



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

A Parish Family of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY

كنيسة مار أنطونيوس المارونية

Sunday, October 22, 2017

الأحد، 22 تشرين الأول 2017

145 Amesbury St * Lawrence, MA 01841

Phone: 978.685.7233 * Fax: 978.688.4475

email: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org * Website: www.stanthonylawrence.org

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM

Friday: Office is Closed

Saturdays: By Appointment

LITURGIES

Daily Liturgies:

M & W: 9 AM

T & TH: 7 PM

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday

Vigil Liturgy @ 4 PM

Sunday Liturgies:

8:30 AM - Arabic

9:30 AM - English

11:30 AM - English & Arabic

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM

Feast Day @ 9 AM

Sacraments of

Baptism & Confirmation

1 month in advance with the Pastor

Sacrament of Matrimony

*Couples should make arrangements
six months prior to the wedding date*

Sacrament of

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*

we're excited to announce

our new website is finally

LIVE!!

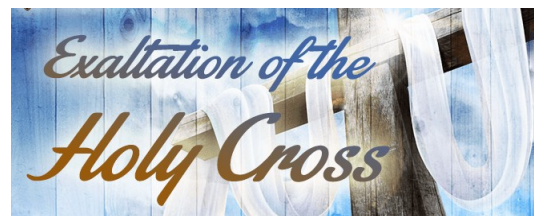
Our TIME,
talents & treasure
are on loan to us
from God.

Give them away with
unlimited generosity.

Facebook: Saint Anthony Maronite Church Lawrence, MA



Liturgies Intentions



6th Sunday After Holy Cross الأحد السادس - زمن الصليب المقدس

Meet our staff:

Clergy

Father Elie Mikhael, Pastor
pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Father Joseph Abisaad,
Parochial Vicar

Phone: 978-685-7233

Emergency Contact:

Fr. Elie Mikhael

305.807.9087

Fr. Joseph Abi Saad

978.457.5889

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

Sub-Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Secretary:

Mrs. Susan Fuccillo

978.685-7233

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Parish Ministries

- ♦ Religious Education
ccd@stanthonylawrence.org
- ♦ Publishing: Bulletin
bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org
- ♦ Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)
 - ♦ Kids Choir
 - ♦ Knights of the Altar
 - ♦ Knights of Mary
- ♦ Maronite Youth : MYO
- ♦ Maronite Young Adults
(Coming Soon)
- ♦ Bereavement Ministry
- ♦ Cenacle of the Rosary
(Thursdays @ 6PM)
- ♦ Cenacle of Divine Mercy
(Sundays Before the Liturgies)
- ♦ Sacristan (s)

Saturday, October 21	4:00 PM	<i>Special Intentions.</i>
Sunday, October 22	8:30AM	<i>For the Deceased members of the Abdel-Hay Family, By the family.</i>
	9:30AM	<i>Good Health of Bashir Faris by the Pastor</i>
	11:30 AM	<i>For: +Antoine Abou Ezzi, By his wife, Sonia, and her family.</i> <i>For: Albertine Hanosh Sagman By her Son Adel Nami & Family</i>

6th Week of Holy Cross

الاسبوع السادس من زمن الصليب

Monday, October 23 @ 9 AM – <i>St Longinus</i>	<i>For: Good health of Alice and Al Rodriguez By the Pastor</i>
Tuesday, October 24 @ 7 PM <i>St Hareth</i>	<i>For: Special Intentions</i>
Wednesday, October 25 @ 9AM	<i>Good health of Edward and May Gabriel By the Pastor</i>
Thursday, October 26 @ 7 PM – <i>St Demetrius</i>	<i>Special Intentions.</i> <i>Family of St Sharbel</i>
Friday, October 27 @ 7PM	Patriarch Bechara B. Rahi Liturgy @ Our Lady of the Cedars Jamaica Plain, MA

7th Sunday After Holy Cross

الأحد السابع - زمن الصليب المقدس

Saturday, October 28	4:00 PM	<i>For the Well-Being of the Living and the Rest of the Deceased Members of the Daughters of St Anthony.</i>
Sunday, October 29	8:30AM	<i>Special Intentions</i>
	9:30AM	<i>For Habib & Elias Zaarour By their Family</i>
	11:30 AM	<i>For Elias Azzi & Deceased Family Members By the Family</i>



October 15, 2017

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,976.00
Candles	\$ 116.00
Fuel	\$ 105.00
<i>Total Deposit</i>	<i>\$ 3,197.00</i>

World Mission Sunday 2ND COLLECTION

The World Mission Sunday Collection will be taken this weekend, **October 21st and 22nd**. Thank you for your generosity.



Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of Daniel Martin,
Offered by his loving Family.

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of Daniel Martin,
Offered by his loving Family.

Guidelines:

Baptismal Guidelines: *(Check our Website)*

- ♦ Guidelines & Registration Form
- ♦ Church Donations: \$100
- ♦ Priest Donation: Free Will

Marriage Guidelines: *(Check our Website)*

- ♦ Guidelines & Check List Forms
- ♦ Church Donations: \$250
- ♦ Priest Donation: Free Will

Banquet Hall Guidelines:

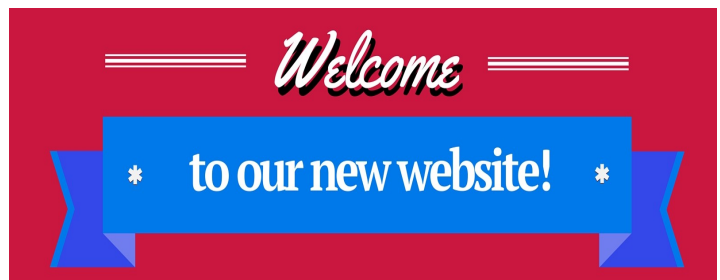
- ♦ Contract Form *(Check our Website)*
- ♦ Banquet Hall Usage Donations:
 1. \$500 (For 6 Hours)
 2. \$250 For Registered & Active parishioners *(with contribution history)*
 3. Security Deposit \$250 *(Returned after the event, if no Damages)*
 4. *Cleaning Donations: \$100*



St Anthony Church is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings.

Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our Church. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.



We've launched our new website and we're excited to introduce you to our new look

www.stanthonylawrence.org

We are excited to announce the release of our new church website! Here visitors, as well as church members, will be able to find information about our Church, ministries, Daily Liturgical Readings and stay up to date with current church events.

This new site is also the first step in a greater initiative to grow our church's online presence. More and more people in our community are online and we want to move forward in making connections with those around us so that we might reach them with the Word of God and the Sacraments. Look forward to more details in the months ahead.

PARISH MINISTRIES & NEWS

Religious Education - Sunday School

Thank you to all the parents who came to our general meeting this past Sunday. I hope you found the meeting informational and had a chance to ask any questions regarding our program this year.

Information regarding the Christmas pageant, particularly for grade 6, will be handed out before the end of this month.

I have sent several e mails now from the CCD e mail account at St Anthony. If you have not received e mail from me, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make any corrections.

I will be sending out more information on the Knights of Columbus poster contest through our e mail as we discussed at the general meeting.

This Sunday October 22, grades 4 & 5 will serve at the 9:30 liturgy. Upcoming, grades 7 & 8 will serve on Sunday November 12.

Contact me with any questions or concerns at

ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Susan Veilleux , Director, CCD

Bible Study

everyone is welcome

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 7 PM - ENGLISH
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 7 PM - ARABIC

مواعيد السهرات الانجيلية:

باللغة الانكليزية: الثلاثاء 24 تشرين الأول الساعة 7 مساء.

باللغة العربية: الاربعاء 25 تشرين الأول الساعة 7 مساء.



Rosary Group
Wednesday,
October 25TH @ 6PM

K of M Children's Choir



Practices will be held from
5:00PM - 6:30PM

Our calendar: October 21st ,
November 11th & November 18th

Christmas Happenings

TBD - Women's Christmas Party

MYO SCHEDULE 2017-2018

- ♦ **October 27th - Faith Formation**
- ♦ **November 12 - Faith Formation/Community Service**
- ♦ **December 1st - Faith Formation**
- ♦ **December 17th - MYO Christmas Party**

Looking forward to Seeing you there!

