

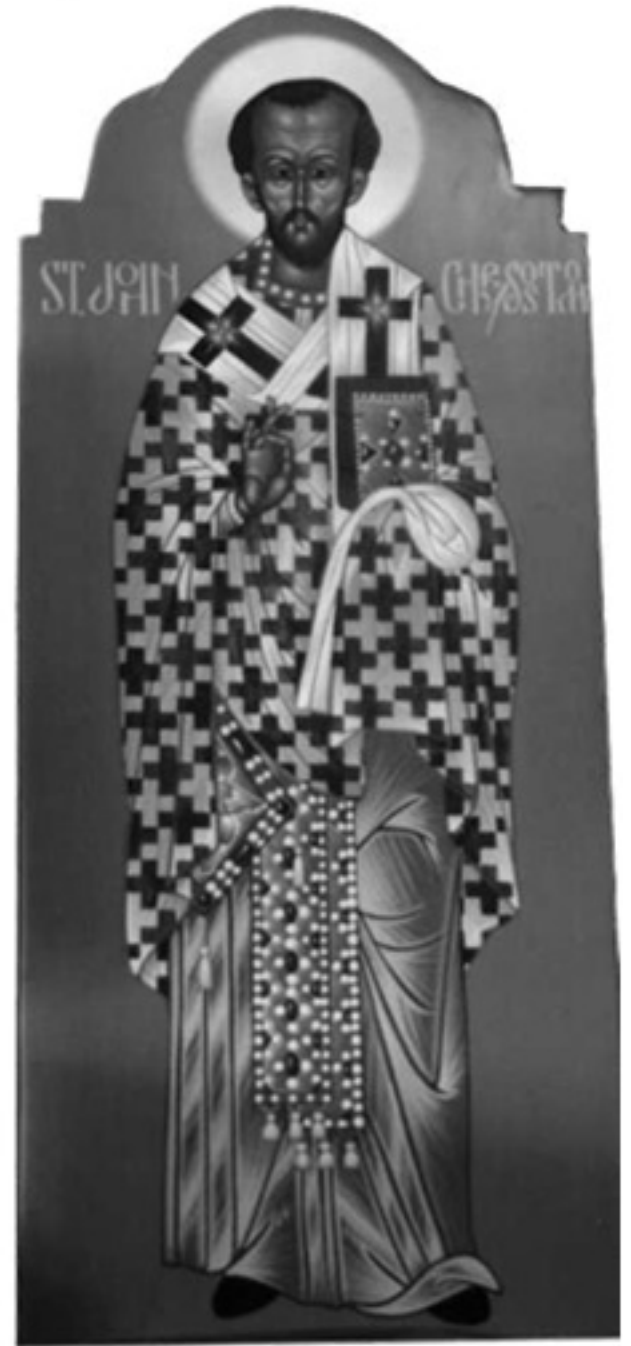
Service according to St. John Chrysostom

Your lips, O my spouse, Drip as the
honeycomb; Honey and milk are under
your tongue...(Songs 4: 11)

*"The bee is more honored than other animals,
not because she labors, but because she labors for
others"*

*"Do you pay such honor to your
excrements as to receive them into a silver
chamber-pot when another man made in the image
of God is perishing in the cold?"*

