



## El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness  
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty-first Year

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### Bishop Samuel, Bishop of "Shebeen-El-Kanater" reposed in the Lord

His Grace Bishop Samuel, the Bishop of Shebeen El-Qanater, and the head of the Archeology sector in the institution of Coptic studies, had reposed in the Lord on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> of July; he was 66 years of age.

He had spent the last 11 years at the Diocese, at the end of which he was burdened by a very bad health condition that hindered him from accomplishing a lot of his work.

On the afternoon of Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, the prayer on his pure body took place in the great church of St. Mark at St. Rowais monastery in Cairo.

His Holiness the Pope preached and headed up the funeral ceremony.

36 Rev. archbishop and Bishops and large number of Rev. Fathers from inside and outside of his diocese attended the funeral.

Counsel Adly Hussein the "kalyobeya" governorate attended and offered his condolences to his holiness the Pope also attended some of the state security officers headed up by Colonel Ahmed Mustafa.

His grace Bishop Samuel is one of the forefathers who served at the St. Mary's church in Fagalla, he descended from a priestly family, he is the cousin of both their Graces Bishop Antonius Morcos the Bishop in Africa, and the reposed hegomen Rafael Sobhi the priest of St. Mark church in Detroit, and also their

brother hegomen Michael Sobhi at Dokki.

His Grace Bishop Samuel gave much attention to the church's history and her ancient monuments, he wrote two precious books about our Coptic monuments in the churches and monasteries at the east and west coasts of Egypt, he published some of the old history books, he also was a teacher of Coptic monuments at the high institute of Coptic sciences, he participated in some seminars concerning the Coptic church in Egypt and abroad.

During his bishopric era, the diocese of Shebeen -El-Qanater has grown, Marg, Khanka, Toukh dioceses as well. The number of Rev. Fathers in this diocese increased to 56 priests. Construction also has flourished at the diocese.

His Holiness the Pope spoke at the funeral, he explained his relationship with the good, reposed Bishop and his family, he talked about his services to the church, his illness that caused him a lot of pain till he finally rested and reposed in the Lord.

He offered his condolences to his diocese, his family and to all his sons and lovers in spirit.

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On the morning of Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, his holiness had met with the Rev. fathers of the diocese, and offered them his condolences, he spoke with them about the diocese's status, priests, service and every other

aspect that concerns the spiritual and social service for the congregation whose majority is of the poor, also spoke about the service offered to these areas from some of Heliopolis' churches and the bishopric of social and ecumenical services.

The Pope listened to the Rev. Father's suggestions concerning the diocese's patronage and its bishop's successor.



Birth date: 29/01/1937.

Birth certificate's name: Sameh Adly Michael.

Education: Bachelor degree in Engineering 1957.

Monasticism date: 05/02/1984 with the name: Samuel Al-Soryani.

Ordained as a priest on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 1992.

Passed away on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. 2003.

## Church's News in Pictures

### The Pope visits Dr. Atef Sidki At Hospital

On the evening of Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, his holiness went to visit Dr. Atef Sidki the former prime minister at Ein Shams hospital.

Bishop Youanes and His Holiness secretariat accompanied him; in the photo the pope is with Dr. Atef Sidki, his wife and the hospital general manager.



### With The Palestinian Supreme Judge

His holiness the pope had received, on the morning of Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, his eminence sheikh Tayseer Ragab El-Tamimy the supreme judge in Palestine, the speaker of the noble Abrahamic Sanctum and the secretary of the supreme Islamic organization at Jerusalem, and the delegate accompanying him.

He was deputized by President Yasser Arafat to give his holiness a message concerning the state in Palestine, and send him his regards.

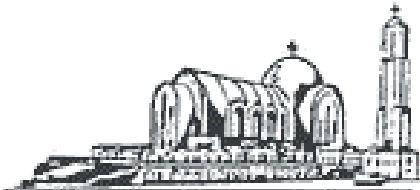
Two days ago, his holiness had received his eminence sheikh Tall El-Sadr, President's Arafat's counselor of religious affairs.



