

Sept. 15, 2013:

The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20:

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38:



When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

The invitation addressed by our Lord and Savior to follow Him in today's gospel reading comes in the context of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy and life-giving Cross: *"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Last Sunday, our Lord Jesus Christ told us that the reason for His voluntary and redeeming Passion was God's infinite love for mankind: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."*

In other words, He carried His own Cross to Golgotha (although He had no sin) out of love for us. His supreme sacrifice is supposed to stir a desire within us to be with Him, to follow Him, to follow His example. Every person comes to Christ from a different direction, from their own world and condition, carrying their own cross, enduring their personal Golgotha, but the motivation is the same for everyone: our (burning) desire to be with Him and our (genuine) willingness to respond with our own level of love to His infinite love. This desire and willingness can be sustained only by understanding and knowing what the true priorities of our life are, by a constant reminder about the invisible (spiritual) aspect of our being, which is of a much more importance than the visible (material) one: *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

By accepting and embracing (not trying to escape or avoid) our personal Golgotha with faith and love, we should reach a point where we can say with the Apostle Paul, in today's Epistle reading: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after this Sunday's (Sept. 15) fellowship:

**Alex & Georgeta Apostol
Emilian & Simona Stoica
Marius & Cecilia Dobrescu**

Thank you all very much!

The new Fellowship Roster will begin on Oct. the 20th 2013.

**Those who are not on the list and want to participate,
please call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.**

**Those who are on the list and do not want to participate,
please do the same!**

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

On September 15, 2013, the New Sunday School year begins.

We are very blessed and thankful to have highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to provide the best religious education for our children.

The parents are warmly advised to bring their children on a regular basis to the Sunday School Program!

The Harvest Festival

The second edition of the Harvest Festival will be held on September 28, 2013, at the Romanian Center. This is a fundraising for two major projects: a new roof over the main Hall and the kitchen renovation.

We extend our invitation to all of our members and supporters to participate in this event!

Tickets are \$50.00/adults and \$15.00/children (7-14 years old)

Please call Viorel Ciocan at 780-994-2304 for tickets!

Thank you for your support!