



## Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

**Bishop Youssef**

My Beloved Youth,

In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, Amen

The message of and following the Holy Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is that He came *to seek and save the lost*. To those of us in the Coptic Church, our mission is to continue His. Evangelism in a world of technology, of far reaching medical advances, and of war is a mission that becomes more paramount than ever.

*“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)*

We know that the birth of the Incarnate Son of God not only fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and that through His earthly life, death and Glorious Resurrection, established a New Covenant but that he continues to guide His Church today and will do so until the end of all ages to come. The message for each of us today is to continue to seek and save the lost. How can youth do this today? Learning to serve is the first and foremost component of evangelism. The Lord Jesus Christ's Incarnate life and His death is a model of exemplary service.

*“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 10:45)*

By remembering the Lord Jesus Christ's humble birth, His teaching others, His example in His Words and Actions, and His calling of others to discipleship or evangelism we can fully realize how we can share our beloved Coptic Church with others. Did you realize that ...

**“God suffered Himself to be conceived in a mother's womb, and awaited the time for birth? And when born, He bore the delay of growing up...Furthermore, He is baptized by His own servant” (Tertullian c. 197)**

Attending the Servants Preparatory Classes and Theological College is a certain way to obtain the utmost in service built upon a knowledge base. Deacon Retreats are another aspect of serving with a knowledge base. Joining the Evangelism Committee is another way to promote the message of the Coptic Church. Individual reading and research can also assist you in sharing our Church with others. Having confidence in the message you are sharing through a sound knowledge base is the key to another's belief in the message you impart to them.

Not only was the message of salvation the very essence of the Lord Jesus Christ's Holy birth but it was also heeded as immediate following His being received up into Heaven and sitting at the right Hand of God. The Holy Gospel of St. Mark states in the very next verse following and describing the Ascension of the Lord:

*“And they went out and preached everywhere,  
the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs.” (Mark 16:19)*

As you read this issue of the Mighty Arrows may God guide you to share our beloved and ancient/ageless Coptic Church with others, during and following the celebration of the Glorious Nativity. Opportunity brings promises and little opposition.

With the mission of the tender Incarnation ever before us, may we all desire and *accept the responsibility* to share our Coptic Church with others.

Bishop Youssef

God bless you,  
Bishop Youssef  
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States