

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

Walking Out of

The Upper Room

(Volume II)

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*“Having loved his own who were in the
world, he loved them to the end.”*

(John 13:1)

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THE CHURCH AFTER THE PANDEMIC... GOD WILL EMBRACE YOU

God is waiting for you at the Church. Though masks and face coverings are mandatory, please do not cover your heart. Come and pray to God with a pure heart. Remember the lockdown has only been “the desert” to strengthen your spiritual life. Thus, you will be starting a new journey with a new promise to live a God-pleasing life and to enlighten the lives of all people with the gifts God has bestowed upon us.

The Church after the pandemic will continue to be the House of God and the Holy sanctuary wherein all will become one in the spirit of divine love. Listening to our heartfelt prayers, God will embrace us all. God expects our hearts to resemble the pure hearts of children to whom the heavenly kingdom belongs.

We are all equal in the eyes of the Almighty. As you enter into the House of God, you will all experience the spiritual transformation. Then, we will witness the miracle in each other's' life. It will be the miracle that will lead to change – the change to become Christ-like, to be loving and caring for all but above all, to become guardians of world peace.

The Church after the Pandemic...

God will embrace us all!

June 9, 2020

**“THE DIVINE GIFTS...UNITE US ALL!
“WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT, YET UNITED
BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT”**

(Pope Francis)

In his sermon at the Mass of Pentecost, Pope Francis empowered us all with the words of the Apostle, who in his Epistle to the Corinthians wrote, “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all” (I Corinthians 12:4).

In these trying times, humanity has the thirst to newness of life: the change of heart and soul to be a better human being with the spiritual Bread which is offered to us all, which unites all to be children of God and the Living Church.

We may all be different, yet we all are graced with the divine gifts, which are entrusted to us so that we may share them with the people of God. This is a move of the heart which united us all led by the power of the same Holy Spirit.

June 10, 2020

A LIGHTHOUSE IN THE TEMPEST OF THE WORLD...

When I think of the mission of the Church, then I see the Church as the God-planted lighthouse in the tempest of the world. The world in which we live today is in a tempest and the Church is called by the Almighty God to pour into the hearts of all people the fire of love, which certainly transforms our spirituality and reminds us all of our God-entrusted responsibilities. The more people turn to God, the brighter our lighthouse, namely the Church will be in the tempest of the world.

As the Church is the lighthouse in the tempest of the world, so is the case with each of us. We all can be the lighthouse in the life of our families and in the circle of friends. It only takes a few seconds from us to say a prayer from the depth of our hearts and then we will see the change of heart and soul, the new person within us.

July 26, 2020

PANDEMIC IS FORCING US TO RETHINK HOW WE ‘DO CHURCH’

The pandemic has forced all of us to look for the thousand ways as to how we “do Church” and carry on our responsibilities as pastors and the stewards of Christ’s Church. The Church is a divine institution and thus the Church is unshakable. The real Church is not a physical entity, but the fellowship of the faithful, which grows spiritually in the application of the Word of God.

When I think of the pandemic, I then envision the way the apostles of Christ, our Lord have accomplished their mission in spreading the Word of God and taking on the martyrdom in resemblance to the life of the Master.

Thus, the pandemic cannot be a reason to fail in our mission. Most civic leaders who are emptied from the love of God cannot see the depth of our Christian Faith.

July 26, 2020

“WE NEED LIVES THAT SHOW THE MIRACLE OF GOD’S LOVE”

(Pope Francis)

God’s love has been graced upon us all through the Incarnation of His Only Begotten Son, Christ our Lord, who descended from Heaven to Earth for the salvation of humanity. And if we imitate Christ in our God-given life, we then turn our lives into a miracle. A life driven by the love of God is a miracle, indeed. We also need to show the miracle of God’s love in action to all people in order to inspire and enrich them with the same passion we cherish.

Humanity is created in the image of God and thus we all have within us a divine spark which empowers us to elevate our lives towards God. Saints and heroes are people who aspire to turn their lives into a miracle. This vision should be an undying ingredient within our spirituality. As human beings, we all are created equal in the eyes of God. Thus, we all are granted the divine wisdom. Can we apply it in our daily lives? The response should be an affirmative “Yes.”

July 26, 2020

A “SPIRITUAL DIET” AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

This is a statement by one of the governors, who leads us all during the pandemic with the power of prayer. The governor then looks at the prayer tradition as a spiritual diet against coronavirus.

