



ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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“BE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT JUST SIMPLY LISTENERS”

The Epistle of St. James/St. Iakovos 1:22

As the fragrances, sites, and images of our 2009 Festival diminish, I pen these thoughts having in mind the arrival of summer and the multitude of blessings which we have in our life. Let’s never take them for granted!

Festival 2009 was a huge success in every way. Over 200 volunteers put into practice the inspirational words of St. James/Iakovos about practically applying the theory of “doing,” and not just “listening”.... This confirms the fact that we, each of us, all of us, cannot merely stand on the sidelines of Christianity and “entertain” ourselves, with trite commentary, criticism, and passing judgment. We are called to be active communicants in thought, word, and deed... Our Lord is very clear when He declares, “Judge not so that you will not be judged.”

Many new and exciting offerings are being planned for the Fall. The summer is a time to reflect, rest (not on our laurels), and plan. At the same time, we should not take a vacation from God and His Church. We must try to worship on Sundays, wherever we are. Sunday is the Lord’s Day. When we worship on Sunday morning in Church, we do honour to God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by saying “I love You;” “I always want to be close to You;” “thank you for everything.”

I offer my personal thanks to all who helped out at the Festival in every way. Everyone truly became “doers” of the word. Let’s have the same enthusiasm when it comes to praying, fasting, and worship.... A Blessed and restful Summer to all. I leave you with some holy thoughts from St. Gregory Nazianzus:

“Help the afflicted. Comfort those in sorrow. You who are strong, help the weak. You who are rich, help the poor. You who stand upright, help the fallen and the crushed. You who are joyful, comfort those in sadness. You who enjoy all good fortune, help those who have met disaster. Give something to God in thanksgiving that you are of those who can give help, not of those who stand and wait for help... Be more honoured than your neighbor, by showing more compassion. Be as God to the unfortunate, by imitating the mercy of God. Give something however small to those in need. And if you have nothing, give of your tears. Great is the comfort to the afflicted of the sympathy that comes from the heart.”

-Fr. Kastanas

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