

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Community. We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship.



PARISH OFFICE: ... 978.685.7233 ... FAX: 978-688-4475 ... [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

### OFFICE HOURS:

**M-TH** 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**FRI** 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**SAT** By Appointment

### MEET OUR PRIESTS:

Fr. Elie Mikhael ...305-807-9087

... [pastor@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)

Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy

857-390-4838

...[pv@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pv@stanthonylawrence.org)

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

Deacons: Nadim B. Daou,

James T. Demers & David Leard

Sub-Deacon: Antoine Nammour

### DAILY LITURGIES 9am

**MON & WED** (Arabic)

**TUE & THU** (English)

### WEEKEND LITURGIES

**SAT** 4:00PM(Eng)

**SUN** 8:00AM (Ara) /

9:00AM (Eng) /

11:00AM (Eng.& Ara)

### Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM



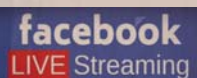
**venmo**

Scan QR code for payment



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[https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?  
church\\_id=72](https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?church_id=72)



**SaintAnthonyLawrence**

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptism & Confirmation:** 1 month in advance with the Pastor,

**Donations:** Church: \$200 - Priest: Free Will

**Matrimony:** Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date

**Donations:** Church \$500—Priest: Free Will

**Reconciliation:** One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

## Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman - أحد شفاء النزفة

### 3rd WEEK OF LENT

#### Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

**Saturday, March 4**

**4:00pm** +Mitchell Moses, *By his family & loved ones.*

**Sunday, March 5** *St Albert the Great*

**8:00 am** + Private Intentions

**9:00am** Private Intentions

**11:00 am** In Honor of Amal Mansour (Birthday)

### 4TH WEEK OF LENT -Prodigal Son

**Saturday, March 11** *(English)*

**4:00pm** +40 Day Anniversary - Julia Alvarez  
*By Dora Pereira*

+ Yvonne Yameen *By her family*

**Sunday, March 12** *Pope St. Gregory*

**8:00 am** In Honor of Marc Abou-Ezzi,  
*By his family.*

**9:00 am** + Private Intentions.

**11:00 am** + Amal I. Attieh, *By her sister, Violette Attieh, & family*

### Weekday Liturgies

**Monday, March 6** *(Ar.) St. Conan of Isauria*  
*1Tim 4:9-16 / Jn 8:21-27*

**9:00am** +Jamil Abdel-Hay *By his daughter, Huguette, wife of Beshara Sfeir & family*

**Tuesday, March 7** *(En.) 7 Young Men of Ephesus*  
*2Cor 8:1-9 / Mt 23: 1-12*

**9:00am** +Deceased Members of the Goulart & Pereira Families *By Dora Pereira*

**Wednesday, March 8** *(Ar.) St. Frances of Rome*  
*Gal 2:1-17/ Mt 17:10-13*

**9:00am** +Edward Maalouf *By Huguette Sfeir & family.*

**Thursday, March 9** *(En.) 40 Martyrs*  
*2Cor 4:11-18 / Lk 6:20-23*

**9:00am** +Edward Haberen *By Fr. Elie Mikhael.*

**9:30am -12 noon** Eucharistic Adoration

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 7pm

Confessions are available 30 minutes before the Stations Prayers.

### Sanctuary Lamps

**In Honor of Marc Abou-Ezzi**  
**By his Family.**

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

### Annual Clergy Retreat

Fr Elie & Fr. Neemtallah will be away for the Eparchial Clergy Retreat from March 13-17. Weekly Liturgies will be omitted. Office will be operating on regular business hours.

### Clergy Day Off

Fr Elie: **Mondays**  
Fr. Neemtallah's : **Wednesdays**

### PLEASE NOTE:

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.

**SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH -LAWRENCE.**

**SPIRITUAL PROGRAM FOR THE SEASON OF LENT-2023**

Every Tuesday, 7 pm

Arabic Bible Study

Wednesday, 7pm

March 1: Eucharistic Adoration

March Totus Tuus" (كَيِّ لِك) Prayer

March 15: Psalms Prayer

March 22: Healing Prayer

March 29: Prayer for Families

Every Thursday, 7 pm

English Bible Study

Every Friday , 7 pm: Stations of the Cross Prayer +  
Confessions 30 min before

**WHOEVER DOES NOT CARRY HIS OWN CROSS AND COME AFTER ME CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. (LUKE 14:27)**

