

The blessed reverend fathers the Priests of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United States,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Attached please find a letter agreed to by the fathers the Bishops in the United States concerning the Census for the year 2010. It is important to us that we obtain a census of our Coptic Orthodox children who are residing in the United States. As such we urge the following from all fathers:

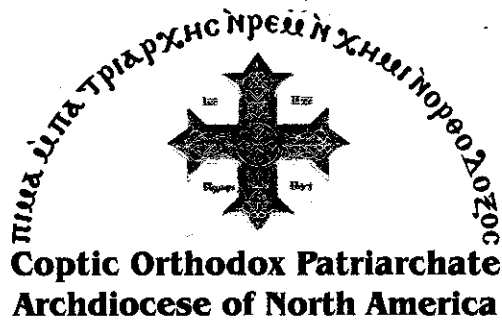
- 1) Alert your congregation of the importance of participating in the Census and writing the word "**Coptic**" under the question relating to "Race" (as indicated in the letter).
- 2) Read, print and distribute this letter, thorough all available means, either in Churches, general meetings, Church magazines/letters, mail, media channels, etc.

We would appreciate it if this letter reaches every Copt in the United States, noting that the Census form is currently being delivered to peoples' houses, thus it is imperative that we move quickly.

Wishing you every grace and blessing from the Lord. May the grace of God be with all of us.

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David

Bishop David  
March 11, 2010



Our beloved and blessed children of the Coptic Church in the United States,

Peace and grace to all of you, wishing you goodwill and blessing as well as a blessed and acceptable fasting.

Throughout this month, March 2010, you shall receive, either in person or in the mail, a form from the US Department of Commerce Census Bureau. You will be asked to fill this form so that the Census Bureau may estimate the number of residents in the United States, either legally or seeking legal status. The information you provide on such form will remain, by law, confidential by the Census Bureau and may not be used or sent to any other institution whether private or governmental, including the immigration office.

We urge the whole congregation to fill out the form and return it, as it is our civic and national duty. In the event that you need assistance in filling out the form, you may call 1-866-872-6868 and obtain more information or you may visit their web site at [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

We would also like to point out the questions relating to "Race" which are questions number 6 and 9 on the form as it pertains to the head of household and the person(s) residing with him/her. We recommend that all those who are of Coptic descent to write the word "Coptic" under "Some other race". Also if anyone has more than one race (i.e. Coptic father and Korean mother) they may indicate so by checking the box labeled "Korean" and write the word Coptic under "Some Other Race".

By doing so we are hoping that the Copts will be recognized as an important race within the American society and in future censuses "Coptic" will be included among other races who have been identified in this year's form.

In conclusion we reiterate the urgency in completing such national duty, wishing you success at all times.

The peace and love of the Lord be with you.

Bishop Serapion Bishop Youssef Bishop Makarios Bishop David Bishop Michael