Old and new members are encouraged to attend,
ages 14-18 ~Dates are Subject to change~

KNIGHTS OF MARY SCHEDULE

All Events run from
5PM - 7PM
After 4PM Liturgy



Dates are Subject to change

2017-2018
October 21
October 28
November 4
November 11
November 18
December 2
Christmas Recital
December 17

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday, December 23rd - 4 PM

Sunday, December 24th

- ♦ 11:30 AM, English & Arabic

Christmas Liturgies - قدايس عيد الميلاد المجيد

Sunday, December 24th

- ♦ 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
- ♦ 12AM - MIDNIGHT

Monday, December 25th

- ♦ 11:30 AM, English & Arabic

New Year's Weekend - قدايس عيد راس السنة الجديدة

Saturday, December 30th - 4PM

Sunday, December 31st

- ♦ 8:30 AM, Arabic
- ♦ 9:30 AM, English
- ♦ 11:30 AM, English & Arabic

Monday, January 1, 2018 - 5 PM Liturgy.

POPE PRAYER INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 2017 Workers and Unemployed: That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.





Patriarch Rahi's Visit to Boston

زيارة غبطة أبينا البطريرك بشارة الراعي الى رعية سيده
الأرز في مدينة بوسطن - الجمعة 27 تشرين الأول

Friday October 27

5:00 p.m.: Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of the Cedars Parish. All are welcome.

7:30 p.m.: Dinner at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Norwood, Mass. For tickets contact the Parish at 617- 522 - 0225.

Election Workshops

For the Lebanese Diaspora better prepare and register to vote in the next Lebanese elections 2018.

October 29, at 12 noon,

St Anthony Maronite Church

145 Amesbury St, Lawrence, MA 01841

For more information, contact:

Mrs. Nathalie Homsy,

Homsynathalie@gmail.com

or @ 781- 492 7662

Or Mr. George Jbeily, J.george93@live.com

or @ 978- 390 9095

سلسلة اجتماعات تختصّ بالتحضير والتسجيل
لانتخابات اللبنانية القادمة. سيقوم خبراءنا بتفسير
جميع الإجراءات المتعلقة بالتسجيل للانتخاب من
خارج لبنان والمساعدة في إتمامها.

♦ ٢٩ تشرين الأول ظهراً في قاعة كنيسة القديس

مار أنطونيوس في Lawrence

هذه الدعوة مفتوحة لجميع أعضاء الجالية
اللبنانية. الرجاء أحضار بطاقة الهوية اللبنانية أو
جواز السفر.



Saint Anthony's 8th Annual Veterans Event

The Veterans Committee at Saint Anthony's Parish would like to extend an invitation to you for their

8th Annual Veterans Event

It would be an honor to have you participate in the ceremony honoring our veterans on:

Date: Sunday, November 5th

Time: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Reception to follow immediately after the Liturgy in the Church hall. Any veteran wishing to participate in the procession into the church should be in the foyer by 9:00 AM. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Elaine Daher at 978-975-2434. Donations to help this event are greatly appreciated.



Men's Christmas Party!

Friday December 8, 2017

*Tickets are now on sale
Contact Rodney Pica or Jason Azzi to purchase your tickets.*

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 @ 7pm

Baptism and Confirmation

We join with the parish family of Saint Anthony to offer our sincere congratulations to the families of:

Gabriella Alexandria Bennett
And Andrea Nevaeh Ayoub

Who received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation last week. Our best wishes to the parents, grandparents and godparents. May Christ continue to bless these children whom we welcome into the flock.



We share the happiness and rejoice with:

Danny and Chantale Maroun,
on the birth of their new baby boy, Lucas.

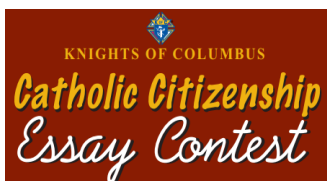
Our warm wishes are extended to their families and loved ones. May the Heavenly Father keep these precious gifts in His loving care.



Notre Dame Cristo Rey
High School Open House
October 22 2 PM – 4 PM

AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE
100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE!

