

Imitators of St. Glicherie of Romania

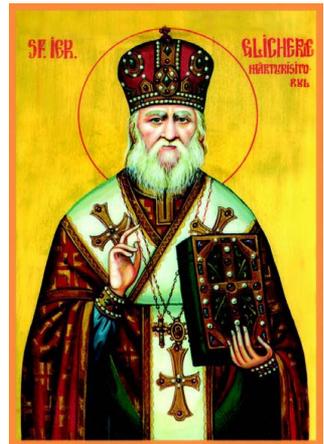
*On the occasion of his holy commemoration,
June 15, 2011 (Old Style)*

Your Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie;
holy and venerable Hierarchs;
brothers and sisters in Christ:

Today, all of us who are taking part in this sacred solemnity are very blessed by our Lord and our God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And we are blessed, because we have before us a genuine Rule of Faith, a genuine Image of Meekness, and a genuine Teacher of Abstinence.

We have before us a genuine Image of God and a genuine Imitator of Christ: the newly revealed Saint, Ascetic, Apostle, Martyr, Confessor, and Wonderworker, the Hierarch Glicherie, who summons us and exhorts us: “Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.”



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But how did our newly revealed Holy Father become an Imitator of Christ, and how might we, too, become imitators of him?

When Christ the Savior, after His Baptism in the Jordan, found Himself in the desert, on the Mount of Temptation, He faced three great temptations: love of glory, love of money, and love of pleasure. He conquered them and drove them out.

However, He faced also a fourth temptation before His Suffering: martyric death. He conquered this temptation, too, when He surrendered and submitted to the will of His Heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.

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Our Holy Father Glicherie also confronted these four temptations successfully and victoriously by the Grace of our Lord and with the aid of the *Theotokos*.

Throughout his tumultuous life,

a. he struggled against love of glory by means of humility, simplicity, and prayer;

b. he struggled against love of money and acquisitiveness by means of poverty in Christ, non-acquisitiveness, self-sacrificial love for Christ's sheep, tenderness, and compassion;

c. he struggled against love of pleasure by means of asceticism in Christ, abstinence, frugality, and hardship;

d. finally, he struggled many times against death, for the sake of Orthodoxy and its Traditions, in prison, in persecutions, and in solitude, entrusting himself with complete confidence to the hands of God, through the *Theotokos* and all the Saints.

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In these ways, then, our Holy Father Glicherie became an Imitator of Christ; and he exhorts us, and will unceasingly exhort us, to imitate him in a lifelong struggle against love of glory, love of money, love of pleasure, and death, for the sake of our Holy Faith.

Essentially, however, our whole life is an unremitting struggle against death and for life: *against* the death of sin in its many forms, which besets us from all sides, and *for* life, which we draw from our participation in the Suffering and Resurrection of Christ, from communion of the Immaculate Mysteries, and from keeping the commandments.

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Christ our Savior proclaimed that He is the Truth and the Life.

Our Holy Father Glicherie was an authentic exponent of the Truth of Christ, and also of the Life of Christ.

Let us imitate him, just as he became an imitator of Christ.

Let us persist in being faithful to the Truth of Orthodoxy and far removed from innovations, though with charity, compassion, forbearance, and brotherly love.

Let us constantly endeavor to make the Life of Christ our own life, expelling love of glory, love of money, love of pleasure, and the

death of sin in its many forms.

Thus will we become genuine imitators of our Holy Father Glicherie and will demonstrate that we are his true children.

Then Christ will live in our hearts and we in Christ, so that through us the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit may be glorified, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi
Acting President

June 15, 2011 (Old Style)
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