### Rev. Archbishops and Bishops' Seminar at St. Pishoi Monastery



## Church's News



### Pope's Journeys and meetings Throughout A Week

**On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July**, his holiness met with the charity committee at Cairo.

**On Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July**, there was the weekly general meeting at the Cathedral then his holiness traveled to the monastery.

**On the morning of Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July**, the Rev. Bishops' seminar was held; it discussed the "Theological Deviations".

❖ And the Monasticism feast celebration took place on the same evening.

**On Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July**, the Theological College and Religious Institutions' high council meeting was held in the morning.

❖ Then his holiness traveled to Alexandria afterwards where he gave his weekly sermon at the Semouha church during the 'Family week'.

**On the morning of Saturday** there was a meeting with the Alexandrian Priests' Synod and his holiness spoke about service given to keep up church's registry and checking on those who don't come to church, also spoke about the care given to the poor.

❖ There was then the Alexandrian charity committee meeting.

❖ On the evening his holiness gave a lecture in the 'Youth Week' of St. George church at Sporting.

❖ **On Sunday morning**, five children were baptized at the St. Mark church.

❖ On the evening of the same day there was the weekly general sermon at the Great church of St. Mark. And then his holiness came back to Cairo.

**On Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July**, His holiness attended the Police Force Festival.

**On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July**, he attended the ceremony of the Army Academy.

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**During The Visit to Mother Iriny the Abbot of the St. Mercurius the Saint with the Two Swords Monastery At The 'Hayah' Hospital** →

### A Public Decree Has Been Issued To Construct A Church In Madinet Nasr

The public Decree 182 for the year 2002 has been issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, 2003 for the construction of a new church at the 9th sector in Madinet Nasr district at the end of Mostafa El Nahas St.-our thanks to Mr. President Hosni Mubarak.

His holiness the Pope has designated his grace Bishop Youanes to pray the first mass there on Saturday the 12th of July (The Apostles Feast).

### With The Priests Of The Gulf Area

At the monastery, his holiness the Pope had received:

Hegomen Misak Anba Bishoy the priest of our church in Bahrain, he presented to his holiness a report about his service.

Father Isuthorus Anba Bishoy, our priest in Dubai and Sharjah, his holiness saw some photos and heard the joyful news concerning the construction of the Sharjah church.

His Holiness received also father Abakeer Anba Bishoy (Abu Dhabi).

### The Seminar Of Archbishops And Bishops At St. Bishoy's Monastery, Discussing 'Faith Deviations'

It was attended by almost 65 Archbishop and Bishop at St. Pishoi monastery on the morning of Thursday the 17th of July, 2003.

Their Graces who attended the seminar are:

Bishop Abram	Bishop Bakhomius	Bishop Bakhum	Bishop Thomas
Bishop Bishoy	Bishop	Bishop Aghabius	Bishop Basillius
Bishop Hedra	Sarabamoun	Bishop Metias	Bishop
Bishop Arsanius	Bishop Wisa	Bishop Daniel	Sharubeem
Bishop Angilos	Bishop Benjamen	Bishop Beamen	Bishop Yustus
Bishop Rowais	Bishop Tadrus	Bishop Isuthorus	Bishop Thawfilus
Bishop Kirolos	Bishop Yakubus	Bishop Youanes	Bishop
Bishop Paula	Bishop Sawerus	Bishop Anthony	Sarabamoun
Bishop Mousa	Bishop Metaous	Bishop Boules	Bishop Bernaba
Bishop Botros	Bishop Morkos	Bishop Rafael	Bishop Twadrus
Bishop Bisada	Bishop Misael	Bishop Ghobrial	Bishop Suriel
Bishop Asheia	Bishop Andrawus	Bishop Silwanus	Bishop Maximus
Bishop Serapion	Bishop Faam	Bishop Estafanus	Bishop Gwargius
Bishop Barsoum	Bishop Pisanti	Bishop Angilos	Bishop
Bishop Lucas	Bishop Dimetrius	Bishop Sarafeem	Tymothawus
		Bishop Martyrus	Bishop Gabriel
		Bishop Aghathon	Bishop Apollo
		Bishop Daniel	Bishop Athanasius
		Bishop Kirolos	Bishop Kozman
		Ava Mina	Bishop Dawood





