

Winter 2013 Volume 12 No.1

MIGHTY MAGAZINE MARROWS

Life. God. Truth. For Coptic Youth

Pope Tawadros II tribute pp. 16-17

Remembering p.22-24
Fr. Angelos Boghdadi

WISDOM
Justified By Her Children

σοφια

* Cover image of the Virgin Mary's Church at Zeitun, Egypt, where St. Mary appeared for three years beginning in 1968.

“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth”

Psalm 127:4

Contents



A PUBLICATION OF THE COPTIC
ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE
SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

PRESIDENT	The Almighty God
VICE PRESIDENT	H.G. Bishop Youssef
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	Marilyn Ekladios
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Monastic Servant
LAYOUT/DESIGN MANAGING EDITOR	J.B.
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS	Joshua Ekladios Justine Ekladios Carine Iskander George Iskander Freda Masoud Sarah Mathoslah
SPECIAL FEATURED ARTICLE	H.G. Bishop Youssef
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	John Habib Theopeste Kerelos Jason L. Mariam Maher Christine Massoud Mareya Naguib
PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPORT	Katherine Nawar Michael Nawar
TECH SUPPORT	Mina Abdalla
SUBSCRIPTIONS	http://suscopts.org/ mightyarrows/
MISSION STATEMENT	We, the magazine staff, have a mission regarding you, the reader: to encourage you on your Christian walk and to strengthen you through articles, answers, and more about God’s very special plan for you.
MATERIAL SUBMISSION	By submitting letters and other materials to Mighty Arrows Magazine, you agree that the materials submitted are the property of Mighty Arrows Magazine and will not be returned, and you agree that Mighty Arrows Magazine, its assigns and licensees, have been granted the non-exclusive right to use and/or reproduce the materials in any manner and for any purposes.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, amen.

My Beloved,

The Winter Edition of the Mighty Arrows Magazine reflects on Wisdom. The various articles ponder on different angles of wisdom, how she guided our Early Church Fathers, the difference between those who seek her and those who reject her, who are her children, and the Holy Scripture which teaches us about her. At this time, I’d like to share with you the beautiful annual Syrian Fraction also known as the Fraction of St. Epiphanius about Wisdom, and hope you will contemplate on it often.

O our God, where are the lands of Wisdom? Where are the footprints of their ways? Who would pass over the seas to buy them with pure gold? Who can ascend above the clouds and bring them? The mortal man does not know Its way for most men forsake It. Wisdom is hidden, even from the angels. Those who possess Wisdom obtain grace and those who hate It love death. Wisdom is brighter than the sun and all the stars. Wisdom is the Light of the Father existing with Him from eternity. Wisdom has existed from eternity.

She renews everyone. She enters the souls of the righteous through all the ages. Wisdom is more precious than pearls and unequal to all honors. Wisdom has counsel, might, and knowledge. By Wisdom kings reigned, the great men are honored, and the princes of the earth govern. Wisdom loves those who love Her and protects those who keep Her. Those who seek Wisdom find grace.

Wisdom walks in the way of justice and moves in the path of truth. Wisdom grants richness to those who acknowledge Her and fills their treasures with joy.

God granted Wisdom to our father Jacob, and She then appeared and walked on earth as a Man. Wisdom has built Her house. She has hewn (carved) out her seven pillars. She has slaughtered Her meat. She has mixed Her wine. She has also furnished Her table. The house of Wisdom is the universal and apostolic Church, and Her seven pillars are life-giving sacraments of God.

Wisdom sent forth Her servants to say always throughout the ages, “You who are simple turn to me.” As to those who lack understanding She says, “Come eat of My Body and drink of My Blood. Relinquish the ignorance from among you, so that you might live.”

Wisdom is our Savior Jesus Christ who redeemed us with the sacrifice of His Body, bought us by His bloodshed, and chose us for His eternal kingdom. We ask You O our Master to grant us to find wisdom in You alone; to accept this sacrifice from our hands. Accept our fasting and prayers, so we may dare as sons to cry to You, our heavenly Father, “Our Father...”

In this current edition, scenes from the historic event of the enthronement of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and the welcoming of the 118th Patriarch of the Great See of St. Mark and the Church of Alexandria are presented. Also, in this edition, we bid farewell to the faithful priest, the beloved Reverend Father Angelos Boghdadi, who served at the altar for almost one half of his life. Glory to the Holy Trinity, forever, Amen.

God bless you,

Bishop Youssef
BISHOP OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES



Why Choose God?
Feeling broken? Enjoying the world, yet feeling empty?
Read this.
By Jason L.



The Council of Nicea Like You’ve Never Known Before. Guaranteed you will be shocked at what you do not know.
By John Habib.



Wisdom: Not Another Form of Intelligence. A basic analysis of wisdom and how it relates to our lives, mostly according to Proverbs 8.
By Theopeste Kerelos.



Believing God - Part 5. God’s Word is alive and active in me.
By Christine Massoud.

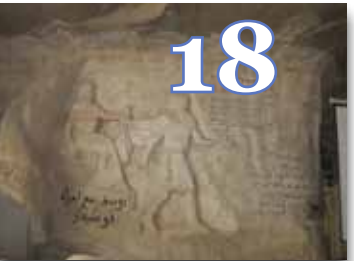
Special Featured Article
By H.G. Bishop Youssef

14

ASK. Have you asked for Wisdom lately? Solomon did; so can you. What does being wise really mean?



Tribute to H.H. Pope Tawadros II. Pictures and comments from the Roman Catholic Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch.



Portrait of An (Un)Wise Woman. “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness” (Pro. 31:26).
By Mariam Maher.



St. Cyrus (Abba Karas) the Anchorite. A life of Purity, Wisdom, and Asceticism.
By Mareya Naguib.



Remembering Father Angelos Boghdadi.
A tribute to the departure of our beloved diocese priest. Comments from his son, H.G. Bishop Youssef, and others.



Convention Pictures! High School Girls and Boys, College, and Arabic Convention.

QUESTION & ANSWER **26**

And Information about the “Youth For Christ” Award! Now for College youth too!

27
Events & Activities

I have asked, “Why God?” many times. I used to think it was weak, a crutch, to lean on some spiritual being for my life. I used to call people the Bible thumpers, Jesus freaks, etc. My older brother was one of them. My upbringing was in a traditional religious family. Sure, we went to church on Christmas and Easter (man, these are long services to sit through). Everything was laid out. I was to follow this curriculum and all is well. Everywhere you looked, Jesus was hanging on a cross to pound in your head that you’re a sinner and that’s why you need religion to get you to heaven..... when in reality, you need a relationship with Jesus Christ, one-on-one. We were born sinners; that’s a fact of which we don’t have to be reminded a thousand times over. The only reminders needed are that Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, for us, and that once He died, it was finished. He is risen!

I had it all: a successful job (I owned my own company actually). I married my high school sweetheart, the only girlfriend I ever had. We have two beautiful twin kids. Life was good... for a while. My life came to a dramatic halt once I got divorced. I saw it coming, but you can never be fully prepared. I saw my kids on a part-time basis and that’s what really led to my downfall through alcohol, which also led to drugs.

This combination led me to a third DUI, which then took me to my finale in a state prison. I know what you’re thinking: jailhouse, drunk, drugs; these should equal “born-again Christian”. You’re thinking about all those stories about how inmates find God in prison, right? You’re thinking once they’re out, God goes out of them too. The fact is that’s what it took for me to see the light, to look up. When the times were good, trust me, I didn’t listen; I had no need for a God. I’m blessed because prison

allowed me to humble my cocky too-good attitude, to get on my knees as a broken man calling out to the One who had all the power when I had none. If you look at your life and are honest with yourself, I can assure you that you’re broken, beat down, numb, and sometimes just going through the motions.

Welcome to the club! Your story, whatever it is, is NOT unique. Everybody has one and God wants to use it. You just have to get real with yourself and admit to God that you’re broken, because you are. You are wonderfully made in His image and, I promise you, His plan for your life is way better than you could do for yourself. Remember that Bible thumping, brother of mine? He’s changing lives as I speak and was the one who led me to Christ to change mine. I didn’t get a sticker; he doesn’t get an award, no grand recognition, nothing. But I guarantee you, there were bullhorns going off in heaven. My brother showed me love and truth, and that’s what we all want! Truth is in God’s Word; love is Him.

So, why God? Well, all I gave you was my experience and

journey. It all started young. Basically, I was constantly wanting or seeking some sort of approval from someone or something. I think most of you can relate. That seems to be the starting point of it all. Parents didn’t meet my needs, bad relationship with mom or dad, brother, sister etc. Then again, how can these people meet my needs when they didn’t meet their own needs? A relationship with a woman could surely meet my needs, I thought. But in reality, the answer was “Nope.” She couldn’t understand my needs. She would just direct me and I followed for a while, a long while too. So it was, two broken people living in a co-dependent relationship. It just becomes a cycle in life relationships, mapping our lives out to only find disappointment in the end.

See, being humane, we were made to find acceptance and love in only one: God. That is why my life, and your life, is so

broken. Yet, that is also a good place to be, believe it or not. Because that’s where God works at His best. Sounds stupid? I know! But you see, when you’re hurting, humbled and at the end of your rope, that is where God is. See, we are always hiding behind something, and usually something we’re good at, like a job, an education, lots of money, family and making a family, alcohol, drugs, girlfriends, boyfriends, eating disorders, etc. Oh, I know, I said something we’re good at.