COVID-19 has shattered the life of the world in every sense. People are strangled in spiritual and economic crisis. People of all ages are impacted due to the coronavirus.

Do we give up the fight against the threat of coronavirus? I would say “no,” yet I need the tools to fight against coronavirus.

The best tool graced upon us all by Christ, our Lord is the gift of prayer. Christ, Himself prayed and protected Himself from temptations, only to lead us through a similar spiritual journey. And what would be the benefit of the prayerful life, we will be in a journey for as we pray, we then are able to fight against coronavirus.

The healthy state of our spiritual life is secured when we apply a spiritual diet against coronavirus.

August 19, 2020

“WHERE LOVE IS, GOD IS”

(Leo Tolstoy)

Truly, love is the sole spiritual ingredient which enables us to see the presence of God in our lives. To me personally, it is understandable that we all are born with the gift of love, a spiritual ingredient, which helps us see and feel the very presence of God.

Tolstoy makes an important statement as he reminds us all with a reality, that love is always within us and thus we bear God in our spirituality.

The key issue that remains with us is to be able to maintain and live the divine love within our being and there see how it generates true joy within us.

Humanity needs to embrace love in the spiritual texture. For those who have deprived themselves from the divine love are estranged and walk through the desert of darkness.

August 19, 2020

A NEW CREATION

“The Church has never been about programs and events. Everything is about this Person, Jesus Christ, fully and truly human and fully and truly divine, who enters into our lives and call us to follow him and to become ‘a new creation.’”

(Archbishop Jose Gomez)

How can we be a “new creation?” To this, I would respond sincerely and wholeheartedly, that this itself to be “a new creation,” is the ultimate purpose of our God-given life. As we are created in the image of the Almighty, we then ought to live a creative life.

In Christ, our Lord, we embrace the Newness of life. His divine message pursues the aim to transform the life of humanity. Christ, our Lord blessed the people of the world through His messages and compassionate heart, through His sacrificial life on the cross that paves the way for us to deepen in our spirituality the vision of “a new creation.”

August 19, 2020

VIRTUAL LEARNING... A DISASTER IN THE MAKING

“What our children will you lose by virtual education - in terms of emotional development, skills, learning, and achievement – will have a significant impact” California bishops warn against too much distance learning. “In the name of protecting their health in the short term, we may very likely be risking their long-term growth and potential.”

The statement of the Catholic bishops of California truly reflects the concern of all parents, who care for the well-being of their children and would like to avoid risks of their long-term growth and potential.

There really seems to be too much politics involved in the decision-making process of all kinds of issues related to the life of society. The latter, however, needs to be taken into serious consideration, for it will certainly impact the children. Humanity can see the effects of COVID-19 and accordingly, can take the necessary and precautionary steps to stay safe. We are not robots and the dignity of people should not be ignored. The best “vaccine” for the virus is to educate people to stay safe. What we all have witnessed during the pandemic has been shocking, vis-à-vis the lockdown. Huge protests were not only allowed but above all, were encouraged, yet civilized gatherings and fellowships have been prohibited.

It is most alarming to see that children are put in a very tough situation to uproot in their identity the gift of interaction with other people. I take the message of the California bishops as a wakeup call and a warning to foresee the danger if the upbringing of children through virtual education is extended. And of course, protecting their health in the short term, will impact our children negatively in the long-run.

Thus, the whole concept of virtual education for our children cannot be understood in anyway, but in one word: Disaster.

August 20, 2020

**“BOTH ABORTION AND RACISM
ARE PART OF THE CULTURE OF DEATH”**

(Louis Brown)

Anyone who has the least thought about abortion and racism certainly encourages the culture of death. I would even say that such people have lost their faith in God and have declared war against God. We are all equally children of God and need to share with one another the gifts that God has graced upon us. Theologically speaking, the culture of death has always existed in the life of the world. The fight against it should continue till it is uprooted from the life of humanity. The responsibility is put on our shoulders to protect humanity and the sanctity of human life.

August 21, 2020

“YOU HAVE MADE US FOR YOURSELF,
LORD, AND OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS
UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU”

(St. Augustine)

The statement by St. Augustine should be taken as a prayer, for it inspires us all to think of our calling as true Christians, being created in the image of God and making God the destiny of our life.

