

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΕ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

YEAR B - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on February 8, 2015

My brethren, we are rapidly approaching the season of Lent, which begins in ten days. Since Ash Wednesday comes so early this year, next Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday. So, if you look in your lectionary you'll see that we will be skipping the readings for the 6th, 7th, and 8th Sundays after Epiphany. But please read these over the next week so that the continuity of your scripture study can be maintained.

Concerning our readings today, Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, speaks of becoming all things to all men that he might reach some of them with the message of salvation. I was reading a book recently wherein the author claims that this passage shows that Paul was an opportunist, doing whatever necessary to further his agenda. I suppose this is true, in a way, but the use of the term "opportunist" certainly has some cynical connotations attached to it. I think it is better to state that Paul recognized the universality of Christ's salvific message, and sought to make it comprehensible to every sort of person. It is the same principle that was expressed centuries later by the first Rosicrucians, who insisted that its membership adopt the local customs, not wearing any strange attire or insisting upon some arbitrary dietary rules. Paul knew - as Jesus himself illustrated through his examples - that Christ's work is to be done in the world, for the benefit of humanity and to the glory of the Most High.

Now, part of that work is to be done at the hylic level: the giving of alms to the poor, feeding the hungry, sheltering the displaced, etc. The basic physical welfare of humanity is critical to any further aid to the soul. And in our gospel reading we see Jesus doing just that - healing the sick and casting out demons; that is, caring for the health of the body and soul of the people.

There are many who perform charitable acts, and these should not be discouraged, and we should seek to participate in them whenever possible. But there is another form of work to which we are particularly suited, which is theurgy. This word, theurgy, comes from two Greek words meaning literally, "the work of God." Through the practice of theurgical prayer and theurgical operations, we can begin to do the sort of healing work that Jesus did on earth, and which he instructed us likewise to perform.

We sometimes refer to the Eucharist as the Supreme Theurgical Operation. There is even a section called the "Theurgic Consecration" which is quite separate from the sacramental consecration of the Eucharistic elements, and which does not rely upon the succession of apostolic powers, but upon the link forged by the operator with the Divine Source. Thus, one does not need to be an ordained cleric of any sort to effectively practice theurgy. One needs only to have a sincerity of heart and dedication to the Work in order to forge the necessary link to the Divine to accomplish Christ's Work. This was the very goal of the Rose+Croix of old, and it should be our aim in this day as well.