



p Theologos <hidden>

Re: Anthony

Sarah <Hidden>
To: p Theologos <hidden>

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 8:16 PM

Dear Monk Theologos,
Here is my beloved husband response for you. Please forgive the delay as he has been busy with attorneys and paperwork!
This is a very difficult time for us. I just lost my precious dad in Feb and now may lose my Anthony.

In Christ's love,
Sarah

Anthony's response:

My Beloved and Most Precious Monk Theologos the Athonite:

I pray humbly that the Most Holy Theotokos' prayers save you! Having been led the the One Holy Apostolic Orthodox Church in 1998 by Met. Athanasios (of Vatopaidi) and laboring for salvation since 1999 under Geronta Paisios (of Philotheou, spiritual son of blessed Geronta Ephraim of Philotheou and Arizona) has instilled tremendous adoration for the Holy Mountain. For me, worm food, to have received your counsel from the very Garden of the Theotokos has sent my heart heavenward. I humbly thank you. Actually, I used to have two wristwatches, one used Mt. Athos time! And Geronta Nikodemos of Philotheou has even graced me with several visits here at the prison. Me, the wholly undeserving one, has been so mightily blessed. Yes, the State of Arizona plans to murder me by lethal injection on the 8 June -- however, this happens to be the Translation of the Relics of the Great Martyr Theodore! There was a hugely important court hearing yesterday 03.06.22). My attorneys presented expert testimony regarding government's refusal to test the execution drug (Pentobarbital) to ensure, as required by law, its efficacy. The judge indicated a ruling will likely issue today. I thoroughly understand your paradox of hoping my life on earth is extended while realizing it means no immediate voyage to Paradise! I feel likewise in many ways, however, my angel Sarah will be left without me, this truly shatters my heart! I would welcome your editing and employing all or any part(s) you choose of this meager email to share with many. You asked both how I am preparing for death and if I had anything to share. Perhaps by answering both that will provide something to share? Thus: In preparation for death, I have maintained a nightly vigil of two hours but, tragically, am overly negligent on the Hours of Prayer. Please forgive me! Christ has blessed me with every other week two hour visits with my spiritual father (Geronda Paisios, Abbot of St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, Arizona) for Holy Confession, Holy Communion, and counsel. With too much laxity, I engage in the Jesus Prayer and I read a lot (currently, the Philokalia V). These endeavors are pursued under obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ's commands and Geronda Paisios. Additionally, Metropolitan Athanasios (of Limassol, Cyprus) granted me a jewel of counsel: "Anthony, death is not to be feared, should God allow your execution it indicates He has accepted your repentance and you are ready to depart for Paradise!" This being in addition to his "word" for me in the late 1990's: " Be brave and trust God." I am trying so hard to cling to the precious Athonite gems, even as I fear my negligence and sense of weak repentance. God save me! Moreover, I keep in my heart how the Lord Jesus Christ permitted my conviction for murder and sentence to death while having been innocent of the crime. This unimaginable judicial injustice has been lovingly used by Christ as the very vehicle for my salvation! May it be blessed! I am eternally grateful for the over 35 years on death row, under physically inhumane conditions (have even ended up in a wheelchair since 2015). Finally, I would have a last request, in accordance with Holy Geronta Ephraim, of Philotheou and Arizona, I plead with everyone to please beg Christ for mercy, our lack of prayer and repentance requires His mercy! Beloved Monk Theologos, your instruction and love hymned my heart and nous. Thank you! I humbly hope my comments are able to be utilized by you to bring hope to many. I urge any other word you may have for me prior to 8 June, that would be amazing! Kalo Paradeiso.

With Much Love in Christ, Anthony (a sinner)
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