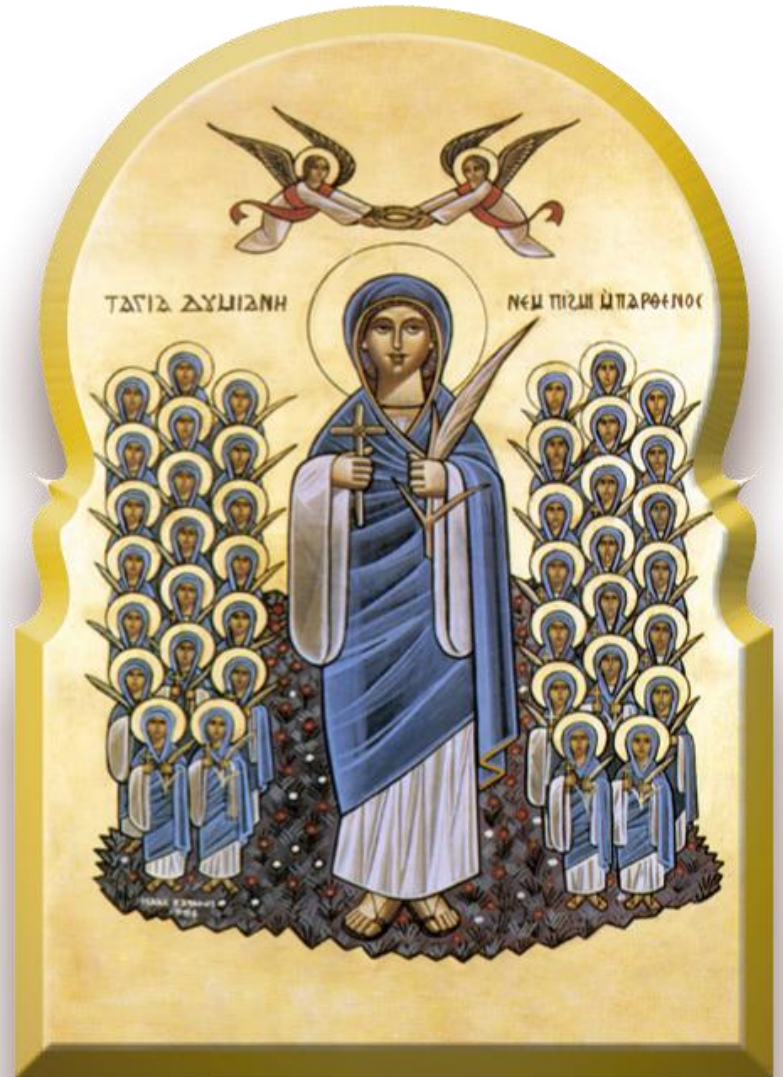


Terms of Fellowship

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” – Lk. 14:26

Willing to abandon what is dear

- Does NOT mean literally to hate your family
- St. Demiana
- We must be willing to lose their company rather than their favor



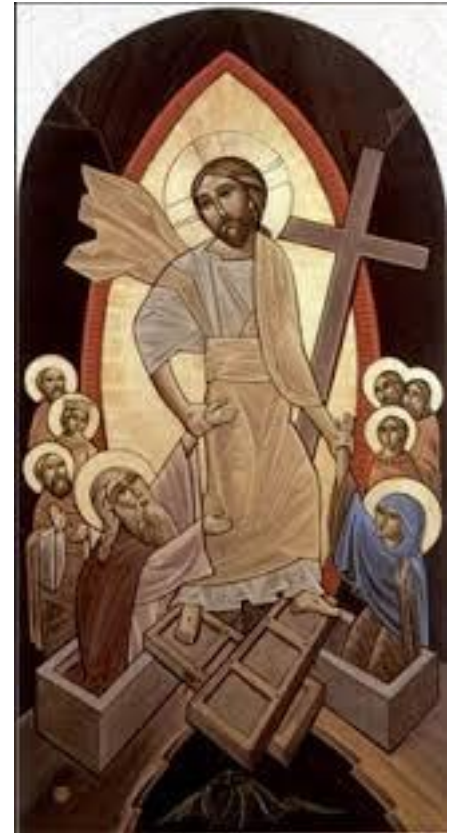
Willing to abandon oneself

- Although we can understand this literally, but it can also be applied to our spiritual battles.
- *“Persistence in watchfulness, together with kneeling at times, will readily give the striving worshipper the joy of prayer. Devote yourself to prayer, and you will obtain the pleasure of kneeling, and persist joyfully in it.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)



Prepare for the worst

- Maybe they were expecting Him to say that those who follow Him will have great wealth, honor, and fame
- The Kingdom of Heaven does not need a Black Friday only a Good Friday



Must be prepared to finish

- Building a Tower
 - “My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord, Prepare your soul for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, And do not strive anxiously in distress.”
(Sir. 2:1-2)
- Preparing for Battle
 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
(Eph. 6:12-13)

Willing to bear that which is heavy

- “And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. **But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:22-24)
- Ambassador in chains (Eph. 6:20)