



POPE KYROLLOS THE SIXTH

A Mighty Arrow

Reference book: The Fruits of Love

The church describes the two great fathers, Abba Anthony and Abba Paula, as having loved their children. The love Saint Macarius had towards his children is demonstrated during his discussion with the angel (as per the Synexarium, the eighth day of Tobe). Likewise, Pope Kyrollos who offered his love to his children.

You are indeed the disciple of the Lord who said “... love one another, as I have loved you ...” (John 13:34).

“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5)

Pope Kyrollos started his first papal letter saying, “Our beloved brothers, the bishops and metropolitans, our beloved sons, priests, deacons and the congregation of Saint Mark’s ministry . . . “ He then proceeded reiterating, “Our beloved ... I feel deeply within my soul the weight of the responsibility which is placed upon my shoulders . . . “ He dedicated almost half of the letter to the discussion of love saying, “How I long to open my heart so you can see the depth of my love to you all, the love that emanates from the love of our Savior who loved us and saved us through His blood . . . I am sure that our brethren, the bishops,



metropolitans, also our sons, the priests, deacons, members of the General Laymen Committees (Maglis El Melly) and its branches, the various organizations and community groups, and all the servants which are part of God’s vine, will work in unison and self denial. My pleasure is in your success, and my happiness is in your steadfast faith, your strength and abundant love . . .” His final words in that letter further inspire

us, “. . . We ask the Lord that He maintain the congregation of Saint Mark, and that He support the works of their governments in both the African and Asian continents; for the sake of spreading the principles of love and peace to the whole world. To His greatness we give thanks and glory for ever and ever amen.”

Indeed, Pope Kyrollos did open his heart to the people. His door, (his heart before his door) was always open to everyone. He empathized with each individual in his congregation and shared in their happy and sad moments, with tears, tenderness and mercy. He had a visionary gift from God that enabled him to know the spiritual, physical and mental condition of those in his presence, thereby addressing their concerns before they even declared them. Through his prayers, he helped his people withstand their hardships and pain. They immediately accepted what he extended to them because of his love and purity of heart.