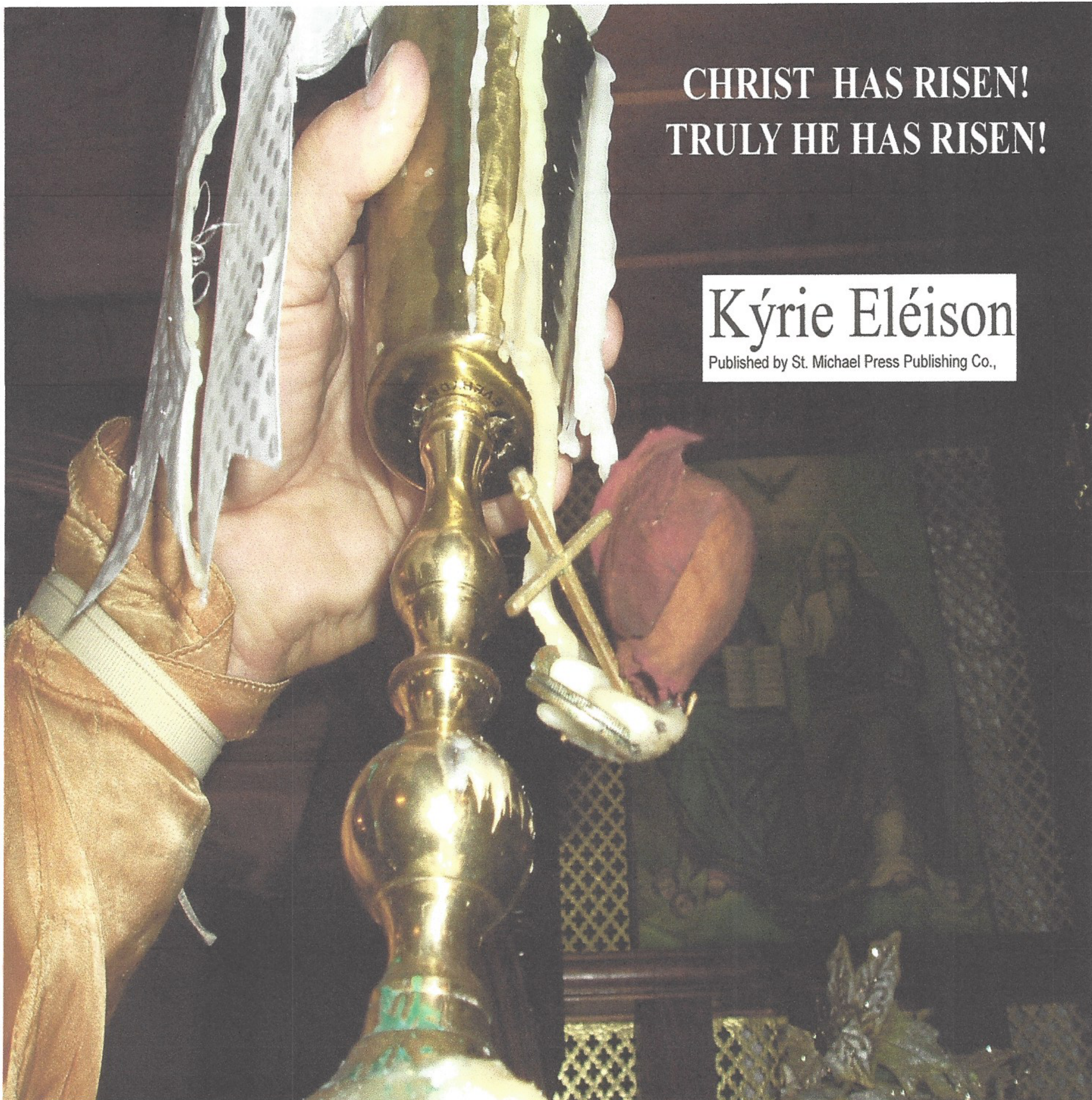


CHRIST HAS RISEN!
TRULY HE HAS RISEN!

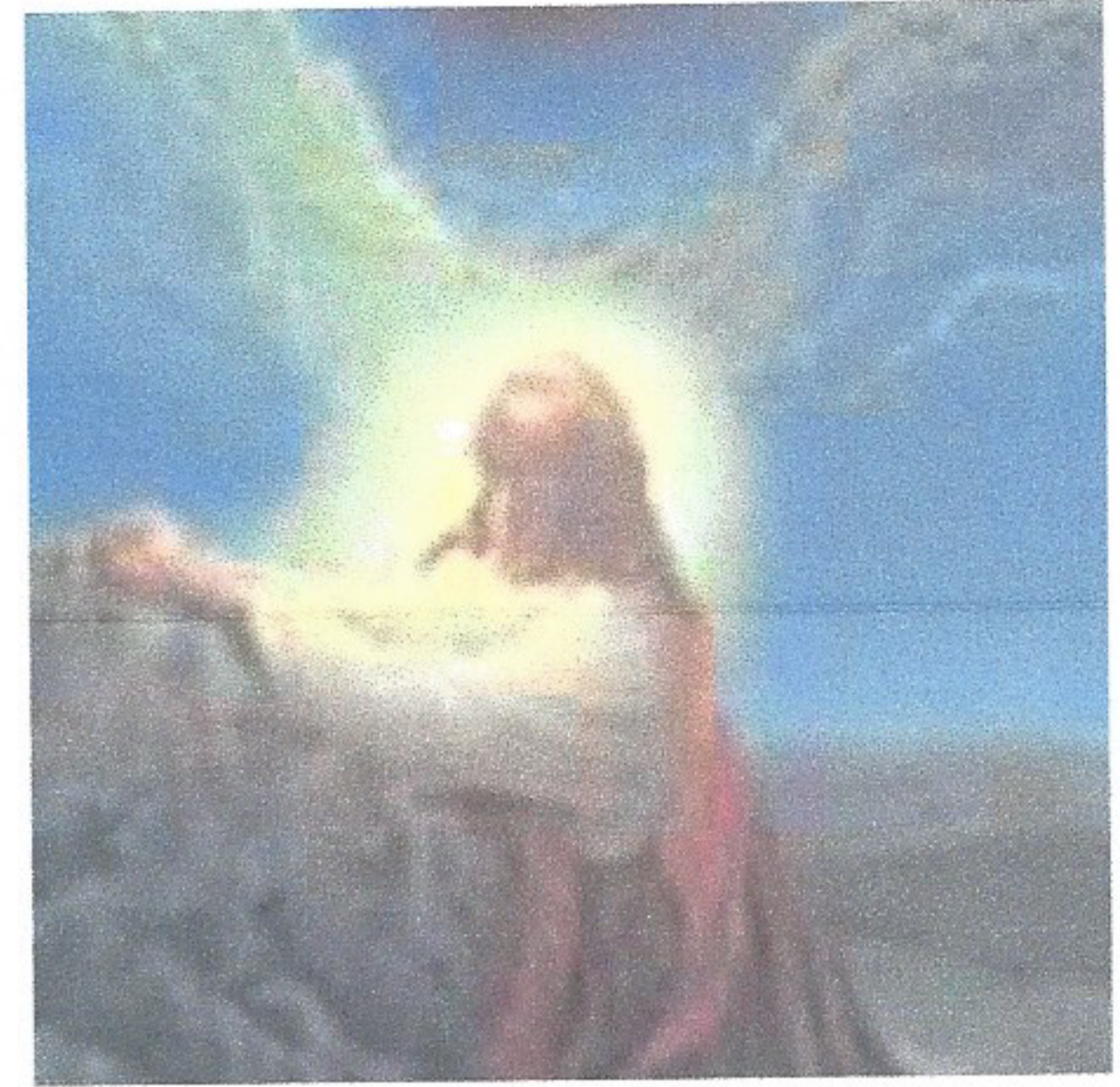
Kýrie Eléison

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Miracle of the Pascha Candle on Mother's Day, May 10, 2009

A beautiful Miracle of the Pascha candle occurred on Mother's Day – May 10 – 2009 at St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church, West Palm Beach, Florida.

