



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

Monthly Message for the Monastic

December 2019

To My best friend and Father,

My heart broke this morning as I looked at You and realized how distant I have become from You. I can't believe it's been so long and that I haven't really... really spoken to You. My heart breaks at the thought of events that have passed recently, and I can only say that I miss You and I am so sorry. I am so sorry for what I've done and for what I've become.

I've been so busy lately with work and with people and I guess I didn't really notice that on many levels I replaced our affections with that of others and of other things. I've let so many things come between us and even though You've tried to tell me this many time, I just didn't see it. Or maybe I did see it and just didn't want to admit it because I was comfortable where I was.

It's been so long that things have been kind of cold between us; I came to You when we needed to discuss something but otherwise, I've been so self-centered. I'm so sorry for every time I argued when You would reproach me about something I was doing wrong—I know how much You love me—I'm so sorry that You had to put up with my being so unpleasant and stubborn. I'm so sorry that I blamed You for that difficult time I went through; I know now that we were in it together and suffering together. I'm so sorry that I didn't see that and that I didn't appreciate all that You were doing.

Everything has become so formal and I've been interacting with You as a duty, not as Your child. I'm so sorry father, please forgive me.

I remember so many times You asked me to take a break from everything and just spend time with You and I always said, "later" ... and later wouldn't ever come...

I have never ceased telling others that You are my closest friend, my example in everything, and that I love You dearly; I talk about You all the time to everyone! I want everyone to know You and also learn from You, but I know now that lips can

utter beautiful words while the heart is far away. Please forgive me. Please forgive me for my great neglect and distractions that have taken me away from You.

Draw me to You like You used to when it was just You and I in the whole world, when nothing could ever really distract me from You. I want to start over, if You'll permit it. I miss my Father.

May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Glory be to God forever. Amen.