But hiding behind a job or a relationship is NO different

than hiding behind drugs and alcohol. Alcohol and drugs are just louder and lead to a quicker death. Hiding behind something else that we perceive to be a good thing is just a longer, slower, quieter death. Come on, how many people do you know that try too hard at something? They are hurting; or the ones that have to have everything perfect? They, too, are hurting, right? The ones that try too hard to be your friend, or please others, they are hurting, too. Or the ones that say everything is fine when you know it’s not, they are obviously hurting. I’ll give you an illustration: the hurt

and brokenness you have is the same you feel for the guy begging for change. Yet, the guy begging for change, 9 times out of 10, wants and chooses to be there. What I’m getting at is that rich, poor, employed, jobless, educated, illiterate, married, single, one arm, two arms, we are all broken, and those who will outwardly protest are really broken, so be quiet and just accept the fact.

It’s ok, I mean, we all walk around broken, and we try to fix it with the scotch tape the world has to offer. It doesn’t work! We need the super glue: God. I know

you want to blaze your own path in life and make your own mark. I know the freedom by which you want to live, I know the difference you want to make. God wants to help you make choices that are everlasting, not temporary. God wants you to tear it up out there, but for His name’s sake. God wants to bless you with a wonderful husband, wife, kids, home, job, etc. Just know that there is also a bigger picture than that. God loves and cares for you and there is nothing you can do about that. You have the right to accept it or reject it. Just keep in mind that your Creator gave you that

choice. God’s ways are not our ways. If you choose to call upon Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then understand that it’s not going to be a rose garden. Understand that there is a plan for your life and it might not be what you thought it would be.

Jason is now a counselor for substance abuse, a mentor with the Chuck Colson Prison Ministry, and a group leader for Celebrating Recovery. His understanding through his experience empowers him to relate, counsel, and guide others to the true salvation from substance abuse found only in Christ Jesus.

By Jason L.

Why Choose God?

THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

LIKE YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE

By John Habib



The First Council of Nicea, wall painting at the church of Stavropoleos, Bucharest, Romania

If it were not for the great meeting of bishops at Nicea, the majority of Christians would have believed that Christ was not eternal and therefore not equal to the Father. You may have heard about the Council at Nicea several times throughout your life, but in this article you will almost certainly learn things you never knew before, whether the reader is of the clergy or the laity..

It begins with Arius, the antagonist of our story. You may have heard of him, but how many of you really know him? He was born in AD 256 in Libya. At the time of the council, he was about 69 years old. He was tall and lean. His face was pale, and he had long tangled hair. His opponents used to describe his gait as exhibiting a sinuous motion, like a snake. As many as hated him, he had at least that number of people who adored his wild and passionate eloquence, admired his ascetic temper and habits, and absolutely loved his beautiful voice.

By now, most of us know he was a priest, but of which church in Egypt? He was in charge of the famed church in "Bokalia" (which means, "place of cows") which the Synaxarium tells us

is where St. Mark returned and built a church, and which tradition teaches was the site of St. Anianus's home (the second Patriarch of Alexandria). Eventually, St. Mark's remains were buried there after his martyrdom in 68 AD. Presently it is known as St. Mark's Church in Alexandria.

Arius had so many devoted followers that some sources tell us he was considered to be a rival of Pope Alexander for the vacant Coptic patriarchate. What is it that made him so despised, or rather, what was he teaching which struck a chord with so many? About 318 AD, he began to disseminate the theological opinion that can be summarized as follows: Christ was the Father's first creation; being a creature, He is changeable and could conceivably choose to be bad or good; and the famous summation of his theology is found in the phrase, "There was a time when He was not" (thus the order according to Arius would be as follows: the Father existed first, and then later, Christ was created; thus, Christ is not equal in the ever-existence of the Father).

How did his heresy spread so fast?

How was this teaching spread? I presume none of you are aware that it was through a song that he conjured up called the "Thalia" (meaning "abundance" or "good cheer"). It incorporated his heresies, yet was such a catchy tune that everyone in Egypt seemed to be singing it. The song included the following lines (and as you read it, consider what Christians today would think of such claims): "God Himself ... has no equal, no one similar, and no one of the same glory. We call Him unbegotten, in contrast to Him (Christ) who by nature is begotten... He who is without beginning made the Son a beginning of created things. He [the Son] has none of the distinct characteristics of God's own be-

ing, for He is not equal to, nor is He of the same being as Him. As far as their glories, one infinitely more glorious than the other... Hence the Son, not being [eternal] came into existence by the Father's will."²

One of the first stars of our story was Pope Alexander, Patriarch of the Coptic Church. He did not at first raise this to the level of church-wide problem requiring an ecumenical answer. He summoned a local council of bishops and also wrote a letter that the majority of clergy signed and which was delivered to Arius. Eventually, he gathered together a council of about one hundred Egyptian and Libyan bishops who asked Arius, "Can Christ, then, change from good to evil, as Satan did?" Arius responded, "Since He is a creature, such a change is not impossible."³ The synod excommunicated him and his doctrine in about 320 AD.

Another important figure in our story was Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea (in Palestine). Arius fled there and its bishop tried to mediate between him and Pope Alexander, seeking a compromise between both views. This was deemed unacceptable and a letter by Pope Alexander was sent to the bishop of Constantinople and other bishops apprising them of everything that was going on. Arius too wrote letters defending himself to people who agreed with him. Eventually, Pope Alexander found a number of letters from bishops from different places urging him to accept Arius back into the Church, yet the Coptic Patriarch stood firm in his stance.

With so many bishops of so many regions in the Roman Empire getting involved, it was the understandable and natural inclination of Bishop Eusebius to seek assistance from the Emperor, his trusted and close friend. He explained the controversy, and Emperor Constantine

wrote an initial letter seeking that Pope Alexander and Arius figure out some way to allay the strife. It was sent by the hands of Bishop Hosius from Cordova, Spain, another extremely close confidant of the emperor. It read:

"O glorious Providence of God! How deep a wound did not my ears only, but my very heart, receive in the report that divisions existed among yourselves ... So that you, through whose aid I had hoped to procure a remedy for the errors of others, are in a state which needs healing even more than theirs." After setting forth his understanding of how the quarrel arose, he continued, "Let therefore both the unguarded question and the inconsiderate answer receive your mutual forgiveness. For the cause of your difference has not been any of the leading doctrines or precepts of the Divine law, nor has any new heresy respecting the worship of God arisen among you. You are in truth of one and the same judgment: you may therefore well join in communion and fellowship. For as long as you continue to contend about these small and very insignificant questions, it is not fitting that so large a portion of God's people should be under the direction of your judgment, since you are thus divided between yourselves." He appealed to them thus: "Restore me then my quiet days, and untroubled nights, that the joy of undimmed light, the delight of a tranquil life, may henceforth be my portion. Else must I needs mourn, with constant tears, nor shall I be able to pass the residue of my days in peace. For while the people of God, whose fellow-servant I am, are thus divided among themselves by an unreasonable and pernicious spirit of contention, how is it possible that I shall be able to maintain tranquility of mind?"⁴

It is evident from his letter that Constantine little understood

the nature and importance of the matter under discussion.

It is uncertain when, but at some point during or after the mission of Bishop Hosius, Arius wrote a letter to the Emperor that apparently infuriated him. The Emperor's response took on a quite different tone from his initial letter, expressing an angry reply to Arius filled with irony and which was highly critical against him and his adherents. He even had that letter published throughout the cities of his Empire. Moreover, he wrote letters to a few bishops who were self-proclaimed proponents of the teachings of Arius. The controversy had attained such proportions that Constantine, probably at the suggestion of Bishop Hosius, summoned an Ecumenical Council of the bishops of the Church to meet in the city of Nicea in the spring of 325 AD.

How many people actually attended?

Here is where I want to boggle your mind with a fact that even most people who are acutely familiar with the Council of Nicea have no idea. If I ask you, a Coptic Christian, "How many people attended the Council of Nicea?" You will likely think of what you hear during the Divine Liturgy, "the 318 assembled at the Council of Nicea" and respond: "318." That's what you were thinking right? WRONG, (sort of). See, that number refers simply to the number of bishops in attendance. But when Emperor Constantine, the guy with all the power and wealth in the Empire, summoned the gathering of bishops to deal with the Arian controversy, he also provided free public transportation for up to two priests and three servants to accompany each bishop. Thus, if you tried to calculate things by now, you'll realize that this gathering was not just in the hundreds, but in the thousands. One account gives an estimation of about 2,300 people from Libya, Nubia, Spain,



Arius

Italy, Syria, Cappadocia, Persia, and elsewhere. Bishop Eusebius of Ceasarea said “the presbyters and deacons [with the bishops] and the crowd of laymen was altogether beyond computation.”⁵

Where is Nicea today exactly?



This takes us to the center of our conflict, the city of Nicea, where our antagonist was hailed. The ancient city is located in modern day Izmir, Turkey, a location which is about 3 hours (driving) from Istanbul, Turkey (which was the site of ancient Constantinople, for those who are not aware of that).

How long did they meet?

Now, here is another fact of which you are likely completely unaware. How long was the meeting in Nicea? A few hours, or days, or what? It started some time around May or June and lasted for about three months until August 25th. I know... right! It confounded me too when I found that out. But it makes sense that this was not some simple controversy that could be handled in one simple concise meeting. This was dealing with a fundamental tenet of Christianity for all upcoming generations.

Have you ever wondered who exactly attended the council? Well, if you haven't, you will wish you did after you realize some of the notable attendees. Let me begin by telling you that, yes, Santa Claus was in attendance. Okay, not the guy with the red suit and reindeer, but the original Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra! And get this, instead of the chubby guy who yearns for cookies and milk, he was known for his asceticism to the extent that it was said of him that he abstained from his mother's milk on Wednesdays and Fridays as an infant.