As Eastern Orthodox Christians, we are aware of the Pascha (Easter) Candle that comes out lit miraculously at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem every year. This is the Holy Site where Jesus was buried and rose from the dead. The Holy Sepulchre, the place of Crucifixion (Calvary) and the Anointing Stone (where Jesus was anointed prior to burial) are contained under one roof of the Cathedral of the Holy Sepulchre (See Floor Plan on next page).

After the Divine Liturgy, Bishop + Petros held the Holy Pascha Candle before the congregation and proclaimed, "Xristos Anesti!" ("Christ Has Risen!). To which the congregation responded, "Alithos Anesti!" ("Indeed He Is Risen!") It was at this time that Deaconess Anne asked if there was a flower on the candle. Bishop + Petros looked and to his amazement saw that the candle wax had flowed down and captured three items and connected them to the Pascha Candle. The three items were: A Rose, A Crucifix, and Three coins.

What is the Meaning of This?

What is the meaning of this, and what is the Lord telling us?

The Pascha Candle is the symbol of Christ's Resurrection and that Jesus is the Light of the

World; as proclaimed by St. John the Baptist. It also represents the Holy Fire that descends miraculously to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on Pascha, lighting the Pascha Candle that is held by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The three items attached to the Pascha Candle – the Rose, the Cross, and the three coins – were attached by a thin strand of hot wax that streamed from the Pascha Candle and captured these items, snatching them up in midair.

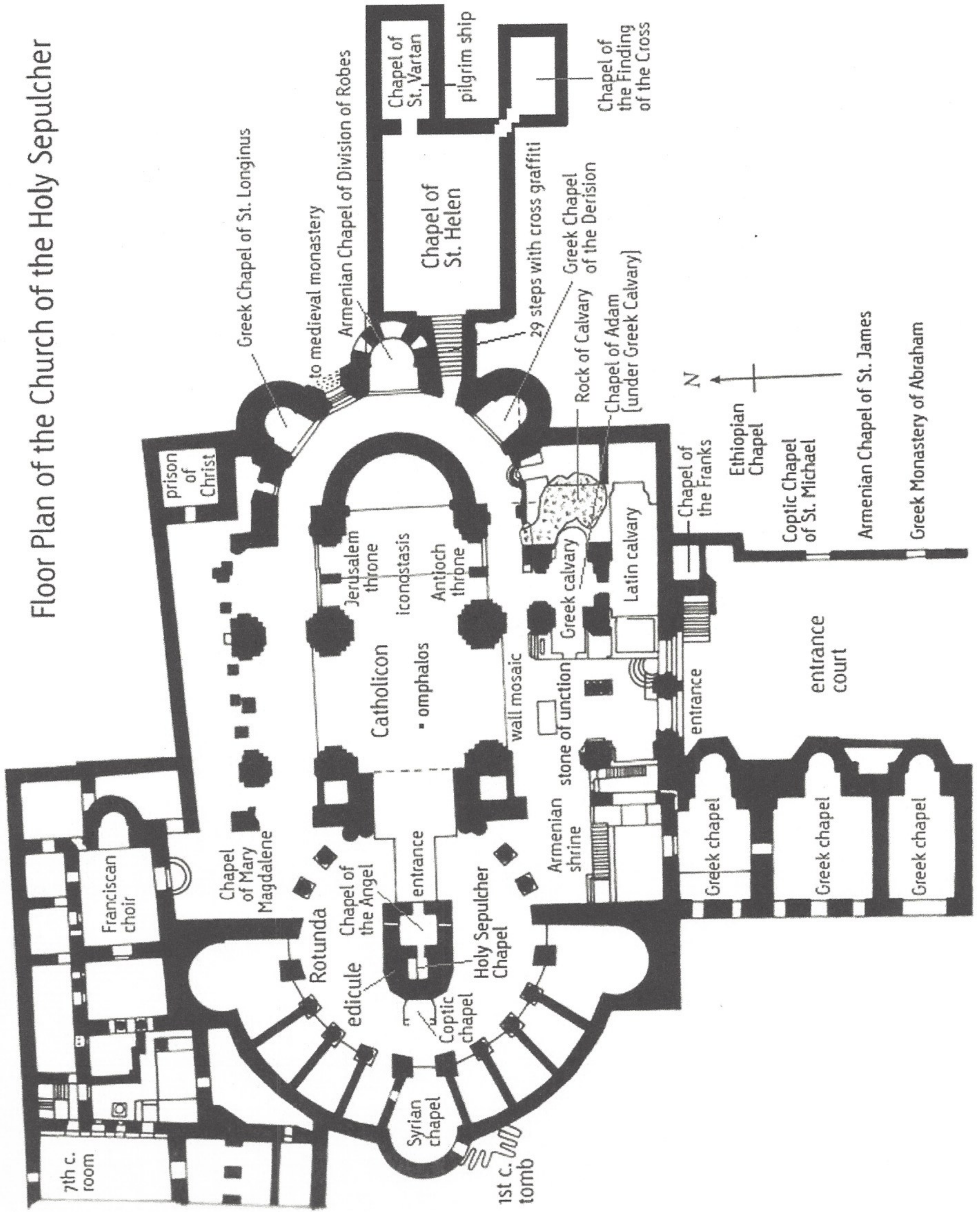
It should be noted that the three items were previously placed by Archbishop + Haralambos on a small chalice next to the Pascha Candle on the Holy Altar. Behind the small chalice was a three-paneled icon depicting the Holy Trinity and Archangel Michael and Archangel Gabriel, standing on the left and right of the Trinity as guardians of the Throne of God.

The Red Rose is a symbol of the Blessed Mother of God, with Mother's Day being one of the days in which we honor her as the Most Blessed Woman of all Creation, as proclaimed by the Archangel Gabriel.

The Bride of Christ

The Bride of Christ is so in love with the Lord that she is without spot or blemish because of her reliance on the Trinity, knowing that Jesus spilled His Blood for Salvation. Thus we witnessed the Red Rose as the Bride of Christ joining Jesus at His Wedding Feast to drink the cup anew with Him!

Floor Plan of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher



The Crucifix symbolizes our salvation, which Jesus accomplished at Calvary by offering Himself freely for the sins of the world.

The Three Coins symbolize the Three Pillars of Orthodoxy – the Holy Spirit, the Holy Gospel and the Holy Communion, as was preached by Archbishop + Haralambos the previous Sunday.

The Coins are the same ones that were found inside the bread (vasilopita) previously two years in a row by the Archbishop + Haralambos and one coin was found by a parishioner and all were placed on the altar for a blessing.

Now they were attached to the Pascha Candle by the hot melting wax.

Thus, the meaning of the three coins stuck together mystically by the wax connected to the Pascha Candle comes to life within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of believers. Jesus prayed that we may be one. This is the unity Jesus desires in John 17:21-23, in which He said: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and has loved them, as thou has loved me.” The coins are connected as one, reinforcing the Three Pillars of the Orthodox Church.

The Order of the Items

The order that the three items were attached to the Pascha Candle is equally important: The Rose, the Crucifix and the Coins. This indicates that the

Blessed Mother had to surrender to God’s Will first, in order for Christ to be born, so He could have a body to sacrifice at Calvary, as God and as Man.

It should be further noted that the stand for the Pascha Candle resembles a Chalice, and the way the hot wax streamed down the side of the candle resembles a Communion Spoon. The fact that the three items are connected to the Candle by a single strand of wax demonstrates the Unity and Power which Christ wants in His Church.

The Pascha Candle was held by Metropolitan Archbishop + Haralambos on Pascha this year – April 19, 2009 – as those who witnessed this miracle sang: “Xristos Anesti ek nekron tha-no-to, tha-na-ton pa-ti-sas ke tis en tis mni-ma-si zoi ha-ri-sa-me-no.” (“Christ Has Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon Death, and has bestowed Life to those in the tombs.”)

Xristos Anesti!

“Xristos Anesti!” (“Christ is Risen!”)

We all shouted in response: “Alithos Anesti!” (“Indeed He Is Risen!”) This is what the light/flame of the candle represents. Christ is alive and His Resurrection is our belief and joy! Therefore we can boldly say: Oh death, where is thy sting? Oh, Hades, where is thy victory? Praise God, for Jesus has risen from the dead trampling down death by His Death!

This was a beautiful gift to all of us on Mother’s Day. I am sure that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was interceding for the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church for complete Unity.
St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church

Three Pillars of Orthodoxy: Holy Chalice, Holy Gospel, Holy Spirit

By Archbishop + Haralambos

When are we Orthodox?

