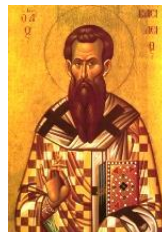


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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THE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

THE GOSPELS RECORD SEVERAL INSTANCES when the Lord Jesus called people to be His followers. At times He called people to leave their homes and livelihoods and follow Him. He called Peter and Andrew, James and John as they were busy fishing “*and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him*” (Mt 4:22). Similarly, Matthew walked away from his toll booth and followed Jesus (see Mt 9:9); the other disciples, whose calls are not recorded in the Gospels, did the same.

Sometimes the Lord called but was refused. The cost of following Jesus was more than some people could bear. To the rich young man who wanted to be perfect Jesus said, “*If you want to be perfect, go – sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.*” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth” (Mt 19:21-22). In other instances, the Lord raised objections Himself before the would-be follower could discover through failure and discouragement that following Christ meant enduring hardships. Thus “*a teacher of the Law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head*” (Mt 8:19-20). The Lord wanted this teacher of the Law to know that following Christ would not provide the comfortable lifestyle he may have been anticipating.

To a procrastination, however, He gave the opposite advice. “*Then another disciple said to Him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me and let the dead bury their own dead*” (Mt 8:21-22). The Lord surely wanted followers, but He had a different approach based on the readiness of the person before Him. This passage suggests the hurdles that people in any age will face when they consider following the Lord in a radical way: fear of the unknown, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things – all can hinder us from following Christ.

The Vocation of the Gadarene: The Gadarene whom Jesus healed (Lk 8:27-39) wanted to follow Jesus as well; the Scripture says that he “*begged to go with Him,*” but the Lord had another plan for him. “*Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So, the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him*” (Lk 8:38-39).

The Gadarenes had made it clear that they wanted Jesus to go away. He would not force Himself on them. At the same time, He wanted to leave them with a permanent reminder of His presence: their own fellow countryman whom He had delivered. This man had once been a burden to the townspeople; now He would be a blessing. The apostles were told to go through the world preaching the Gospel; this man’s call was to go home and do the same in his village. Was his call by Christ less of a vocation than that of the apostles? It was different, surely, but it was a vocation nonetheless.

Some people in the Church tend to think that “vocation” refers exclusively to the calling of a cleric or monastic, or as a member of a religious community. The Lord does call some people in every age to serve the Church as priests, deacons, chanters, etc. He does invite others to serve Him as a monk or nun, but these are not the only people whom He calls to serve Him.

Our Fundamental Vocation: Every person baptized into Christ has a vocation. The essence of that vocation is perhaps best expressed in the First Epistle of Peter: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*” (1 Pt 2:9).

There are three important aspects of our universal vocation expressed in this passage. First, our vocation is to a **priesthood**: what the Scripture calls a “royal priesthood.” Christ is the true kingly priest and, because we have been baptized into Him and sealed in His Holy Spirit, we share in His priesthood. As members of a people, the people of God. We are not individually priests, as are the ministers of the altar, but members of a priesthood because of our common union with Christ the High Priest

(OctoberLeaflets2020)

SUNDAY 5th AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, October 24 & Sunday, October 25, 2020

WEEKLY SERVICES

Daily Liturgy: Monday-Friday 8:30AM
Holy Liturgy: Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM
Matins/Orthos: Every Sunday 9:00AM
Holy Confession: Every Monday 4-6PM
Vespers: Every Saturday 3:00PM
Holy Rosary: Every Sunday 10:30AM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Oct 17/18: \$ 743.00
St. Pauly Textile: \$ 332.25
Memorial Masses: \$ 70.00
Maintenance Donations: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Maryann Astour & Family
† **Mary Murad**, By David & Janet George

THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Mary Murad**, By Alex Murad

NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Carmella Lalli, 13th Memorial Anniversary**, By Robert Lalli
† **Mary Murad**, By David & Janet George

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Edgar Hallak, 2nd Memorial Anniversary**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Mary Murad**, By Alex Murad