Alright, well who else was there? Emperor Constantine, the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity, who our very own St. Bishoy (the beloved of Christ) saw in a vision telling him about the glory of the monks in Paradise. Pope Alexander was there, and he was the only person who bore the title of Papa or Pope as we know it today; he was one of the presidents of the council, along with Bishop Hosius and Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea. That is the same Bishop Eusebius about whom we spoke earlier in this story, and who is known for his famous writings of the history of the first three centuries of the Church. He was such a confidant of the emperor that he occupied the first seat to the right of Emperor Constantine. Absent from this council was the Pope of Rome (sending delegates in his stead). A number of people who suffered physical persecution and who were famed for miracles were in attendance, including the Bishop of Nisibis, St. James, and also the Bishop of Upper Thebes (in Egypt) Abba Paphnutius. That man deserves special recognition. He was a disciple of St. Anthony the Great for a time, and he was known for having one eye torn out and one leg mutilated due to the persecution of Emperor Maximian. It is reported that when Emperor Constantine saw that great Egyptian bishop and near-martyr

at the council, he—the Emperor—went to him, kissed the place of his eye, and pressed his royal purple robe against his mutilated leg. This great saint was known for performing many miracles, and he was a major supporter of the greatest hero of this story, St. Athanasius.



Let us, then, get more acquainted with the central protagonist of our story, St. Athanasius. He was a short, almost dwarfish fellow, and it was said that he even had a slight stoop. His beard was short yet wide, being spread out on both sides. St. Gregory the Theologian tells us that he had an “almost angelic beauty of face and expression.”⁶ Although you may know St. Athanasius as the 20th Pope and Patriarch of the See of Alexandria, at the council he was not even a bishop, yet he was the most prominent figure there. Oh how great is the God who chooses the heart, not the stature of a man, just as He chose King David, the youngest of his brothers, to be the great leader. He was in his mid to late 20s at the time. As early as 318 AD, he had already written his now-famous work “*On the Incarnation*,” addressing the Arian controversy (and if you haven't read it, shame on you!). Around that time, he was ordained archdeacon in Alexandria. At the council, he had only been a deacon for about seven years. I wonder how many of our deacons today could contribute just one tenth of the contributions St. Athanasius has made for all Christianity. In any case,

during the council, our hero Athanasius was present in the council in support of the Coptic Patriarch Alexander and was the major disputant, showing fluent interpretation of Scripture. (And, to let you know, within a year after the council, Pope Alexander departed and St. Athanasius was chosen as his successor).

Now that you have been acquainted with the characters of our epic story, our antagonist Arius, and our hero St. Athanasius, as well as the other prominent figures at the council, let us unravel what transpired at the famed council of Nicea. One of the most splendid moments of the council occurred before the controversy even began to be discussed: it was the majestic arrival of Emperor Constantine. Bishop Eusebius wrote about it in his Life of Constantine: “First of all, three of his immediate family entered in succession, then others also proceeded his approach, not of the soldiers or guards who usually accompanied him, but only friends in the faith. And now, all rising at the signal which indicated the emperor's entrance, at last he himself proceeded through the midst of the assembly, like some heavenly messenger of God, clothed in raiment which glittered as it were with rays of light, reflecting the glowing radiance of a purple robe and adorned with the brilliant splendor of gold and precious stones. Such was the external appearance of his person; and with regard to his mind, it was evident that he was distinguished by piety and godly fear. This was indicated by his downcast eyes, the blush on his countenance, and his gait.

“For the rest of his personal excellences, he surpassed all present in height of stature and beauty of form, as well as in majestic dignity of mien, and invincible strength and vigor. All these graces, united to a suavity of manner, and a serenity

becoming his imperial station, declared the excellence of his mental qualities to be above all praise.”⁷

Emperor Constantine - What was he really like?



Although one may think of an Emperor of Rome as being self-centered and regarding all others as below him, yet this was not the case with Emperor Constantine. When he arrived and entered into the council and reached his seat, he remained standing until the bishops beckoned him to be seated. Eventually, all sat down and the meeting began. The Emperor gave an opening address to the council in a calm and gentle tone which was simple, dignified, and conciliatory. It was delivered in the Latin language, and then translated in Greek, which was the language utilized in the meeting. He said, “Delay not, then, dear friends; delay not, yet ministers of God, and faithful servants of Him who is our common Lord and Savior: begin from this moment to discard the causes of that disunion which has existed among you, and remove the perplexities of controversy by embracing the principles of peace. For by such conduct you will at the same time be acting in a manner most pleasing to the Supreme God, and you will confer an exceeding favor on me who am your fellow-servant.”⁸

There were three main factions in the meeting: Arius and his followers, Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea with the majority of bishops, and finally Pope Alexander's party (which included 20 bishops according to some sources) led by St. Athanasius. The Arians proposed a creed which was immediately torn to

pieces. Bishop Eusebius presented another creed which, because the Arians accepted it, the Alexandrians were suspicious and held off on signing. Eventually, a word was interjected in the discussion which changed everything—in Greek, Homoousion, which means of the same substance (or essence). This was not a new word, but one used by the famous bishop, St. Irenaeus of the second century, who learned from St. Polycarp the martyr, who in turn was the disciple of St. John. The council eventually concluded by writing the Nicene Creed (on which was elaborated at the next council of Constantinople, which in turn is the Creed we read in all Apostolic Orthodox Churches today; that is why it is often referred to as the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. In the Nicene Creed, the language describing Christ and His relation to the Trinity was as follows: “[We believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only-begotten, that is to say, of the same substance [Homoousion] of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father....” Likewise, they concluded, “Those that say, ‘There was a time when He was not,’ and ‘Before He was begotten He was not,’ and that ‘He came into existence from not-being,’ or who profess that the Son of God was of a different substance or essence, or that He is created, or changeable, or variable, are anathematized [i.e., excommunicated] by the Catholic [i.e., the one universal] Church.”⁹

Some interesting facts are as follows: the Arians who were present (not including Arius who was expelled earlier) were hesitant to sign the creed, but they were persuaded by Emperor Constantine's sister, Constantia. The Arians wanted to add an “iota” to the word Homoousian and make it Homoiousian, which would change the meaning to Christ being “like” the Father, but

that did not happen. The council sought the exile of the Arians but due to Constantia's intercession for them, the Arians eventually subscribed to the creed. Other Arians who were expelled were recalled and allowed to sign the Creed as well. Arius, who had disappeared, came back and the penalty inflicted on him was a prohibition against returning to Alexandria. His book Thalia was condemned and burnt. So ended our story, or did it?

Unfortunately, the followers of Arius began to grow in number and zeal, causing much affliction and suffering to Pope Athanasius and many others who lost their lives over this continuing struggle. Thank God that the wisdom of God prevailed in the minds of the bishops who ascribed to the sound teachings of St. Athanasius who, although he was told the world was against him, stood firmly and responded with his famous phrase, “*Contra mundum*” (roughly translated, “And I am against the world.”) Today, nearly all Christians take it for granted that Christ is equal to the Father, but if it were not for the Coptic Christian St. Athanasius and all those who heeded his lead, the entire world would have believed otherwise.

What ever happened to Arius in the end? Did God ever make His will on this controversial point of theology known? When the 17th Patriarch of Alexandria, St. Peter (known for his epithet, Sealer of the Martyrs), acceded to the throne of St. Mark at about 300 AD, Arius was about 44 years old. Arius was spreading his heresies that early and was confronted by Pope Peter. The Coptic Synaxarium reading tells us about a vision St. Peter eventually had regarding the matter:

In the days of this Pope, Arius the heretic appeared and St. Peter advised him several times to turn from his wicked thoughts, but he would not hearken to him. Consequently, he excommunicated him and prevented him from the

fellowship of the church.... When Arius, the infidel, learned that St. Peter was departing to be with the Lord [whose martyrdom was in part due to Arius delivering a false report to Emperor Maximian], leaving him under the band of excommunication, he entreated him, through the high priests, to absolve him. St. Peter refused and told them that the Lord Christ had appeared to him this night in a vision, wearing a torn robe. St. Peter asked Him, “My Lord, who rent Your robe?” The Lord replied, “Arius has rent My robe, because he separated Me from My Father. Beware of accepting him.”¹⁰

As for the death of Arius, the Greek-Christian church historian Socrates of Constantinople (not to be confused with the Greek philosopher Socrates) described Arius's death in his book Historia Ecclesiastica, to which the Coptic Church likewise attests in the Coptic Synaxarium,¹¹ telling us that he had a violent bowel movement whereby portions of his inward parts were expelled in a catastrophic and disgusting scene that led to his death.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- El-Masri, Iris Habib. The Story of the Copts. New Berry Springs: St. Antony Monastery, 1982.
- “Servants’ Preparation Program” 2004: HIS 102 Ecumenical Councils, by the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States
- Gabra, Gawdat. A to Z of the Coptic Church. Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2009.
- Moshem, Johann Lorenz. Moshem's Institutes of Ecclesiastical History, Ancient and Modern. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1839.
- Moxom, Philip Stafford. From Jerusalem to Nicea. Piscataway: Gorgias Press LLC, 2010.
- St. Mark and St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church. Coptic Synaxarium. IV vols. Illinois: St. Mark and St. Bishoy COC, 1987.

ENDNOTES

1. Maxom, 399
2. www.fourthcentury.com/arius-thalia-intro.
3. Maxom, 403-404;
4. Ibid.;
5. Ibid, 410;
6. Ibid., 422;
7. Ibid, 412-413;
8. Ibid., 414-415;
9. Ibid., 432;
10. Coptic Synaxarium, Entry for the twentieth day of the blessed month of Hatour (Chicago, IL: St. Mark and St. Bishoy COC 1987), 115.
11. Johann Moshem, Institutes of ecclesiastical history, ancient and modern, in four books (Ibid, Vol III 410, Vol IV 617; (Moshem 1861), Vol I 297). Also Coptic Synaxarium 7th of Bashans & 18th of Misra.

Santa Claus?



"My voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart" (Prov. 8:4-5).



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10)

"For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her" (Prov. 8:11)



If you think that being wise means being smart or knowing a lot, you should take a look at chapter 8 in the book of Proverbs. This chapter has been interpreted in many complex ways by the Church Fathers, but, for now, let us consider it from a simpler perspective. At the beginning of this chapter, wisdom introduces and describes herself. She advises us on how to use her in our daily lives and tells us what we will gain in so doing. Then, she leaves us with a warning about the fate of those who choose to live unwisely.

