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COVID and Holy Communion

For about two years, my brothers and sisters in Christ, many things have been said and more have been **written in the media, both in print and online**, regarding the **COVID Pandemic**. Today, I am very happy to announce to you that **the Health Authorities of our City have lifted the prohibition of distributing Holy Communion with one *Lavida*, or Communion spoon**. Yet again, I believe it is right, beneficial and appropriate to bring to your attention the statements of two renowned doctors and **Professors of the Ethnic Kapodistrian University of Athens, Infectious Disease Expert Dr. Eleni Giamarellou and the reposed cardiologist Dr. Athanasios Avramidis**.

Professor Eleni Giamarellou said the following: **“I belong to the group of people that go to Church. Holy Communion is a Sacrament!!! When you go to receive Holy Communion, you don’t go because it is a custom; rather, you go because it is the Body and Blood of Christ!!!”**

You either believe it and you receive Communion properly, or you don’t believe it. There are no “middle of the road” solutions. If I believe that this can make me sick, then I don’t believe the greatest of Sacraments!!! The people who want to receive Communion should not be afraid that Holy Communion will ever infect them with any type of germ!!!”

The departed cardiology professor, **Athanasios Avramidis**, wrote the following: **“There is not the slightest chance that a member of the faithful has been given any disease from Holy Communion. Not even the Priest who, as it is well known, communes the rest of the Holy Communion after the service is done, up to the last drop. This includes whatever has been left on the Holy *Lavida* (Spoon) from the mouths of all those who have received Communion, which has [during that time] settled at the bottom of the Holy Chalice! This is true that even in: sanitoriums, where tuberculosis was “boiling”; leper hospitals; or in hospitals filled with patients with venereal diseases, places where syphilitic patients were treated, when the disease was “harvesting” or growing.**

There is no evidence, therefore, to lead the medical community to step in specifically for this situation. In matters of faith, after all, when it comes to the sacraments of the Christian faith, it is not easy for medicine to enter, because the sacraments are performed by the influence of spiritual forces, which are beyond the scope of the possibilities of science, and therefore of medicine.

The faithful approach Holy Communion “with the fear of God, faith and love” to Him Who said: “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood, I will live in him and him in Me.” (*John 6:56*). I am convinced, therefore, that they partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, and they approach with awe and a contrite heart to the Holy Chalice, the Chalice of Life!!!

Therefore, for the faithful Christian, there is no problem. Those who have doubts or that are afraid that they might contract an illness due to Holy Communion, however, have no reason to commune – it is their right to abstain. They should leave the rest of the faithful alone, though (because it is a noteworthy observation that the non-believers are those who speak out the most about the so-called “dangers of Holy Communion”).

My brothers and sisters in Christ! After everything these two distinguished scientists, Professors of Medicine, I cannot add anything further except for the **Biblical Verse: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”** (*Luke 8:15*).

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Fr. Triantafillos