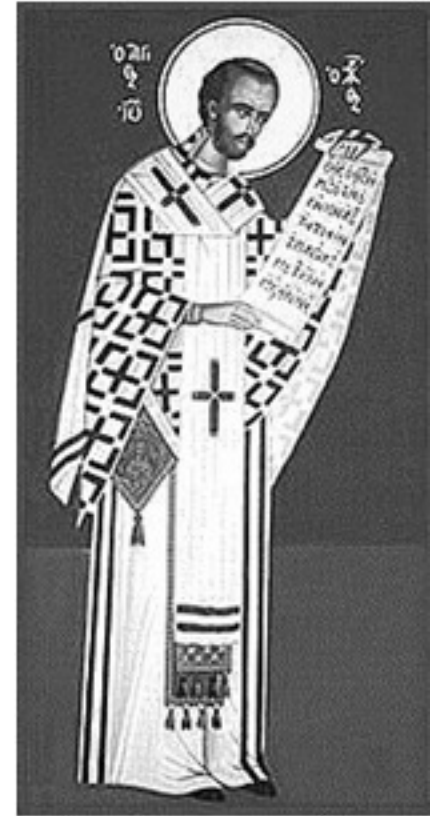
— Saint John Chrysostom



St. John Chrysostom

Bishop of Constantinople

- Born in Antioch, Syria around 347 AD to high ranked officer in the Syrian army
- Studied in Antioch under Libanius, one of the most persistent adherent of the declining paganism of Rome
- Turning-point in his life when he met Bishop Meletius of Antioch in about 367
- About three years later, he received Holy Baptism and was ordained lector (reader)
- He remained as an anchorite for two years, but then returned to Antioch, for health reasons
- He was ordained as a deacon in 381 by Saint Meletius and then ordained as a presbyter in 386 by Bishop Flavian I of Antioch.
- Over the course of twelve years, he gained popularity because of his insightful expositions of Bible passages and moral teaching.
- He was ordained Bishop of Constantinople on 26 February, 398, by Pope Theophilus of Alexandria.



Exile and Death

- A silver statue of the Empress, Eudoxia, was erected before the great church of Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom), to which Saint John spoke loudly against
- He spoke against her in harsh terms: *"Again Herodias raves; again she is troubled; she dances again; and again desires to receive John's head in a charger [a platter],"*
- He was deposed again two months; spent the last three years in exile
- He uttered his last words, *"Glory be to God for all things"*, and gave up his soul to God on September 14, 407
- We commemorate his departure on November 27 (Hatour 17) in the Coptic Church



Service in His Mind

Life not Form (appearance)

1- Strong Relationship with the Bible

- Many servants are involved in many activities without having a strong relationship with the bible and thus have minimum to no long-term effect on these he or she serves
- Signs of a strong relationship with the bible:
 - Understanding what the bible is (The mind of Christ)
 - Understanding that I need the bible (by default, our minds are far off from His)
 - **Read**
 - Defining the book, the writer, time of writing, and the purpose [exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Romans...etc.]
 - Read the text slowly and correctly [the Pauline from St. Mathew!!!!]

1- Strong Relationship with the Bible

● Observe

- **Gal 5:16** *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”*
- **John 17: 14-16** *“ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”*
- Conditional statements (unless you repent, you will likewise perish).
- Questions (St. Mary; Nicodemus; Elizabeth)
- **Song of Songs 1: 2** *“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
For your love is better than wine.”*
- **Col 4: 18** *“This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my
chains. Grace be with you. Amen.”*

1- Strong Relationship with the Bible

● Understand

- Is it a promise, commandment, or a fact (I am the way)
- Divide long sentence [Ephesians 1: 6]
- What does the text relate to what is before and what is after
- How does the text relate to the dogma

● Mediate and live

- Ask yourself why: The story of healing Naaman the Syrian (2 kings 5) [sending him to the Jordan].
- Ask yourself what if :
 - Christ did not dismiss the disciples and talked to the Samaritan woman privately?
- Read it as a movie
- Act like the hero of the story (The Canaanite woman; the blind man)

2- Cares for the Salvation of Souls

- Who is the first soul to care about?
- **I Timothy 4:16** *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*
- Service can be a main source of distraction (instead of focusing on one’s self, the focus is now on others)....forget what is behind
- **Signs of distraction**
 - Pride (especially for those with bigger responsibilities)
 - Judging others; lose of the spirit of discipleship; not accepting criticism; trying to intervene and influence policies; challenging church’s leadership
 - Teaching from what is ours not from what is His



An arrogant person considers himself perfect. This is the chief harm of arrogance. It interferes with a person’s main task in life—becoming a better person.

(Leo Tolstoy)

3- Simple (Practical) Teaching

- The servant is a repentant leading others to repentance
- To some of us service is science (knowledge) not life
- A servant becomes like a bridge, a bell, a gatekeeper calling others to enter without entering himself
- **Acts 2: (St. Peter's sermon)** *"...Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*



4- Not just Teaching but Doing also

- **Acts 1:1** *“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach”*
- **1 John 3: 18** *“¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know[d] that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him”*



Bolivia Mission 2015
Jan 9th - 17th



St. Vincent Medical Society
and Annual Bolivia Mission Trip
January 9th - 17th, 2015
Please contact Bob Duggan or Blake Bunker
www.stvincentmedicalsociety.com
Thank you to all who have supported and helped with the planning of this mission trip.
www.stvincentmedicalsociety.com

5- Enduring Pain

- St. John himself is a good example
- Mostly fatigue and ideological refusal, specially here and now
- More importantly the volunteering for:
- **Philippians 2** *“⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient...”*
- *Understanding the wisdom in the 6th hour in the Agpeya*



Summary

- For St. John Chrysostom, service is:
 - Strong relationship with the Bible
 - Care for the salvation of souls
 - Practical teaching
 - Not just teaching but doing also
 - Enduring pain

