

Παναγιά η Κορωνιώτισσα



Panaghia Koroniotissa

“Thus, we will turn this plague into a triumph of hesychasm.”

Our Crown of Hope

by

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“Thus, we will turn this plague into a triumph”

The Panaghia Koroniotissa ~ Our Crown of Hope

“Everyone is scared of everybody else. If anyone complains that they have a headache or a fever... boom, they're finished. They are completely shunned and isolated. As for the rest of us, we are doing our best to control the situation. The government has quarantined affected areas, movement has been restricted.” No, its not about Corona-virus 2020, but Ebola, Sierra Leone 2014 -Fr Themis Adamopoulos. In these days of trial, no one asks us to deny our faith or attempts to force us not to worship God. No one would be justified or successful. Only an eccentric, brainless could utter such nonsense. And yet, social media abounds in such nonsense.

We do have social obligations. “Let our love for Christ be cultivated, and utilized for our fellowmen, and our ascetic obedience to the Church serve our society.”



Icon by the hand Hagiographos Elias Damianakis Archon Maestor

Elder Zacharias of Essex speaks of the Pandemic “this reminds us of an old tradition that the Fathers had in Palestine: in Great Lent, on the Sunday of Cheese fare, after the mutual forgiveness, they would go out in the desert for forty days without Liturgy; they would only continue in fasting and prayer so as to prepare and return on Palm Sunday to celebrate in a godly way the Passion and the Resurrection of the Lord. And so, our present circumstances force us to live again that which existed of old in the bosom of the Church. That is to say, they force us to live a more hesychastic life, with more prayer, which will however make up for the lack of the Divine Liturgy and will prepare us to celebrate with greater desire and inspiration the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”



“In this struggle, our appointed states, governments and appropriate health authorities have the primary responsibility for planning, confronting and overcoming this crisis. We might describe them as Commanders on the battlefield against an invisible, but now well-known, enemy. An enemy that has turned against humanity.”

“Human health is paramount; we call on believers to comply with the recommendations and instructions given by the official health authorities”

“We will pass through this period like a journey through the desert to reach the Promised Land, where science, by the grace of God, will overcome this virus.”

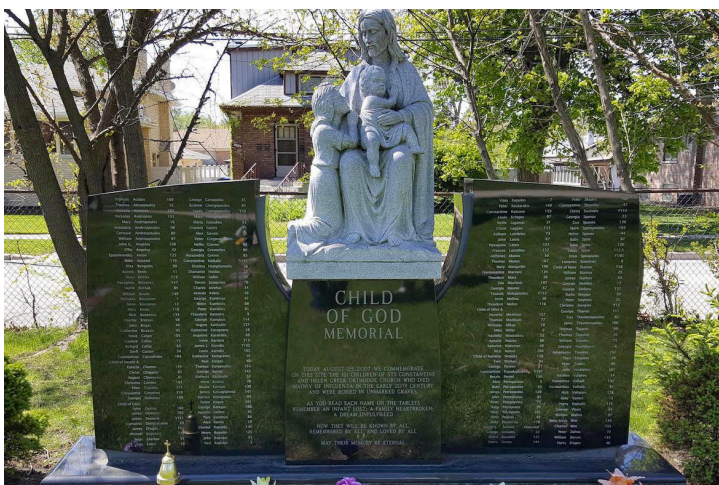
- Ecumenical Patriarchate

“As Christians, we must take responsibility for the well being of others. We can be united in the spirit even as we are apart in the body. In fact, protecting the health of those around us is a powerful witness to our faith, that we place the good of others above our own. With our faith in God, we can overcome these present difficulties, using the rational, scientific knowledge that we possess through our God-given intelligence.”

-Archbishop Elpidophoros



Under the current pandemic conditions how can anyone dispute basic health precautions? Yet there are those who prefer to spew righteous indignation and conflate issues of Mysterious and biological natures. The short memories or ignorance of these individuals can be astounding when examined in the prism of hindsight. Lets review three examples of recent tragic events in Church history, before we read three stories of the Theotokos Koroniotissa.



Greek children's memorial at Evergreen Cemetery Photo: Angelo Loumbas

The Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918

161 children die in one parish, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, Illinois.

Cholera on the island of Syros 1854

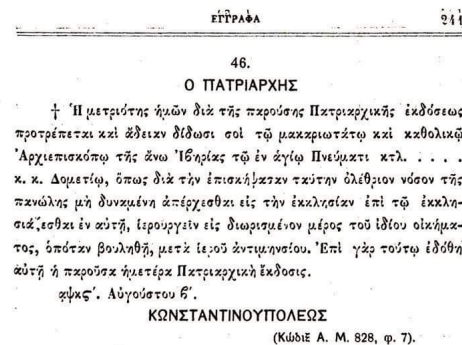
The Greek island of Syros faced an epidemic of cholera in 1854. “Bishop Daniel of Syros and Tinos allowed for the fasting of the fifteen days of August to be dissolved in order for the inhabitants to be better fed, and he agreed with the authorities to limit divine services to a minimum to avoid gatherings of individuals. After being pressured, he gave in to the request to have a procession done, which he considered ‘ill-timed due to the fact that crowds will gather together.’ Most of the time there were no funerals but the dead were distanced from the relatives and quickly brought to the grave.”