At the beginning of the chapter, wisdom stands on a high hill and cries out,

any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pe 3:9). God accepts anyone who comes to Him with a repentant heart, be that person angelic or sinful, rich or poor, monk or layman, and so on.

After her initial call, wisdom describes herself to those whom she is inviting. Basically, wisdom is to hate evil, act righteously, and be honest. It is not about understanding difficult concepts and discovering theories. Rather, the Bible defines wisdom, saying, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"* (Pro 9:10), and wisdom says about herself, *"Wickedness is an abomination to my lips."*

Now that we understand what wisdom is, we need to apply it. It sounds really nice and easy to say, "I will be righteous and honest and I will not allow any more evil in my life," but how do we do it? In this chapter, wisdom answers, *"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate"* (Pro 8:12-13). Clearly, to live wisely, we need good judgment in every choice that we make. Before doing anything, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" In addition to good judgment, wisdom also requires humbleness in order to be willing to listen

ourselves, not doing God a favor. We help ourselves by opening the door to strength and success, since wisdom *"[has] strength... Riches and honor are with [her], enduring riches and righteousness"* (Pro 8:14,18). Even better, wisdom is the way to please God and gain life, as she directly states, *"Whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord"* (Pro 8:35). From this statement, it is clear as day that wisdom is what God wants of us. He wants it for our own benefit, which is, ultimately, eternal life.

If wisdom leads to life, guess to where the lack of wisdom leads? Death! There is no place for doubt about

WISDOM: NOT ANOTHER FORM OF INTELLIGENCE

By Theopeste Kereolos

saying, *"My voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart"* (Pro 8:4-5). Nobody is excluded from wisdom's call. Even the simple ones and the fools are called to change their ways and draw near to wisdom. This cry can be seen as an invitation for everybody to participate in the benefits of wisdom. Through this invitation, wisdom opens her arms to anyone who is willing to accept her.

Just as wisdom calls everyone, so God calls us all to repent and to enjoy eternal life. St. Peter writes, *"The Lord is not...willing that*

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness" (Pro 8:7-8). Wisdom also portrays herself as more valuable than *"all the things one may desire"* (Pro 8:11).

So, what does all of this have to do with us? Obviously, in order to accept wisdom in our lives, we need to know that being wise means being righteous and honest in everything we do. By accepting wisdom, we accept the *"fear of the Lord"* and put away all evil from our lives. Wisdom, according to this description, is so essential in our lives and is more precious than all earthly matters.

to anything God commands and to submit to His commandments.

Even though we have to take action to be wise, do not think that we acquire wisdom as a reward for our own righteousness. Wisdom is a gift from God, not something that we develop on our own. Thus, we should do as St. James wrote in his epistle: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him"* (Jam 1:5). Therefore, wisdom is something that we request, not a burden laid on our shoulders. When we acquire wisdom and abide by it, we are benefiting

this, since wisdom declares, *"all those who hate me love death"* (Pro 8:36). When our Lord Jesus Christ gave His disciples a parable about the unjust steward who had mercy on his master's debtors at the last minute in order to save himself from shame when his master condemns him, the Lord praised the steward for his wisdom in thinking ahead and preparing himself for the judgment (Lk 16:1-5). Let us take that man's wisdom as an example for ourselves and act wisely while we have the chance so that when the hour comes, we will not be judged for our lack of wisdom.

Believing God

PART 5

I want to start off by thanking those of you who corresponded with us to discuss how God has used this series in your life. Your words have been a great encouragement for me. Today, we come to the end of our series, the last installment which is by far the most critical and hardest to write. Even though it is a conclusion, my journey of belief feels very much like I just scratched the surface of what God is doing in my life when I believe in Him. I pray that you feel the same way. He is doing a good work in you (Phil 1:6). Let's start by reviewing each statement. I hope, by now they are not mere statements, but beliefs that if your life depended on them (by the way, your life and your eternity do truly depend on them), you would not hesitate to declare.

1 God is who He says He is.

2 God can do what He says He can do.

3 I am who God says I am.

4 I can do all things through Christ.

5 God's Word is alive and active in me.

By Christine Massoud

If any of these statements is still a struggle to say, or if you feel your voice cracking a little as you say it, first pray to Him, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24). Then, please, go back and reread the last articles online. The staff of Mighty Arrows publishes all issues online for the whole world to access (so spread the word!) and may God bless their service and use these writings for His work in you and me.

God's word is alive and active in me. This last statement is where the rubber meets the road. This is where our beliefs come to actions. This is where we will see it all come to fruition. We're going to look at Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of thoughts and intent of the heart." The word of God is alive and full of power, making it active, operative, energizing, and effective.

In Joshua 1:8, God told Joshua exactly what he and the Israelites needed to do in order to enter the Promised Land, and how to prosper wherever else they went. Now let's camp here for a second please. Our second statement of faith is that God can do what He says He can do. So if I am believing that God can do what He says He can do, and He's about to tell me how I can prosper wherever I go, I might want to listen. God is for us, never against us. He wants us to prosper, He wants to give us a great future, He wants us to be happy and joyful all the time. You know why? Because He gets the credit, He gets the glory, and others will look to Him as well. Now, consider verse 8 with me, "The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your

way prosperous and then you will have good success" (Josh 1:8). The first command here is for God's word to be continually in our mouths.

Open up to 2 Corinthians 4:1-13. Please read this passage carefully and read verse 13 slowly. "And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believe and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak" (2 Cor 4:13). This is huge! Can you honestly say "I believe therefore I speak"? Do you practice that? This is what our lives are about, living out the faith. Living it out means speaking it out – and powerfully. God is saying it over and over, "Christine, believe Me... believe Me... believe Me..."

It is staggering what God will do when we believe. Believing is an action verb, which means we are continuously practicing belief. Do not be defeated. Do not forget God and His mighty works in you. We are called to be over-comers. Remind yourself of His goodness, of what He has done for you and in your life. Listen to me, I had to learn this the hard way and would love for you to know and heed the warning. It's not easy to believe. Satan is after you and your destiny, as you are made and have been held and protected by God. The enemy should not have the right, so stop cooperating with him. Believe God! You can look back and see His hand in your life. It's personal. His saving grace is very personal indeed. He is for you, never against you. He loves you and has done so much for you. We know faith is comprised of things hoped for and not yet seen, but it is also the assurance that He who has done so much for you and me will continue to work in your life and complete your calling.

The mouth is an unparalleled weapon for victory. Speaking faith is power! Undoubtedly, the most powerful built-in instrument God has given us

is our mouth. Look at Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." God's words are omnipotent. God spoke to the earth and it was created. He simply spoke and it happened. Our words are potent and intangible, but you know how many hurts and relationships were killed over words. Spoken words carry a power, authority, and effectiveness that exceed words we simply think. There's a power attached to the spoken words that we need to realize, practice, and also teach others.

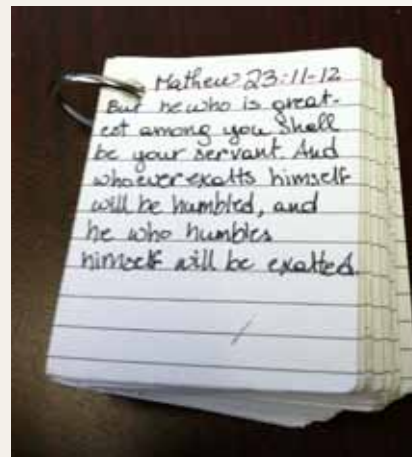
There are several examples, Romans 10: 8-10, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Hear this again, "With your mouth you confess and are saved" (Rom 10:9). Publicly confessing Christ is not a suggestion. It is salvation to you and me. Jesus said, "I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God" (Lk 12:8).

Another example of proclamation is in Matthew 17. A father of an epileptic son who suffers greatly came to Jesus and begged Him for healing. The man had asked the disciples but they couldn't heal his son. In verse 19, we see them coming to Jesus and asking, "Why could we not cast it out?" (Mt 17:19)? "So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you"" (Mt 17:20-21).

Here we see a way to put an end to habitual sin, a sin of

which you repent then cycle back into it. Paul tells us, "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully..." (2 Cor 4:2). By renouncing, we verbally remove all attachment to a sin. Now look at the rest of the verse, "but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." This is public confession of sin, being accountable to each other and manifesting God's grace and forgiveness to others.

The most explosively effective words we can believe, and therefore, speak are Scripture. The word of God is a sword and shield to us. There is nothing like the power of pertinent words on our tongue to answer to our specific situations. That is the power in God's word. Read it, write it, say it, and keep it. Through a tough season in my life, I learned to keep His Word close by me – on index cards. Here's a photo of my set.



Nothing magical about them, but the words. Every time I read or hear a scripture that really touches me, I write it down. I look back and pray the verses, out loud sometimes, asking God to lay His hands and take away the fear that engulfed me. And He did and still does. I know others journal and do their quiet time around certain verses through their season of struggle. There is no single way, just get the Word in you and on your tongue (Jn 15:7-8)! Nothing is more powerful!



I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Ki 3:6-9).

The response was not only acceptable to God, but notably of greater magnitude, for Solomon's words pleased God. This cherished treasure of wisdom has no price and no limit. However, it does come with contingencies—one must walk in the ways of the Lord and comply with His commandments. Thus, wisdom can be perpetuated throughout generations.

The speech was pleasing the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: *"Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days"* (1 Ki 3:10-14).

