

burning desire to study theology, his ministry in the Patriarchate of Alexandria as Bishop as also in the Church of Greece as a preacher of Euboia and Phthiotidofokidos, his 14-year service as director of the Rizareion Ecclesiastical School, his settling as a simple monk-priest and spiritual father in the Sacred Monastery of the Holy Trinity of Aegina, but, primarily, his trust and unspeakable love for God, his perseverance in the trials, the slanders, the malice of men and demons, all these and many more, showed him a living image of Christ, a rule of faith, and a very great Saint and miracle worker. May his holy prayers cover all of us and may we be worthy of his divine patronage.

Archim. N.K

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 2023 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedeia ,Holy Father Theoctistus and his fellow struggler Euthymius the Great , Polydorus the Martyr of New Ephesus ,Translation of the relics of St. Nectarius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Pentopolis , Chariton the Martyr ,Phoebe the Deaconess*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's 1st Letter to Corinthians 16:13-24*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 21:33—42*

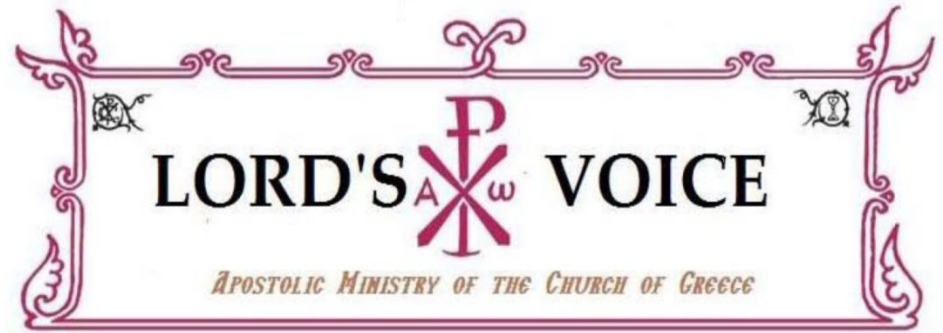
TONE OF THE WEEK : *Third Tone*

EOTHINON : *First Eothinon*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2023 SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS *Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora the Martyrs, Poulcheria the Empress, Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18*

GOSPEL READING : *John 3: 13-17*



71ST YEAR SEPTEMBER 3 2023 PAMPHLET # 36 (3666)

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT WITH LOVE

Today's Epistle passage comes from the last chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians of the Apostle Paul. The attentive student of Paul's Epistles will have noticed that the Apostle at the end of his epistles usually proceeds to a final admonition of his readers, to summarize whatever he has extensively previously mentioned. So also, in our passage, he recommends the following to the Corinthians:

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong." The word "be watchful" means for the believer to be striving to be in a state of constant attention and watchfulness with regard to his spiritual life. This, moreover, is also the exhortation of the Lord to His Disciples: "Be watchful and pray, so that you not enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). I am watchful means readiness for the reception of the Coming of the Lord, Who comes from the future of the final reign of His Kingdom in its present history of this age. Because with the incarnation of Christ, the Kingdom of God has come into the world. The word of Christ has the energy of the Kingdom of God, and the acceptance of His word is acceptance of His Kingdom.

**EPISTLE ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO CORINTHIANS
16:13-24**

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

"Stand firm in the faith"; this is the apostolic exhortation that the believers should not be led astray by erroneous heterodox teachings which change the faith. Paul recommends that they not be influenced by currents and trends of the world, as happened with some Corinthians in the matter, for example, of the resurrection of the dead. "Be courageous" means the effort that every believer must make for his spiritual maturity, through the holy mysteries and the holy evangelical virtues. "Be strong"; this recommendation indicates the concentration of strength and power so that the struggle of the believer can be effective. This power is drawn from the

indescribable power of God (Jer. 16:19), which is manifested through the weakness of man (2 Cor. 12:9). And, naturally, Paul's last exhortation that all the actions of believers be inspired by love, refers to the unhindered flow of love to the Body of the Church. More specifically, it is unthinkable to selfishly retain love as God's gift to man, and that it not be diffused as a life-giving current towards one's fellow man. After all, God's love is the pre-eminent characteristic of every true believer (John 13:35).

Severance from the ecclesiastical community

The Apostle does not fail to point out the ultimate danger which refers to those who do not "like", i.e. do not love sincerely and do not believe in the Lord Jesus. These gradually lead to separation, to being cut off, i.e. their excommunication from the Body of the Church, the Body of the living Christ. This cut-offing is voluntary, as the person chooses it of his own free will. However, we believers await the coming of the Lord, as Paul says: "Maran atha'. The phrase is Aramaic, which according to the great Byzantine theologian Zegavenos (1050-1120) is interpreted: "The Lord has come and you are sleeping?" God has so much come down, and you are not being lifted up not even a little?".

"The life of the Saints "in Christ"

The Saints of the Church lived with love, vigilance and firmness in faith; with bravery and the power of God. One of them is also Saint Nektarios, Bishop of Pentapolis, in Aegina, the exhumation of whose holy relics we celebrate today. The above apostolic exhortations were intertwined with the ethos of his martyrical and apostolic life. That is why everywhere and always it radiated the light, love, peace, the holiness of God. His monastic dedication at the New Monastery of Chios, his