In God we trust, with God alone our journey is true and purposeful. This firm belief strengthens us all in trying times when worldly acts can distract us and keep us away from God, the creator of Heaven and Earth.

We are made for God and belief deepens within us the knowledge of God, our bond with the Creator and fills our hearts with the inner feeling, that our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

Thus, teach your children to love the Lord with all your heart and soul, and thus we shall all be protected and guarded by the civil thoughts and fulfill the will of God.

August 21, 2020

SYMPHONY OF LIFE

“In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we ultimately learn that here, in this life, there is no finished symphony.”

(Karl Rahner)

The great theologian Karl Rahner inspires us all with the very thought that the life that we live in this world should be looked at as the doorway of a continuity of the symphony of life God has bestowed upon us all. Life is everlasting when we perceive it as a gift from God. For the gift of life has a beginning in the hands of God and should be attained according to the will of God.

The symphony of life should only reflect the love and wisdom of God. In doing so, we then become peacemakers in this tormented and turbulent world, where there is much pain and suffering. Thus, the “symphony of our life ought to be a symphony of love.”

August 22, 2020

SACRAMENTAL “FILLING STATIONS”

Sacraments constitute the core of the Christian faith. Yet we do not wish that our churches turn into sacramental “filling stations.” Sacraments should be explained and lived thoroughly for they armor our spirituality with divine love and wisdom. Often I have presented the sacraments of the church as doorway of New Life. As we become the embodiment of the sacraments, we then bear within us God and thus God leads our lives. We no longer are alone. It is God who speaks through our hearts and souls and transforms the lives of people for the better.

Our Churches are not sacramental “filling stations” but rather the House of God where the Holy Spirit dwells.

August 22, 2020

**“THERE IS A WAY OF DYING
THAT LEAVES PEACE BEHIND”**

Obviously, the journey of our life is a way of dying and with death, we open our eyes in the holy hands of the Almighty. God certainly is the comforter of our souls and yet we ought to make sure that as we depart from this world, we leave peace behind. The peace which we leave is the spiritual legacy, the living messages of Christ, our Lord reflected in our words and actions of everyday life.

Today, as I attend the Divine Liturgy and pray to God, in the depth of my spirituality I feel peace, which inspires me with the thought that life should be lived wisely and above all with good faith.

August 23, 2020

GEORGE FLOYD... A JUST CAUSE TRAMPLED

Few months ago, we were all distressed as we witnessed the violent act which resulted in the death of George Floyd. The heinous act against George Floyd reawakened in the hearts of thousands of people the pursuance of justice and protection of life.

The same act could have taken the life of any of us. Certainly, there cannot be any justification of what we all witnessed. Human life matters and needs to be protected and respected, for it is a gift from God. Finally, all the necessary steps should be applied by the authorities and we need to be in support of the process to correct the situation.

In this short blog, I would also like to express dismay and concern as to how George Floyd...a just cause has been trampled. In other words, people have hijacked the cause and have misused it. And the reality is that the movement has deviated and has been highly politicized. It is time for us all to become peacemakers.

August 30, 2020

HEALERS DURING LOCKDOWN

We are living in trying times, which I personally have not experienced. Most of us have gone through some sort of agony, yet the extent of the lockdown caused by COVID19 is unbearable. The pandemic has been most destructive and what concerns me much more is the aftershock of the coronavirus. I would have never imagined that the lockdown of the past six months could have caused such major changes in the life of society. The effects of the pandemic will surely be felt in the coming months and years.

We certainly need healers during the lockdown, who will normalize almost every aspect of the life of society but above all guide people not to be impacted by the COVID-19 negatively. Here we all have a role to play to become a healer in the life of the living mosaic of humanity.

August 30, 2020

IN SEARCH OF MIRACLES

I have often spoken about miracles and shared with people the very thought that miracles are always around us and constantly occurring. The key question which remains with us is “do we see them?” And my response to this question is: “We live in a world of miracles.” Every aspect of this beautiful world inspires us. We see the craftsmanship of God for the spiritual enjoyment of humanity.

And being created in the image of God, we have the calling to continue what God has entrusted: For as we look right and left, we then see that we are surrounded by countless miracles. And what pains us all is that often people of God do not show appreciation and gratitude for the beautiful world and the precious gifts in it. Therefore, let us open our hearts and souls and perceive how privileged we are to see God in the universe of beautiful flowers and mountains, creatures of the world, and above all, humanity as the crown of the creation.