## The Meeting Of The Theological And Religious Institutions High Council

(Look at the photo in p. 24)

This meeting was held at St. Bishoy Monastery headed up by his holiness the pope on Friday morning the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 2003.

Their grace the Bishops who attended:

Bishop Bachomeos	Bishop Bishoy
Bishop Hedra	Bishop Wisa
Bishop Benjamin	Bishop Tadros
Bishop Sawerous	Bishop Paula
Bishop Mousa	Bishop Marcos
Bishop Beamen	Bishop Abram
Bishop Angilos	Bishop Daniel
Bishop Suriel	

Dr. Rasmy Abd El-Malek, Dr. Morris Tawadrous, Dr. Roshdy Wasef and his holiness' the pope secretariat also attended the meeting.

In this meeting, the following has been declared:

1. The accreditation of the three Theological institutions at Damanhour, Shobra El-Kheima, and Port Said as other branches of the Theological College.
2. Also the branches of the Theological College in Australia, in Sidney and Melbourne. Their

Graces Bishop Suriel and Bishop Daniel attended the meeting of the Theological College high council.

3. The approval of preparing to establish the Theological College's branch in Luxor.

4. Decline the issue of a Theological College branch establishes another sub branch. And no branch is to be established unless being accredited by his holiness the pope by a written approval in his handwriting holding his signature as he is the Bishop and the high chief of the Theological College.

5. The meeting has put the issue of studying the 'Comparative Theology' and 'responding to faith deviations' into high consideration and the issues are to be included in curriculum of all branches of the Theological College.

6. Decline the issue of any diocese granting a certificate of finishing studies to the classes of servants' preparation or what some people has called (theological studies).

## **The First Seminar for Rev. Fathers who Serve the Deaf and the Mute**

It is being held in the seminar's room at St. Bishoy's Monastery from the 7<sup>th</sup> till the 30<sup>th</sup> of July.

It is sponsored by Fr. Bishoy Kamel the Deaf and Mute servant at Alexandria and 21 Rev. Fathers will attend the seminar from several governorates.

The objectives of this seminar are:

1. Knowing how to solve the problems of the deaf and the mute.
  2. Unification of the 'sign language' and acknowledging parents of the signs specified for Confession.
  3. The deaf and mute service's details are to be issued in Keraza magazine.
- ❖ A prayer of a common holy mass for the Rev. fathers, it will be translated on videotapes and a copy will be sent to every Rev. Father.
  - ❖ A secretariat's team of four of the deaf and mute servants will be helping in the seminar at Alexandria.

Our wishes for the success of the seminar.

## **The Papal Vicar At The Diocese Of Gerga**

Hegomen Maximus Al-Anthony has finished his assigned service interval of time as a papal vicar for the diocese of Gerga and is back to his monastery.

His holiness the pope had received a delegate from Gerga on the morning of Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

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### **His Grace Bishop Bolus**

He came to the church along with Birmingham youth who will accompany him to Africa to serve there for a while. His holiness the pope received them all and a photo was taken with him, bishop Bolus spoke a word on the monasticism feast celebration then traveled with the Birmingham youth.

### **Nominated for Priesthood In The United States**

His holiness the pope had received Hegomen Jacob Ghali from Up State, Dr. Sameh Halim accompanied him, and he is nominated for priesthood in New Jersey.

### **With the Palestinian Minister of Religious Affairs**

His Holiness the pope had received his eminence Sheikh Tall El-Sadr the counselor of President Yasser Arafat for Religious Affairs who sent the president's regards to his holiness the pope and informed him about the events taking place at the Holy Lands.