For more information about applying to NDCR,
 please contact our Admissions Director
 at (978) 689-1928 or
 by email at admissions@ndcrhs.org
 303 Haverhill Street Lawrence, MA 01840,
www.ndcrhs.org



Knights of Columbus are hosting a Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest for Grades 8-12. Knights of Mary 8th Graders and all

MYO are participating. This contest is also available to those who are not in these organizations. Please refer to the bulletin board in the foyer, there will be a poster and a packet for you to take. Submission are due on **October 29th**. For more information they can contact Christian Hbaiter at 978-857-4815.

ALTAR SERVERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
Saturday, October 14	4:00 PM	Youssef Chahine Fadi Chahine
Sunday, October 15	8:30 AM	Volunteers
Sunday, October 15	9:30 AM	Mark Bejjani Michael Bejjani
Sunday, October 15 11:30 AM		Anthony Chamoun, Giorgio Abounasr Joseph Chahine, Rudy Bouraphael

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
Saturday, October 21	4:00 PM	Jacob Godfrey Youssef Chahine
Sunday, October 22	8:30 AM	Volunteers
Sunday, October 22	9:30 AM	Antonio Hbaiter Joseph Safi
Sunday, October 22 11:30 AM		Anthony Chamoun, Charbel Merheb George ElHachem, Giorgio Abounasr



Lectors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
Saturday, October 21	4:00 PM	Phyllis Thomas
Sunday, October 22	8:30 AM	Volunteer
Sunday, October 22	9:30 AM	Josephine McDougall
Sunday, October 22 11:30 AM		English: Raghida Ramey Arabic: George Saab

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
Saturday, October 28	4:00 PM	Roy Rossi
Sunday, October 29	8:30 AM	Volunteer
Sunday, October 29	9:30 AM	Michael Faris
Sunday, October 29 11:30 AM		English: Selim Matta Arabic: Marcel Saade

STUCK IN TRAFFIC

There's a famous billboard that hangs along a congested highway that reads: You aren't stuck in traffic. You are traffic! Good wit, good insight! How glibly we distance ourselves from a problem, whether it is our politics, our churches, the ecological problems on our planet, or most anything else.

We aren't, as we want to think, stuck in a bad political climate wherein we can no longer talk to each other and live respectfully with each other. Rather we ourselves have become so rigid, arrogant, and sure of ourselves that we can no longer respect those who think differently than we do. We are a bad political climate and not just stuck in one. Likewise for our churches: We aren't stuck in churches that are too self-serving and not faithful enough to the teachings of Jesus. Rather we are Christians who too often, ourselves, out of self-interest compromise the teachings of Jesus. We aren't stuck in our churches, we comprise those churches.

The same is true apposite the ecological challenges we face on this planet: We aren't stuck on a planet that's becoming oxygen-starved and a junkyard for human wastage. Rather it's we, not just others, who are too careless in how we are using up the earth's resources and how we are leaving behind our waste.

Admittedly, this isn't always true. Sometimes we are stuck in negative situations for which we bear no responsibility and within which, through no fault of our own, we are simply the unfortunate victim of circumstance and someone else's carelessness, illness, dysfunction, or sin. We can, for instance, be born into a dysfunctional situation which leaves us stuck in a family and an environment that don't make for easy freedom. Or, sometimes simple circumstance can burden us with duties that take away our freedom. So, metaphorically speaking, we can be stuck in traffic and not ourselves be part of that traffic, though generally we are, at least partially, part of the traffic we're stuck in.

Henri Nouwen often highlighted this in his writings. We are not, he tells us, separate from the events that make up the world news each day. Rather, what we see written large in the world news each night simply reflects what's going on inside of us. When we see instances of injustice, bigotry, racism, greed, violence, murder and war on our newscasts we rightly feel a certain moral indignation. It's healthy to feel that way, but it's not healthy to naively think that it's others, not us, who are the problem.

When we're honest we have to admit that we're complicit in all these things, perhaps not in their crasser forms, but in subtler, though very real, ways: The fear and paranoia that are at the root of so much conflict in our world are not foreign to us. We too find it hard to accept those who are different from us. We too cling to privilege and do most everything we can to secure and protect our comfort. We too use up an unfair amount of the world's resources in our hunger for comfort and experience. As well, our negative judgments, jealousies, gossip, and bitter words are, at the end of the day, genuine acts of violence since, as Henri Nouwen puts it: Nobody is shot by a gun that isn't first shot by a word. And nobody is shot by a word before he or she is first shot by a murderous thought: Who does she think she is! The evening news just shows large what's inside our hearts. What's in the macrocosm is also in the microcosm.