**TICKETS ARE IN THE MAIL !!!!**

**Covering** the upcoming expenses:

*Building insurance (\$30k) & Bishop's Appeal (\$7500)*

**St Anthony Maronite Catholic Church**  
To Cover: Building Insurance (30K) & Bishop Appeal (\$7500)

**ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISING**

1st PRIZE: \$2500  
2nd PRIZE: \$ 1000  
3rd PRIZE: \$ 500  
4th PRIZE: \$250

1 TICKET for \$10 / 5 for \$40

TO BE DRAWN APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY  
rectory@stanthonylawrence.org / 978.685.7233

No. 001



**EASTER BAKE SALE**

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: March 23**

**PROCEEDS TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED IN LEBANON**

**Order Form** (Send your order by e-mail or by calling Bassima 603.571.3003 or the office 978.685.7233)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pick-Up Date: PALM SUNDAY**

**Maamoul**

◆ Dates : 6 for \$10      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Walnuts : 6 for \$10      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Pistachio: 6 for \$12      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Kaak:**

Bag (6) for \$6      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ghoraybah:**

6 pieces for \$6      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Macaroon:**

6 pieces for \$6      x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Kanafe Box: \$50** x Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount of Order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Method of Donation:**

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ or Check \_\_\_\_\_

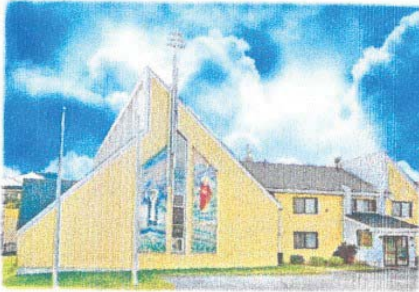
Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Venmo \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW MUCH IS 5%?** St. Anthony Church • Lawrence, MA

WEEKLY INCOME	\$150.	\$200.	\$300.				
OFFERING	\$7.50	\$10.00	\$15.00				

PLEASE INDICATE AMOUNT	\$	\$100	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10
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Please mark the amount of your offering to insure proper credit.



If absent, PLEASE MAIL YOU CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARISH.

**Dear Parishioners**

Be an active member of the building and growth of our community. The Lord commands His people to tithe, to donate, so that our hearts will not be attached to the riches of the world *where moth and rust destroy*.  
*Here is a breakdown of donations based on individual income....*  
*Let your charity be at the measure of His Love to us on the Cross*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Upcoming Classes- Bi-Weekly- 5PM-6:30 PM  
**Saturday March 4 & March 18**

Please check your calendars for upcoming sessions.

Calendar:  
[stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/)

Registration for the September 2023-May 2024  
 School year will be available soon!  
 Stay tuned for more information!

**KNIGHTS OF MARY**

**March 11: from 5-7PM**

Calendar: [www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/)

**KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR**

Sign up today to serve on the Altar!  
 Application and full Altar Server Schedule can be found:  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/)

**MARONITE YOUNG ADULTS -MYA - Ages 18-35**

MYA Registration is open to new members.  
 Contact Ramona for more info: 978-350-2965

**MYA NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL RETREAT**



GOD'S HEALING MERCY: FINDING YOUR PATH TO  
 FREEDOM & FORGIVENESS  
*Dartmouth, MA*  
 MOTHER OF THE LIGHT CONVENT  
 MARCH 26, 2023

**MARONITE MONKS in PETERSHAM**

The Monks at Petersham are in need of your help. Please donate and show your support! Donations can be left in the Foyer of the Church or at the Rectory.

- Dried Beans:  
 (Lima Beans, Pinto Beans, Black Beans Etc.)
- Canned Tuna (In Water)
- Canned Sardines (In Water)
- Canned Green Beans/Carrots/Mushrooms
- Canned Diced Tomatoes/Tomato Paste
- Pasta Sauce (Prego, Regu, etc.)
- Brown Rice/Barley/Quinoa
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Honey
- Molasses
- Prunes/Raisins
- Lemon Juice

**LOL BIBLE CAMP 2023**

Save the dates - July 12 -15, 2023

**DCG SCHOLARSHIP**

The DCG Foundation was established in 2008 to honor the memory of Dorothy C. Gabriel, a lifetime active member of St Anthony’s. Since 2008 the Foundation has awarded over \$90, 000 in financial aids to St Anthony parishioners who attend Central Catholic High School. These funds were raised with tremendous support of St Anthony’s Parishioners and many others.