Dr. Ali Al-Semaan accompanied him and his grace Bishop Youanes attended the meeting.



### **The Eve of The Apostles Feast**

On the evening of Friday the 11th of July. His holiness the Pope went to the Botroseya church where he prayed the prayer of thanksgiving and preached on the event of the Apostles Feast (martyrdom feast of St. Peter and St. Paul).

Dr. Youssef Botros Ghali, a large number of the congregation and the Rev. Fathers of the church were at his holiness' arrival.

### **The Pope's 80th Birthday**

On the 3rd and the 4th of August  
At the Great Cathedral  
(Entrance without tickets)

### **The Service Of His Grace Bishop Rowais At London Churches**

His grace attended the Pope's monasticism feast ceremony and the Rev. Bishops seminar, and then he is to travel to London for a 10 days service in the churches there.

He is to be back on Tuesday the 29th of July by God's willing.

### **Archdeacon Ramsis Naguib**

Archdeacon Ramsis Naguib who is a servant in Giza and the supervisor of the Gamat El-Tarbeya (Care Group) house, checked into Victoria hospital at Alexandria, he has been treated and went back to Giza, may God give him good health and full recovery.

### **Ordinations At Bani Suef**

On Saturday the 5th of July, His Grace Bishop Ghobrial performed ordinations for:

Father Armeya Abdou for St. mina's Altar at Ezbet El-Daramally in Bani Suef.

Father Ibrahim Al-Qommos Azer for St. Antonious church at Bani Ateya in Bani Suef.

Father Dawood Said for St. George church at Bani Bekheit in Bani Suef.

### **Three Rev. Bishops In The Christian Religion Program Committee**

Dr. Hussein Bahaa El-Din the minister of Education has sent to his holiness the Pope for nominating those who will represent the church in the preparation of the Christian religion curriculum, his holiness sent a letter nominating their graces: Bishop Paula, Bishop Mousa, and Bishop Rafael. They already started attending the program committee.

### **Immigrant Bishops Who Came To Participate In The 49th Anniversary Of His Holiness The Pope's Monasticism Feast**

#### **From Jerusalem:**

His Grace Bishop Abraham the Archbishop of Jerusalem.

#### **From The United States:**

His Grace Bishop Serapion (Los Angeles).

#### **From Europe:**

His Grace Bishop Miseal (Birmingham).

His Grace Bishop Anthony (Scotland)

His Grace Bishop Angilos (Stevenage).

His Grace Bishop Gabriel (Austria).

His Grace Bishop Bernaba (Italy).

#### **From Australia:**

His Grace Bishop Suriel (Melbourne)

His Grace Bishop Daniel (Sidney).

#### **From Africa:**

His Grace Bishop Sarabamoun (Om-Dorman).

His Grace Bishop Bolus (Bishop of Keraza).

### **'Family Week' At Semouha Church**

It lasted for five days during which those who preached:

Tuesday 15/07: His Grace Bishop Timothaous.

Wednesday 16/07: His Grace Bishop Lucas the bishop of Abanoub and El-Fateh

Thursday 17/07: Hegomen Eshea Michael the Malak church's Priest at Daher.

Friday 18/07: His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

Saturday 19/07: His Grace Bishop Rafael

### **At The Fourth Servants' Seminar At St. George Church In Heliopolis**

The Seminar started on Monday the 7th of July till Wednesday the 9th; the main subject was "Humbleness in servant's life". His Holiness the Pope blessed the seminar by his presence on the evening of Monday the 7th of July; he gave a lecture on "Humbleness in front God". It was a joyous day at the church.

### **His Grace Bishop Pisanti**

On the 18th of July, he traveled to some European countries and then spent three days at Emirates in the Gulf Area, he returned on the 29th of July.