And so we aren't just viewers of the evening news, we're complicit in it. The old catechisms were right when they told us that there's no such a thing as a truly private act, that even our most private actions affect everyone else. The private is political. Everything affects everything.

The first take-away from this is obvious: When we find ourselves stuck in traffic, metaphorically and otherwise, we need to admit our own complicity and resist the temptation to simply blame others.

But there's another important lesson here too: We are never healthier than when we are confessing our sins; in this case, confessing that we are traffic and not just stuck in traffic. After recognizing that we are complicit, hopefully we can forgive ourselves for the fact that, partially at least, we are helpless to not be complicit. No one can walk through life without leaving a footprint. To pretend otherwise is dishonest and to try to not leave a footprint is futile. The starting point to make things better is for us to admit and confess our complicity.

So the next time you're stuck in traffic, irritated and impatient, muttering angrily about why there are so many people on the road, you might want to glance at yourself in rearview mirror, ask yourself why you are on the road at that time, and then give yourself a forgiving wink as you utter the French word, *touché*.



Galatians 6:1-10

6th Sunday of the Holy Cross

غلاطية 6:1-10

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

إِنْ أَخَذَ إِنْسَانٌ بَزَلَةً، فَأَصْلَحُوهُ أَنْتُمْ الرُّوحِيِّينَ بِرُوحِ الْوَدَاعَةِ، وَأَحْذَرِ أَنْتَ لِنَفْسِكَ لِئَلَّا تُجَرَّبَ أَيْضًا. إَحْمِلُوا بَعْضُكُمْ أَثْقَالَ بَعْضٍ، وَهَكَذَا أَتِمُّوا شَرِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِ. إِنْ ظَنَّ أَحَدٌ أَنَّهُ شَيْءٌ، وَهُوَ لَا شَيْءٌ، فَقَدْ خَدَعَ نَفْسَهُ. فَلْيَمْتَحِنْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ عَمَلَهُ، وَحِينَئِذٍ يَكُونُ افْتِحَارُهُ فِي نَفْسِهِ فَقَطُّ لَا فِي غَيْرِهِ. فَإِنَّ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ سَيَحْمِلُ حِمْلَهُ الْخَاصَّ. مَنْ يَتَعَلَّمُ كَلِمَةَ الْإِيمَانِ، فَلْيُبَشِّرْكَ مُعَلِّمُهُ فِي جَمِيعِ الْخَيْرَاتِ. لَا تَضِلُّوا! فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُسْتَهْزَأُ بِهِ. فَكُلُّ مَا يَزْرَعُهُ الْإِنْسَانُ، فَإِيَّاهُ يَحْصُدُ أَيْضًا. فَالَّذِي يَزْرَعُ فِي جَسَدِهِ، يَحْصُدُ مِنَ الْجَسَدِ فَسَادًا؛ وَالَّذِي يَزْرَعُ فِي الرُّوحِ، يَحْصُدُ مِنَ الرُّوحِ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. فَلَا نَمَلْ عَمَلِ الْخَيْرِ، وَلَا نَكِلْ، لِأَنَّنَا سَنَحْصُدُهُ فِي أَوَانِهِ. إِذَا فَمَا دَامَ لَنَا مَتَسَعٌ مِنَ الْوَقْتِ، فَلْنَصْنَعْ الْخَيْرَ إِلَى جَمِيعِ النَّاسِ، وَخُصُوصًا إِلَى أَهْلِ الْإِيمَانِ.