When are we Christian Orthodox?

When are we Eastern Christian Orthodox?

The answer is simple. At the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem after the Passover, the enactment at the precise time of the Lord's Resurrection, enacted every year in ceremony, the Holy Fire lights in the Holy Sepulchre. That's God's way of manifesting the truth of our faith.

Protestants, which I consider to be Christians cousins of ours, don't follow Orthodoxy, but some of them participate – and we invite them to do so. Our Catholic Brothers-in-Christ and Sister Churches do recognize the Holy Sepulchre and participate. However, to me, and I share it as your Archbishop, that as long as that fire lights each year, the Holy Spirit manifests itself in a physical manner. It certainly proves to me and to my heart and to all Orthodox Christians throughout the world that we are the True Anchor and True Faith.

However, that doesn't preclude and change the issues that we face today in trying to edify, improve and do the work of the Holy Spirit to perfect the Church. If the Church is perfect, then there is no need for any edification of the leadership.

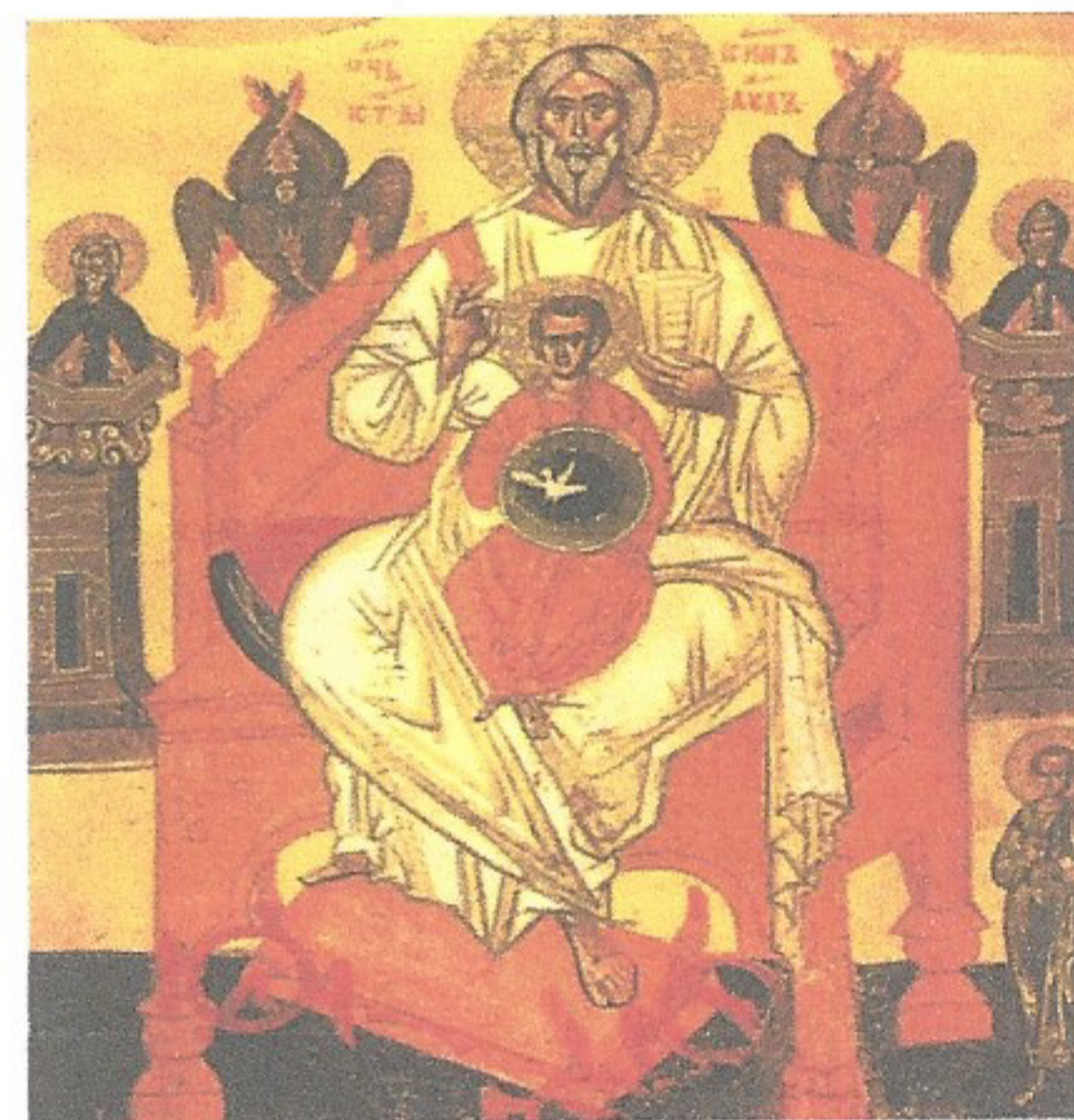
The Power of the Holy Spirit

The Power of the Holy Spirit is indeed in this message. I know because the week after I delivered this sermon, a Miracle was made manifest on the altar at St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church. It reinforced the message of the Three Pillars of Orthodoxy – The Holy

Chalice, The Holy Gospel and The Holy Spirit. It was made manifest on Mother's Day – May 10, 2009 – and is the subject of the other article in Kýrie Eléison: "Miracle of the Pascha Candle".

My Orthodox Faith has taken on rote rubrics – read the scripture, year in and year out, that are precisely the same. We have actually, mundanely and erroneously I might add, followed identical patterns because of our Orthodox influence belief that we can't change one dot or one tittle.

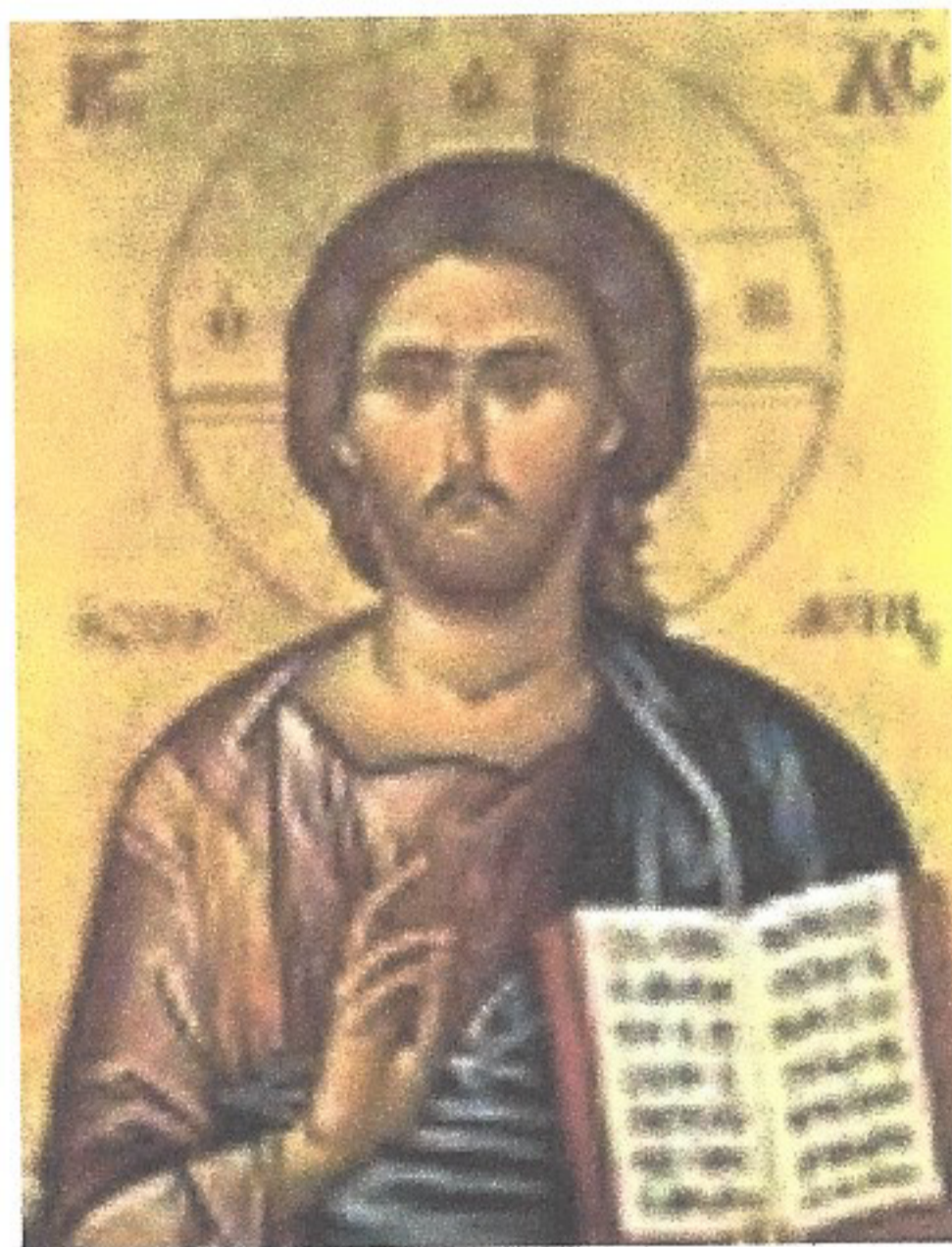
The only thing we can't change is the Holy Gospel – and the life of Christ as it is recorded in the Holy Gospels, because therein lies the Power of the Holy Gospel.



