

saved, to live, in other words, the communion of the resurrection and the encounter with Him. And the ministry of God happens with the weapons from the right, which is the word about God, the word of truth, eagerness for offering to one's neighbor, without concern for recompenses, whereas the weapons from the left are none other than the shield of humility which protects us both from boasting, as well as from disappointment. Especially the latter is the temptation of all those who love, when they ascertain rejection, indifference, and ingratitude.

The Church shows another road as regards human relationships. She calls us to chisel our character, serving with joy and eagerness our fellow man, comforting the other person, as much as we can endure, of course, and with God's help. The age of egotism and, of recompense, of taking advantage, of demanding, will refuse ministry. Faith, however, will show us this path which leads to salvation and holiness.

Fr. Th. M.

**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.*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Grave Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Fifth Eothinon*

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

**GOSPEL READING** : *LUKE 7:11-16*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 2021, SUNDAY OF THE 7TH**

**ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**, *Hosea the Prophet, Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian of Arabia, Andrew the Righteous Monk-martyr of Crete, Removal and Placing of the Sacred Relics of the Holy and Righteous Lazarus*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15*

**GOSPEL READING** : *LUKE 8:5-15*



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OCTOBER 10 2021 PAMPHLET # 41 (3567)**

## **THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE AND OFFERING**

We people have quite a hard time when we are called to serve others. We feel that we are living a type of slavery, when we need to leave our own self off to the side, in order to thank the others, even also when we will receive some material and moral reward. Often our hearts are not eager. Even also if for reasons of survival, we ought to not show it, in deed, our disposition is gloomy. "What can we do?" we say, in us, and we set out for the work which does not comfort us, or which devours much of our disposition.

### **The boundaries of ministry**

Our age has been characterized as an age of rights and freedom. Our culture sets boundaries up to where we are called to serve the others, and tells us that we have the right, and they should serve us or reward us for our services. And this is, up to a certain point, healthy. Because within us a feeling of interest is developed, when we have others serving us, a feeling of being settled, pleased, and we form, for our own self, the idea of the person in charge, of importance. We often cultivate this feeling in

**EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:1-10**

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything..

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our children, when we do not encourage them to toil or to undertake responsibilities, and we offer everything ready to them. On the other hand, when we see our relationships in the perspective of master and slave, or even paid servant, then the joy of love leaves from the front stage, which accompanies ministry. Because ministry is not only service. It is mainly love

### **The example of the Godman**

We believe in a God who does not ask us to serve, but He Himself served us and serves us. He became a man and served us covering all our needs: for the meaning of life, for salvation from

death, for surpassing illness, for love, even also for food. He humbled Himself washing in the feet of His disciples, the feet of all people. He humbled Himself, forbearing all the ingratitude that the human race could show. He humbled Himself voluntarily undergoing death. He served us showing that the ministry is not forced, but a free choice of love that saves and gives joy.

So, in the Church we are called to imitate God, out of love. Thus we become ministers, servants of God, offering to our neighbor. Just as the parent leaves to the side his own needs and puts forth the need for his child to live, to grow up, to find his path, but also to stand on his feet, without remaining dependent on him, thus each one of us is called to serve each neighbor of his, as much as he is able. To cover by keeping company and example, the needs, mainly the need for the meaning of life, truth and salvation, without scorning survival, supporting the other person, without however binding his freedom. In all these things, with the eagerness of love, that gives joy and makes us defeat compulsion.

### **Attack and defense**

The Apostle Paul gives us the following counsels: "in everything recommending yourselves as servants of God... Through the weapons of righteousness, those of the right and of the left" (2 Cor. 6:4, 7). He urges us "in every way to recommend ourselves as servants of God... With the offensive and defensive weapons of salvation". For the ministry, he uses an image from human battles. With the right hand, the warrior holds the arrow and the sword and attacks. With the left hand, he holds the spear and defends himself. The Apostle mentions that we become servants of God when we are serving His righteousness, which is love for all people, which is the will of God for all people to be