



Bishop Youssef

COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES



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Dear Brethren
Peace and grace

By the grace of God, the Coptic community has benefitted from the Coptic Reader mobile application over the past 10 years. This application has aided our spiritual growth personally and in liturgical services as well. The app has brought the richness and beauty of our ancient faith to our devices and local parishes.

In addition to providing easy access to the prayers and rites of the Church, Coptic Reader has also allowed us to correct English mistranslations that were made in the early days of the Coptic Church in the USA. We are indebted to the original translators for the great work they did to begin the transition to English services, but now with more critical analysis, we see that there are a number of translation errors that need to be corrected.

As the Coptic Orthodox Church continues to grow in the diaspora, updates to inaccurate translations can be inconvenient. It is not easy to re-learn common hymns when the translations change, and the Coptic Reader team fully sympathizes with this dilemma. However, the very real translation errors need to be corrected to ensure that future generations are keeping the Coptic faith, prayers, and rites unchanged.

Out of a spirit of transparency, and in need of your prayers, we want to share that translation updates are only made for only two reasons: (1) If there is a theological error in the text or (2) an inaccurate Coptic translation has been made. All changes are vetted, and every effort is made to keep things unchanged unless absolutely necessary. Our service is to aid the Body of Christ in liturgical worship and not be a hindrance by making minor translation updates.

These updates will coincide with the service of “Coptic Hymns in English” to ensure that all hymns’ recordings are reflecting the same translation changes that are made to Coptic Reader. This will aid all of us to pray in one body and one spirit. May the Lord continue to bless this ministry.

Bishop Youssef
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