### **With His Grace Bishop Maximus And The Priests Of 'Ezbet El-Haganna'**

His Holiness the Pope had received on the morning of Tuesday the 8th of July, His Grace Bishop Maximus, Father Barsoum, Father Philopatir and Mrs. Eman Basta.



# Perfection and Feasibility

All of us are required to be perfect, as the saying of the Glorious Lord Jesus Christ:

**"You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt. 5:48)**

God is the only who has absolute perfection. As for us, the best we can achieve is considered relative perfection; relative to our capabilities and God's Grace given to us. What we are required to achieve is the feasible, what we can achieve.

When a child starts to learn Mathematics, they first teach him addition and subtraction. He passes his exam and gets the full mark. We say that he has achieved perfection in Arithmetic according to his level, though his level is considered nothing compared to high levels in Arithmetic, but still he achieved relative perfection.

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While discussing relative perfection, I would like to recall the saying of St. Paul the Apostle:

**"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." (Ro. 12:18)**

The Apostle does not ask for absolute perfection but for what is feasible as he says: "as much as depends on you"...

We are supposed to live in peace with all people. But sometimes a wife can't live in peace with her mother-in-law if they were living at the same house. So instead of them having a fight daily, they better separate: each of them should live in a house. As Abram said to his nephew Lot: "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; ... Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." (Gn. 13:8, 9).

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Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ was blaming Scribes and Pharisees when saying:

**"They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." (Mt. 23:4).**

And for they have asked people for the impossible, the Lord told them: "You shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." (Mt. 23:13).

This obliges all spiritual mentors, speakers and all teachers not to ask people for more than they can bear, in the area of the commandments and teachings. We would like to say the same to fathers and mothers and all those who work in the field of education.

Ask them for what is feasible for them; what they can do...

The Lord once said to his apostles: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." (Jn. 16:12)

And in temptations St. Paul the Apostle says:

## Pope Shenouda III



**"God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1Co. 10:13).**

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**In the Parable of the Talents he gave "to each according to his own ability" (Mt. 25:15)...**

He was not distinguishing when he gave one five talents, the second two and the third one. But he was giving "each one according to his own ability". In the gain he did so too. The one who was given two talents gain the same blessing that was given to the one with the five talents; "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Mt. 25:21, 23). If the one with the single talent had traded and gained another talent, he would have gained the same blessing..!

God then repays everyone according to his or her potentials.

And the same blessing will be given to everyone if they come with outcomes according to their capabilities.

**We see the same situation again in the Parable of the Sower (Mt. 13: 3-9-23).**

The Lord said that: that who sowed on good ground "yielded a crop: some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.". Everyone was considered to have yielded a crop even the one who only yielded thirty! Each of the three according to his potential reached the possible perfection, according to the ground's nature, the fertilizer and irrigation, the seed nature and the sower attention.

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**As God repays people he definitely takes into consideration the differences in their levels and capacities:**

Each has a certain level. And strives according to this level.

We read a nice phrase by St Isaac the Syrian: "Because God knows the diversity in people's characters, he created so many ways for salvation. So that if someone could not follow a certain, can follow another way..."

St Isaac the Syrian was a monk representing very strict solitude. And yet he did not ask everyone to reach the same level of solitude that he lived and taught through. He gave standards: "the monk living among monks, the novice solitary monk, the one who can lock up himself for weeks, then the hermit... On steps...". Not every monk can live in a cave, and not every cave inhabitant can live a hermitic life. But each according to

his potential. And there are good monks living in the monks' community like St. Tudor the student of St. Bachomious the Great...

All these reach the possible perfection level...

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**There are also those who do not follow monasticism; they get married and get children and they reach the relative and possible perfection level.**

This is how our great fathers: Noah, Job, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Among the prophets there was Moses who was married and Elijah the virgin. Among the apostles there was Peter the married and John the virgin.

Among those who were famous for their kindness to the poor: There was Bishop Abram the bishop of Fayoum city and Ibrahim El-Gohary the holder of a State job.