That's because it's a script that was written by Heaven itself – from the Throne of God – in sending a human Son, who is both God and Man – to enact a script which is precise: Christ's participation in fulfilling – not only what Heaven told Him in prayer on a daily basis, but also the fulfillment of the

Prophets of old that are recorded in the Old Testament, and what the happenings would be of the Messiah. The fulfillment of that was about a one-billion-to-one odds that one man could fulfill all the prophetic utterances that would be the Savior when He would come as the Messiah of Israel.

Yet, it escaped the leadership of Israel because they were so bent on being Pharisees and Sadducees, with their traditions that they couldn't believe that in their midst was their Messiah.



Nor could they condone the fact that He was superimposing on them – and really replacing them and what they were doing in their actions toward the Nation of Israel.

Israel was warned many times as it moved from Egypt to the Promised Land that they would go to war, and that their enemy would be destroyed before them and that they would have victory. But if the Nation of Israel hesitated and didn't arm themselves and go forth in warfare, they would find themselves in disfavor with the Father. This happened many times. They even wanted to go back in the beginning.

That's not unlike what's happening today. The Pharisees and Sadducees are the hierarchal leadership of the Church today. And let's define the Church that I'm speaking about – the Orthodox Church. That applies to the Greek Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church, all of the mainline churches, notwithstanding also, the Roman Catholic Church.

If the leadership today stay in the same position and escape the fact that God tells them to arm themselves and go to war, what are the utensils of war? Obviously, we are caught up as human beings in the war that God has going on with the satanic forces, Lucifer himself who was cast out of Heaven.

The Battle and War is God's

The battle and the war is God's. It's His to fight and it's His to win. But if we are going to be part of the Church Militant in helping God overcome the onslaught of the enemy, we have to get in tune with the Lord in where the battlefield is, where the shortcomings are.

We are impervious – Jesus said so. The gates of hell – they open and all the demons pour out – cannot prevail against the Church. However, we need to identify what we need in order to fight this war. We are impervious because we are the children of God; the atonement has been given to us. We are being led into salvation, in permanent eternal life with the Lord. We are His “hands off” special group on our way to Heaven, as the Body of Christ. The Lords says, as He said many times, when He spoke about Job to Satan: You can do anything you want, but you can't kill Job. He is mine. I will prove that Job loves Me and is in My care at all times.

We, the Orthodox Church, need to understand this battle, because we are

the anchor. But what has happened is that we have become so mundane and so stale, and all we want to do is employ the sacraments. We don't want to deal with the issue that the whole of Christianity is repentance and life-changing, life-saving.

That's really what is at issue. Otherwise, God would just say, take your communion and go on with life, doing whatever you do and being whatever you want to be. The real issue of the Lord is His Creation, and the real issue of the Lord is for us to change after He has paid the price of atonement and to move into the area of salvation, so we can get a permanent affixture to his Kingdom in Heaven.

The Process Starts Here on Earth

The process starts here on earth. The Will of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. Once we are in Heaven, we have very few choices. Anybody who rebels against God in Heaven gets cast out. Certainly you will be bound hand and foot because you don't have the proper apparel. Does His mercy go on forever? Does He allow the presence of rebellion in Heaven? I don't think so. However, the process here on earth is a creative process in a materialistic way to prepare us and create in us – with the help of God – so we are acceptable at the time of our passing from this life, and qualified to be in eternal life.

So, why am I saying that our beloved Orthodox Faith has a problem? The problem is that it's not perfect. It has been infiltrated with many thoughts, with hierarchal decisions, not only in the structure, but the carrying out of what God said.

What did God say to the Orthodox Church? These are His instructions, especially concerning the Holy Gospel. We all agree today that the Gospel has

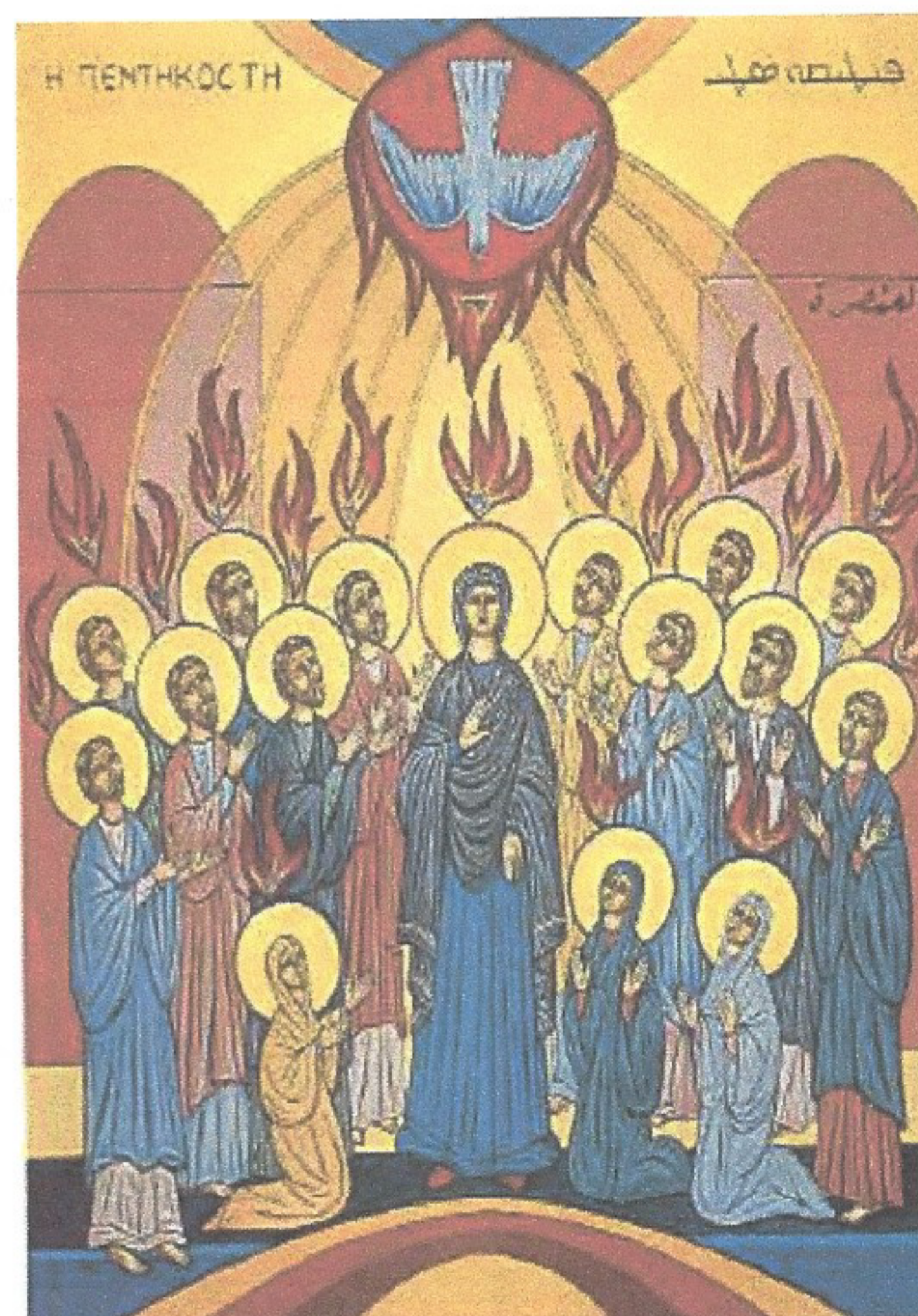
power. So how does He unleash that power? God said: Go forth and preach to all men the Holy Gospel.