Wisdom begets children, disciples, and leaders. While the end result of wisdom is honor, it is not an easy route. For this reason, we must ask for wisdom if we truly desire this virtue. Wisdom is an attribute of God, but it is figuratively referred to in the feminine syntax because wisdom rears and nurtures. God is gracious to give us all that is good and will bestow wisdom upon those who seek her. Real wisdom can only come from Him. By giving wisdom to a seeker, God must give of Himself. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him"* (Ja 1:5). Thus, the fear of the Lord is indeed the beginning of wisdom. Otherwise, it is merely knowledge formed by a good education and may even possess a good conscience.

Our Lord Jesus Christ illustrated wisdom through the portrayal of John the Baptist. Foolishness overwhelmed the minds and hearts of those who hated this righteous man, who was also a prophet. Their actions confirmed their ill will and their folly. They rejected the truth, and the messenger sent by God was mocked by their lack of wisdom. Their unwillingness to heed the call of repentance shackled their souls to recklessness and imprudence. Herodias was a daughter of wickedness and relished in her impurity. St. John the Baptist was wisdom's child and his actions attested to his coalition with wisdom and integrity.

"But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the

marketplaces and calling to their companions, and saying:

'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." (Mt 11:16-19)

Wisdom is justified by her children means that the outcome reveals the source. When we see, hear, or learn about hatred, violence, outbreak of wars, the so-called honor killings, and immorality, we must ask, where is wisdom? What is the source of this negativism and disharmony? By the same token, when we see, hear, or learn about acts of kindness, humanitarian efforts, goodwill, purity, and peaceful labors, we are assured that wisdom is in the domain.

"The spirit of humility and modesty, therefore, of so many and thus well-attested men has by their obedience been helpful not only to us, but also to the generations before us, as well as to those who have received His words in fear and truth." St. Clement of Rome¹

Wisdom requires many virtues: trust, endurance, conviction, justice, and humility. One must first and foremost trust in God that He will lead him/her to the right decisions and conclusions. Endurance is required because the wise individual must deal with a variety of

divergent personalities and gear them toward peace and prudence. Conviction regarding any matter of dispersing potential harm or obtaining measures for the overall good for the people is a platform for taking a stand on the issues. Justice and fairness are often unpopular positions, but one must fight for what is right, speak the truth, and not be swayed by the objective of pleasing others. At the end of the day, one must not perceive him/herself as wise, but remain humble and grounded—knowing that God's wisdom is working and not an earthly form of sophisticated knowledge or inherited intelligence.

"For discernment is the mother, the guardian, and the guide of all the virtues." St. John Cassian²

Let us humbly and confidently ask God through His loving kindness to bestow wisdom upon us.

The source and fountain of all wisdom, the Lord God Almighty, posed a simple question to King Solomon in a dream. What is it that Solomon wanted or needed that he might have lacked or possessed but was still insufficient and wanting? How could God suffice Solomon's request and fulfill his needs? Actually, before God told Solomon to present his desire, He first instructed him to ASK!

ASK

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (1 Ki 3:5)

Solomon's predicament to respond to God forced him to realize that his own discernment was deficient. He evaluated his life and was cognizant of God's benevolence and compassion toward him. However, in his self-examination, Solomon also discovered his inadequacy.

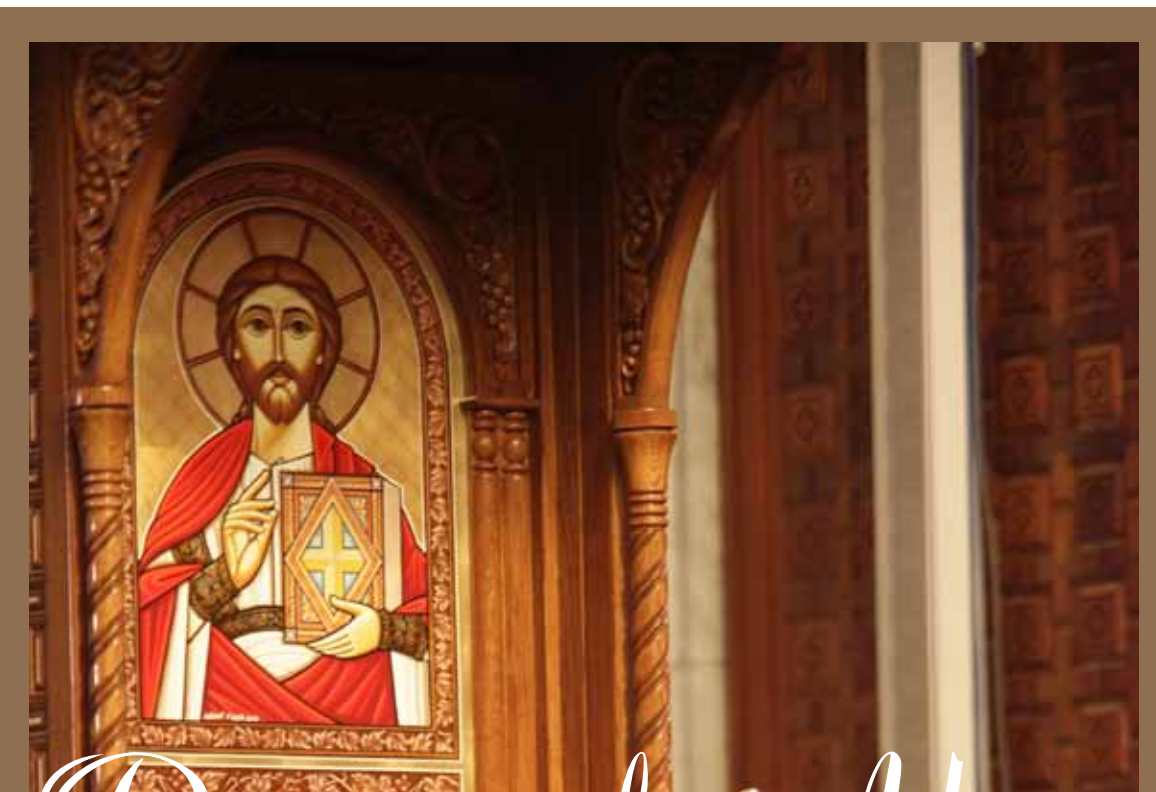
Thus, faced with his limitations of judiciousness, Solomon responded and asked for wisdom.

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child;

Featured Article by
H.G. Bishop Youssef

Παπα^{ΑΒΒΑ} Tawadros II

Enthroned November 18, 2012



Pope Benedict XVI: Message to Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria

"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal 1:3). It is with fraternal joy that I send greetings to Your Holiness on the happy occasion of your enthronement as Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark. To my Venerable Brother Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, I have entrusted the task of conveying these greetings to you, together with assurances of my closeness in prayer as you assume the high office of chief shepherd of the Coptic Orthodox Church. May the Almighty grant Your Holiness abundant spiritual gifts to strengthen you in your new ministry, as you guide the clergy and laity along the paths of holiness, for the good of your people and the peace and harmony of the whole of society.

My thoughts turn at this time to your venerable predecessor, His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, whose long and devoted service to the Lord will surely continue to inspire you and all the faithful. His concern for improving relations with other Christian Churches reinforces our hope that one day all the followers of Christ will find themselves united in that love and reconciliation which the Lord so earnestly desires (cf. Jn 17:21).

Your Holiness, I pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain you in your ministry, so that the flock entrusted to your care may experience the teaching of the Good Shepherd. May they be blessed with the serenity to offer their valuable contribution to the good of society and the well-being of all their fellow-citizens.

I pray too that relations between the Catholic Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church will continue to grow closer, not only in a fraternal spirit of collaboration, but also through a deepening of the

theological dialogue that will enable us to grow in communion and to bear witness before the world to the saving truth of the Gospel. Conscious of the great challenges which accompany the spiritual and pastoral ministry that Your Holiness is about to undertake, I assure you of my prayers and personal good wishes. With fraternal esteem and affection I implore God's blessings upon you and upon all the faithful entrusted to your care.

His All-Holiness congratulates newly-elected Coptic Pope To His Holiness Pope-elect Tawadros II

It is with sincere fraternal joy that we learned of your recent election as spiritual leader of the Coptic Church, succeeding the beloved and respected Pope Shenouda III after his long and fruitful ministry.

We share with the devout faithful of the Coptic Church worldwide the profound consolation that accompanies the election and installation of a new spiritual shepherd as well as the prayerful recognition of the immense responsibility assumed by Your Holiness as you now lead the people entrusted to you by God in a time the world has been defined by turmoil and in a region that demands great discernment and sensitivity.

We know that your service hitherto as a bishop, monk and theologian will prove invaluable resources that, we fervently pray, divine grace will richly bless and multiply for the ongoing welfare of your Church, for the enrichment of relations between our Churches, and for the benefit of all God's world.

In light of your forthcoming official enthronement on November 18, we solemnly stand with you in prayer and wholeheartedly congratulate you in advance on this deserved and historical occasion.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 4th of November, 2012

Your Holiness' beloved brother in Christ,
+ BARTHOLOMEW- Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



This article draws a comparison between women in the Bible. It is of two parts and, God willing, the second part will be included in the next edition of Mighty Arrows. We shall look at female characters, some falling under the description of Proverbs 31:10-31 and others who are far from it.

The Virtuous Wife

Proverbs 31 portrays the “*virtuous wife*,” a woman of character, an active person who labors to bring food to her table. She is trustworthy, faithful, kind, and truthful. A good planner and businesswoman, she is a provider for her family and household and does not neglect the needy. She is watchful, strong, honorable, full of faith, and fears the Lord. She “*bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty*” (Mt 13:23), a woman with wisdom granted from above is “*...pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy*” (Jam 3:17).

The Foolish Woman

On the other hand, “*a foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple and knows nothing*” (Pro 9:13). She “*pulls down [her house] with her hands*” (Pro 14:1), draws her sword and bends her bow “*to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct*” (Ps 37:14). The Bible tells stories of the two types of women: those by whom wisdom is justified, and those whose foolishness and evil desires brought much calamity to the saints.

