

# The Confessor's Tongue for June 8, A. D. 2014

Eighth Sunday of Pascha: Pentecost, Feast of the Holy Trinity

In honor of St. Maximus the Confessor, whose tongue and right hand were cut off in an attempt by compromising authorities to silence his uncompromising confession of Christ's full humanity & divinity.

## The Feast of Pentecost

This feast is called *Trinity Day*, because the appearance of the Holy Spirit has revealed to the people in a very clear light how necessary the mystery of the Holy Trinity was for them. On this day in its prayers and hymns, the Church honors and praises all three Persons of the Holy Trinity, who participated in the descent of the Holy Spirit: God the Father, who sent the Holy Spirit, God the Son Jesus Christ, who entreats the Father to send the Holy Spirit, and God the Holy Spirit, who descended appearing as fiery tongues.

This feast was named *Pentecost* because an event in the Old Testament called the feast of Pentecost was commemorated on this day, and also because this feast necessarily comes 50 days after the Christian Pascha. Especially important is the concurrence of the time of the descent of the Holy Spirit with the time of the Old Testament feast of Pentecost. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the believers in Christ was the crowning of the redemption and salvation of man by God. During the time of Pentecost, the disciples of the Lord blossomed and grew spiritually. Then the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit of God descended on them, and they became the first fruits of the redemptive work of Christ. Together with these revelations, the Church of Christ began on earth.

The day of Pentecost was the day when the Old Testament theocracy which began on Sinai and ruled the people through the written law, the law of slavery and of death, was replaced by the New Testament law, where the people are led by the Spirit of God, the spirit of adoption and freedom (Rom. 8). Thus, as the Pascha of Christ abolished the Old Testament Pascha, the New Testament Pentecost replaces the Old Testament one from which life under the law began. The event, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, and the beneficial fruits of this great event are praised in the hymns of the church for the day of Pentecost.

We celebrate Pentecost for seven days through its Leavetaking on Saturday. During the feast, we say or sing the festal troparion before meals and during our daily prayers.

### Pentecost, Troparion, tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, / who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; / through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. / O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

### Pentecost, Kontakion, tone 8

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; / but when He distributed tongues of fire, He called all to unity. / Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!

## Pentecostal Notes

With the Vigil for Pentecost, we resume saying the prayer "O Heavenly King." With the Kneeling Prayers of Vespers Pentecost evening, we resume kneeling and making prostrations in church.

## Uncovering of the Relics of St. Justin

This year is the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the birth, and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary since repose of St. Justin (Popovic), a beloved Serbian theologian and preacher who led his ascetic life in godless communist times.

On the feast of Holy Annunciation this year—the date of St. Justin's repose in 1979 [and the day of his birth in 1894]—a Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Serbian Celiye Convent by Bishop Milutin of Valjevo with Bishop Athanasius (Jevtic) concelebrating. At this Convent St. Justin lived and preached the faith of Christ by his theological works and was its confessor for 31 years. After the Liturgy, a moleben was served at the grave of St. Justin.

It has been reported that with the blessing of Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, Bishop Milutin announced the forthcoming uncovering of Relics of St. Justin, which will take place on June 14, 2014. Then St. Justin's Relics will be translated to the Church of the Convent, reports Pravoslavie.By.

St. Justin was canonized by decision of the Council of Hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church on May 2, 2010.

## Miracles From the Life of St. Justin of Cheliye

In 1952 there occurred a great miracle in the bakery of Chelije Monastery. In the monastery there were forty sisters, and Mother Nina was assigned to the kitchen. Having prepared bread for supper, she realized that there remained only one cup of flour. As she lamented this problem to the other sisters during dinner, Fr. Justin said: "Pray to God—the Lord will take care of us!" Early the next morning, as Mother Nina entered the bakery, she found two large canisters of flour. Fr. Justin, Mother Sarah and all the other sisters witnessed this miracle, and all together gave thanks unto God.

Stojka Jankovich from the village of Leskovac, in the vicinity of the city of Valjevo, had been ill for twelve years from demonic possession. She frequently saw demons, which beat, tortured and wounded her. When her family censed the house, she saw the demons fleeing from the incense. She went frequently to Fr. Justin for Holy Confession and Communion, and was eventually healed. Later she accepted the monastic vocation, and is now Sister Tatijana.

On the Feast of the Transfiguration in 1963, Fr. Justin was serving the Divine Liturgy. The church

was full and all partook of Holy Communion. Present among the people was a Muslim who was in the employment of a construction company ("Zhegrap") that was working on the railway from Belgrade to Bar (a coastal city in Montenegro). His name was Ismet, and until then Fr. Justin had never met him. When the people came forward for Holy Communion, he went forward with them. When he came before the Holy Chalice, Fr. Justin looked at him and said, "You cannot commune, since you're not baptized."