Matthew 25,14-30

الأحد السادس من زمن الصليب المقدس

متى 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

«يُشَبِّهُ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ رَجُلًا أَرَادَ السَّفَرَ، فَدَعَا عَبِيدَهُ، وَسَلَّمَهُمْ أَمْوَالَهُ. فَأَعْطَى وَاحِدًا خَمْسَ وَزَنَاتٍ، وَآخَرَ وَزَنْتَيْنِ، وَآخَرَ وَزَنَةً وَاحِدَةً، كُلًّا عَلَى قَدْرِ طَاقَتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ. وَفِي الْحَالِ مَضَى الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَاتِ الْخَمْسَ، وَتَاجَرَ بِهَا فَرَبِحَ خَمْسَ وَزَنَاتٍ أُخْرَى. وَكَذَلِكَ الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَتَيْنِ رَبِحَ وَزَنْتَيْنِ أُخْرَيَيْنِ. أَمَّا الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَةَ الْوَاحِدَةَ فَمَضَى وَحَفَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ، وَأَخْفَى فِضَّةَ سَيِّدِهِ. وَبَعْدَ زَمَانٍ طَوِيلٍ، عَادَ سَيِّدُ أَوْلِيكَ الْعَبِيدِ، وَحَاسَبَهُمْ. وَدَنَا الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَاتِ الْخَمْسَ، فَقَدَّمَ خَمْسَ وَزَنَاتٍ أُخْرَى قَائِلًا: يَا سَيِّدُ، سَلَّمْتَنِي خَمْسَ وَزَنَاتٍ، وَهَذِهِ خَمْسَ وَزَنَاتٍ أُخْرَى قَدْ رَبِحْتُهَا! قَالَ لَهُ سَيِّدُهُ: يَا لَكَ عَبْدًا صَالِحًا وَأَمِينًا! كُنْتَ أَمِينًا عَلَى الْقَلِيلِ، سَأُقِيمُكَ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ: ادْخُلْ إِلَى فَرْحِ سَيِّدِكَ! وَدَنَا الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَتَيْنِ فَقَالَ: يَا سَيِّدُ، سَلَّمْتَنِي وَزَنْتَيْنِ، وَهَاتَانِ وَزَنْتَانِ أُخْرَيَانِ قَدْ رَبِحْتُهُمَا. قَالَ لَهُ سَيِّدُهُ: يَا لَكَ عَبْدًا صَالِحًا وَأَمِينًا! كُنْتَ أَمِينًا عَلَى الْقَلِيلِ، سَأُقِيمُكَ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ: ادْخُلْ إِلَى فَرْحِ سَيِّدِكَ! ثُمَّ دَنَا الَّذِي أَخَذَ الْوَزَنَةَ الْوَاحِدَةَ وَقَالَ: يَا سَيِّدُ، عَرَفْتُكَ رَجُلًا قَاسِيًا، تَحْصُدُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ تَزْرَعْ، وَتَجْمَعُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ تَبْدُرْ. فَخِفْتُ وَذَهَبْتُ وَأَخْفَيْتُ وَزَنْتَكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ، فَهَا هُوَ مَا لَكَ! فَأَجَابَ سَيِّدُهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا عَبْدًا شَرِيرًا كَسَلَانًا، عَرَفْتُ أَنِّي أَحْصُدُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ أَزْرَعْ، وَأَجْمَعُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ أَبْدُرْ، فَكَانَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ تَضَعَ فِضَّتِي عَلَى طَاوِلَةِ الصَّيَّارِفَةِ، حَتَّى إِذَا عُذْتُ، أَسْتَرْجِعْتُ مَا لِي مَعَ قَائِدِيهِ. فَخَذُوا مِنْهُ الْوَزَنَةَ وَأَعْطَوْهَا لِمَنْ لَهُ الْوَزَنَاتُ الْعَشْرُ. فَكُلُّ مَنْ لَهُ يُعْطَى وَيُزَادُ، وَمَنْ لَيْسَ لَهُ يُؤْخَذُ مِنْهُ حَتَّى مَا هُوَ لَهُ. وَهَذَا الْعَبْدُ الَّذِي لَا نَفْعَ مِنْهُ أَخْرَجُوهُ وَأَلْقُوهُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ الْبَرَّانِيَّةِ. هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ الْبُكَاءُ وَصَرِيفُ الْأَسْنَانِ»



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من كتاب اعترافات القديس اغسطينوس صفحة 113 - 115