Each, according to his potential, circumstances and mission, lived a possible perfect life. With good spiritual life that can be accepted by God.

There is also that who gets married then his wife dies, so he gets widowed, then gets married again (after his wife dies) and his life gets accepted by the Lord and sometimes reach the relative perfection. There are many examples among prophets like Abraham the Father of fathers (Gn. 25:1).

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**God looks to the capabilities of each person and not to those of other people. People vary in their levels even the spiritual ones:**

There is the novice person, the one who is not experienced and mature, and both are different than the spiritual person with has gifts given to him by the Lord.

People also differ from the age point of view: what a Youngman can do is different than what an old man can do, which is also different than what a child can do...

Also the capabilities of a sick person, is different than those of a strong healthy one.

And a person who received a special grace from the Lord is different from an ordinary person.

And possible perfection for each type of all these people differs from one to another "each according to his own ability." (Mt. 25:15).

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**Furthermore, the level of the commandments in the Old Testament is different than in the New Testament... According to people's abilities to fulfill.**

The Lord is the same and his measures of perfection are the same...

But the level of people living in an pagan atmosphere where people worship so many Gods is different than the atmosphere of the New Testament where paganism has vanished and the New Testament age had the prevailing of the act of grace, and the Holy Spirit dwelling in People (1Co. 3:16) guiding them to what is righteous and aiding them...

This is an age different than that at which Moses was delayed coming down from the mountain because he was with the Lord, so they fashioned a golden molded calf and worshipped it!! (Ex. 32:2-6)

So the level of the commandments given to people

in the Old Testament was according to their potentials... So it was said that Moses allowed them to divorce because of the hardness of their hearts (Mt. 19:8) although that "at the beginning it was not like that".

And Prophet David has married eight wives. And yet it was said about him that his heart was loyal to the Lord (1K. 11:4). This is possible relative perfection.

All these matters that were allowed in the Old Testament became forbidden in the New Testament because the all the conditions changed, under grace possibilities and the end of the pagan atmosphere that affected even Solomon the wise (1K. 11:3, 4).

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**Now let's talk about some virtues. Let's see perfection in then and what is possible taking into consideration differences in levels:**

Absolute perfection in giving can only be achieved by God.

But what is the relative perfection that a person can achieve? And what are its levels?

#### **Giving**

Relative perfection can be found in the Lord's saying: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." (Mt. 19:21).

St. Anthony achieved this commandment to its perfection in his perfection.

Not everyone can do like St Anthony did.

So no one may say: "I am totally lost because I did not do this commandment"!!

No, God only asks you for the possible, which has levels as well.

You give what you can. Give out of your musts like the poor widow, who paid the two mites, did; she was praised from the Lord for that. (Lk. 21:3, 4).

If you can't give out from your necessities, then act according to another commandment, which is: "Give to him who asks you" (Mt. 5:42). Or do as was said in the Old Testament: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you." (Pr. 3:27, 28)

Notice the sentence "When it is in the power of your hand to do so" meaning the (possible). Also the part "When you have it with you" is the same. If you could not do all this:

At lease pay your firstlings and your tithes and this is an Old Testament commandment.

At least also pray for those needy, and try to redirect them to charity institutions that take care of them. Doing so you would be giving them indirectly. But if you do not do this or that, meaning: you go for neither the relative perfection, the possible, nor the indirect giving, then your conscience is neglectful.

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#### **Prayer**

Perfection in prayer is to always pray and not lose heart (Lk. 18:1).

If you could not achieve this perfection, then go for the possible, which is the seven daily prayers (agbea).

If this is more than you can do, at least start your day with a prayer and end it with a prayer before you

sleep, you can also raise your heart with a fast short prayer all the time, even if it is only made out of one or two words... Asking God for blessing, help, or forgiveness, or expressing your feelings towards the Lord...

Pray as much as you can. If you cannot reach the perfect, then do not ignore the possible.