Our Annual Fundraising golf tournament was discontinued due to the pandemic. During that time my personal health has declined, and I no longer have the energy to take on large fundraising activities.

The decision has been reached by my family and myself to establish an endowment at Central Catholic. We have established the Dorothy C. Gabriel Scholarship, which will be available only for parishioners of St Anthony. This endowment will be administered by the development office of Central Catholic. ***The applicants must apply through the financial aid process set forth by Central.***

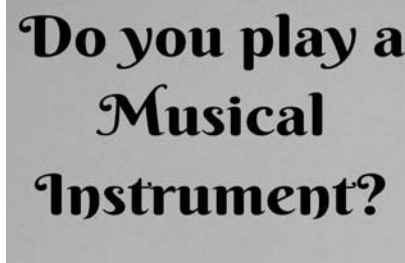
The awards will be open to all grades and will be based on need and academic potential. ***Applicants must notify the Parish of their intention to apply for financial aid so we can alert the school that they are eligible candidates for the DCG Scholarship.***

We have made an initial deposit of \$47,000 to the fund and hope to add to it through an annual raffle. We have been truly blessed over the years by the love and support of all of you. We know the enormous cost of private school education is staggering and our rewards represent only a small part of that cost. Our family believes strongly in the value of Catholic Education and treasure for ever the love and warmth of St Anthony’s home.

Any question, please contact Ken at 508-633-0704.

Thank you,

Ken Gabriel-Maroon Family



If you are interested in participating in an orchestra directed by the Violin Master, Loubnen Khalil, kindly fill out the short form Below and drop it in the collection basket or send your information to our office email @ [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

**Name:**

**Best Contact:**

**Instrument:**

**Years of Playing or learning:**

**EVENTS AROUND THE EPARCHY**

- ~ **Eparchial Youth Lenten Zoom Bible Study:** March 5, 19 & 26  
RSVP @ [www.myoeparchystmaron.org](http://www.myoeparchystmaron.org)
- ~ **MYO Kick-Off** at Our Lady of Fatima (the Future home of Our Lady of Purgatory): March 25th 11:30-5pm  
RSVP to Fr. Vincent Farhat @ 508-996-8934  
or via email: [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com)
- ~**AWAKEN- 2023 National MYO Conference:** June 27-July 1  
Register at [www.maroniteyouth.org](http://www.maroniteyouth.org)

**LENTEN RETREAT AT**  
**ST JOSEPH MELKITE CHURCH,**  
**LAWRENCE MA**

**Arabic Spiritual Retreat-Sat.**  
March 18: 9am-1Pm. *Conducted by*  
*Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy*

**English Spiritual Retreat - Sat.**  
March 11: 9am-1pm. *Conducted by*  
*Fr. Christopher Saad*

## BECOME A NAM MEMBER

[Use your credit card and apply online](#)

[www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org)

### Additional Membership Benefits

- Discount on National & Regional Conventions' pre-registration
- Discount on NAM's Lenten Retreats
- Eligibility for NAM's Silver and Gold Massabki Awards, and Faith of the Mountain Award
- Discount on various items available through NAM
- Eligibility for Scholarships

## BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

### Religious Education

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/>

### Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/>

### Maronite Young Adults –MYA

*Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA Group: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)*

### Knights of Mary –KOM

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/>

### Knights of the Altars

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/>

*In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:*

- *Daughters of St Anthony*
- *Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality*
- *Sunshine Committee*
- *M-Wine*
- *Bereavement Ministry*
- *Ushers*
- *Men's Ministry*

**Scholarships offered by NAM for active NAM members.** The applications for all scholarships offered by NAM can be found online, through NAM's website, [www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org).

### 1.NAM General Application for Scholarships:

- **John A. Solomon Memorial - MYO Scholarship;** Two scholarships of \$2000 each, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors who are **active members** of MYO
- **Abouna Sharbel Scholarship;** Three (3) scholarships of \$1,000, available for 3 High School Seniors.
- **Massabki Brothers Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors
- **Naomi & Paul Kassouf Scholarship;** Two scholarships of \$2000 each, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors
- **Chagoury Family Undergraduate Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, available for students already in college
- **Thomas and Jennie Ayoob Memorial Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, payable over 2 years, available for students already in college
- **Chagoury Family Graduate Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, available for students already in masters or doctorate program

2.USEK Scholarship: The University of the Holy Spirit-Kaslik, Lebanon. **10 Summer scholarships** will be awarded which will include full tuition and dormitory; and **\$500** once the semester is completed. Available for college students; Summer 2023.

