



72<sup>nd</sup> Year

Sept. 15, 2024

Pamphlet #37 (3720)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Mark 8:34-38, 9:1)**

### **The salvation of the soul**

*The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."*

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### **THE "CRUCIFIXION" OF OUR PASSIONS**

In the mystery of the bloodless sacrifice, we discuss with Cross of the Savior, since the Cross is the glory of Christ and the glory of the Church. However, the Lord says that whoever wants to follow Him ought to deny himself, take up his Cross and then follow Him.

### **The denial of ourselves**

In order to follow Christ, we must recognize that our human nature is dominated by death and corruption and is disturbed by various passions. But let's look for a bit at the

dreadful reality that plagues us, the reality of the passions which, unfortunately, most of the time, we ignore.

What are passions? Passion, as the word testifies, originates from "I suffer" and shows internal illness. The entire patristic teaching sees the passions as movements and actions foreign to the natural life of the soul. Passions are related to non-existence, because there is nothing evil in human nature. "Virtue is by nature, and evil is unnatural," says Saint John Chrysostom. So, we altered all these forces, these energies of the soul, and from their natural state we led them to what is unnatural. Anger is natural which was given by God for us to fight the devil, and we use it against our neighbor. It is natural to desire glory, but for the enjoyment of the heavenly kingdom.

### **The passions of the body and soul**

According to Saint Maximus the Confessor, the basic passion from which all passions of the body and soul originate and are born, is selfishness. Selfish is that person who loves himself and adores himself excessively. When the person's attention breaks away from God and is not interested in uniting with Him, and doing His holy will, then he necessarily turns to himself, whom he always wants to constantly satisfy.

### **The good struggle**

We live in a world that can wear the face of piety, however, it denies its power. As paradoxical as it may seem, "We were granted for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him" (Phil. 1:29). We are called to be healed from our passions by transforming our passions. We are not just struggling to become good people, adapted to society. Our purpose is to be led to communion with God, the path towards holiness, the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. So, let's offer to God as the fruition of everything that is precious is in us according to the flesh. Then we too will hear the voice of the living God: "Now I know you... and blessing, I will bless you" (Gen. 22:17).

## **From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry**

### *Η ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΡΗΜΟΥ (THE DESERT STATE)*

(1st Edition, in Greek, Size 14x24 cm, 104 pages)

By the Metropolitan of Phanouriou Agathangelos, General  
Director of the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece

The state of the desert is a spirituality that is God-centered, metalogical, ontological and eschatological, with infinite soteriological, ecclesiological, anthropological and cosmological consequences. It is an act with which life is given, the fullness of truth, freedom and love and man overcomes and transforms loneliness, alienation, hopelessness, despair and death. That is why the spirituality of the desert is a dynamic manifestation of the Kingdom of God. For this reason, the Apostolic Ministry proceeded to publish this spiritual book in which solitude, silence, and prayer are analyzed as concepts of spirituality.

### *ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΔΑΧΗ (THEOLOGY AND TEACHING)*

(1st Edition, in Greek, Size 20x26 cm, 432 pages)

By the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

The Patriarchal Proofs of His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the Christmas holidays and Holy Pascha, the Catechetical Homilies for Holy and Great Lent and the messages for the Indiction Day (September 1), which is a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment, were published in this luxurious volume. The new edition of the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece was offered to His All Holiness by His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Phanariou, Agathangelos, General Director of the Organization, on Saturday June 1st, having been received for this purpose by His All Holiness, who received the publication with emotion and spiritual joy.

September 15, 2024: Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Niketas the Great Martyr († 372), Venerable Philotheos (10th c.),  
Symeon of Thessalonica († 1429), Porphyrios of the Mimes, Bessarion of  
Larissa, John the New Martyr of Crete († 1811).  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tone – Eothinon: 1 – Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20 – Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1  
NEXT SUNDAY: Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 – Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

## SEMINAR FOR LEARNING GREEK SIGN LANGUAGE

The offering of guileless and sincere love is the motivation for creating and operating the Seminar for Learning Greek Sign Language. Those participating in this educational activity of the Apostolic Ministry, which is offered for free, have the capability to help their fellow man who are deprived of hearing, having however, other outlets for communication and who simultaneously are thirsting to learn about God and the Church.

- Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the start of the seminar will take place.
- For more information, those interested can address:
  - The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry tel. 210-727-2347-348 (Mon-Fri 8am-2pm)
  - E-Mail: [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)
  - The Apostoliki Diakonia Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
  - The website [www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr), in the section “ΠΟΙΟΙ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ” and the subsection “ΤΟΜΕΑΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑΣ”, in which the educational-catechetical activities of the Office of Catechism are described.

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