

## GIVE THEOLOGICAL BOOKS OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY TRAINING SCHOOL OF CANDIDATE CATECHISTS

In a period of multifarious ideological, spiritual and social confusions, the functioning of the Training School of Candidate Catechists comes to offer the young people who long to serve the Church through the work of Catechism of children and adolescents, the capability to be trained practically but also experientially and simultaneously to make them partakers of undertaking responsibilities to utilize the witness of faith, of liturgical life and of the Gospel Word.

The duration of the studies is two years. The lessons of the 1<sup>st</sup> year take place every Saturday 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the same day from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Presuppositions: Students of both genders are accepted, aged 18-40 years old, after they present: 1. Proof of studies (at least a High School Diploma), and 2. a recent photograph.

The beginning of lessons: On Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> the Holy Water service and the beginning of the lessons of the Training School will take place.

For more information those interested can contact: 1. The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry, tel. 2107272347-348 (8 a.m. – 2 p.m. aside from Saturday and Sunday) 2. The electronic post office [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr) in the unit: Who we are – Division of Catechism and Orthodox Witness.

**Sunday, September 12 2021 Sunday before Holy Cross** Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, Autonomos the Martyr, Hieromartyr Cornatus, Bishop of Iconium, Daniel of Thassos, Theodore the Hieromartyr of Alexandria

**Tone of the week** : Third Tone

**Eothinon** : Eleventh Eothinon

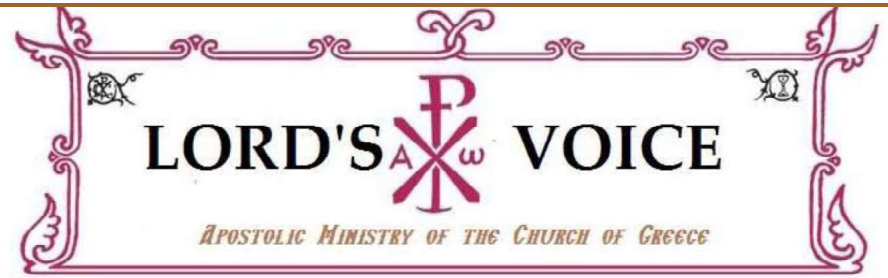
**Epistle Reading** : St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

**Gospel Reading** : John 3:13-17

**Sunday, September 19 2021 Sunday after Holy Cross**, Trophimus, Sabbatius, & Dorymedon the Martyrs, Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, Trophimus, Sabbatius, & Dorymedon the Martyrs, Plato the new Hieromartyr of Patmos the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, Autonomos the Martyr, Hieromartyr Cornatus, Bishop of Iconium, Daniel of Thassos, Theodore the Hieromartyr of Alexandria

**Epistle Reading** : St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

**Gospel Reading** *Mark 8:34-38: 9:1*



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR September 12 2021 PAMPHLET # 37 (3563)

### WALKING THE PATH OF THE CROSS

The Christian faith is not based on ideas. Our own foundation, our own rule is the sign of the cross. All the political and philosophical systems promise a better life to their followers. The Christian faith is based on the cross, on the deadening, that is, and martyrdom. Deadenning does not necessarily mean death. It means the heart's struggle for the old man to not win inside us, but for everything to become "new creation", a new journey.

#### Signs of the old man

The old man has the ego as his center. He has "the sufferings and the desires". Sufferings are when our needs define our life and make it dependent on them. We are not able to live without satisfying our suffering. Without justifying it, sometimes with the phrase "I'm a human, what can I do?" at other times, with the idea that "to whatever I like", sometimes with the ascertainment that even if we do not want it to overcome us, we feel that we are not able. The same thing happens also, with our desires. There exist desires of deception. Those which make us believe that if we fulfill them, we will be happy. Those which associate us with the rights, that the priority in life is that we live pleasure, when we are not doing harm to others. But furthermore, even if we understand that we are wounding them, our ego tells us that we take priority, that we must be pleased.

The Epistle Reading : *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18*

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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**I see my real self.**

Faith is based on the cross of Christ. Following the path of the cross, we deny our own self and our will, despite the fact that we are certain that glory and authority does not await us, nor the pleasure of satisfying sufferings and desires, but their surpassing through a martyrdom journey. And the cross is a martyrdom because we are called, bearing it, to be in wakefulness: What destroys love? How much can we become peacemakers with the other people? How much can we defeat temptations and fears, especially the fear of death and loss? The Cross is the decision that we face our own self, as he truly is. The Cross is that we not justify our own self, nor despair on his account, but with a vigilant thought, for us to see and decide where we need to change.

The saying of the Apostle Paul "and whoever base themselves

on this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16) in other words, whoever follows these principle, will have the peace and mercy of God with them, they and the entire people of God" it is a calling not that we leave from the world, but that we see the world with other eyes. That the interest is not a priority, but love. That we are not able to control our life and the lives of others who are related to us, but we are called to journey with trust in the Crucified One. And walking the path of the cross, we will be able to give life to the others also.

**God, peace and mercy**

Whoever followed this rule of the cross from the beginning, will have the peace and mercy of God with them. The philosophy of the world was not able to accept faith. It considers it inertia. However, faith is deliverance. It is not fatalism, but it takes us out of the demand of winning in every way. We entrust our resurrection and the resurrection of the world to Christ. And at the same time, we do our struggle, being members of the body of Christ, of the Church. Nothing, furthermore, has meaning outside of the Church.

In a world in which the passions and desires are deified, whoever of us are faithful carry our cross and proceed. And we are not alone. We have with us the intercessions of the Theotokos, who helped humanity to be delivered from the cross of lack of communion with God on account of sin. We have the saints with their example but also with their prayer to God for us. And without abandoning our life in the world and our journey, we remain in vigilance. We see the world through love for God and neighbor, with trust in Christ, who helps us to carry every burden and that we not be defeated by the passions and the desires.