In the village of Stubo, in the vicinity of Valjevo, lived three sisters: Milenja, Obrenija and Krynija. All three suffered from neuroses. Milenja was the first to become ill and, after a few years, so did the other two. All three came to the monastery. Fr. Justin read prayers for them, confessed and communed them. All three recovered to full health, and Krynija became the nun Paraskeva.

In 1964, mother from the village of Velika Plane brought her daughter Slavka, who suffered from demonic possession, to the monastery. Slavka was twenty-six years old, and the demon spoke through her. Fr. Justin prayed much for her. On the eve of the Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael, the church was filled with people, and Fr. Justin was reading the Holy Gospel, when the demon spoke through the girl. Fr. Justin stopped and said: "It is not she who is speaking, but the demon in her!" To this the demon replied: "I would enter into you, but I can't."

Slavka was in the monastery for a long time and Fr. Justin read prayers for her every day. Three times he performed the Holy Mystery of Unction over her. During this time she went to Holy Confession and Holy Communion, but her condition did not improve. Fr. Justin said: "I am ceasing my prayers; there is some great unconfessed sin here." He instructed the sisters that perhaps Slavka did not know what sin encompassed, and that they should converse with her regarding this.

In conversations with the sisters, Slavka confessed her sin: "My parents had myself and my brother. My brother became engaged to a girl named Dushica. She was an only child and worked as a telephone operator, as did my brother. He asked my mother and me to come and see his future wife. The girl was fine and pretty, but she had a clubfoot; this was unacceptable to both of us, and we were against the engagement. My brother called her on the phone while she was at work and canceled the engagement. Later, her fellow workers said that although she had always gone home the same way, on this day she had gone down a road that crossed the railway. From a distance a train was approaching and she began to run. At that moment, an elderly gentleman (who later told of all this) approached her, grabbed her by the hand, and said: "Where are you going, child?" She freed herself from his grasp and at the last moment threw herself in front of the train. In relating this to the sisters, Slavka did not realize that she had committed a sin.

Afterwards, Slavka went to Confession, and sent an appeal to the bishop that a funeral service be held for Dushica. The funeral service was performed at Dushica's grave, and Fr. Justin served forty Divine Liturgies for the departed. When all was completed, Slavka then departed for home completely healthy.

One day in 1969, a student by the name of Milica arrived. She came to the monastery before Vespers. Fr. Justin was going toward the church, and they met in the church's courtyard. This was the first time in her life that she had seen Fr. Justin, and he her. Nevertheless, Fr. Justin greeted her: "God's help to you, sister Milica; have you arrived? Thanks be to God; rest yourself a little." That Milica is now the nun Makarija.

Milena, a seven-year-old girl from Ljubinica, could not speak. Her mother brought her to the monastery where she spent an entire month. During this time, Fr. Justin read prayers for her daily and she was healed.

Sreten from Gornje Leskovice (in the vicinity of Valjevo), had an extreme case of mental illness. He slept in the forest, shrieked, chased people, and beat them with stones. He had even killed his own uncle. Once, during the Divine Services, he ran into the church, venerated all the icons and prayed aloud. Fr. Justin read prayers for him, and he became healthy.

The granddaughter of a certain Radovan, Snezhana from Popuchka, in the vicinity of Valjevo, was six years old and could not walk. Her mother brought her to the monastery, and Fr. Justin read prayers for her. She began to walk normally, and often comes to the monastery.

#### **Upcoming Events 2014**

30 June—4 July St. Peter the Aleut Youth Camp  
4 July: Gathering at the Rovny's.

#### **From St. Silouan of Athos**

Of His compassion the Lord gave us sinners the Holy Spirit, and sought naught of us in return, but says unto each, as He said to His Apostle Peter, 'Lovest thou Me?' Thus all that the Lord asks of us is our love, and He rejoices when we turn to Him. This is God's mercy to man: let a man cease sinning, and humble himself before God, and the Lord has mercy upon him and forgives him all, and gives him the grace of the Holy Spirit and the power to overcome sin. Here is a thing to marvel at: we look with distaste upon our fellow-man – a human being just like ourselves – if he is poor or dirty, but the Lord, like a loving mother with her children, forgives us all things, and does not turn from the sinner in loathing, but even gives him the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If men only knew the Lord's love for us, they would surrender heart and soul to His holy will!

**GLORY BE TO GOD IN ALL THINGS!**