August 30, 2020

WRESTLING WITH GOD

Decades ago, during my university years in Oxford, I met the late Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church Archbishop Anthony Bloom. As a distinguished church leader and a charismatic personality, he had inspired me immensely with his prayerful life. Reading one of his books entitled “On Prayer,” he described the nature of prayer as to how it dwells in the layers of our spirituality. Metropolitan Bloom called prayer as a state of “wrestling with God.” Having said this, he implies the very thought that prayer is a serious task which begins in the mind and then journeys into the depths of our inner being until it is embedded into the texture of our spirituality.

Prayer is the bond between God and a person. When we pray, we live the incredible experience of uplifting our hearts to God and pledging a new journey in life. The human being should live a life which is embedded in prayer. Then we have a purified life avoiding the darkness from our mind and soul and making God the foundation of our spirituality.

August 30, 2020

LIGHT IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTIES

The past few years, I have struggled to uphold my faith strong and spiritually committed to see light in a world of uncertainties. And I would sincerely confess that I have felt lost and weak in my calling to serve God and my people. I would even dare to say that this pandemic has in many ways been a real challenge to strengthen my Christian identity to the point that the time of lockdown has been a journey into the depths of my soul.

Do I see (the) light in a world of uncertainties? My response to this question would be that we are not living in a world of uncertainties. The world is the same and people need to change for the better. Thus, people need to be certain and focused on God and the calling bestowed upon us. Light needs to be ignited through our wisdom, the source of which is God. Uncertainties are manmade and should be avoided. Light is what God has graced upon us and should be applied in our everyday life.

In conclusion, I would recommend that we live a disciplined life. A life sprouted in prayer can be a blessing. A life geared towards God turns into a miracle. A life similar to the life of Christ inspires all and thus enlightens our spirituality.

Look into your heart and there you will see that light has always been in the depth of our heart instilled by God.

August 30, 2020

MIRACLES ALL AROUND US

The healing story of the man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech speaks to us of a miracle which conveys to us a message of deeper significance. On the one hand, we all learn that the deaf man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly, while the same miracle calls on us all to open our ears to the Word of God and speak the Word of God plainly to enlighten the minds and souls of the people. We all know well that the world would have been a better place if the children of God would have reflected the Word of God in action.

The sole reason as to why the world has lost the vision of peace is one: humanity walks alone and has abandoned God. Therefore, let this day be a journey of return to God to hear and speak His Word and be the light in the life of the world. This act itself is a miracle. And as I speak of miracles in our God-given lives, I would like to share with you a statement about miracles by Pope Francis and my thoughts as to how I personally perceive miracles.

August 30, 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA

“Social media, for all the good it has brought, has also created a platform for anyone to make up his or her own truth and then work at eroding truths that bind us together and anchor our sanctity.”

(Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.)

The world has indeed changed its course of life and history with the emergence of social media. However, the misuse and abuse of social media has certainly disfigured the true character of humanity. Inasmuch as social media is a blessing to the world, it has also damaged the relationship between God and humanity. The platform of social media has turned into a broken bridge which refrains people to live with the fear of God, ultimately with the wisdom of God.

I personally value the power of social media, but would never myself abuse it and make a tool to hurt the people of God.

Thus, my adherence to social media is exercised only for the right reasons. Social media can and should be the golden bridge to bring us closer to God and humankind.

November 23, 2020

RELIGION AND VIRTUES

Religion and virtues need to be lived and cherished in our God-given life. Humanity has cultivated civilization through living religion and virtues. Religion sets the path primarily to communicate with God, while virtues are necessary to discipline human relationships. And if the world today is entangled in wars, it is the result of the absence of religion and virtues. Humanity cannot live its life without a destiny. This very thought shapes our mind and soul and calls on us all to live the life graced upon us according to the will of God.

Religion is the culture of dialoging with God, while virtues are the “vitamins” for our spirituality.

Thus, religion should be taught to children and adults equally, while virtues should be instilled in the hearts and souls of humanity.

November 23, 2020

THE TIME FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The pandemic is the time to strengthen and share our faith.

