

My Beloved Ones,

I write to you today as I celebrate the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul from the parish of St. Paul in Savannah, Georgia. I am blessed, not only to celebrate this holy feast, but to also offer a one year memorial, in honor of Charles “Anastasios” Masterpolis.

Though Charles did not leave behind any children, I believe that his name will continue to be honored by future generations, because of his faithful stewardship to Christ’s Church. In much the same way that St. Paul dedicated his entire life and well-being to spreading the Gospel of Christ, I truly believe that Charlie’s greatest legacy has yet to be seen.

In his Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us the importance of continuing to work in the Vineyard of the Lord when he says that, *“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it.”* Charlie so deeply lived with the love of Christ in his heart, and he understood the meaning and power of the foundation (that is, the Gospel).

However, we can also see, from his support of our youth and the Diakonia Retreat Center, to our future clergy at Hellenic College-Holy Cross, that he knew the greatest legacy was continuing to build upon the foundation, without ever seeing the beautiful structure complete.

Those without faith might believe that this is a saddening thing; that all one’s work is uncertain. But we the faithful understand that our faith is the very same unshakeable rock that inspired the name our Lord gave to Simon: Πέτρος. Charlie’s belief in the future of our Church was as steady as the faith for which both Ss. Peter and Paul willingly received the crowns of martyrdom. Charlie’s faith was indeed sturdy, but quiet. Charlie did not give so generously of his time and treasure so that his works would be praised by men, but rather, to glorify his Heavenly Father. He knew, as our Savior tells us, that *“...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matthew 6:21) And now, anyone who sees the fruits of his labors, can see where Charlie’s heart belonged.

As we honor the lives of these two blessed Saints who did so much to raise and protect the message of Christ’s Good News during the early years of the Church, let us look to them, and to all those who dedicate their time, talents and treasures to a future that is not yet promised to us.

With this in mind, I wish a most blessed *Χρόνια Πολλά* to all those celebrating today, just as I pray that Charlie Masterpolis’ memory be ever eternal.

+ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta

