



Blessing and An Orderly Approach

Written by: His Holiness Pope Shenouda III
117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark

One of the common mistakes people make is to say, "Let it be according to God's blessing," by which they mean that you should leave the matter to turn out however it will, without bothering about any system or arrangement or preparation towards it. As though God's blessing were in some way opposed to an orderly approach! Or as if such a methodical way of dealing with a situation were a kind of human wisdom which would conflict with His blessings.

Yet a chapter of the Holy Gospel concerned with blessings, in which the Lord blessed the five loaves and two fish and satisfied the crowds, is actually a chapter which shows the working of

order, since the Lord said, "Make them sit down in groups and lines of fifty and a hundred." (Luke 9:14 and Mark 6:40)

Likewise the distribution was made in an orderly manner: **the Lord gave to the disciples and the disciples gave to the crowds (Matthew 14:19)** and what was left over was not thrown on the ground but, **He said to His disciples "Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted" (John 6:12)**. So they gathered it and filled twelve baskets.

Blessing and an orderly approach go together. An orderly approach facilitates blessing. ✙

Litany of the Pope and Patriarch

In our liturgical services there many litanies which are prayed, one such litany is that for the Pope and bishops. The deacon's response, which is usually recited in these litanies, is (according to the new official unified English translation of the Divine Liturgy of St Basil):



"Pray for our high priest Papa Abba Shenouda III, Pope, Patriarch and Archbishop of the great city of Alexandria; and for our Orthodox bishops."*



His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

Holiness is traveling outside of Egypt, however, the response is changed to the following:



"Pray for our blessed and honoured father and Archbishop Pope Shenouda III, that Christ our God surround him with the Angel of Safety, grant us his joyous return, and forgive us our sins."

*The mention of attending metropolitans or bishops is made here with the addition:

"...and our father, metropolitan/bishop...."

On the occasion when His