

Sunday of the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, we remember the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils. All councils were held in the first millennium. The first two Ecumenical Councils were devoted to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity: The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Second to the Sixth Ecumenical Councils, the doctrine of the Person and two natures of the God-man, Jesus Christ, was formulated. The last Seventh Ecumenical Council was dedicated to the fight against iconoclastic heresy.

The epoch of the Six Ecumenical Councils, which lasted more than three hundred years, was a time of Christological controversy about the Holy Trinity. Therefore, the memory of the holy fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils is celebrated as a sign that the saints of the Christian Church had formulated and approved the dogmas of Christian doctrine, the theological basis of doctrine had been determined.

In the Gospel story today, we heard the words of Jesus Christ: "...They need not go away; you give them something to eat" (Matt. 14:16).

We have heard many times in the Scriptures how the Lord cared for people, especially those who had been lost, weak, poor, despised, or forgotten. We cannot list all of the miracles that Christ performed on the sick, the crippled, and the demonic.

As the Savior moved to the wilderness near Bethsaida, many people from the surrounding villages and towns followed Him. These people left all of their daily worries and anxieties, and followed Christ to hear His divine words. As the evening was approaching, none of the people were in a hurry to disperse. The apostles then asked the Savior to release the people so that they would not go hungry and be able to buy bread and food. However, the Lord does it differently: those who so desperately needed spiritual bread also received earthly bread.

More than five thousand people gathered in that desert place, and the apostles had only five small loaves of bread and two fish. However, this was enough for the Lord to satisfy all these people. "Then he ordered the crowds

to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over” (Matt. 14:19-20).

The satiety of these people was not a miracle for the sake of a miracle, but a great sign of the fullness of Jesus' authority and generosity, which He shares with all who seek God. It is probable that the Jewish people did not seek satiety from God, but kind words and mercy.

This case shows us that the teaching of Jesus Christ satisfies not only spiritual needs but also physical ones. And in our day, we can all do great things of charity, even through small everyday things.

On the seashore stood a lonely hut in which lived a poor widow. Rocks and abysses stretched around this hut for a long distance. The sea in this place was very dangerous for sailors. More than once, this woman saw fishing boats fighting the waves near the shore and heard the cries of people who were dying. One night, when a strong wind was blowing, the woman could not sleep. She thought, "What is being done at sea now, and how many people are dying on this terrible night near the shore, where my hut stands!" Suddenly, a good thought dawned on her. As her house stood high on the shore and the window overlooked the sea, she considered putting a lamp on the window to warn the fishermen of the proximity of the dangerous shore. That's what she did. From then on, during each storm, her lamp shone brightly in the window, and more than one fisherman was saved by her light, thanking the Lord for the good heart of this woman.

Let us try, in our lives, to notice the signs that the Lord gives us, through which He speaks to us. In prayer, we ask God for grace to understand their meaning.

Dear believers! Every morning when we wake up, we make decisions for the day. And we ask the Lord to give us the strength to be good Christians in this world, where Christian values are forgotten by many people, where the Gospel Commandments are unknown to many people. We ask the Lord to fill our hearts with His divine grace and most holy love.