NDU Scholarship: Notre Dame University-Louaize, Lebanon. **12 scholarships for the Spring or Fall semester**, both include full tuition and dormitory; and **\$500** once a semester is completed. Available for college students; Fall/Spring 2023/2024

The details and eligibility requirements are clearly explained in each application. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at 440-821-6303, email me at [namscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:namscholarships@gmail.com) or contact the NAM Office using the information at the bottom of this page.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS May 31, 2023.**

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 4-** 4PM- Meaghan Twing

**Sunday, March 5**

8AM - Mouna Hbaiter

9AM - Elaine Ferris

11:00AM Eng: Selim Matta

Ar: Marcel Saade

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 11 -** 4PM - Lisa Abdallah

**Sunday, March 12-** 8AM- Hitaf Nammour

9AM - Joseph Safi

11AM -Eng: Anthony Merheb

Ar: Gretta Merheb

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**March 4:** Joshua Baldinelli, Billy Kannan, Matthew Touma

**March 5:** Tatiana AbouJaoudee, Andrew Bassil, Camil Chamoun, Celine Issa, Issam Ramey

**March 6:** Yulissa Azzi, Elias Chaya, Rony Fakhry, Ryan Jacobs,

**March 7:** Hanan Abi Samra, Valerie Tarabay,

**March 8:** Abigail Abdunour, Gassan Abou-Ezzi, Marie Bouraphael, Dalia Fakhry, Samer Geha, Therese Jbeily, Missy Kalil, Jackson Lenotte, Mateo Maroun, Benjamin Nehme, Kristy Parolisi, Mimo Schultz,

**March 9:** Joe Lalo, Arthur Mansour IV, Juliana Saad, Nicole Saad

### St Anthony's Cemetery

#### Grave Purchase & Burial

St Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget. For more information:

**By Phone** (During Office Hours) 978-685-7233

**Email** [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

**or Visit:** [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/)

#### Cemetery Guidelines

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/)

#### Headstones & Cemetery Markers

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our website: [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/).

**Please note: Double-Depth Graves are considered "One Grave Size"**

#### Looking for a Loved one buried at St Anthony's Cemetery?

1. Go to [www.stanthonylawrence.org](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org)
2. Scroll to the bottom and click on BURIAL ONLINE SEARCH.
3. Type in the last/first name or in some cases just last name and click search.

### DONATE A TREE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Enhancing the beauty of Historic Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

**Plant-A-Tree A**— For a donation of \$400.00 : memorial plaque displayed for ten years.

**Plant-A-Tree B**—For a donation of \$250.00: memorial plaque displayed for five years.

**Your Donation is Tax-Deductible**

If you like to donate a tree, please call the office at 978.685.7233 *or*

email us at: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

*Tree to be planted : Kousa Dogwood*

### TREE OF LIFE

#### BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:

1.5" X 3" = \$75 / 3"X 6"= \$150 / 4"X8"= \$250

Please submit your request either by

**Phone: 978.685.7233** or by E-mail:

[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

### Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Hemorrhaging Woman

*Book of Numbers 15,37-41.*

The LORD said to Moses: Speak to the Israelites, and tell them to make fringes on the corners of their garments throughout their generations and to put a blue cord on the fringe at each corner. You have the fringe so that, when you see it, you will remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and not follow the lust of your own heart and your own eyes. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and you shall be holy to your God. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.

*Second Letter to the Corinthians 7,4-11.*

I often boast about you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction. For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way disputes without and fears within. But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly). Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 8,40-56*

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.' While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.' When Jesus heard this, he replied, 'Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.' When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, 'Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, 'Child, get up!' Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.



