

personally implement it and live it in the Church, in the framework of meeting people and our parish community, then there is hope that it will light a candle in the darkness.

So, let us leave the evil thoughts aside. God shows what is just and unjust, through the path of love. This is also the authentic meaning of faith. And let us not yield to the voices that demand the way of the world to also be our way. Entrusting God, we will endure. And showing and living exemplarily this path, we will show, like the Saints, that it is feasible

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**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.

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *First Plagal Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Sixth Eothinon*

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

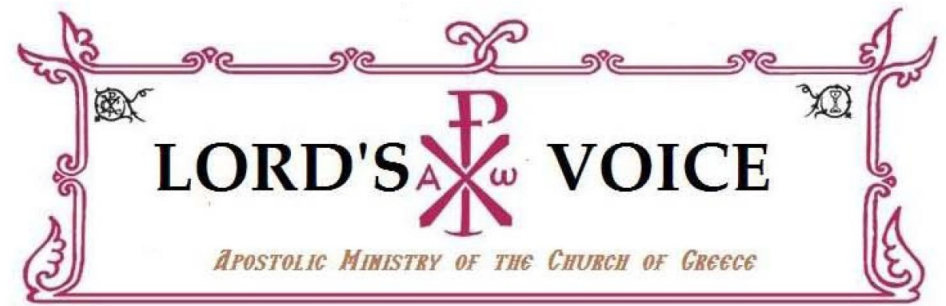
**Gospel Reading** : *Matthew 9:1-8*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 08, 2021 7TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW ,**

Emilian the Confessor & Bishop of Cyzikos , Our Holy Father Myronus the Wonderworker, Bishop of Crete, Holy New Martyrs Triantaphillus of Zagoras and Anastasius of Thessolonica , Gregory of Sinai and Mount Athos , Kallinikos, Metropolitan of Edessa and Pella , Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ , Anastatios the Martyr from Bulgaria

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to Romans 15: 1-7*

**Gospel Reading** : *Matthew 9:27-35*



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AUGUST 1 2021 PAMPHLET # 31 (3557)

### THE THOUGHT ABOUT THE NEIGHBOR

It is customary in human relationships that our thought devours us in relationship to our fellow man. The thought appears when our desire is not satisfied that the other person be as we want him, that he behave toward us as we want, that he yield, so that our relationship be as we want it, or that he submit to our own will. We people don't jell, of course, with everyone. And this is not bad. We are different. Within our differentiation we cannot develop an authentic communion with them, no matter how much we desire it. Mutuality is missing. The thought is cultivated when we see this. Thus in us, the idea acts that the others not only put us down and reject us, but sometimes they also persecute us. If furthermore, such a thought is verified by the reality, because we people often express in a clearcut way or with implications, our viewpoint about the others, then the thoughts grow huge.

### Forgiveness as imitation of God

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Romans translates Christ's saying about love for enemies as follows: "Pray for the good of

## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE ROMANS 12:6-14)**

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

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your persecutors, seek God's blessing for them and do not curse them" (Rom. 12:14). Let us leave aside the antipathy that the thought produces, let us not allow it to dominate our heart, and let us pray to God for whoever persecutes us. Instead of us seeking God's protection, let us ask Him to show His love for our enemies, enlightening them to repent, and for them to understand what God seeks from them also, and from us. Instead of a curse, which is a form of revenge, let us prefer forgiveness and love. This is an odd stance. However, it is an imitation of God's stance towards people, of the forgiveness that He granted us when we were crucifying Him.

## **Justice for our age**

The spirit of our age urges us to the opposite, especially when we believe that we are right. The thought about the neighbor is formulated by what we consider just for us, and this often takes us away from God's justice. It is just for us to enjoy life with the least possible toil, consequently with the obligation of others to serve us. It is just, on the one hand, for everyone to have equal opportunities, but if we are able to create our own opportunity, without examining if we ought or ought not to, without being interested in the others. It is just for us to be able to enjoy whatever we desire and the demand that people and society advocate. It is just what we have in our mind, our own dream, our own handling of the situation and of the emotions. This mindset of our age, leaves no room neither for love, nor for forgiveness and turns God into a servant of our own interests and viewpoints.

## **Victory against disturbance**

The devil plays with our thoughts. He blurs our mind and captures it with the sense of this justice. And our age submits to the spirit of the devil. Nevertheless, the thought does not allow us to settle down. And our heart remains disturbed, not matter how much our desires are satisfied, no matter if it seems that we are comforted, when we unleash our frustrations to the detriment of the others. Christ, however, won and wins with love and forgiveness. This message, if we