إني اليوم في الثلاثين من عمري لا أزال أتخطب في الحمأة عينها وأميل بقوة إلى الاستمتاع بالحاضر الذي يهرب دوماً من وجهي ويشتتني وأنا أقول مردداً: سوف أجد مطلبتي وسوف يتضح لي الأمر فأحتفظ به. أود أن أركز قدمي حيث وضعني أبواي طفلاً، حتى أجد الحقيقة صافية، خالصة من كل كدرة. ولكن أين أجدها؟ وكيف أبحث عنها؟

أمبروسيوس (القديس الذي كان له التأثير على تحول أغسطينوس)، ينقصه الوقت؛ وأنا، أيضاً بحاجة إليه للمطالعة. وفضلاً عن ذلك؛ من أين لي الكتب؟ أين أحصل عليها؟ ومتى؟ ممّن أستعيرها؟ لنوزع أوقاتنا ولنقسم ساعاتنا من أجل خلاص نفسنا! ها إن رجاءً عظيماً يطلع علينا: لم يعلم الإيمان الكاثوليكي البتة ما كنت أعتقد به؛ وأنا قد اتهمته زوراً.

ترددنا قبل أن نقرع الباب، باب الحقائق وخصصت ساعات الصباح بتلاميذي. فكيف أشغل شقيقاتها الباقيات (باقي ساعات اليوم بعد عمله)؟ ولم لا أستخدمها في هذا البحث؟ ومتى نزرور ذوي النفوذ من أصدقائنا ونحن بحاجة إلى مساعدتهم؟ والبضاعة التي يبتاعها طلابنا، متى نعدّها؟ وقواي، متى أجدها؟ والراحة الضرورية، متى أوفرها لعقلي الذي أضنكتة الهموم؟

الدمار! الدمار لهذه كلها! لنضع تلك الترهات! لنقف أنفسنا على البحث عن الحقيقة! شقاء هي الحياة ومجهول هو يوم الموت. إن فاجأني، فكيف أغادر هذا العالم؟ وأين أتعلم ما قصرت عنه في هذه الحياة؟ ألا يعقب إهمالي هذا عقاب صارم؟ أيقضي الموت على الهم؟ أم يضع له حداً؟ على أن أدرك هذا الأمر.

حاشا أن يكون الأمر كما ظننت! للإيمان الكاثوليكي نفوذ قوي في العالم بأسره يزيد في أهميته ومكانته. لو انتهت حياة الإنسان بالموت الطبيعي لما خلق الله لنا الجمالات بهذا الحد والمقدار؛ ولماذا أتردد في الكفر بالعالم وأباطيله ولا أقف ذاتي بكليتها على البحث عن الله والحياة السعيدة؟ مهلاً! مهلاً! لخيرات الأرض رونق وبهاء، وتحطيم ميولي إليها ليس بالأمر الهين؛ والعود إليها من جديد أمر مخجل! كدت أنال بكفائي مرتبة شريفة وهل لي أن أتمنى ما هو أفضل منها في هذا المضمار؟ كثرة الأصدقاء النافذين

(ذوي النفوذ والمنصب) تساعدني للحصول على رئاسة محكمة، هذا إن قنعت بها في الوقت الحاضر؛ سوف أنزج من ثرية تخفيفاً لمشاكلي وأقنع بما نلت. كم من رجال عظام مثاليين انكبوا بعد زواجهم على تحصيل الحكمة!

بينما كنت أتكلم بهذا كان قلبي في مهب رياح مضادة؛ الوقت ينقضي؛ وأنا متقاعس عن الرجوع إلى الرب مرجئاً من يوم إلى آخر حياتي بك لا موتي في ذاتي. أحببت السعادة لا حيث هي؛ ورحت أبحث عنها. كنت أظنني شقياً إن حُرمت من تقبيل امرأة. ما فكرت بالعلاج الذي قدمته لنا أيها الرؤوف لمدواة ضعفي وما خبرته قط في حياتي؛ اعتقدت أن العفة متعلقة بقوانا الذاتية وما شعرت بها في.

ألى هذا الحد أوصلني حمقي حتى جهلت قول الكتاب: "لا أحد يستطيع أن يكون عفيفاً إلا بك". لو أنني قرعت أذنك بإيمان قوي وألقيت بهمي عليك، بقلب شاك، لكنك وهبتني إياها!