



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States**

**The Monthly Message
to the Priests' Wives**
June 2016

Letter from A Priest to His Wife

My beloved wife...

I really wanted to write you this letter a long time ago in order to express to you a lot of what is going on within me...

- May be you think that I do not appreciate all what you offer and sacrifice, but what you do not know is that you are on the top of the list of my subjects of praise and thanksgiving to God.

- May be you think that I do not feel your psychological and physical suffering due to my

priesthood, but what you do not know is that your sufferings and wounds are mine.

- May be you think that you are ranked at the tail of the list of my priorities, but what you do not know is that you are bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.

- May be you think that as long as I am a priest then I must be infallible, but what you do not know is that I am a human being who struggles to be freed from a lot of weaknesses.

- May be you think that I do not trust you as long as I do not share a lot of my concerns with you, but what you do not know is that my commitment to the confidentiality of confessions has nothing to do with my trust in you.

- May be you think that when God called me to priesthood He forgot that I had a wife and children, but what you do not know is that you

and our children are more precious in the eyes of God than any priesthood call.

- May be you think that I am weak before resisting and opposing people, but what you do not know is that I correct them but through the scourge of meekness and love.

- May be you think that I waste my health and energy in service, but what you do not know is that the Holy Spirit renews my youth like the eagle's.

- May be you think that I do not realize your jealousy when I show interest to the daughters I serve, but what you do not know is that jealousy is as cruel as the grave.

- May be you think that when I motivate you to fulfill your spiritual canon I practice my priesthood with you, but what you do not know is that I care for your spiritual health with the same degree I care for your physical one.

- May be you think that when I disagree with you I feel proud with my priesthood experience and mean to put your opinions down, but what you do not know is that many times I hear God's voice through you.

- May be you think that when I vent to you my complaints about a misunderstanding with my father bishop or my brother priest you must take my side anyway, but what you do not know is that I expect you to be like Abigail restoring me from every foolishness through your wisdom and peace.

- May be you think that when I do not take your phone calls immediately that I mean to ignore you, but what you do not know is that being preoccupied does not mean at all that I do not love you or care for you.

- May be you think that it is something natural that a priest and his wife never argue, but what

you do not know is that we, like any ordinary couple, need to work together on our growth in communicating to each other.

- May be you think that when you hide from me our children's troubles you are making me avoid more stresses, but what you do not know is that this hurts me a lot and makes me feel isolated from our children.

- May be you think that the priest must be an exemplary husband, but what you do not know is that I, like all husbands, commit foolish mistakes and need your acceptance and forgiveness.

- May be you think that your exaggerated worries about me, my health and my safety are mere signs of your love to me, but what you do not know is that God takes care of me more than you and that your anxious pursuit of me adds

nothing to me except more tension and confusion.

- May be you think that all what I talk about in this letter has nothing to do with you but with other priests' wives, but what you do not know is that you are the one meant by what I wrote.

- May be you think that this letter to you is nothing but a complaint from you, but what you do not know is that it is a mere expression of my needs and expectations from you.

Finally, I would like to tell you that may be you think that I can enter heavens without you, but what you do not know that as long as you are my partner in suffering then you must be also my partner in glory.

Signature

Father.....