



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

ST. MARY & ST. MOSES ABBEY



"If we seek God, He will show Himself to us, and if we keep Him, He will remain close to us." (Abba Arsenius)

Dear Brethren,

Through the Grace of God, the St. Mary & St. Moses Abbey is prospering with 8 monks and 8 brothers. The Abbey is continuously blessed to have many individuals visiting for a spiritual enrichment with our Lord Jesus Christ. Those men who wish to have several days of quality time with their Creator usually stay in our St. Anthony building which leads to the purpose of this message.

On Tuesday, September 7, 2010 the Abbey was hit by a tropical storm. Thanks be to God no one was injured but the damage was significant. The storm blew off half of the roof from the St. Anthony building leaving all the furnishings, flooring, ceilings, sheet rocks, A/C units, etc. in ruins.

The Abbey is in the process of evaluating the options for this building. One option is to repair the building provided that the studs are not rotten from all the water accumulation, the building endured from the storm. This option will cost approximately \$300,000.00 for all the repairs and furnishings. If the studs are rotten, then the alternative is to demolish the current building and to build a new one costing the Abbey approximately \$1,200,000.00 inclusively.

For the first time in the history of the Abbey, which was opened in 2005, limited visitors are accepted due to the damage inflicted on the St. Anthony building. In the meantime, the St. Moses building is being converted to accommodate the limited visitors. The Abbey is in need of your prayers and support to restore or rebuild the St. Anthony building.

During this trying time, we remember the words of St. John Saba, the Spiritual Elder, *"There is no fortified work like hope in God,..."* It is our hope in God that the St. Anthony building, the future home of the monks' cells, will be operational soon.

If you would like to make a monetary donation for this project, please make your check payable to St. Mary & St. Moses Abbey and mail it to:

St. Mary & St. Moses Abbey
101 South Vista Drive
Sandia, TX 78383

If you would like to make an online donation, please visit www.suscpts.org/diocese/donations/ and select 'St. Mary & St. Moses Abbey'.

Through the intercessions of St. Mary and St. Moses, we thank our Lord for all the blessings granted to the Abbey.

Bishop Youssef
Abbot, St. Mary & St. Moses Abbey