

Good Fathers....

In a little over two weeks, Holy Saturday will be upon us and we will be celebrating the "Proti-Anastasi" in our churches.

A number of the brothers, encourage parishioners to bring "noise-makers", specifically pots and pans to clang at that Liturgy. While it may be too late to do so this year, I am asking that we slowly but surely discontinue this practice. While some may try to justify it as a way to engage the congregation, especially children in the Liturgy, others mention that it is common practice in certain areas of Greece. Personally, I find it to be totally inappropriate for the solemnity of the most solemn of all days of the year... a day when technically we are not even supposed to offer a liturgical service... one on which the strictest fast is observed.

So, one has to question how we can reconcile the inclusion of banging pots and pans in this liturgy, which I suspect may take on a spirit of carnival rather than one appropriate to the day. In most cases, clergy can't even be heard over the banging of pots by people who often times "get carried away". What does it really offer to the service???

There are certainly other ways we can engage our people, in a dignified fashion and one appropriate to the beauty of our Orthodox liturgical tradition.

No doubt, some may take exception to this request but I am confident that you will implement it.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and joyous Pascha. Kali Dynami.

BA

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+Bishop Andonios of Phasiane
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