

SEMINAR FOR LEARNING GREEK SIGN LANGUAGE

Those participating have the capability to help all our fellow men who are deprived of hearing, having however, other outlets of communication, and who are thirsting to learn about God and the Church, and simultaneously to learn basic knowledge of Greek sign language.

- For information, those interested can address: 1. The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry, tel. 2107272347-348 (8 am- 2 pm, aside from Saturday and Sunday) 2. The electric post office: katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr 3. The webpage of the Organization, www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr, in the unit, Who are we -Dept. of Catechism and Orthodox Witness, in which analytically all the educational-catechetical activities of the Office of Catechism are described.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 2021, 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE *Dionysios the Areopagite, Rusticus and Eleutherios the Martyrs, John the Chozebite, Bishop of Caesaria*

TONE OF THE WEEK : *Plagal Second Tone*

EOTHINON : *Fourth Eothinon*

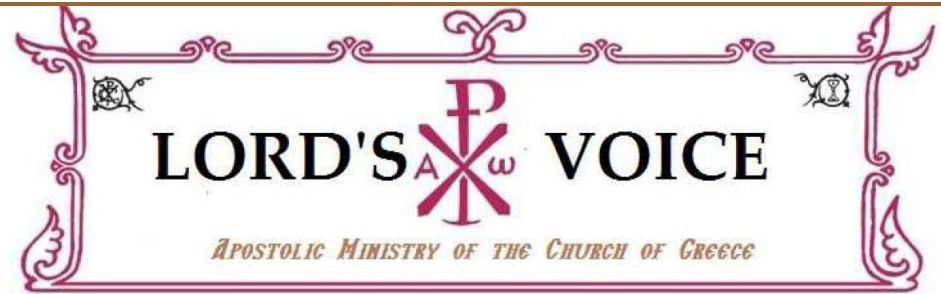
EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15*

GOSPEL READING : *LUKE 6:31-36*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 2021, 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE *Eulampius & Eulampia the Martyrs, Our Righteous Father Theophilus the Confessor, Pinytos, Bishop of Knossos, The 200 Monk-martyrs of Nicomedia, Vassianos the Righteous of Constantinople, The 14 Holy Elders of Optina Monastery, Paulinus, Archbishop of York.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10*

GOSPEL READING : *LUKE 7:11-16*



69TH YEAR October 3 2021 PAMPHLET # 40 (3566)

SPIRITUAL TOIL

When we read the Epistles of the Apostle Paul, we ascertain that his words, which are an expression of experiences of life, censure us. When we hear him mentioning to the Corinthians that he is suffering physically, for the sake of the Gospel, he does not have a firm place of residence, he does not consider the hardships of the body, he does not stop before the power of evil, that through people, but also through illnesses tortures him, and he declares that with physical toil, he partakes in the death of the Lord Jesus, we understand that our own lives and our own relationship with Christ is far from this. We have a difficulty accepting that if we wish to be close to Christ, we ought to fight, even a bit, “always bearing the deadening of the Lord Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in us” (2 Cor. 4:10), “that we constantly suffer physically partaking thus, in the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of the resurrected Jesus may be revealed in our life”.

The three commandments

We have difficulty keeping first the two commandments which Christ asked that we follow so that evil leaves from our life: prayer and fasting. It needs time and toil. Fasting demands an exit

EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 4:6-

15 Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

from easiness. It demands a feeling of hunger, a feeling of deprivation, and not only as regards food. The same with prayer also. It demands time, which becomes an expression of heart. At the same moment, the Apostle urges us to come out of the rhythm of our life, trapped with our own self as the center, for the sake of the Gospel. For us to communicate with people who have thirst for the truth, is love. For us to be sensitive however, to our own people, who we don't manage to, or we don't want to speak to, and listen to them, to share ourselves, understanding whatever is torturing them or whatever ought to interest them, is something that we're lacking. We have our program, our obligations. Let us make, however, a stop so that we see our neighbor, especially in our own house. Prayer, fasting, communion with our neighbor, are expressions of the greatest commandments of

Christ: of love, both for God as well as for our neighbor.

The constant spiritual struggle

Often, we Christians live a false sense in two directions: the one is that the life of the Gospel lifts the "bar" very high for us, resulting in us passing underneath. Consequently, we do whatever we are able, mainly the mechanical things, and we're also pleased. On the other hand, we get enthused, and we easily place high spiritual aims. Because, furthermore, with God's help we make some steps, or because we have gifts, which bear fruit, we think that we have advanced spiritually, and then we are haughty-minded. In the spiritual life, the "this is not for me" does not apply, but neither also the "because I have achieved these things". In the spiritual life, the battle applies for the life of the resurrected Christ to be revealed in our person: joy, forgiveness, love, the decision that we share our life with others, as Christ did with His disciples, especially after Pascha, the deep faith that makes the locked doors of the Upper Room open, work together with the constant expectation of the Lord, as the disciples did in the Tiberius Sea after the Resurrection!

Again from the beginning

Every moment of our life is an opportunity for recovery. It is an opportunity for a new setting out, with the knowledge that the Godman is this center of our life and that everything presupposes our participation in the body of Christ, in the Church. That it demands toil, the exit from our security, spiritual work, and encountering people to whom we reflect the light that was given to us. And it is this lonely road upon the essence. The climate of life does not allow many things. And even the little toil, however, is blessed!

Fr. Th. M.