

My Beloved Ones,

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Holy Wonderworker of Myra, St. Nicholas, and on December 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrate St. Spyridon of Cyprus.

So today, we are in between the feasts of two great men who served as leaders of the Church, in the same era, in lands that were very close to another. We can see the similar ways they conducted themselves with their congregations and as participants in the first Ecumenical Council in 325. Both exhibited a spirit of faith and true servitude towards others, as proof of their deep love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this reason, we must allow for reflections in our personal lives. For all of us, in ways large or small, have friends, family and neighbors for whom we are called to propagate our faith by example, as Ss. Nicholas and Spyridon did. And the only way we can truly show this to love another. Love is something that lives in our hearts, something that we must have, not for ourselves, but for everyone else.

I believe that you, the faithful in the Metropolis of Atlanta have that kind of mindset. I urge you, as ever, to share this mindset with the youngest among you, so that they can grow up with this kind of attitude: Love for God, Love for the Church, and to show God's Love for others.

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Metropolitan of Atlanta

