



## *An Interview With Fr. Angelos Baghdadi* *A Mighty Arrow*

*St. George Coptic Orthodox Church, Tampa, FL*



Throughout the following interview we will get to know the second priest called for service in the Southern of the Diocese , US.

Hegomen Angelos Boghdadi is one of the two priests currently serving in St. George Coptic Orthodox Church in Tampa, Florida.

**• Where and when were you born?**

I was born in Mansoor, Dakahly on January 20, 1923.

**• What was your name before you were a priest?**

Louis

**• What was your job before becoming a priest?**

I was a lawyer.

**• How long have you been married ?**

I have been happily married for 45 years.

**• How many children do you have?**

I have 3 children, 2 girls and 1 boy.

**• How many grandchildren do you have?**

I have 7 grandchildren, one of them is currently serving overseas in the US Army.

**• How long have you been a priest?**

This coming January, I will have been a priest for 31 years.

**• How long have you been a hegomen?**

I have been a hegomen for 7 years.

**• How did you come to being a priest?**

When I was in Egypt, a schoolteacher who was married to a man who lived in Upper Egypt came to me for help. She had been absent from school for more than 15 days so she had gotten fired. I helped her get her job back and she spoke to me about the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, even though she was Muslim. She had wrong ideas about the Second Coming, so I wrote two pages explaining the Second Coming and told her not to come to me again. I then entered the Theological School (Eklerikaia) for three years, and I was chosen by H.H. Pope Shenouda III to be a priest. After I was ordained, I came to Philadelphia in 1974 for three years then returned to Egypt for 10 years with the Pope in St. Mary and Anba Rouess Church. I was then sent to Colorado, where I stayed for 3 years. I



then returned to Egypt once again for 11 months. His Holiness sent me to Tampa, where I reside presently.

· **In which church were you ordained?**

I was ordained at St. Mark Loudbay on the Altar of the US.

· **Who ordained you?**

I was ordained by H.H. Pope Shenouda III.

· **What churches have you served in?**

I have served in Philadelphia, Delaware, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Virginia Beach, Virginia Alexandria, Colorado, and Tampa.

· **How long have you been serving here in Tampa, Florida?**



I have been serving here in Tampa for 12 years.

· **Have you written any books?**

Yes, I have written 27 books, some are in English and Arabic, including The Last Confession. It's a story of a youth soldier's Confession who was

shot.

· **What do you like to do?**

When I have the time, I like to carve wooden pictures (including: The Stations of the Cross, St. George, Etc.), draw pictures, read, and write books. Also, I painted many pictures.

· **What languages do you know?**

I know Arabic, English, Coptic, French, and Greek.

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