1726 Plague in Georgia

“Γράμμα Εκδόσεως” a license, of the then Ecumenical Patriarch Kallinikos to the then Archbishop of Georgia, dated August 2, 1726; releasing the Georgians from serving liturgy so they do not go to the churches and spread the pandemic of the plague.



“Arrows & Stones” by Konstantine Xenopoulos



Eressos, Lesbos

On the western shore of Lesbos, the third largest Greek Island, among the many sacred shrines in the historic village of Eressos are the sacred “seven Panaghia” (οι επτά Παναγίας). Seven chapels dedicated to various life events of the Theotokos. These chapels are scattered around the outskirts of the village. The pious from all over the island, trek to all seven offering prayers, incense and various litanies. Among these seven chapels is one dedicated to Panaghia “Koroniotissa.” An Ancient title attributed to the Theotokos since at least the 8th century.

Corona is from the Ancient Greek κορώνη “garland, wreath” eventually known as a crown. In biology it has come to mean any crown-like appendage, hence corona-virus.

Panaghia Koroniotissa
Chapel Skala Eressos
The Seven Panaghias
Celebrated on the
Nativity of the Theotokos

Photo: Νίκος Καρύδης



Panaghia Theotokos Eressos, Lesbos



“Panayouda” Skala Eressos



Panaghia Koroniotissa Karditsa

The Koroni Monastery



Karditsa

In Karditsa, the Koroni Monastery is famed ancient site of pilgrimage. At the eastern mountain range of Agrafa, at an altitude of 800 meters, on a prominent location with a magnificent view of the Thessalian plain, the Holy Monastery of Our Lady is located Koronis (or Koronas), dedicated to the Birth of the Virgin.

The history of the Holy Monastery of Koroni begins in the 12th century and specifically in 1123, when the miraculous image of Our Lady of Koroni was miraculously found.

It was founded under Emperor John II of Komninos, as a Stavropegian, Patriarchate and the Royal Monastery. Its first name was “Monastery of Kriera Pigi”. After suffered catastrophe, rebuilt in the early 1500’s by Andrea Buonos, a rich resident of Agrafa.



Icon by the hand Hagiographos Elias Damianakis Archon Maestor
Courtesy of OrthodoxIconography.com

Cephalonia

From seaward the little Byzantine church of Panaghia Koroniotissa is visible and it is a short walk from the harbor to this little Byzantine gem. It was originally built in the 10th century. The current chapel built in the 14th century. The original icon of the Panaghia Koroniotissa has been lost to fire, yet a copy of this ancient icon continues to perform miracles and holds a position of honor, found today on the church throne.

The Virgin Koroniotissa miraculous icon of was brought to Kefalonia around the end of the 15th century by the Archon Leo Polycalas who escaped persecution in Peloponnese. Then monastery was destroyed and years later the sacred icon was found by a shepherd of the area and this resulted in the temple being rebuilt. This Virgin is also called Dacryoususa because with the devastating earthquake of January 23, 1867. Though the towns were destroyed, the church was affected and the miraculous Virgin Mary was lying on the floor with tears in her eyes.

The icon of Our Lady of Koroniotissa-Dakyrousousa (Tear-Shedder) is kept in the monastery of Lixouri on the island of Cephalonia. The Synaxis of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos Koroniotissa's miracle is celebrated on January 23rd with all night vigils and large crowds. The most worthy hymnographer Gerasimos authored an entire Canon - Paraklytikos for this service.



Panaghia Koroniotissa, Koroni Monastery Cephalonia



Icon by the hand Hagiographos Elias Damianakis



"Νεκροὶ διὰ σοῦ ζωοποιοῦνται· ζῶν γὰρ τὴν ἐνυπόστατον ἐκύησας· εὐλαοὶ οἱ ἄλαοι, πρῶν χρηματίζοντες, λεπροὶ ἀποκαθαίρονται, νόσοι διώκονται, πνευμάτων ἀερίων τὰ πλήθη, ἥττηνται Παρθένε, βροτῶν ἡ σωτηρία."

"Παναγία Δέσποινα Θεοτόκε, πρέσβευε ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν τῶν ἀμαρτωλῶν."



Icon by the hand Hagiographos Elias Damianakis Archon Maestor

The Orthodox Church's "Beacon of Repentance"
Holy Mary of Egypt, fled into the desert and after
47 years in solitude received Holy Communion

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