

the problem. The struggle however, for faith to be above the necessity does not stop. The Godman Christ knew that He is addressing man. Him who is defeated by the temptations. Him who has set boundaries in his being in such a manner, that his own self precedes, and then the relationship with God follows. And Christ, through the Church condescends, but He also shows the truth.

The question comes to us also. We obtained the faith from the beginning of our life and not from conversion. Despite these things, we also murmur because we see life in the perspective of survival, of rights, of our needs, of our differentiation, in other words, in the perspective of the old man. So, for this reason, we need to trust the Church as an institution that was sanctified and sanctifies. To not use the absence of the perfection of the others as an excuse, but with humility to remain enlisted in the body of Christ, and with trust and patience to find our way. So that murmuring does not win, but the disposition for unity and life with the real Life. Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021 THOMAS SUNDAY SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN, *Theodore the Sanctified, Holy Martyr Peter of Blachernae, New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovo, Nicholas the Mystic, Patriarch of Constantinople, Alexandros, Archbishop of Jerusalem, Brendan the Navigator*

TONE OF THE WEEK : -Second

GOETHINON : Fourth

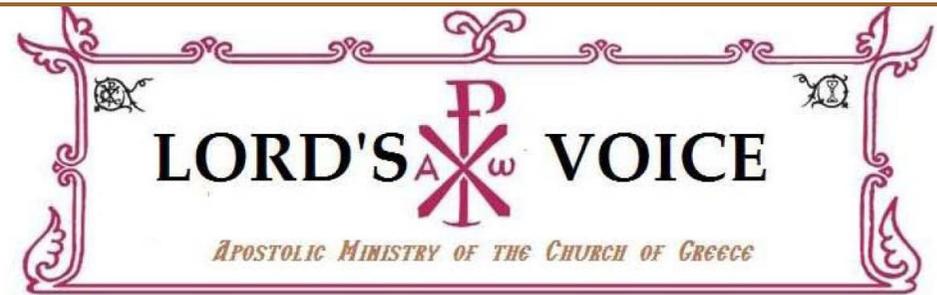
EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7*

GOSPEL READING : *Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8*

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC *Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada, Mary the Myrrhbearer & wife of Cleopas*

EPISTLE READING : *Acts of the Apostles 9: 32-42*

GOSPEL READING : *John 5:1-15*



69TH YEAR MAY 16 2021 PAMPHLET # 20 (3546)

MURMURING

We people seek perfection from areas like the Church. That they follow our own wants, our own models, that no flaws exist in the way that they function. And if furthermore, we see that something is not going well, we scornfully move our head, and say that there is no reason for the rest of the people to follow an institution that is not able to transform its own people.

Perfect or struggling people?

However, the Church is not an area of perfect people, but a body that is comprised of members who want to be sanctified, people who have their good qualities and their faults, who are struggling, who fall and get up, who have their ego and the tempter troubling them. Sometimes they are defeated. However, they do not remain in their defeat. They fight to find solutions according to the criteria of love. They do not remain in murmuring, in permanent grumbling, in other words, and the whining that troubles many people. Because murmuring has to do with a person's desire to protest, because he does not find matters as he wants, without being willing to forbear, to forgive, to put up with. The Church, however, seeks from people to proceed with sincerity, but also with a disposition to coexist, and not to be stressing their differences.

EPISTLE READING ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The first ecclesiastical community of Jerusalem, even though it had the characteristics of love, of positions in common, of enthusiasm for the faith, of absolute unity, it quickly began facing the first difficulties. Murmuring. The Greek speaking people were complaining about the Hebrew speaking people, because the latter, who had the responsibility to distribute the food, were being unjust in the distribution to the widows, who were coming from the Greek speaking families (Acts 6:1). The eternal problem of man. Food. Furthermore, even the miracle of faith was in danger from man's need to be fed. And not only. From man's need to find justice in whatever concerns food. Survival enters in above love. Sometimes insatiability also. In the case of the first Christians, ethnicism enters in. The differentiation. The feeling that the Greek speakers are not so much our own, as the Hebrew speakers. And distinctions occur, which threaten unity. They also

threaten the work of the Apostles, who are pressured to abandon the work of God and to serve the distributions of the foods. What springs from love and unity and is a sign, threatens to undermine and dissolve the community. From a sign, it becomes a flag.

The old man

Why though, this overlooking? Obviously, faith is not to blame. It is however, a factor that faith in the first Church was not by nature in people, but by choice. They had not grown up with this, but they found it in the course of their life. Their personalities, their needs, their manners were formulated. Faith comes to give a new starting point to their life. Having encountered Christ, they are called to rebuild their own self. And enthusiasm does not suffice. Spiritual work is needed, for the old man to leave. Because the mark of the old man is both the care for survival, as well as the separation of people into our own and the foreigners. A mark of faith is communion with Christ as the bread of life and trust in Him, as also the unity that abolishes every separation. If Christ is the priority, then faith defeats the temptation also. In the case of the first Church, this did not end up, in the end, possible, and so for this reason, the Apostles proceed to the practical solution of the problems, giving to the Church institutions, such as that of the seven deacons, who will care for justice in the matter of survival, and through the authority that came forth from the democratic election, they would secure the unity.

Condescension and truth

This woman shows the condescension of faith to human weakness. The Apostles do not pretend that the problem is not important, nor that they are living in an ideal world. They know that people have to struggle a lot to defeat their old self. So, for this reason also, they show what is important and what is not, but they also solve