In other words, preach to them My Life, because My Life was designed, controlled and protected by all the powers of Heaven, and all the angels. We must believe that there is Power in the Gospel, and by a commandment of God Himself: Go forth and preach that, so they have the power unleashed before them, in order for them to go into salvation.

It's not enough just to say, I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. He said, Go forth and preach to all men about me – the Gospel – for I have fulfilled the Gospel and there is power there.

What Else Did God Command?

What else did God command? It's something that has escaped, in many instances, not only the Orthodox Church, but our cousin churches and our sister churches. He told His Apostles, Wait until the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon you, then go forth. They had to wait for Pentecost.



Does the Church today wait for Pentecost? Do Christians today wait for their personal Pentecost? Do churches wait for the Tongues of Fire to come upon them? God said it in one inclusive way – when I light the Holy Fire, that’s the Tongues of Fire that comes upon the candle that scripture records that came upon the top of each of the Apostles, giving them the power to go forward. See, the Holy Fire does come upon you when you believe in the Resurrection and the Holy Fire coming upon the candle. It’s as though you are that candle, because you believe by faith in that Resurrection. So it is transformed to you, just as sure as it did on Pentecost.

We Enact Pentecost

We enact Pentecost every year as revealed in our Orthodox calendar. Yet we don’t realize that by enacting it is asking it to come into your life, in your ministry with Christ. Saint Paul said many times, I can’t go always where I want to go, because I’m stopped by the Holy Spirit. That was because he had invited the Holy Spirit into his life. Do we actually invite the Holy Spirit to make decisions for us? Don’t we really make those decisions for ourselves, and call it religious freedom?

If you really stop and think about it, there is no religious freedom. If you are controlled and are in the workings and the power of the Holy Spirit, is not your life controlled by Heaven itself? Are you not guided by Heaven itself? If not, don’t you fall into the trap that Satan has put forth that you really have your own individual life to live, which includes the pursuit of happiness without God?

Doesn’t God Know Best?

Doesn’t God know best where we belong? Can you see the future of a pitfall we may be walking into, and the trap is set by Satan himself? Satan

cannot come against and harm you if you are working under the Power of the Holy Spirit, and if you are speaking forth the Gospel, and living the Gospel as Christ did. Nothing can come against you. But if God asks you and says you must also bear the Cross I bear, that’s part of the pattern. So, by faith, we invite the Power of the Holy Spirit. By faith we believe the Power of the Gospel.

My Pascha Message this year centered on Christ’s Prayer to the Father for Unity. It starts in John 17:11 “that they may be one as we are” to realize the prayer that Jesus taught His Disciples: “His Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

Christ’s Prayer of Unity

Jesus prayed that we may be one. This is the unity Jesus desires in John 17:21-23, in which He said: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and has loved them, as thou has loved me.”

In fact, Unity is why the Byzantine Order of the Holy Sepulchre (O.B.S.S.) was established in 324 A.D. by Saints Constantine and Helen. The O.B.S.S. protects the Christian sites in Jerusalem – especially the Holy Sepulchre of Jesus Christ. Metropolitan Archbishop + Haralambos is a Knight Grand Cross and Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of Saint Michael International, which sponsors a college in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Knights of the O.B.S.S. protect the Holy Sites – from both the enemies outside and inside the One, Holy,

Catholic and Apostolic Church. The mission of the O.B.S.S. is ecumenism – to reunite those who divided during the Great Schism of 1054.



to guide our lives and move us forward? Yet we still drink the blood and eat the flesh so there is spiritual life in us. But isn't it a stagnant spiritual life that doesn't go forward in growth, which in Orthodoxy we call theosis?

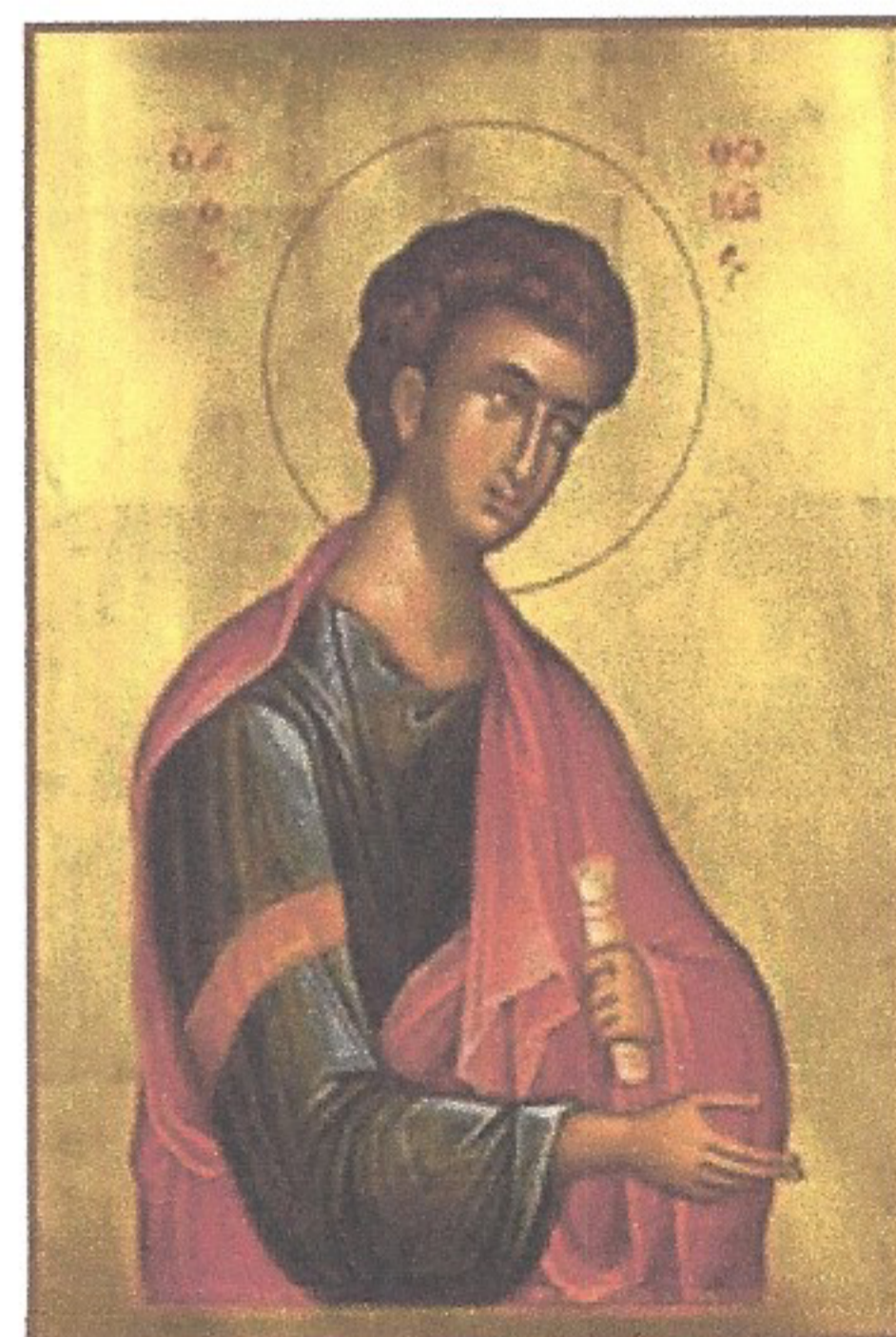
We can't develop the program for theosis. The Holy Spirit does, and it says for us to go forth and preach the Gospel to all men, which means to tell the life of God in the Flesh who came down from the Throne. If you can't say anything else, you can say, Unless Christ is your God; you can't say Allah, that he is the same God, that there is one God religion in the world. You can't eliminate and preclude Christ. You can't say Buddha is God. You can't say that man is God. You can't say that Nature is God. You have to say that Jesus Christ is God in the Flesh.

