



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States**

**The Monthly Message
to the Fathers, the Priests**

August 2025

**"Hail to the Saint, the mother of All the Living"
From Tuesday's Theotokia**

During the month of August, while our church celebrates the blessed Virgin St. Mary fast, we would like to contemplate this unique title given by the church to our blessed Mother of God.

The church has given the blessed Virgin this title "Mother of all the Living" to link it with what has been said about the Lord Jesus Christ, "*The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven*" (1 Corinthians 15:47).

Likewise, the blessed Virgin St. Mary is the mother of all the living, the second Eve, the first Eve being called so by her man, "*And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living*" (Genesis 3:20).

The first Eve has been granted the grace to give birth to children. However, sadly so, after Adam's first fall, he and his offspring have become subjected to death. Thus the first Eve was to give birth but to non-living children that is to say born with the curse of death on them. This fact is prayerfully expressed in the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, "As a ransom on our behalf, He gave

Himself up unto death, which reigned over us, whereby we were bound and sold on account of our sins "

Now, having entered the era of grace, we have obtained the grace and the attribute of the new creation which is essentially eternal life accrued in Jesus Christ. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"*the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—*" (1 John 1:2).

Henceforth, the Church has seen in Jesus Christ, "the second Adam", the first born, the crown of the new creation. Subsequently, the blessed Virgin St. Mary is called the second Eve having become the mother of all the living through granting flesh to her Son our God and Lord Jesus Christ. For, she has given birth to the "life giver"; and His body in which she has taken part, is the very same body that we describe as "the life-giving body". This body has been described by our Lord as granting life to the world, "*For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world*" (John 6:33).

Therefore, the blessed Virgin St. Mary is the mother of all the living, those born of her Son of God who have received eternal life. "*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*" (John 1:12-13).

On this subject, Epiphanius of Salamis says " 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you' (Lk 1:28). This is she who was prefigured by Eve and who symbolically received the title mother of the living. For Eve was called mother of the living...It seems odd that she should receive such a grand title after having sinned. Looking at the matter from the outside, one notices that the entire human race took its origin from Eve. Mary, on the contrary, truly introduced life into the world by giving birth to the Living One, so that Mary has become the mother of the living" (Panarion Adversus Haereses 78:17-19; Written 375 A.D.)

Therefore, we stand before an amazing mystery orchestrated by God Himself in order to proclaim to humanity His sacred plan of salvation and renewal which is another term for "retrieval of life" and proclamation before the human race through a model similar to the first creation of Adam and his wife Eve who incurred upon Adam and all his offspring the verdict of death. Henceforth, the Lord Jesus Christ God returned to use the second Eve, but through his godly model, the blessed virgin St. Mary, who through obeying God's voice within her, did not fall in sin. That is why the Logos was born of her to grant eternal life to those who believe in him; that is to say renewal from the same model the woman according to God's precept not according to the voice of the snake Satan.

If we compare the first and second models, we discover that the first woman fell because of disobedience breaking the commandment, whereas the second complied obediently "be it done unto me according to your word"

The first Adam was tempted, and to please himself and his wife, he accepted the allurements to become like God; whereas the second

Adam debased himself and obeyed to death. *"Saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.'"* (Luke 22:42).

Therefore, we exalt the blessed Virgin St. Mary because she is "the mother of all the living" who have become possessors of eternal life by virtue of unity with Jesus Christ born of her as St. John has said:

"the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—" (1 John 1:2).

"He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:2-5).

We do not go overboard exaggerating when venerating the blessed Virgin St. Mary. In reality, we will be honoring her Son and His indescribable, unfathomable gift, eternal life.

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

Henceforth, let us make our prayers and glorification during this fast a reminder of the eternal life that her Son has called us to inherit; and for which she intercedes for us. Let us be encouraged and encouraging those whom the Lord entrusted us with the responsibility of shepherding, serving, and teaching how to persevere in holding onto eternal life always asking for the intercession of the one whom we title and call "the mother of all the living".