



## COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

### Bishop Youssef

*“But Jesus called them (the disciples) to Himself and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’” (Mark 10: 42-45)*

*My Beloved Youth,*

*The peace and goodwill of the approaching Glorious Feast of the Nativity be with you all.*

*As the Nativity approaches we reflect upon the impact of the birth, life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through His Holy birth, the Lord Jesus Christ was the incarnate love of God bringing peace and goodwill:*

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” (Luke 2:14)*

*Whenever the love of God prevails there is service. Service is inseparable from the love of God. The Lord Jesus Christ would advance in years and be followed by multitudes who would listen to His message of salvation.*

*“He went all about the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9: 35-36)*

*Melito (c. 190), Bishop of Sardis in Asia wrote this discourse concerning our Lord Jesus Christ birth and perfection of service:*

*“Though the Son was incorporeal, He formed for Himself a body after our fashion. He appeared as one of the sheep; yet, He still remained the Shepherd. He was esteemed a servant; yet, He did not renounce the Son ship. He was carried in the womb of Mary, yet arrayed in the nature of His Father. He walked upon the earth, yet He filled the Heaven. He appeared as an infant, yet He did not discard the eternity of His nature. He was invested with a body, but it did not circumscribe the unmixed simplicity of His Divinity. . . He needed sustenance inasmuch as He was man; yet, He did not cease to feed the entire world inasmuch as He is God. He put on the likeness of a servant, while not impairing the likeness of His Father.”*

*This issue of the Mighty Arrows highlights the cities and villages in which the Lord Jesus Christ served putting on the likeness of a servant and performing in True Greatness miraculous wonders.*

*During this season of Nativity, may we all celebrate the birth of the Perfect Servant.*

*God bless you.*

*His Grace Bishop Youssef,  
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States*