The entire world is challenged with the pandemic, yet we cannot in anyway be in despair. God, our Lord, has graced us all with wisdom and the strength of faith which needs to be exercised in due time. To me personally, the pandemic is the kind of mirror which shows us the strength of our faith. Yet we cannot take the gift of faith for granted. Faith is the tool, which reminds us all about the many ways of fighting the pandemic and many other visible and invisible threats.

Humanity, being created in the image of God, has the divine strength to overcome all evil and tribulations. Faith empowers us to respect science to the extent of reaching our human intelligence and leaving the rest into the hands of the Almighty.

As a humble servant of God, I want to pray to God on the eve of Thanksgiving and reflect upon the many gifts graced upon me. The greatest gift of all is my faith.

November 24, 2020

“LEGAL ABORTION...LICENSES KILLING,
BUT ONLY WITHIN THE FAMILY”

(Helen Alvare)

Want to end abortion? Try thinking “radically.”

This one statement condenses in itself the whole mission of the Christian Church. Abortion cannot be legal. How can we kill a creature whose heartbeat is lived and felt together with the mother and equally so by the father?

I would dare to say that all those who legalize abortion and those who exercise it are partakers in the killing act of a child. A child who soon was about to reflect the image of God.

We live in a world where people are abandoning God and becoming gods of evil. The spiritual transformation needs to be deeply implemented in the life of the world. Humanity needs to reinstate in itself the fear of God. This is my perception, yet what I have been inspired by the elders.

November 25, 2020

RELIGION IS THE TOOL WHICH DISCIPLINES OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

“Religious freedom is not a political tool or tactic, but a natural expression of our membership in the human family and a net positive in closing all gaps the government cannot fill. Canceling those religious beliefs is not just un-American, it’s unconstitutional.”

(Montse Alvarado)

I came across an article titled “Religious freedom is needed for a ‘culture of encounter’” which makes me think that the lockdown enforced by authorities as a result of the pandemic is being politicized. To me personally, the rules and regulations certainly are the most important, yet we should all understand that people can exercise their intelligence. What concerns me more is that governmental officials, whether at federal or state levels, who make directives cannot be considered as law abiding individuals. The Governor of California is one such “good” example.

I want to make an important point that religion is the tool which disciplines our spiritual life to conquer all tribulations and more so the pandemic. I hope that the move is not against religion, which can fundamentally shatter the foundations of our society. Our faith ultimately gives us the divine wisdom and strength to overcome the hurdles of life.

November 25, 2020

THANKSGIVING IN A NEW CONTEXT

Beloved,

It is in times like these where our faith is challenged the most. The world is battling a global pandemic. We are sons and daughters of a nation with open wounds trying to take the first steps toward recovery from a massive war. Families are in mourning. Tens of thousands of refugees are seeking help. This is our reality. "What must we be thankful for?" one may ask.

It is only human nature to seek answers. As faithful, we seek answers in scripture. In his Epistle to the Philippians, St. Paul writes "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6). "The peace of God, surpasses all understanding," writes St. Paul.

As humans, we can attempt to define, rationalize, analyze, and explain. However, we must fill a void in our hearts and souls. And that void is the peace of God.

Instead of criticizing, let us console and comfort. Instead of blaming, let us heal. Instead of ordering and commanding, let us beseech.

We wish you a blessed Day of Thanksgiving.

November 26, 2020

“WE CAN DO NO GREAT THINGS,
ONLY SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE”

(Mother Teresa)

Love should dominate the world community. The entire world is in pain and suffering due to the lack of love in the lives of mankind. If only humanity has shown the least respect and love for one another, we would have certainly been in a better world.

Mother Teresa singlehandedly changed the lives of countless people. All she owned was her golden heart which gave her the strength and wisdom to dedicate her mission to the poor and disabled. And thus, she found her joy in the hearts of many. The steps that she has taken were small, yet full of love.

What I would recommend is that we all read her words and perceive her philosophy of life. The more we read her words, the more we understand that we all have the same zeal and passion. What we need to do is to exercise the message in our God-given lives.

November 27, 2020

“MY VOCATION IS LOVE”

(St. Thérèse of Lisieux)

As I read this statement, I then feel in the depth of my heart a renewed spirit to live a more meaningful life. Love can be understood if only when it is applied as a spiritual tool to care for the world, to change the life of a friend and in short, to become the Holy Hands of God.

As St. Thérèse of Lisieux says, love needs to be our vocation. Those who make love their vocation can then choose the path of a God-pleasing life.

