

## **Resource Sheet 69 – St Nektarios of Aegina**

Our Holy Father Nektarios was born on 1 October 1846 at Selymbria in Thrace from a poor pious Christians' family, he was fourteen, when his parents sent him to Constantinople to continue his education.

When he was twenty, he left Constantinople for a teaching post on the island of Chios. On November 7, 1876, he became a monk in the famous Monastery of Nea Moni, and known by his ascetic, prayerful life.

He was ordained deacon after one year, and the Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria, Egypt, offered him a scholarship to study theology at the University of Athens. Upon completing studies, he was ordained to the priesthood to serve the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, Egypt, where he became quite popular as a preacher and confessor. In 1885, within five months of his ordination, the Metropolitan of Nubia blessed him with the title of archimandrite, and he was appointed secretary to the Patriarch of Alexandria Trustee, where he inspire his flock with zeal for the evangelic virtues.

On January 15, 1889, St. Nektarios was ordained a bishop and began to serve his congregation with humility and an oath to never succumb to the temptations of this world. He served as bishop, until members of the Patriarchate became jealous of his success and, led on by the Devil, countless rumours and false accusations were brought up against him. Patriarch Sophronios became subjected to unbearable pressure regarding the rumours circulating about Metropolitan Nektarios, and he soon stripped him of his authority and duty as bishop. Upon this humbling and confusing experience, St. Nektarios returned to Athens where He spent several years (1891-1894) serving God by preaching and teaching in its many churches. His popularity among the people in Athens, led to his appointment as dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School for the education of priests. The School's spiritual and intellectual standing rose rapidly under his direction.

Between 1904 and 1907 a burning love for the peace and quiet of life in the monasteries, led him to respond warmly to the desire expressed by some of his spiritual daughters that he should found a women's monastery on the island of Egina, and he retired there in 1908. Saint Nektarios lived like an angel in the flesh, the fame of his virtues and of his God-given graces to heal people spread in the region; He healed many lay-people and nuns of their sicknesses, and brought rain to the island in a time of draught. He could do all things through Christ who dwelt in him by the Grace of the Holy Spirit. He kept company with the Saints and with the Mother of God, and they often appeared to him during the holy Liturgy or in his cell.

He wrote a large number of works on theology, ethics and Church history, most known: *Christianity, The Church, Tradition, Discovering God, Self-Knowledge, Immortality of the soul, Life after death, Saints*. In order to strengthen the Church of Greece in the holy tradition of the Fathers.

On November 9, 1920, he told his disciples of his coming departure for Heaven, and retired his spirit to the Lord. However, even in death God has glorified him, and miracles have abounded since his departure for those who approach his relics with faith or who rely on his powerful intercession. His veneration was formally recognized in 1961.