## لأحد الثالث من الصوم الكبير : أحد شفاء النازفة

سفر العدد 15: 37-41

كُوخَاطَبَ الرَّبُّ مُوسَى قَائِلًا: «كَلِّمْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَمُرُهُمْ: أَنْ يَصْنَعُوا لَهُمْ أَهْدَابًا عَلَى أَدْيَالِ ثِيَابِهِمْ مَدَى أَجْيَالِهِمْ، وَيَجْعَلُوا عَلَى هُدْبِ الدَّبَلِ سِلْكًَا مِنَ الْبِرْفِيرِ الْبَنْفَسَجِيِّ. فَيَكُونُ ذَلِكَ لَكُمْ هُدْبًا، فَتَرَوْنَهُ وَتَذْكُرُونَ جَمِيعَ وَصَايَا الرَّبِّ وَتَعْمَلُونَ بِهَا، وَلَا تَتِيهُونَ وَرَاءَ قُلُوبِكُمْ وَعُيُونِكُمْ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ تَرْتُونَ وَرَاءَهَا، فَتَنْدَكُرُوا وَتَعْمَلُوا بِجَمِيعِ وَصَايَايَ، وَتَكُونُوا مُقَدَّسِينَ لِإِلَهُكُمْ. أَنَا الرَّبُّ الْهُكْمُ الَّذِي أَخْرَجْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَرْضِ مِصْرَ، لِيَكُونَ لَكُمْ إِلَهًا: أَنَا الرَّبُّ الْهُكْمُ.»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس 7: 4-11

يا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ لِي عَلَيْكُمْ دَالَّةً كَبِيرَةً، وَلِي بِكُمْ فَخْرًا عَظِيمًا. وَلَقَدْ أَمْتَلَأْتُ تَعْزِيَةً، وَأَنَا أَفِيضُ فَرَحًا فِي ضَيْقِنَا كُلِّهِ. فَإِنَّا لَمَّا وَصَلْنَا إِلَى مَقْدُونِيَّةَ، لَمْ يَكُنْ لِحَسَدِنَا شَيْءٌ مِنَ الرَّاحَةِ، بَلْ كُنَّا مُتَضَائِقِينَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، صِرَاعٌ مِنَ الْخَارِجِ، وَخَوْفٌ مِنَ الدَّخْلِ! لَكِنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي يُعْزِي الْمُتَوَاضِعِينَ عَزَانًا بِمَجِيءِ طَيْطُسَ، لَا بِمَجِيئِهِ فَحَسَبَ، بَلْ أَيْضًا بِالتَّعْزِيَةِ الَّتِي تَعَزَّاهَا بِكُمْ. وَقَدْ أَخْبَرْنَا بِاشْتِيَاقِكُمْ إِلَيْنَا، وَحُزْنِكُمْ، وَغَيْرَتِكُمْ عَلَيَّ، حَتَّى إِنِّي أَزِدَدْتُ فَرَحًا. وَإِذَا كُنْتُ قَدْ أَخْرَجْتُكُمْ بِرِسَالَتِي فَلَسْتُ نَادِمًا عَلَى ذَلِكَ، مَعَ أَنِّي كُنْتُ قَدْ نَدِمْتُ، لِأَنِّي أَرَى أَنَّ تِلْكَ الرِّسَالَةَ، وَلَوْ أَخْرَجْتَكُمْ إِلَى جِينِ، قَدْ سَبَبَتْ لِي فَرَحًا كَثِيرًا، لَا لِأَنَّكُمْ حَزَنْتُمْ، بَلْ لِأَنَّ حُزْنَكُمْ أَدَّى بِكُمْ إِلَى التَّوْبَةِ. فَقَدْ حَزَنْتُمْ حُزْنًا مُرْضِيًا لِلَّهِ، كَيْ لَا تَحْسَرُوا بِسَبَبِنَا فِي أَيِّ شَيْءٍ؛ لِأَنَّ الْحُزْنَ الْمُرْضِيَّ لِلَّهِ يَصْنَعُ تَوْبَةً لِلْخَلَاصِ لَا نَدَمَ عَلَيْهَا، أَمَّا حُزْنُ الْعَالَمِ فَيَصْنَعُ مَوْتًا. فَانظُرُوا حُزْنَكُمْ هَذَا الْمُرْضِيَّ لِلَّهِ كَمْ أَنْشَأَ فِيكُمْ مِنَ الْأَجْتِهَادِ، بَلْ مِنَ الْأَعْتِدَارِ، بَلْ مِنَ الْأَسْتِنْكَارِ، بَلْ مِنَ الْخَوْفِ، بَلْ مِنَ الشَّقْوِ، بَلْ مِنَ الْغَيْرَةِ، بَلْ مِنَ الْإِصْرَارِ عَلَى الْعِقَابِ! وَقَدْ أَظْهَرْتُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ فِي كُلِّ ذَلِكَ أَنَّكُمْ أَبْرِيَاءُ مِنْ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 8: 40-56