As human beings, we all fail often, yet if only we listen to the inspiring statement of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, we then will be able to set forth a new journey of life.

November 27, 2020

“WE CARRY THE INGREDIENTS OF MIRACLES”

I believe that the human person being created in the image of God carries in the self the yeast of giving birth to miracles.

I truly admire people who create for the well-being of humankind. And imagine if each of us had the same passion and vision to create. Then the world in which we live would have become a better place. I am confident that those who create are the ones who feel closer to God. I would strongly recommend that we restart our journey with prayer, so that God is the destiny of our lives, but above all, we become co-creators to the Almighty.

November 29, 2020

“TO GROW WINGS FROM THE ASHES IS IN OUR NATURE”

A close friend texted me this message a few minutes ago, as he was sharing with me his pain in witnessing the latest events in our nation’s life. Shortly thereafter, he then called me to reflect on the message.

The message touches my heart I am always strong in my faith life. Certainly we all go through pain and suffering, yet once we focus on the life of Christ, we then realize what awaits us all is the Resurrection. Christ has revolutionized the world with His Resurrection. If today our Motherland is in pain and suffering, these hurdles cannot be the reasons to give up on our dreams and aspirations. Thus, I listen to the message very keenly and agree with the spirit conveyed to me.

“To grow wings from the ashes is in our nature.”

November 29, 2020

OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY

“We will keep each other strong and focused on the light that will break the dark. We own the dark and will surrender to the light which is much stronger.”

There are two pathways in our life's journey. The one which will always attack us is in the dark, and somehow at times force us to break down. No, my fellow readers.

The moment we are entangled in the dark, the hidden spiritual strength will reawaken within us a divine dream: “surrendering to the light which is much stronger.”

God has graced us all with the most precious gifts. They are faith, hope and love. These are the tools which will empower us to move mountains.

November 29, 2020

“WHO ARE WE AND WHY”

We are the children of God and once we grasp this truth, we then need not answer the second part of the question.

As the children of God and being created in His image, we then have the call and the responsibility to fulfill His will. This is a privilege graced upon us. For those who walk with God will certainly understand the true meaning of life. God calls on us to see the beauty of the creation. God calls on us to protect the creation. The New Year and the Blessed Birth of Christ our Lord is a reminder of our calling.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, our God.

December 19, 2020

**“YOU MUST LOVE YOURSELF,
BUT NEVER BE IN-LOVE WITH YOURSELF”**

Love for self is important and must be reflected upon. Yet we should never be in-love with ourselves. The love for the self implies the care for our spirituality. While being in-love with ourselves is understood as selfishness. And selfishness is a sin, which separates us from God.

Therefore, “love yourself but never be in-love with yourself.”

December 19, 2020

ԻՆՉՊԷՍ ՓՈԽՈՒԵՑԱԲ ՄԵՐ ԿԵԱՆՔԸ

Սեպտեմբեր 27, 2020 թուականին սկիզբ առած պատերազմը Արցախի դեմ Ատրաբեյճանի նախա-յարձակումովը ցնցեց մեր հայրենական կեանքը, մանաւանդ երբ հազարաւոր քաջ երիտասարդ-ներ նահատակուեցան յանուն հաւատի ու հայրե-նիքի, ու բոլորիս հոգիները ցաւի մեջ ընկղմուեցան:

Իրերու ետւոյն եւ ի մասնաւորի գալիքի մա-սին հազարումէկ վերլուծումներ կը տարածուին, որոնք եւ որոշապէս ծայրահեղ զգայնութիւննե-րու տեղիք կու տան, առաւել եւս իրարմէ հեռա-ցնելով մեր ազգի զաւակունք: Թող բոլորիս հոգի-ներուն ու սրտերուն մեջ լեցուի սերն աստուածա-յին ու իմաստութիւնը մեր Տիրոջ, որպէսզի մնանք միաբանեալ՝ յաղթելու համար չարին զօրութիւնը:

Հայրենիքը պիտի մնայ հզօր եւ ճշմարիտ ժա-ռանգը նորահաս սերունդներուն, եթէ երբէք ան-կեղծ սրտով խոնարհիւնք մեկզմիւսի առջեւ եւ մի-մեանց սիրենք այն սիրով ու նուիրումով, որուն տեսիլքին մղումով հայ զինուորը իր կեանքը պա-տարագեց: Այս բոլորին հակառակը կը նշանակէ անպատուելի յիշատակը մեր անմեղ նահատակ-ներուն: Լսենք Աստուծոյ կանչը եւ կատարենք Անոր կամքը:

ՊԱՆԴՈՒԽՏ ԵՆՔ ԱՅՍ ԿԵԱՆՔԻՆ ՄԷՉ

Երանի այս գիտակցութեամբ ապրինք Աստուածատուր մեր կեանքը: Որովհետեւ այս գիտակցութեամբ ապրուած կեանքը իրմէ հեռու կը պահէ ձգտումը՝ նիւթը պաշտելու ու անոր գերին դառնալու: Երբ այս գիտակցութեամբ կ'ապրինք Աստուծոյ շնորհած կեանքի պարգեւը, ապա այն ժամանակ մեր մէջ կը մշակենք հոգեւոր արժէքներով կեանքը ապրելու ոգին:

Պանդուխտ ենք այս կեանքին մէջ: Այս խօսքը կը թելադրէ, որ այս կեանքէն մեզ հետ տանելիք չունինք: Ամէն ինչ տրուած է մեր վայելքին համար, եւ սակայն մեզմէ կը սպասուի, որ տրուած կեանքը արժեւորենք, մեզի տրուած երկնաւոր շնորհները իրար հետ բաշխենք: Ուրեմն այս բարի արարքը կատարելով՝ կը կարողանանք հարստացնել մեկզմիւսին կեանքը: Ահա այս իսկ է Աստուծոյ կողմէ սպասուած, որպէսզի դառնանք բաշխողը բարութեան, սիրոյ պատգամին եւ անսահման շնորհաց:

... Ինչքան ալ պանդուխտ ենք այս կեանքին մէջ, այնուամենայնիւ մեր սրտերուն մէջ կրնանք անկողոպտելի դարձնել Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը, այն զգացողութիւնը, որ յաւիտենապէս մեզի հետ է:

ԽԱԲԱՐՆ ԱՆՎԵՐՁ ԱՆԻԾԵԼՈՒ ՓՈԽԱՐԷՆ ՄԷԿ ՄՈՄ ՎԱՌԻՐ՝ ՇՈՒՐՁԴ ԼՈՒՍԱԲՈՐԵԼՈՒ ՀԱՄԱՐ

Աննման վեհափառի հոգիէն բխած խօսքերը
ինչքա՛ն իմաստութիւն կ'արտացոլեն, որուն հա-
ղորդ դարձող մարդկութիւնը իր կեանքը կը լեցնէ
Աստուծոյ սիրով՝ իր ետեւիւնը վերածելով աղօթքի
եւ անուշաբոյր խունկի, որպէսզի մարդկութիւնը
մշտապէս ապրի յաւիտենականութեան խոր-
հուրդով:

Աստուծոյ սիրովն ու իմաստութեամբ կեանքը
միայն լոյս կը տարածէ իր շուրջիններուն:

Ինչքա՛ն խորհուրդ կայ լուսաւորելու արար-
քին մէջ: Այս փորձառութեամբ լեցուն կեանքը
օրհնութիւն է աշխարհի մարդկանց մէջ:

Մարդը մշտապէս պիտի մերժէ խաւարը եւ
քայլէ դեպի լոյս եւ կեանք: Ահա այս իսկ է խոր-
հուրդը աստուածաստեղծ մարկային կեանքին:

ԿԱՂԱՆՂԻ ԾԱՌ

Այս տարի Առաջնորդարանի Կաղանղի ծառը զարդարեցինք մեր սահատակ զինուորներու անուններով: Ինչո՞ւ, որովհետեւ իրենց սահատակութեամբ է պայմանաւորուած մեր կեանքը: Անոնք այնքան արիւն բաժանեցին, որ յաւիտեան Արցախեան հողը իր բողոքի ձայնը պիտի բարձրացնէ ի տես աշխարհի ժողովուրդներու:

Հազարաւոր սահատակներու անունները արձանագրած հրեշտակները Կաղանղի ծառով լոյս կը բերեն մեր հոգիներէն ներս: Լոյս, որ հրաւերն է արթնութեան: Լոյս, որ ճշմարիտ հայրենասիրութեան կանչն է: Լոյս, որուն մէջ մենք պիտի գտնենք հոգեւոր ծնունդը մեր ազգի զաւակաց:

Մեր սահատակ զինուորներու զոհաբերութիւնը նոր ժամանակներու սուրբերն են, որոնք ինչպէս Վարդանանց եւ Սարգսրապատի հերոսները, սերունդներուն կը փոխանցեն յաւիտեական ժառանգին նպատակը, որուն անունն է Հայաստան, Արցախ:

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆ՝ ԴՈՒՌՆ Է ԵՐԿՆՔԻ

Եկեղեցին՝ Աստուծոյ տունն է: Եւ երբ միասնաբար եկեղեցի կը դառնանք, ապա մեր կեանքը կ'առաջնորդենք երկնքի դրան առաջ:

Ինչքա՛ն կը նայինք այսօրուայ աշխարհի կեանքին, այնքան ակեղի կը զգանք, որ եկեղեցին պետք է յարաժամօրէն ապրի ու գործէ:

Մարդկութեան առաքելութիւնը պիտի ըլլայ միաբանութիւնը ու դառնայ ապրող ու շնչող եկեղեցին, որպէսզի երկնքի դռները բացուին մեր առջեւ: Այդ ժամանակ Աստուծոյ ներկայութեան ենք:

ՊԱՐՏՈՒԹԻՒՆ, ԲԱՅՑ ՈՉ ՀՈԳՈՒ ՊԱՐՏՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Այս ոգով պիտի ընթերցենք նաեւ մեր օրերու պատմութիւնը: Սերունդներ խոր երախտագիտութեամբ պիտի խոնարհին Արցախեան հերոս նահատակներու յիշատակին առջեւ:

Անձնապէս, մենք կը հաւատանք, որ Արցախի հերոսամարտը թերեւս աշխարհիկ իմաստով որպէս պարտութիւն արձանագրուի: Բայց ոչ, Արցախեան պարտութիւնը երբէք չարձանագրենք որպէս հոգու պարտութիւն:

Մեր նահատակ զինուորները կեանք զոհաբերեցին, որպէսզի շարունակենք ճշմարիտ հաւատով ու հայրենասիրութեամբ:

Երկինքէն վար նայող մեր հերոս նահատակ զինուորները կը պարտադրեն մեզ մնալու սիրոյ մէջ, միաբանուած եւ տեսլապաշտ, ինչպիսին եղան իրենք իրենց անձնագոհութեամբ:

Սիրելի նահատակ զինուորներ, խոնարհումով կը յարգենք ձեր բարի յիշատակը: Մեր ուխտն էք դուք, ապրուած աղօթքը մեր կեանքին եւ վերածնուած հայրենիքի խորհուրդը:

ԻՆՉՊԷՄ ԽՕՍԻԼ ԱՂՕԹՔԻ ՄԱՍԻՆ

Աղօթքը անհատի կեանքին մեջ ներանձնական գողտիկ պահ մըն է, երբ Աստուած ու մարդ երկխօսութեան մեջ կը գտնուին: Եւ որեւէ մէկուն տրուած չէ իրաւունքը անհատին աղօթական կեանքի մասին դատում կատարելու: Եիշդ այդ իսկ պատճառով ալ Քրիստոս՝ մտատիպարը աղօթքի կեանքին, մեզի տուաւ փարիսեցիին ու մաքսաւորին պատկերը, ովքեր տաճար էին գացած աղօթքի: Չըլլայ այնպէս, որ փարիսեցիին պատկերին մեջ ըլլանք, մէկգմիսն յիշեցնելու դիտողութեամբ, թէ՛ ե՞րբ եւ ու՞ր պէտք է ըլլանք աղօթքի համար, ու թէ ինչպէ՞ս պիտի աղօթենք: Աստուած Ինք կը կարդայ բոլորիս հոգիները եւ իր ժամանակին կը պատասխանէ:

Ուրեմն խօսինք աղօթքի մասին ու անոր դերի մասին, բայց հեռու մնանք մատնացոյց ընելէ, թէ ինչքանով արդար է մեր շուրջիներուն աղօթքը:

Անիրաւ դատաւորի առակով Քրիստոս պարզ ու յստակ պատգամեց հետեւեալը.

«Յամենայն ժամ յաղօթս կացեք... եւ մի՛ ձանձրանայցեք»:

Հետեւինք Քրիստոսի պատգամին: