



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

### **Monthly Message for the Monastic and Consecrated Servants**

**March 2017**

My Heavenly Father,

I bow before Your glory and I offer You all of me...

I have long lived according to my own desires, worshipping You just enough to be content in easing my conscience. I will no longer offer You only part of who I am; I no longer want to stand in the way of Your will nor be a deterrent to the message You wish deliver to the world through me. Who am I, Lord, that I should be so honored, that the King of all creation, should look down to me and choose me to tell the world of Your love?

Lord, purify me that I should be useful to You on this earth. Break my pride so that I may be malleable in Your hands and so that You may shape me as You desire and not as I see fit. Enlighten my mind so that I should be thankful for every hardship and humiliation that comes to me, so that these may be a like water to soften clay in Your hands rather than the heat of anger that hardens it.

I no longer desire to live out the routine of my life calling myself a servant of God yet ignoring the still small voice that whispers to me at every moment - go the second mile, humble yourself, admit your sin and ask forgiveness, forgive, remain silent and let God defend, give without expecting to receive, accept all with thanksgiving and without complaint, stand in prayer, focus and pray from your heart, let go of honor and dignity, love others as you love yourself, look at your own sins before that of others, abide in Me that God may be glorified in you.

Grant me, Lord, the wisdom to trust that Your plans are better than mine and so to accept what comes to me rather than interfere and demand the changes that would be more suitable to my ego.

Grant me, Lord, the courage to rejoice when others excel beyond me and to learn from them. Prevent me from standing in Your way of giving Your love to others because of my envy and pride. I want You to find in me Your faithful servant - grant me the giving spirit of Samuel and heal me from the likeness of the Pharisee.

My God, prevent me from disobeying You even when my pride suffers greatly from hearing Your voice. Remove from me the fear that prevents me from taking leaps in my faith and stand by me as I walk through that narrow gate.

How can I stand before Your cross and demand respect and be offended by others, when You, my Savior, were crucified by the very ones You came to save?

Oh my Lord, grant me a lowly spirit. Grant me the meekness that I lack! Transform me into what pleases You so I may live with purpose the life You have given me.

I offer You my will, my King and my Master, and I will carry my cross and follow You. Please help me to be thankful when I fall, for I trust that it is only when I begin to walk ahead of You and take the lead, that in Your mercy You allow me to stumble, so that I may once again look up to You walking the path before me.

Grant that I may be faithful in the little things so not to ever digress in worshipping You. Let me not put things off until tomorrow that are my duties today.

Grant me the sensitivity to be serious so that I may not become lax with time; for what seems like a small matter now - a little gossip, a little indulgence, a little complaint - if ignored, will become an immense stone wall obstructing the way to You. Help me to remember that to whom much is given, much will be required and instill in me the fear of God.

Grant me a life of repentance, stillness and contemplation, that my heart and mind may always be in the cell and that the cell forever be in my heart and mind.

My Creator and King, my Lord and Master, my Savior and the object of my Love, I offer You what is Yours - my strength, my heart, my will, my time - I am Your servant, Lord, do with me as You desire.

Glory to be to You, O Lord. Amen.