



Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

“Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire”

“Prokeimenon. Psalm 103.4,1

“ ... God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will.”

(Hebrews 2:2-10)

On July 13 we celebrated the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. The drawing above was made by Tatyana who is going to have the angel painted on the outside wall of the chapel, over the summer. This is to replace the icon which was deteriorating. The angel points to the place where the resurrection happens. An invitation for all to come and see and rejoice.

Fioretti

On Thursday, Elisha was looking for the Fioretti book to write a short story from a volunteer she had just talked to. The volunteer was happy for seeing a beautiful fragile flower coming up through the concrete, while she was coming down on Broadview Avenue towards the mission. The beauty and strength of the little flower reminds us of the angel who proclaims the resurrection. Life coming out of a tomb is like a small, beautiful flower coming through a block of concrete on Broadview Ave. The joy of the resurrection resembles somehow the joy that the little flower brought into the heart of our sister. It was genuine and truthful. So much so, that she could not keep it only for herself. She had to share it. There are little flowers coming out of concrete on Broadview and people do not remain indifferent to them. How could we, since the simple joy makes good house only within the human heart?

“The Lord said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14-19)

It was said twice this week, by different people, that they had the experience of falling asleep without any desire to wake up. By waking up we mean coming back to life. Like “laying down to sleep without hope that the Lord would help me”. They said this being seriously concerned and afraid. These people’s lives could not be more different than the other. One experience took place in the streets, another one on a hospital bed. One in complete solitude, another one surrounded by people. However, they are similar when it comes to the burden and the place where they have picked up their cross. Jesus was also tired when carrying his cross. Simon of Cyrene helped him for a little while. What is also similar with the people’s stories is that they also lead other people to light. Their cross bears good fruits. They open a door to light for others around them. Even when they are tired, the door remains open because the cross knocked it down for good.

Can the light become tired of giving light? Even the light of the sun is not eternal. It will get tired eventually and fall asleep. However, the human light is somehow opposite to the created light. It does not start through creation with dynamis, but rather in humility and in a hidden way. The sun cannot be approached and the light it gives can be received only from very far. The human life, on the other hand, cannot be perceived from the beginning; but when it is, it brings everyone around it, spreading a sense of unity and a desire for common joy. And even when it grows, it looks for the narrow path. And so it develops and continues: “... *my heart is not exalted ... nor have I walked in things too great or too marvelous for me.*” (Ps 130:1-2)

We could say human life is a prefiguration of the resurrection itself while it partakes of it. Its dynamis stays in its humility and simplicity of joy while bringing its very fruits to maturity. Even though its very course is manifested towards maturity, the human life is renewed within the light of the resurrection so that “we be delivered by the snare that now is broken” (Ps 123:5), that aims at catching the little sparrow while it’s learning to fly (Ps 123:6).

And as the good news of the resurrection grows and touches every human life with renewal, so the humble simple human life is called to touch those around it with hope and to co-participate in the renewal of life with a growing dynamis.

“Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5:14-19

“Everything in the Law and the Prophets depends on these two commandments” (Mat 22:40)

Another two confessions this week brought to light one of the sorrows that tires the human heart. The memory of that hangs heavily on the person even after many years. “My mother told me that it would have been better if I had not been born ... I know she was angry with me at that time, and she did not mean it, but for me, this is still the greatest trigger.” The other confession was similar, the rejection of the parent derailed the life of the growing child, now a normal adult who understands the heart of a parent. However, as the rejection of those who love us, even for a little while and out of anger or despondency, can bring such an alienation of the human soul, so also any form of genuine love for another person co-participates in the renewal of life that reveals itself within the light of the resurrection. We cannot get tired of loving because we love with a small measure. Or we rather have the desire to learn. It is by learning that we participate into new life. We are the light of the world because we magnify the enlightened face of Christ within the human soul who doubts the love really ever existed for her. Even though we do not see this face fully within ourselves, we can see it in others. And that makes our witness hopeful.

Please pray

For Mythily's daughter(the daughter and mother have both attempted suicide); Sana's family (her husband lost his mother); Mary; Anthony.



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under
the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, July 14, 2024

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