Portrait of An (Un)wise Woman

By Mariam Maher



1 Our first female character is **Potiphar's wife** who spread her net to ensnare Joseph. She tried once to entice him to sleep with her, but Joseph refused. He remained faithful to both God and his master. Joseph reminded her of how his master trusted him with everything and kept nothing from him but his master's wife. He also made it very clear to her that what she was asking of him was a sin towards God. But her mind was moving in circles, for it says in the book of Sirach, “*the heart of a fool resembles a wagon wheel, and [her] reasoning is like a turning axle*” (Sir 33:5). So she kept pressing him. The Bible says that she tried day after day to accomplish her scheme (Gen 39:10).

When that failed, she plotted to stain Joseph's reputation and imprison him. What has become of this woman? Her shameful deeds and reputation were recorded in the Holy Bible, and she became a sorrowful picture of an adulterous wife throughout history. She did not “*provide good things for her husband*,” nor do I think that the heart of Potiphar trusted in such a character (cf. Pro 31:11).

2 Jezebel. Ahab's wife was another woman who resembled Potiphar's wife in her cunning and deceitful ways. Her husband wanted to acquire the vineyard of Naboth the Jazreelite. However, Naboth refused to give up the inheritance of

his fathers. When Jezebel saw her husband saddened by the matter, she put together a plot that resulted in the stoning of Naboth to death! Her plans were based on falsehood which is “*as a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow*” (Pro 25:18). A life of an innocent human being was cruelly ended because of Jezebel's brazen pride. She then told her husband: “*Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead*” (1 Kin 21:1-16). A Proverbs 31 woman, on the contrary, “*seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands...she considers a field and buys it; from her profits (not by murdering people) she plants a*

vineyard” (Pro 31:13, 16). What has become of Jezebel? God promised that in the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, they would lick Ahab's and would eat Jezebel (1 Kin 21:17-24). And it was so. Jezebel was thrown out of a window and died. When men went to bury her a few hours later, they found nothing left but the skull, the feet, and the palms of her hands (2 Kin 9:32-37).

3 Our next example comes in **Lot's daughters**. His older daughters married men of Sodom and died in the overthrow of the city, while his younger daughters, being soaked in Sodom's immo-

rality, did not have faith in God to provide for them, and so gave birth to the two most corrupt nations: Moab and Ammon (Gen 19). This is perhaps more common nowadays as a woman who leaves her faith to follow non-believers for one reason or another. Some of these women were servants in the church, but apparently something has gone very wrong that would make them turn around and denounce The Truth, The Way, and The Life! They become so blind or brain-washed that not only do they damage themselves, but they drag their children downhill with them! I often wonder about such young children and how they are being led by a foolish mother down a path about which they know nothing. This woman digs a pit and throws herself and her children in it without realizing what she is doing. She is far from the Proverbs 31 mother who “*is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet...Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also ... praises her*” (Pro 21, 28). I find myself praying for these lost little children, asking the Good Shepherd to bring them back to the one flock of the One Shepherd. What becomes of such a mother? I pray that she too be looked upon, is visited by Grace, and is delivered while there is still time.

It is clear in all these stories that those women were very unwise and imprudent. They did not fear the Lord. They were strong, but wickedly so, not with kindness nor mercy nor truth. They did not stand fast in the faith. They audaciously crowned themselves with their earthly lusts. They are those “*whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame - who set their mind on earthly things*” (Phil 3:19). But as dark as this picture is, there are the heavenly bright portraits of many virtuous women whose “*worth is far above rubies*” (Pro 31:10).

St. Karas

THE ANCHORITE

By Mareya Naguib

Throughout the history of the Coptic Church, many saints have been discovered and their life stories passed down from one generation to the next. Some saints are known more than others, such as Saint George the Prince of Martyrs, Saint Mina the Wonder Worker, and Saint Marina the Martyr,

whose great faith allowed for the container full of molten lead into which she would be immersed to be used as the water for her baptism. Among these countless revered saints, some attained a high level of spiritual excellence, wisdom, and purity. These are known as anchorites. Living secluded lives deep

within the deserts and mountains of Egypt, the stories of the anchorites were not easily obtained, but our Lord Jesus Christ did not allow their stories to go untold, as is written in the Holy Scriptures: *"The meek will inherit the earth"* (Mt 5:5).

Around the end of the 5th century and towards

the beginning of the 6th century, our gracious God led Saint Pambo (Bemwa) to go out and meet a pure anchorite named Saint Cyrus, in order that his story may be a lesson for many generations to come. St. Cyrus was a nobleman, being the brother of King Theodosius the great. Even though he was of high standing in the world, he chose to leave everything and live the monastic life. Living among the angels, St. Cyrus led a holy and an ascetic life in the western mountain of Scetis for approximately 57 years. One day, as Saint Pambo was sitting in his cell in solitude, he heard a voice saying, "Rise and journey to the coast, and you will find a great anchorite whose sandal straps no one on earth is worthy to untie."¹ Sensing that this was a heavenly voice, St. Pambo lifted up his head to heaven and beckoned on the Lord to speak to him. The voice said to him, "Arise, Pambo, and hurry speedily to the inner wilderness where you will meet St. Cyrus (Karas) and take his blessing, for he is very honourable to Me, more than anyone else, for many are the times that he has tired himself for Me, and My peace will be with you."²

St. Pambo then quickly headed on his journey to the mountains of Scetis in search of this great saint, not knowing who he was or what his life was like. After a long tiresome travel, our Lord directed St. Pambo to St. Cyrus' cave. He entered to see who this saintly man may be, greeting him with love. St. Pambo heard a voice from within the cave saying to him, "It is well that you came today, St. Pambo, saint of God, who was worthy of anointing the

body of St. Elarya daughter of King Zenon."³ So he entered the cave and stared at St. Cyrus for a long while, for the great saint was of strong presence and great humbleness. St. Pambo described St. Cyrus as a person with great radiance and the grace of God reflected in his face. His eyes were very shiny, and he was of medium stature with a long beard having a few black hairs left in it. He was wearing a simple gown for he was quite thin. He also had a light voice and a cane in his hand. St. Cyrus told St. Pambo that he was awaiting the saint's arrival with joy and eagerness since his time was about to end.

By the end of the day, St. Cyrus' prediction came true. The pure saint grew sick with a high fever. He was crying and sighing, saying that the time is near for him and he begged God to judge him according to His mercy. St. Pambo did not leave St. Cyrus' side all night until the sun had risen. St. Cyrus was lying in bed unable to move, until a great light that surpasses the sun shone at the entrance of the cave. A great man appeared, radiant in light, wearing white clothing brighter than the sun, and holding in his hand a cross. He was sitting at the head of the pure St. Cyrus, while Pambo was at the feet of the saint. St. Pambo was not able to recognize this man and just watched the illuminated figure conversing with St. Cyrus. Then He departed. St. Pambo was very curious as to who this might have been and asked the great anchorite who it was. St. Cyrus revealed to St. Pambo that it was Our Lord Jesus Christ and how every day He would appear to

him and spend time with him conversing with him and blessing him before leaving. St. Pambo was in awe at this and shaken with great reverence to the ascetic anchorite. He asked if maybe he could also get Christ's blessing when He visits again. So, St. Cyrus said to him, "Before you leave this place you will see Christ the Lord in His glory and He will bless you and talk with you also."⁴

On his last night on earth, Jesus appeared again to him and St. Cyrus fulfilled his promise to St. Pambo by asking Christ to bless him as well. As the anchorite was about to depart, Christ asked St. Cyrus if there is any favour he wanted from the Savior before leaving the flesh. In a soft kind voice, the pure anchorite requested from the Lord that he would like to see David the Prophet and chant with him the psalms before leaving the body. Christ did not hinder him from his small request and indeed David the Prophet appeared in the flesh and began to sing the psalms with him. As his soul departed, and laid in rest in the bosom of Christ, Jesus told St. Pambo that he must document all that he has seen and the stories he has heard from this great saint. He also told him that whoever requests any favors in the name of St. Cyrus, He will bless them tenfold and whoever does a charitable deed in the name of St. Cyrus will also be blessed tenfold. Finally He told him whoever will write and document the Story of St. Cyrus will be blessed to have his name written in the book of life and will have a place in heaven awaiting him all for the sake of this blessed wise, and pure anchorite. Indeed our Lord

was sincere when He said, *"Blessed are the pure in Spirit for they shall see God"* (Mt 5:8).

May we all aim to learn from this beloved anchorite and pursue to live our lives in true purity and righteousness. We must also pray for the gift of wisdom so that Christ may help us discern between what is right and wrong and what He expects from our lives. Finally, if God leads anyone to the life of monasticism as in the case with St. Cyrus, may he or she be open-minded and ready to follow God's will, so that one day we may all be able to have a share in inheritance with our Lord and all His great saints in the heavenly Kingdom.

ENDNOTES:

1. Vivian, Tim, trans. *Journeying into God: Seven Early Monastic Lives*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996, 30.
2. Monastery, From the books of the Baramous. "The Story of Saint Karas." Coptic Orthodox Church Network. 1998-2005. <http://www.copticchurch.net/topics/synexarion/stkaras.html> (accessed November 24, 2012).
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

WORKS CITED:

- The Biography of St. Karas the Anchorite. Orthodox Bookstore. St. Anthony Monastery, California, n.d. Web. 04 Jan. 2013.
- "Saint Karas the Anchorite." David the Prophet & St Karas Coptic Orthodox Church, n.d. Web. 04 Jan. 2013. <http://www.dp-sk.org/StKarasTheAnchorite.html>.
- "St. Cyrus." St. Cyrus. Coptic Orthodox Synexarium. Web. 25 Nov. 2012. <http://www.copticchurch.net/topics/synexarion/stCyrus.html>.
- Vivian, Tim. *Journeying into God: Seven Early Monastic Lives*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996. Print.