God is Christ and Christ is God

God is Christ and Christ is God, who came in the form of a Son, manifested from Heaven from the Throne itself, of which He returned to that Throne. It's so simple. There's really nothing complicated about it. Do we have a Pentecost? Yes. That can wait 50 days because the Orthodox Church says you have to wait 50 days. How ridiculous, when the fire comes every year at Pascha, on the Day of Resurrection.

Three Commandments of God

There are three commandments of God. The first is the Commandment of the Holy Communion. "You must drink of my blood and eat of my flesh, or there is no spiritual life in you." So why have we been taking communion all of our lives and believe that all is well, but we shut down the Holy Spirit and follow a pattern that we are not supposed to follow, and don't invite the Holy Spirit



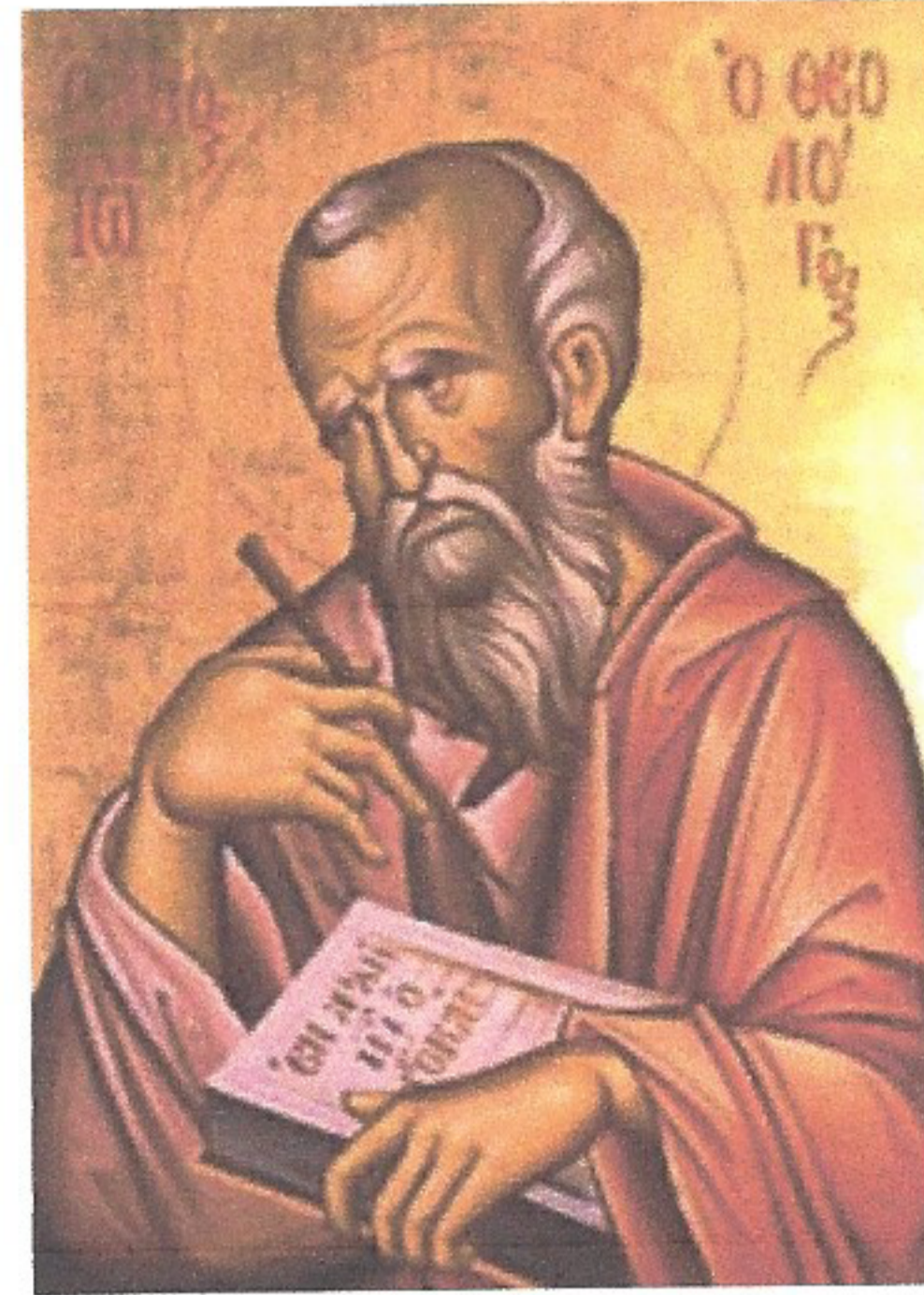
Yes, the Apostles had to wait, and I think Christ was quite busy in Hell, trying to rescue a whole lot of mankind. He had to do that first.

Why didn't the Apostles receive the Holy Fire after the Resurrection? There was some thinking in the Apostles that had to change. Thomas was an Apostle, and he certainly had to go through the problem of lack of faith to believe that Christ Resurrected. In fact, they challenged and questioned him against all of the Apostles.

What a brave man. I think the Lord weighed his bravery and rewarded him, instead of chastising him, when He reappeared and said, Thomas, come here, let Me straighten out and edify you because you're still part of my Church. Put your hands here, put your fingers there. What do you see; what do you feel? Thomas was so struck by the mercy of God, showing him that He was God that he said, "My Lord. My God. Jesus Christ Resurrected. You are my God. God, You have shown me Yourself in Christ before my eye." Then Jesus said something truly beautiful. He said, More blessed are those, the future of my Church, that don't have the benefit that I'm giving you today, that believe.

Ah, Lord, but what fool can live and say he is Orthodox and cannot recognize what you do once a year, at Pascha? You call down the Holy Fire of the Holy Spirit at the most precious of all places on Earth – Your Holy Sepulchre. You do send down that Holy Fire. You have appointed a Church that should be unchanged.

But don't we take it to a different level – and I personally believe, an erroneous one – because I think we become very rote and so traditionalized in our Church that we fail to allow the Holy Spirit to



work in a period of Nuclear Age.

Wasn't it the Holy Spirit Who revealed to Saint John at Patmos the coming of the Apocalypse, which could only have been a nuclear Holocaust? They saw battles and battlefields; they saw the future.

So you could say, Archbishop + Haralambos, why is the Church on your case? Why is it that you can't find peace among your brothers in Christ? Because the Lord put in my heart a book that I called "Truth or Tradition?", and when tradition blocks out truths that belongs to every person who comes to Christ – who comes to recognize his God. He shouldn't be superseded by hierarchal leadership that says you must do it this way and that way or you are not in the tradition, or even acceptable in the canons of the Church.

If the Church isn't perfect, doesn't that mean that mistakes are made that need to be corrected? And why did God allow a prophetic ministry in Elijah and certainly John the Baptist to try to correct the acceptable Church of its time?

We have the perfect Church, which was started by Christ and the Apostles. There is an Apostolic succession, the laying on of hands, that means you

belong, and that you haven't created something for yourself. If you research the Church Fathers and Saints, most of them have been murdered by the Church itself, in any attempt to change what the contemporary beliefs were. Usually they were the traditional beliefs, and they started with Christ. For instance, He was told He couldn't heal on the Sabbath. Jesus said, What are you talking about?

Doesn't that apply to the Church today, when they say: You can't have change, or have healings in the Church? We are a traditional Church. We have liturgy and we have everything set. We don't need to alter and edify and modify, so we can work in the 21st century.

Miracles DO happen

You can't get on your knees and touch a man in an Orthodox Church or a parish hall, if he's dropped dead with a heart attack and touch him. You have to drag that traditional priest to come with you, so there was a fulfillment of "two or more" to bring a man back to life; certainly back to health. That happened, and it happened in an Orthodox Cathedral, and out of the mouth of an Orthodox priest, who said, "We don't do that in Orthodoxy anymore. You know how the people are. They object to that and think you are Pentecostal."

You can't call yourself St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church, because you come against a tradition. But wait a minute. Isn't evangelizing the same as going and preaching the Gospel to all men? If so, how can you say it's wrong? I had a bishop I was associated with, and he didn't like the word "evangelical" when we formed our church organization. But God moved, and thank God the Holy Spirit had His way – it is St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church, Inc.

So what happens when you try to follow in complete form the Orthodox tradition – which is beautiful, by the way? I like the bells and the incense too. I believe by faith, though, that when the sensor is being used, you are setting the stage – by faith – for the Holy Spirit to come. There is a Greek word, "th-dromy-e", which means stink. You take the stink of humanity away by using the censer. Thumiaterion. To invite God into something that smells beautiful.



By the way, that goes back to the Israeli tradition. They burned certain incense in the Holy place where God met Moses and Aaron, and sometimes Marian was invited to come close by. Now poor Moses wasn't a priest, but he had the assignment to be a spokesman. God said, Moses, I'll tell you what to say. I don't care if you stutter. You will speak what I tell you to speak, but I don't want any confusion, and I don't

want Marian or Aaron to supersede what I tell you. But bring them here. I want to meet with them in this the Holiest of Holies. And they came forth. Certainly they belonged to the Church that was God's Church with Israel. That's no different than our Church today.

So are there men who God picks for leadership to do His work? So there is no confusion, they only follow and understand the movement that is by the Holy Spirit. Holy Communion is also improving their lives. They are moving forth in theosis – an improvement – so they are acceptable to God.

Poor Moses. Yes, he was an Egyptian prince, but he had to spend years traveling the desert. Personally I think he was enjoying himself, because he was a nomad, he had wives and he was living in a land where he was respected. He didn't have to worry about being Jewish; there was no persecution. Until he was finally ready and God called him back to God's people and to rescue them from the pagan beliefs of the Pharaoh, which was the almighty government that was in existence and in control of their very lives, so God could work with His people to perfect them.

The Church Militant

The Church Militant also needs to seek the Church Perfect. But God does it on an individual basis. Each one of us, although we've been baptized and chrismated, only means that we have the right to go forward into theosis. But if we block, stumble, eliminate the work of the Holy Spirit, we will never be saved. We will have to meet the Great Judgment Day of Christ, which is awesome. I think that's what we need to understand and to avoid.

What does Holy Communion do? It gives you the strength, the renewal, the cleansing, to keep going forward. We

are so corrupt that if we allow our sins to keep compounding, we'll be out of salvation.

That's what our Protestant cousins don't understand – once we accept Christ, we must move with the Power of God, and the Power is the Holy Spirit. The Power of the Gospel brings the Atonement to us, and the price Christ paid with His life for our entire prior life. But from that point on, we have an obligation. If we block the Holy Spirit, or grieve it, or blaspheme against it, Jesus said, I can't do anything for them. He said, you can come against Me and the Power of the Gospel, but if you come against and blaspheme the Holy Spirit, there is no use praying for you.

See How Simple It Is

See how simple it is, and I can only stand up here and repeat these words because I too have been ignorant as some of my brother hierarchs. To understand their position is so delicate that they can't take the rubrics and the history of the Church and stereotype and rubberstamp every Orthodox Christian with the same things that happened hundreds of years ago.

Our surroundings have changed. The enemy has changed its camouflage, and what has it done? If it can't come against the Church, and it can't come head-on and fight what God established, what can it do? It can use black magic and mirrors to try to deflect the power that's in the knowledge of the availability of the power to continue the perfection of the Church. In other words, it can fool, by mirrors and smoke and illusions – and all you have to do is accept the Gospel only and enact the power and belief in it and believe in Christ, and that's enough.

Then why didn't Christ say, go and evangelize and that's it? Why did He

say, wait for the Power of the Holy Spirit? Why wait for Pentecost?

Because He knew it would require the Power of the Holy Spirit, as well as the Power of the Gospel, and the Power of the Holy Communion to complete the package.

I must confess to you that I always thought the Holy Communion was enough. As long as my sins were covered, I thought, I'm not going to be rejected. I think that is a foolish notion. It's foolish because now I see clearly that I needed the others. I needed to read about the Gospel to see and believe and reinforce and preach why God came in the Flesh to the children of Israel, and they rejected Him. Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. How it would be if you would only let Me gather you in, when you are rejecting me. I believe God allowed that and didn't supersede over it.

God Told Moses

God told Moses many times to depart from those people and let Me destroy them all and start all over again. Hasn't God said that to Christianity? The Jews had been the perfect people that God had chosen, with Moses as their leader. He was challenged once by Marian and Aaron, who said something quite honestly and quite factually – they said, God comes to us too. We are there at the Holy Altar when He appears. God said to them, but wait a minute. I speak through one person; you are witnesses, but I speak to him – probably because he's meek, or for whatever reason. I'm not sure Moses understood.

But I know today, God could wipe out the entire Christian world. But in His mercy, He lets a few things happen. Wise is the person in Christ, who sees the movement of God in his or her life and says, thou lackest one thing, you are

too busy with life. You can't really be in My theosis pattern for you, because I am requiring a whole lot from you.

Therefore, in order to eliminate your commitment to all of these things in the world that are happening today – your businesses, your livelihood, your living – sell all you have, get rid of the responsibilities and come follow Me. In other words, I will provide for you, but you will have to eliminate all of this, which is a huge act of faith.

That's the biggest leap of faith that I think a Christian could make, because then you get blessed by God. I must confess that I am blessed. I almost want to ask God – but I sort of shy away from the question – do I get rid of everything I have? You have given me an awful lot of blessing here, Lord, just to feed the poor, when You said the poor you will have always? But me, you don't. Isn't there some way we can work this out, Lord? Yes, if you give it all to Me.

First you have to pay all of your debts. I did that. Took everything I had – in cash – and I'm going back 25-30 years when a couple hundred thousand dollars was a lot of money. I had to pay back people who I thought maybe I owed, but who hadn't instituted any judicial process. After I was through, I didn't have anything left, but I did follow Him. I must confess to you that a time or two, I'd think: did I really do the right thing? Because my Momma said, "Why do you do all of that? Why did you give all away? It's your home and you are entitled to a home." But I said, no, I wanted it for the process that I'm in – renewing my life, to serve Him. I needed to do that.

This was especially true because most of the Church really don't like the fact that I wrote a book, entitled "Truth or Tradition" and published it and gave it to

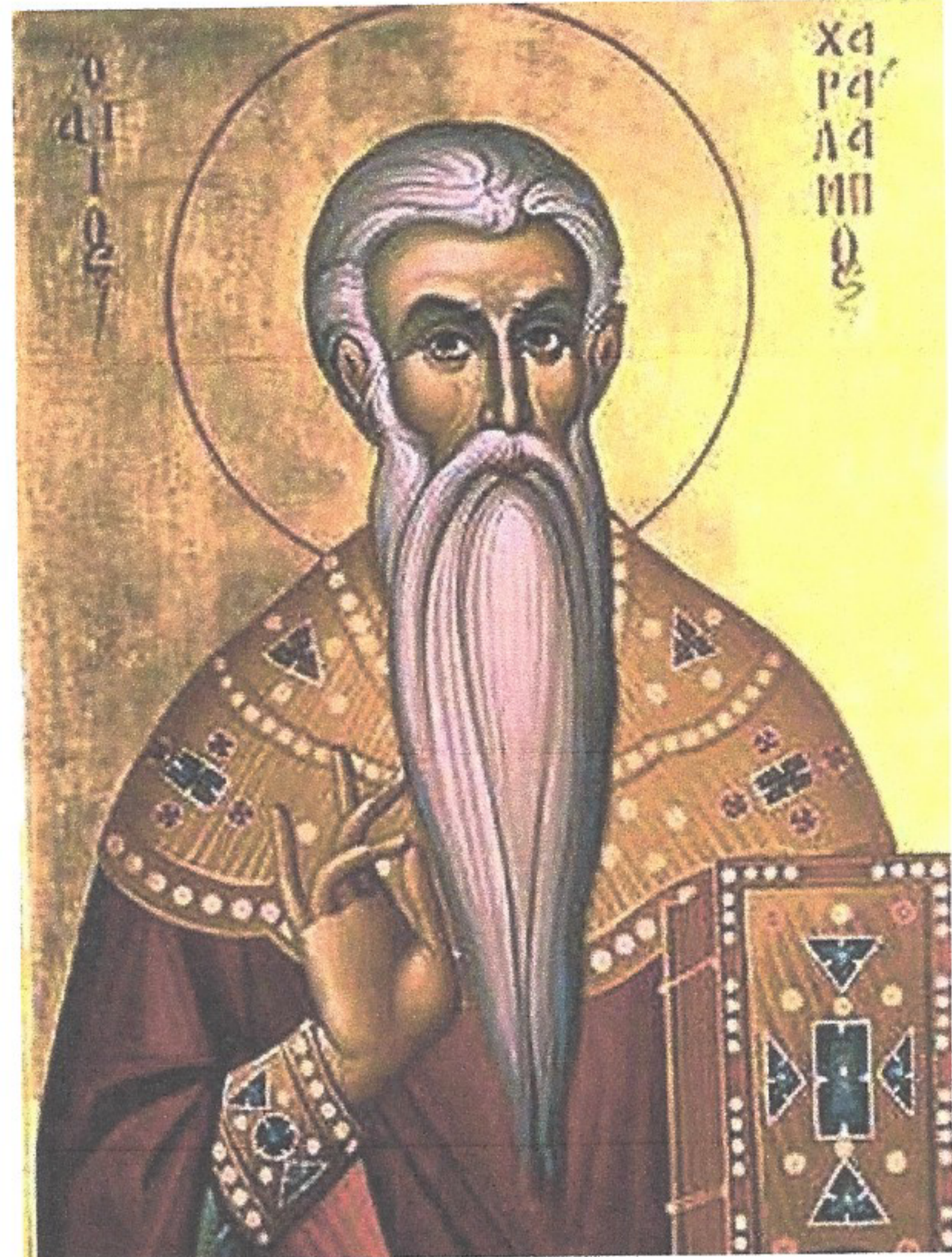
all the Jews in Israel – the entire Knesset. I even got an answer back from Menachem Begin, saying he appreciated and loved the book. All I did was challenge my Church.

“Truth or Tradition”

Yes, but you are inviting, said Momma, to bring down a whole lot, when you enjoy being the reader of the Church, when you enjoy having been elected the director, you enjoy the fact that they patted you on the back when you ran for State Senator, they enjoyed having a Greek-American who seemed to be publicly getting somewhere. But was I really?

Even today, I ask God today, am I preparing this ministry to go forward, or are You going to give me the life of Moses and I won't worry about who takes over. For I will continue doing it, even if I'm an old man and those poor folks have to pick me up and move me. As long as I'm moving in the Power of the Holy Spirit and as long as I'm moving in the Power of the Holy Gospel and as long as I'm moving in the Power of the Holy Communion, I will live as long as God wants me to.

The only thing I fear is that He will fall in love with me so much that He will want me at His side. So I say, Lord, don't love me quite that much yet, because I want all the prizes You can possibly lay at my feet in the hereafter, eternally. I want my rewards to be so high that I will spend eternity unwrapping all those presents that you have waiting for me. So, Lord, don't fall in love with me so much, and I promise that I won't make You jealous. I promise You that I will have a zest for life and allow Your Holy Spirit to keep me, and let that be where we are



better follow to the letter, or you're not Orthodox.”

Beloved Brothers in Christ

But my beloved Brothers in Christ, how do I come against the Holy Spirit and deny the Holy Spirit from movement within my life? When I feel it's the movement of the Holy Spirit, it's not me – I'm not in rebellion to you. I suffer the same things you do. Am I not a fellow hierarch? Why do you preclude me and close me out of being in Communion with you, when it is my desire to accept the Power of the Holy Communion with you? But if you want me to have it by myself, so be it. God will make more power in it for me because I still take it, even though you, the hierarchs foreclose me and come against me.

Isn't that what happened to you, Lord? So I guess you want me to be more of a pattern of what Your Life was, so be it. I love it. I don't deserve it, because You

are going to do it, not me, and I'm going to be something special to you. Why You chose me, I don't know. I'd rather go fishing. I'd rather play golf. I'd rather have a life of pleasure. I'd rather enjoy all of the wealth and blessings You have given me. Can't I do this a different way?

What the Lord Giveth, the Lord Can Takest Away

The Lord says, What the Lord giveth, the Lord can takest away. Have you thought maybe I gave it to you, so you could use it for My Glory? That makes sense, Lord. Because everything I've made, I managed to spend it all. But thank God, I'm not in debt. Thank God I have the freedom in movement and choice to serve You. I don't have any impediments and legacies that have dragged on into my life. It began when I was asked to pay off all of my debts and come follow Him. Then it began, the theosis in my life to be a servant of the Lord.

He hasn't deprived me. I haven't been assigned to a monastery. I still have a wife. I don't even really have the impediment of children. They are all adults – all in their 40s and above – and somehow they still love me. They see the wealth I have. They wonder why I have, in their minds, strangers living in

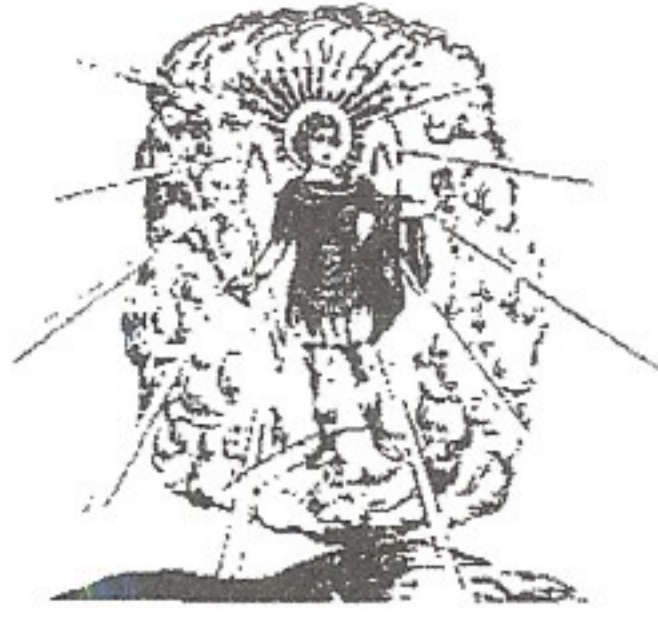
their inheritance. They don't understand that God has given me a Christian family of dedicated men and women who really, honestly love me and want to work with me in the vineyard of the Lord. I have the smallest congregant group, but I think the most powerful on Earth.

All I Ask Is Wisdom

I know what we are going to come against, and all I ask is the wisdom and understanding to always know that my thinking is not the path; that it's the Path of the Holy Spirit. I only ask that you change the minds of those people to not contest what I say or do. That they don't blurt out, because that hurts and stymies me. I don't need correction; You correct me. I need to continue in a leadership role that they will respect and follow, and understand that they don't always come to Your altar, and I'm talking about the Altar of the Holy Spirit.

What is Orthodox is allowing the Holy Fire and recognizing it by faith. That's the Pentecost. Not the celebration of it, but the actual reality of it happening again – a Tongue of Fire touching a candle and lighting it and coming out and saying:

Xristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! (Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!)



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Miracle of the Pascha Candle on Mother's Day also Carries an End-Time Message

- The true believers are appointed or elected to two groups, represented by the Red Rose and the Crucifix – the Bride of Christ and the Martyrs.
- The Bride of Christ will be “snatched up” before the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord’s Return, where “His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives” in Jerusalem.
- The Church Militant – the Martyrs, represented by the Crucifix – will be those who are hand-picked by Jesus to stay and fight the good fight of faith. They are the ones who will put on the armor of Christ and who are enlisted as soldiers to fight the battle. Everyone who is a believer is in the Church Militant, but since the Church is in captivity, many true believers do not see the battle; therefore many will be martyred. Those who are fighting and have assignments – as well as those who will not give up Christ – will then be killed as a testimony.
- Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against My Church. The True Church is composed of believers who follow the Commandments of Jesus and worship the Undivided Trinity in Spirit and Truth. This is the prosperity the true faith believers’ experience, which is “built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.”
- The Mother’s Day Miracle reveals God’s Love for His people, even with the twenty-one Judgments revealed in “The Revelation”, written by Saint John at Patmos, which are on the horizon.

So, whether you are raptured or martyred, you will be raised to life because of your life in Christ Jesus!