society? When most people declare that they are Christians, in action, however, they have no relationship with Christ, or their relationship is mechanical? Do we have such strength, so as to become examples of faith for the others, when we have not found our own self, our own path? Today furthermore, we exist essentially as a small flock, which is fighting with the temptations of distraction, of indifference for the course of society, and of passivity, but also of defeat, from the power of the world, the culture and sin. The peaceful exhortation is heard, that we become a foreshadowing for "those who will believe".

## THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (TIMOTHY 1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

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### Humility and gratitude

And nevertheless, such a path is possible. To begin with, because it is not a work and achievement of our own, but a gift of God's mercy to each one of us, so long as we cry out that we are the first of sinners. It is not just an expression of humility, but also of gratitude, because Christ came for us. To have mercy on us. To give us the opportunity to live His longsuffering. The recognition of our sinfulness is not humble speech, but a ray of optimism. And this, just as, despite the fact that we are what we are, nevertheless we received mercy from God who loves and only loves. Each one of us has his small personal story before God and faith. If he is living his repentance, then he is living the mercy of God.

This path is possible because we people were not made to live on our own. We have within us the thirst for communion, in order to give our gifts, our faith, our goods, whatever we are. And if what we are, springs from our relationship with God, then we have truth, love, and meaning to give to others. Joy and smiles. Hope that surpasses the temporal things, and shows the path towards eternity. It is what is missing from our life. For us to not remain in the "here and now". Without us refusing to serve the needs of the others, and for us to

satisfy whatever needs of our own, do not harm us, we see matters in the perspective of what is eternal. We know to what we need to give emphasis, and what we are able to allow to pass.

For example, our moments. We people have both good and bad ones. If our own self is able to handle his bad moments and to endure also the corresponding ones of the others, without being defeated by the tendency of rejecting them, because they give him difficulty, then we are in the path of communion. Because again also we are not on our own, since our Lord always strengthens us in love.

### We follow the Saints

This path is possible because the Church exists. Within her exists whoever preceded us in the path of the model. The Saints of our faith. All those who, without striving for it, felt their heart flooding both from the mercy of God, as well as from the need to share with their fellow men the joy and love which true faith offers, not doing a sermon by necessity, but living in God. We are called to know the Saints in the life of the Church. For us to live their manner with safety. And in seeing them, for us to feel that neither death or evil can defeat us. "God is with us". The world may place the life of the Saints off to the side, because we people seek to enjoy the present things, and to hand ourselves over to the passions of today, however, we ascertain that in the end, the Saints, even though something did not belong to them, they possessed and tasted everything, setting out from the joy of faith.

The path and manner of the world differs from that of faith. We need, however, without haughtiness, to realize that we were called, and are being called to leave the name of a believer in life also, for whoever will come after us. Because even if we are few, we should not be disappointed.