



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich, Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

On a Resolute and Sustained Purpose Week of June 25, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

If you wish to save your soul and win eternal life, arise from your lethargy, make the sign the Cross and say: "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Faith comes not through pondering but through action. Not words and speculation but experience teaches us what God is. To let in fresh air we have to open a window; to get tanned we must go out into the sunshine. Achieving faith is no different; we never reach a goal by just sitting in comfort and waiting, say the holy Fathers. Let the Prodigal Son be our example. He "arose and came" (Luke 15:20).

Colliander, Tito. *The Way of the Ascetics*. Chapter 1: "On a Resolute and sustained Purpose."

Last Sunday in our Divine Liturgy the Gospel lesson for the Second Sunday after Pentecost related St. Matthew's account of our Lord's call to the fishermen. "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." St. Matthew related that immediately, they rose and followed Him. James and John even left the boat in which they were mending their nets with their father Zebedee. "Immediately" they rose and followed also.

Tito Colliander in his book *The Way of the Ascetics* relates the message of that Gospel lesson to us by pointing out that we must do likewise. We must “rise, take up our Cross and follow Him.”

It has been a while since we opened the pages of this little book as a congregation; it’s time to do so once again. I will focus each week on one chapter of the book in my weekly homilies. You may buy it if your wish from Amazon.com or simply listen and then engage me and other members of the parish in conversation about what I preach on the basis of each chapter. There are 26 chapters in the book, which will take us more than half a year to complete. Of course on special commemorations and feasts, we will focus on the meaning of those days; but, at normal Sunday Divine Liturgies, we will focus on a chapter of Colliander’s book. Why this book? Because it was written for the normal Orthodox Christian who lives in the world. It is not addressed to those who have taken the Schema and entered into the monastic life, as so many of the spiritual writings of the holy Fathers are. This book applies those principles – the writings of Holy Scripture and the Spiritual Fathers – to those of us who live in the world with families and jobs and mortgages and grass to cut and all the daily duties of those who struggle to keep the faith, looking to the promise of the Lord that He is with us always and that His Kingdom will indeed be the final, last and eternal Word of the Father.

It’s time for us to “rise” and renew our faith, as Mr. Colliander suggests. On Sunday, we will consider the topic of Chapter 1: “On a Resolute and Sustained Purpose.”

In Christ our true God,

+Fr. Elias

Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 West Main Street

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084