Pillars of our Time: Ordinary People Serving in Extraordinary Ways

A tribute by his son, Ehab Boghdadi

Fr. Angelos Boghdadi

Rev. Fr. Angelos Boghdadi

Born Jan 20, 1923 and departed this earth on Dec 21, 2012.

He was born in Mansoura, Egypt by the name of Louis Habib Boghdadi. He completed his elementary and middle education in the Friar School. Friar School was managed at the time by French Monks who taught them how to be disciplined and punctual in their daily lives. One of the disciplines they enforced in school was to only speak in French even if they needed to address other pupils. He memorized many French Christian songs; many of them stayed with him even until weeks before his departure.

His father died when he was 10 years old. After his father's death, he would go into his father's room and smell his clothes, to remember him. The family later moved to Cairo, Egypt where he had to work and share in the responsibilities with his brothers and sisters, while continuing his education. He graduated from high school and later obtained his Law degree.

Art, in its many different forms, was his hobby throughout his life. While still in middle school, he formed a sculpture of a Coptic priest's head. He painted many pictures of Saint Mary. He also painted Christ with the crown of thorns. He did woodcarvings depicting all the steps Christ took while carrying the cross – the Via Delarosa. He also did woodcarving of St. George on his horse.

After a heated discussion with a non-Christian person who had memorized and referenced the Bible in her discussion, although he had a full-time job and three children, he enrolled in the evening Theological Seminary program that Bishop Shenouda (later Pope Shenouda) had just started. He wanted to learn more about his Coptic Church and his faith.

God had a special plan for him. He sought to immigrate to the US and after being approved and having all his paperwork in order, he went to Pope Shenouda with his wife and three children to seek guidance and a blessing. The pope surprised him by asking him to dedicate his life to the Church. He not only obediently agreed but was ordained within 7 days. One thing to note: he was ordained with 7 other priests who were nominated by their respective churches. As for Louis, the Pope said during the ordination that he personally nominated him, and he ordained him at the altar of God in America by the name of Fr. Angelos Boghdadi on September 23, 1974.

He loved how God entrusted him with the priesthood and always felt that he was the least among everyone worthy of this gift, and so he lived as an obedient person to all that God asked of him. Obedience to the call of God was his starting virtue, being submissive to Him with thanksgiving in all that God brought, even to the very end. Everything the doctors asked, he did, knowing that all was controlled and allowed by God. Not only that, but he never despaired or gave up the fight. He always anticipated God's intervention and resolution. For that, God gave him a smiley happy face that accompanied him everywhere and in every church that he was asked to serve. He was known for his happy face.

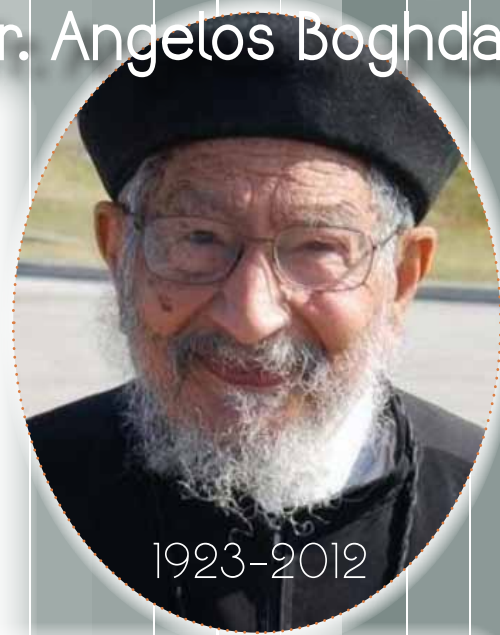
He interacted with people of various educational and economic levels, talking with all in the manner that suited each. He was gifted in mending disagreements that would arise between spouses. Going to them the same day or night, he would not leave them until all issues were resolved.

He knew that his role was to teach, preach, and rebuke if needed. So, if you missed church for work, or your business, or even had to travel for your sports commitment, he was sure to comment without compromise. Also,

if you were a deacon and missed your duty, for sure you would not miss his comment.

After spending three weeks in the hospital, and three weeks in long term care, Abouna was discharged to a rehab center for occupational and physical therapy. During the last week of October, an idea built up in my head to take him to church on Sunday, which I did, only to find out why God wanted him there. The Church was celebrating Abouna Moussa and Abouna Angelos' 15th Anniversary: 15 years of Abouna Moussa being a Priest, and 15 years of Abouna Angelos being a Hegomen. They had prepared a cake with both of their names on it. Everyone in the church asked if I knew of the celebration; I only knew one thing that day: God is in control, has been, and always will be.

On 11/18/2012 we asked him to pray; he thanked and blessed God's holy name. He asked Him to be with us, to bless us, and to grant us His help and support. He asked God to accept us unto Him, to make us repent of our sins, and to make us worthy of saying, "Our Father who art in heaven..." Abouna Angelos intercede for us, your children, in front of the throne of God.



Fr. Angelos will always be remembered as a wise and devoted priest who tirelessly served at the altar for nearly one half of his life. He has been an inspiration to the congregations which he faithfully served, as well as an example to new priests and stewards. In addition to the call to the ministry of the priesthood and all its responsibilities which he performed meticulously, the Lord also graciously bestowed many gifts upon Fr. Angelos, such as his artistic skill in the visual representation of spiritual illustrations and poetry and prose in praising God---talents which he skillfully used to the glory of God. While he is missed on this earth, his prayers in the Paradise of Joy are a source of comfort and solace to all his loved ones. On behalf of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States of America, I offer our deepest heartfelt condolences to Fr. Angelos' wife Tasoni Yvonne Boghdadi, his son Ehab Boghdadi, his daughters Elham Tawfik and Eman Wassef, his grandchildren, and all the members of the blessed Boghdadi family.

Bishop Youssef

Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern US

Fr. Angelos, the well-rounded priest ...

It was enough for me to see Fr. Angelos attending every Liturgy at the church until days before departing from this world. At his age, and health condition, it would be perfectly alright for him to stay home. However, he was the role model for all the priests. Yet, Fr. Angelos was not only a priest, he was an attorney before becoming a priest. So, he came to the priesthood with a wealth of experience from real life. Combining the two produced Fr. Angelos the writer, especially from his experience serving inmates in the prisons! Fr. Angelos was very proud of his talent in painting and writing icons. Every time I visited, he used to take me around the church and show me the latest icons he finished, or the wood burning, or the engraving on icons. Fr. Angelos also spoke French fluently. Most of all, Fr. Angelos was a true family man. Just watching his grandchildren around him, as well as his in-laws, in addition to his wife and children, made him the model for family ties. I have learned a lot from the life of Fr. Angelos without hearing any of his sermons. He was the well-rounded priest!

Fr. Marcus Mansour

St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church
Phoenix, AZ

Fr. Angelos was a man who devoted his life to spirituality and living the ideal example of a Coptic priest. May the Lord repose his pure soul in the Paradise of Joy and may he intercede for us before the throne of Grace to finish our course in peace.

Fr. Timotheus Soliman

St. John the Baptist Coptic Orthodox Church
Miramar, FL

I was blessed to serve with Rev. Father Angelos Boghdadi for 15 years and to learn from his experience in the priesthood. Abouna Angelos was an icon of simplicity and honesty. Whomever dealt with him felt that he had a heart of a child.

Fr. Angelos was a man of prayers; I still remember how he used to pray the Prime prayers and the Matin Dology before the Liturgy for years. He did not stop until the last years of his life.

Fr. Angelos was always looking for the salvation of everyone of his flock. He always visited anyone who did not attend church regularly and told them, "What will you do if Christ comes today?"

Fr. Angelos kept on serving until the last effort. He always helped me with Communion even when he was sick; he always pushed himself to serve. I am sure that Fr. Angelos is now in the Paradise of Joy amongst all the saints and martyrs!

Finally, as the Holy Bible states: *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your Lord."* Mathew 25:23

Good-bye Abouna Angelos; till we all meet one day in the Paradise of Joy, pray for us in front of God.

Fr. Moussa Saleh

St. George Coptic Orthodox Church
Tampa, FL

I knew Fr. Angelos from a long time ago. Fr. Angelos was an example of a true servant as he touched so many lives through his smile, simplicity, and also through his artwork. He served, as it says in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, finally there is laid up the crown of righteousness."* Fr. Angelos was a character who will not be forgotten throughout the days. May our loving Lord repose his soul in the Paradise of Joy and comfort those who loved him.

Fr. Isaac Bassily

St. George Coptic Orthodox Church
Daytona Beach, FL



تلغرافات التعزية التي استلمها عن طريق البريد

نياحاً للأب القمص زكريا تعب محبته ولجميع الأسرة الأحباء
تعزيات السماء
الأنبا باخميوس - مطران البحيرة وتوابعا .

