

## Peace Be With You All

This beautiful phrase is the one that we hear most frequently in church prayers; the priest repeats it many times in the church liturgy [Iринi passi –Peace be with you all].

This is not just a mere greeting, but it is a **divine gift** and its source is the Lord Jesus Himself (**John 20: 19-21**); He grants it to His people through the priest. One of the Church Fathers once said: *“The rivers of living water are poured out of the bosom of the Holy Trinity through the priest to quench the thirst of the world”*.

This reminds us of the wonderful prophecy about the church of the New Testament which came in the book of Isaiah as it states:

*“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river... On her sides shall you be carried, and be dandled on her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”* (Isaiah 66: 12-13).

This divine peace that fills the heart with calmness, tranquility, and joy was left to the church by Christ at the end of His ministry on Earth. He said to our fathers the Apostles: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* (John 14:27).

The Church still gives us from the fountain of this peace in all its prayers. **It is important that our hearts be repentant, open, and prepared to receive this peace.** Our hearts should not harbor that which is against peace or that which is evil, malice, trouble, hatred or impurity. The Gospel is clear about the fact that **if there is a son of peace who deserves peace, then peace will rest upon him, other wise this peace will return back.** (Matthew 10:13)

We are in so much need to be filled with the divine peace during this difficult life we live now, amidst conflicts, terrorism, death, destruction, corruption, oppression, and persecution. **The divine peace makes it up for us and keeps us in perfect peace. It casts away all fear and trouble from our hearts and lifts us above all the tribulations of the world.**

For this reason, **it is our desire to be filled with this divine peace.** And regularly attending the church prayers is our way to achieve this goal and to obtain this precious treasure.

القمص يوحنا نصيف

[fryohanna@hotmail.com](mailto:fryohanna@hotmail.com)

