

more children than the whatsoever woman gives birth to “in the flesh”. Because faith makes the woman the person who expresses the “godly” life. Christ was born from a woman. And He seeks from every woman to be in her turn, a guide to the kingdom of God, nourishing herself and her children not only with the earthly, but also with the heavenly milk of faith. Suggesting to her that she be a person a prayer. To trust God and His will for her children. And, just like Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, to await the grace of God which gives joy, even if the years are passing, without the world understanding what she really is, and who she is serving.

The world today makes a god of woman, likening her in egotism and harshness with the man. Egotism however, and pride do not bring true joy. Let us all again see, men and women, the value of faith which gives life, so that the position of the woman can be truly restored also in the reality of the Fr.

T. M

**SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 5TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW,**

*Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Theotokos, Olympias the Deaconess, Eupraxia & Julia the Righteous of Tabenna, Gregory Kallidis, Metropolitan of Heraclea, Memory of the Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : Fourth Tone

**EOTHINON** : Fifth Eothinon

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27

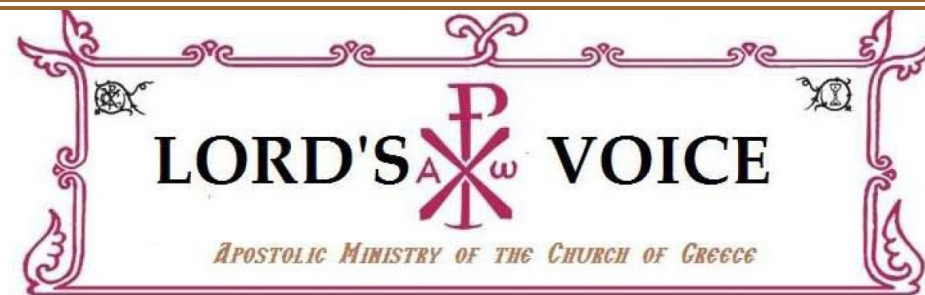
**Gospel Reading** : Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021 6TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*Procession of the Precious Cross, The Holy Seven Maccabee Children, Solomone Their Mother, and Eleazar Their Teacher, Timothy the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Priconissus Elesa the Righteous-Martyr of Kythira*

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14

**Gospel Reading** : Matthew 9:1-8



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JULY 25 2021 PAMPHLET # 30 (3556)

**THE WOMAN IN THE ORTHODOX TRADITION**

The woman in the Orthodox tradition is honored in the person of the Virgin Mary, who has received the highest position that man could get, as humanity's gift of to God. But also, a multitude of women are admired and honored for their love and faith in God, and have received an eminent place in the Christian festal calendar, and in the spiritual life. They become models for the Church. It is not work, education, beauty and appearance or brightness which makes them distinct. It is their relationship with God, which they develop in their life, and makes them victors over evil, models of salvation. The same thing happens also with the men saints. The Church is not occupied with the gifts or their descent or secular progress or their gender. Faith counts and life according to it.

**Emphasis on the person**

In the past, society reserved a closed and limited role for women. It considered them as those who were exclusively occupied with the house and the family. They had the main responsibility for the upbringing of the children, and they had to remain always under the man's shadow. So, for this reason also, the whatsoever women's rights delayed very much to be given by human societies, and in certain peoples and societies, they still have not been given yet. For the faith however, the gender

## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (GAL. 4:22-27)**

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen. Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

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difference does not have to do with the role in life, nor with the value of the persons before God. Salvation is not for man alone. Just as every distinction, whether among ethnicities, or among religions, or in the social and class descent, has been abolished, thus also, the distinction between the two genders cannot apply in the kingdom of God. Man becomes a citizen according to his faith.

### **Faith saves**

The Church does not enter into the logic of conversation about the capabilities of the woman to control or administrate society. It restores women to the former beauty of the relationship with God, from which also she and the man fell, on account of sin. And she (the Church) seeks both from her as well as from the man to make the faith their own, which leads them to the true God, to the transfiguration in their in the Image to the in the likeness and for them to undertake the role that they are able, according to their gift, in the life of the Church, but also in the world.

### **The children "in spirit"**

So, for this reason also, when the Church honors the memory of some distinct woman –saint - she reminds the believers of this power of faith. She reminds us of this precious saying: "the children of the woman persecuted by the world are more than of her who has the husband" (Gal. 4:27). Persecuted and scorned by the world is the woman who believes primarily in God, and she gives birth "in spirit" to