الرب يعزيكم
الانبا أبوللو أسقف - جنوب سيناء

نياحاً للراحل وتعزيات السماء للأسرة
الانبا ثيودوسيوس - أسقف عام الجيزة

الرب يعزيكم
الانبا ثاوفيلوس - أسقف البحر الأحمر

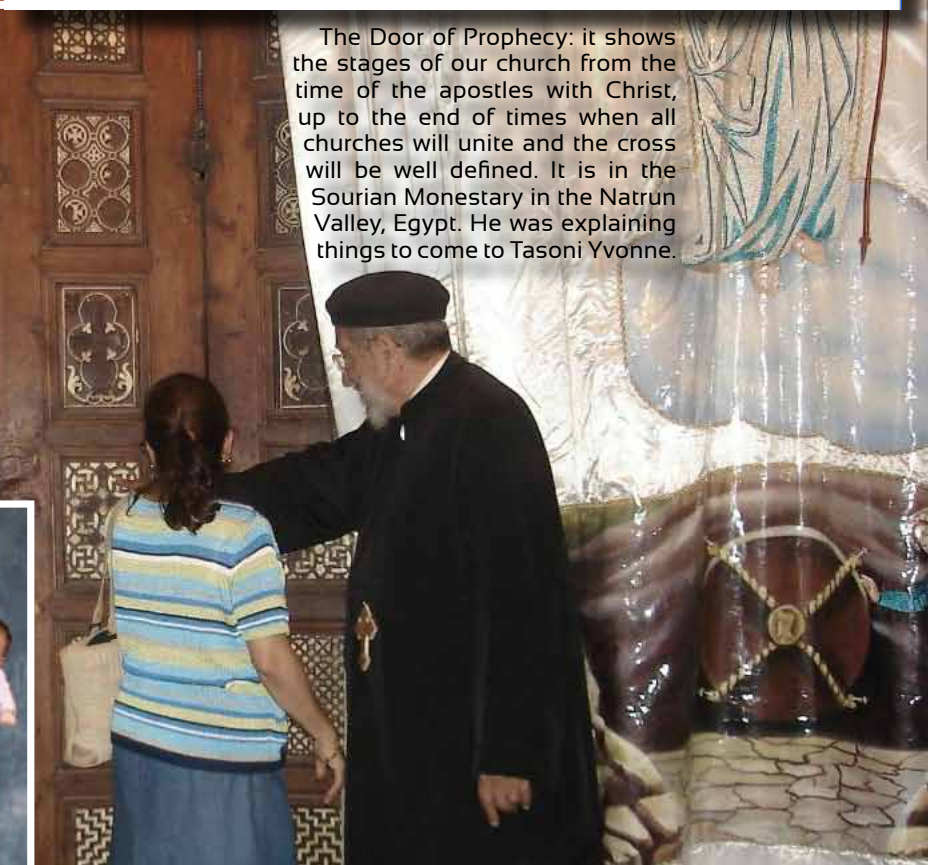
لاتحزنو كالباقين الذين لارجاء لهم نياحاً للراحل وتعزيات السماء
للأسرة

الانبا كيرولس أفامينا - أسقف ورئيس دير مارى مينا
ومجمع رهبان الدير

الرب ينيح نفس القمص انجيليوس بغدادى فى فردوس النعيم خالص
عزائى للأسرة

الأنبا إبرام - أسقف الفيوم

عزائى رجاء القيامة ولقاء السماء
الدكتور القس / صفوت البياضى
رئيس الطائفة الانجيلية بمصر



The Door of Prophecy: it shows the stages of our church from the time of the apostles with Christ, up to the end of times when all churches will unite and the cross will be well defined. It is in the Sourian Monestary in the Natrun Valley, Egypt. He was explaining things to come to Tasoni Yvonne.



WTL H.S. GIRLS CONVENTION

WTL H.S. BOYS CONVENTION

THY COLLEGE
CONVENTION

QUESTION & ANSWER

New WINTER 2013 Edition
GENERAL QUESTION

And its Answer

Q: (About Wisdom) Is it sinful to pray for knowledge and wisdom and to aspire to be a saint living a virtuous life full of gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A: No, it is not wrong to pray for wisdom, The Lord commended King Solomon because he prayed for wisdom. However, becoming a saint or aspiring to be full of virtues should not be a goal in itself. The main goal is mainly to be with God always. In order to achieve this goal, we need to live a godly life.

As for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul encouraged us to seek, rather, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"* After that he spoke about the excellence of love, *"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"* (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

New WINTER 2013 Edition

BIBLE QUESTION

And its Answer

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW, CHAPTER 7

Q: What does the Lord Jesus Christ mean by your pearls?

A: The Holies, the Sacraments, the Words of God which should be given to one who can understand and deserve them.

Words for Thought by Nagwa Abdou

When do I say I am Yours?
When will my heart belong to You?
When can I rejoice when I think I am coming back to You?
So
God whispered and said,
My love for you will lead you to My way.
My Holy Spirit will cleanse you all day.
My Holy Bible will teach you all about Me.
My Body and my Blood will make you one with Me.

Then
The road of knowledge and wisdom will be granted.
The heart of yours will be transformed.
Your mind has one goal that is to do God's will in you.
Then
Gradually you will be able to free yourself from any distractions.
Gradually you will discover the mystery that is hidden.
Gradually the inner eyes will start working,
And
You can call yourself a child of God.

Southern Coptic Diocese "Youth for Christ" 2013 Award

COLLEYVILLE, TX. December 15, 2012 -- Southern Coptic Diocese "Youth for Christ" 2013 Award: Faith In Action

"Faith Without Works is Dead..." (James 2:14)

Traditionally, The Youth for Christ Award was an annual essay contest for High School Youth submitted by individual youth. This year however, we invite young people (both high school and college level) to form church teams to engage in a community outreach project and report on this activity. "For we are laborers together with God: you are God's field, you are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

The goal of this contest is to encourage the Coptic youth to practice putting her/his faith in action, and to enjoy a greater sense of the Christian purpose and fellowship through first hand experience by coming up with a community outreach project and reporting on the impact it had both personally and on others.

Each team shall consist of a minimum of 3 youths and a maximum of 5 registered youths, who must be either high school or college age. Teams are encouraged to get others involved to reap the blessing of service. The team has full autonomy on how it operates and should be self directed. The results, however must include:

- A report in a written, sound, or video form or a combination of them and include the project title, type of outreach, and various roles of the team members
- The impact the project had on both the participating youth, team members, and those being served.
- Obstacles, and how they were overcome in a Christian approach
- Personal reflection (individual or team) on the change this project brought to practicing your faith.

- The first place church team consisting of up to 5 registered members will be attending the Diocese Youth Convention completely free (including travel)
- The second and third place church teams will be given awards.
- Each contestant will receive a Plaque with a certificate signed by H.G. Bishop Youssef that he/she successfully participated in the contest.
- Each church is encouraged to support their youth, by having youth leaders oversee, co-ordinate, and help guide the youth with suggestions for projects.
- Each church is encouraged to hold a ceremony for all of the church contestants and give additional awards of the priest choice.

Deadlines:

- January 31, 2013: Registration of team with names of members
- March 25, 2013: Outlines of proposed projects are due
- May 25, 2013: Essay is due
- June 25, 2013: Winners announced

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

<http://www.suscopts.org/press/2012/dec/15/southern-coptic-diocese-youth-for-christ-2013-awar/>

Events & Activities

DIOCESE PROGRAMS

St. Verena Resource Ministry (SVRM)

Professionals Networking Together Make a Difference

www.suscopts.org/svrm/

Family Ministry Program:

fmp.suscopts.org

Summer Registration: April 20, 2013

Theological Seminary Program

<http://tsp.suscopts.org>

Program Registration: March 15, 2013

The LEAD Program

www.theleadprogram.org

H.O.P.E Social Services

Help Other People Excel: Social Services Ministry

hope.suscopts.org

Archangel Raphael Ministry (ARM)

Special Needs Ministry

www.copticangel.org

✝ If you wish to sponsor a child, a family, t-shirts, or an activity for the Special Needs Convention 2013, kindly contact Fr. Joachim Boutros. Your contributions are greatly appreciated:
father_joachim@yahoo.com

DIOCESE EVENTS

Pre-Marital Retreats: check www.suscopts.org

Graduate Convention: FL: Feb 21-24, 2013

SUS Diocese Kenya Mission Experience

Summer 2013: July 2-13, 2013

SUS Diocese Summer Trip to Spain: July 13-27, 2013

** Dates are subject to change. Please check www.suscopts.org*



SUBSCRIPTIONS

All subscriptions are to be made online:
(Note: Annual mail subscription must be paid online)

www.suscopts.org/mightyarrows

- Mighty Arrows Magazine Online. No Cost.
- E-Magazine—Sent to your preferred email. No Cost.
- Mailed copy of the Mighty Arrows Magazine to your mailing address. Subscription orders can be made on the Convention Registration page.

PRICE REDUCTION!!!!

Annual Subscription Fee for Mail Orders:
US \$20.00 annual subscription if mailed within US
For Group Orders: \$4.00 per magazine
[minimum 5 magazines per quarter per order]

*Annual subscription renewal will begin in the beginning of the calendar year.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. If you no longer wish to subscribe, please inform us.

Servants in Christ,
Mighty Arrows Magazine Staff
mightyarrowsmagazine@suscopts.org

JOB POSTING!!!

Busy COPTIC engineering firm in Texas

SEEKING a Licensed P.E.
Civil Engineering

If interested, contact us at
MightyArrowsMagazine@suscopts.org
and we will forward your CV

MIGHTY MAGAZINE MARROWS

Life. God. Truth. For Coptic Youth

Subscribe Now!
@ www.suscopts.org/mightyarrows/



His Holiness POPE TAWADROS II Celebrates His First Feast Liturgy - Nativity 2013

In the Nativity Story, one of the main features, besides our Lord Jesus Christ, is the star. The use of the star gives the impression that Christianity is heavenly. If we ask how Christianity began, we say that it started from Heaven.

It gives us happiness when we raise our eyes towards heaven. In the Nativity story we see many other stars represented by characters gathered around the Nativity story.

- (1) St. Joseph the carpenter ...
- (2) St. John the Baptist ...
- (3) St. Simeon the Elder ...
- (4) St. Anna the Prophetess ...
- (5) The Shepherds ...
- (6) The Magi ...
- (7) The angels ...
- (8) St. Mary ... the brightest star ...

This beautiful scene showed the different aspects of the human race at the time.



While we are talking about many of the stars of the Nativity, we need to have a clear message.

This heavenly life is raised above the world. Although we are living on earth, our life is heavenly in order to please God.

So, the first and most important messages of Christmas is to live a heavenly life.

I wish you all a holy life in Christ, and that your lives become like stars.

* excerpt from H.H. video Nativity 2013 message