لَمَّا عَادَ يَسُوعُ، اسْتَقْبَلَهُ الْجَمْعُ، لِأَنَّهُمْ جَمِيعُهُمْ كَانُوا يَنْتَظِرُونَهُ. وَإِذَا بِرَجُلٍ أَسْمُهُ يَائِيرُسَ، وَكَانَ رَئِيسَ الْمَجْمَعِ، جَاءَ فَأَرْتَمَى عَلَى قَدَمَيْ يَسُوعَ، وَأَخَذَ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ بَيْتَهُ، لِأَنَّ لَهُ ابْنَةً وَحِيدَةً، عُمُرُهَا نَحْوُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، قَدْ أَشْرَفَتْ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ ذَاهِبٌ، كَانَ الْجُمُوعُ يَرْحَمُونَهُ. وَكَانَتْ أَمْرَأَةً مُصَابَةً بِنَزْفِ دَمٍ مُنْذُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، وَلَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَشْفِيَهَا. دَنَتْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ يَسُوعَ، وَلَمَسَتْ طَرْفَ رِدَائِهِ، وَفَجْأَةً وَقَفَ نَزْفُ دَمِهَا. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «مَنْ لَمَسَنِي؟» «وَأَنْكَرَ الْجَمِيعُ. فَقَالَ بَطْرُسُ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ: «يَا مُعَلِّمَ، إِنَّ الْجُمُوعَ يَرْحَمُونَكَ وَيُضَايِقُونَكَ!» «فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «إِنَّ وَاحِدًا قَدْ لَمَسَنِي! فَإِنِّي عَرَفْتُ أَنَّ قُوَّةً قَدْ خَرَجَتْ مِنِّي!» «وَرَأَتْ الْمَرْأَةُ أَنَّ أَمْرَهَا لَمْ يَخْفَ عَلَيْهِ، فَدَنَتْ مُرْتَعِدَةً وَأَرْتَمَتْ عَلَى قَدَمَيْهِ، وَأَعْلَنْتْ أَمَامَ الشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ لِمَاذَا لَمَسْتُهُ، وَكَيْفَ شَفَيْتَ لِحَالِهَا. فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «يَا ابْنَتِي، إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ! إِذْهَبِي بِسَلَامٍ!» «وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ، وَصَلَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْ دَارِ رَئِيسِ الْمَجْمَعِ يَقُولُ: «مَاتَتْ ابْنَتُكَ! فَلَا تُرْجِعِ الْمُعَلِّمَ!» «وَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ فَأَجَابَهُ: «لَا تَخَفْ! يَكْفِي أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ فَتَحْيَا ابْنَتُكَ!» «وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، لَمْ يَدْخُلْ أَحَدًا يَدْخُلُ مَعَهُ سِوَى بَطْرُسَ وَيُوْحَنَّا وَيَعْقُوبَ وَأَبِي الصَّبِيِّ وَأُمِّهَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَبْكُونَ عَلَيْهَا وَيَقْرَعُونَ صُدُورَهُمْ. فَقَالَ: «لَا تَبْكُوا! إِنَّهَا لَمْ تَمُتْ. لَكِنَّهَا نَائِمَةٌ!» «فَأَخَذُوا يَضْحَكُونَ مِنْهُ لِإِعْلَامِهِمْ بِأَنَّهَا مَاتَتْ. أَمَّا هُوَ فَأَمْسَكَ بِيَدِهَا وَنَادَى قَائِلًا: «أَيْتُهَا الصَّبِيَّةُ، قُومِي!» «فَعَادَتْ رُوحَهَا إِلَيْهَا، وَفَجْأَةً نَهَضَتْ. ثُمَّ أَمَرَ بِأَنْ يُطْعَمُوا. فَدَهَشَ أَبَوَاهَا، وَأَوْصَاهُمَا يَسُوعُ الْأَخْبَرَ أَحَدًا بِمَا حَدَثَ.



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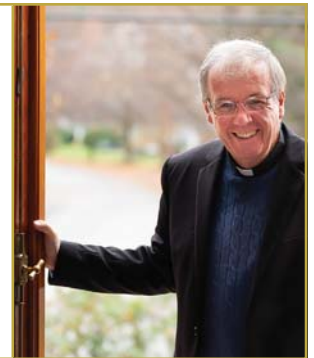
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