\* \* \*

### **Fasting**

Fasting is an abstaining from food, followed by eating food that is free from animal fats. Perfection in fasting is measured by the duration of abstaining from desirables, as Prophet Daniel said: "I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did anoint myself at all" (Dn. 10:3)

Yet, if you cannot do that, the church – as of the possible – gave permissions – in the reasonable boundaries – to the sick, old, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children. But these permissions should not be taken a reason for exaggerating in abandoning fasting if the health of one is ok.

Once, St Pishoi fasted around 20 days with hard abstaining. Then he looked out of his room and saw a young novice monk who had abstained from food for one day and he cannot walk straight. He asked God about the reward of that poor youngster and he was told: "He gets exactly the same reward as you. Because if he was given the grace that was given to you, he would have fasted the same way you do"

**So the amount of grace a person gets from God is taken into consideration while measuring the possible perfection that can be reached.**

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### **Service**

Perfection in service is that a servant reaches the life of full dedication, so that his whole life is fully dedicated to God. Not every person can reach the level of full dedication. The family and social circumstances of each person differ than others, and have to get an extra job to be able to support his

family.

So what is the (possible) then?

It is to use his free time to serve God. If one cannot, then at least one hour a day. If he cannot, then at least whenever God puts someone who needs serving on his way, he gives him as much as he can.

And to be ready in his heart to serve each as much as he can.

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### **Dealing with hurtful people**

Perfection in that is what is described by the Lord's saying: "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and prosecute you" (Mt. 5:44). If you cannot do that, then what is the possible?

It is what is said in the bible: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." (Ro. 12:20). Meaning that by you doing so, he will be embarrassed from you and your charity will capture him.

If you could not turn your other cheek to the one who slaps you (according to the Lord's commandment) (Mt. 5:39), then at least bear the first slap, don't get even and slap back. And pray that God forgives him and keep his evilness away from way.

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The last word I would like to say to you in the topic:

**If you go for (the possible), and not for perfection, do not turn (the possible) into loosening...**

Do not neglect the commandment, and cover up that neglect with excuses and by saying that it was more than you could have done. No, let your conscience be righteous in front of God and in front of yourself honestly and with careful inspection. So that you do not be spoiling yourself in running away from the commandment and loosening up.

## **Various News ... Various News ... Various News**

### **The trip of His Grace Bishop Bishoy to Australia**

The report about His Grace's trip to Australia has arrived while the magazine was in the printing process and thus, God's willing, it will be posted next issue.

### **His Grace bishop Paula on his trip to Brighton – England**

He started some arrangements for the church stability over there and we will post them soon.

### **His Grace Bishop Athanasius the Bishop of Bani Mazar**

He had some ordinations and consecrations at some of the churches in his diocese.

### **His Grace Bishop Angilos the General Bishop at Stevenage**

After he attended the Bishops' Seminar he went back to London

to attend the Annual Meeting for the Board of Churches in England. Taking into consideration that this is the first meeting after our Coptic church started its membership in this Board this year.

### **Various Meetings for His Holiness the Pope His Holiness received on Tuesday 8-7:**

- ❖ His Grace Bishop Apollo the Bishop of Southern Sinai.
- ❖ His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria in Egypt.
- ❖ Mr. Halim Hanna the Lawyer.

### **His Holiness also, during the past two weeks received:**

- ❖ A trip of our French sons with their Graces Bishop Marcos and Bishop Athanasius and some of their priests in France, after the Wednesday, 32-7, lecture.
- ❖ Some of our sons from Mexico who visited the mother church and saw a lot of its activities.
- ❖ Mr. Ezzat Erian the member of Obour's Church Committee.
- ❖ Dr. Eng. Nader Riad, the member of the General Lay Assembly with Eng. Emad Rafael and Mr. Bahar Botros Shenouda concerning the service at Qatameya district.

## Church News in Pictures

### St. Pishoi's Feast at his monastery in 'Sheheet' wilderness

The monastery had celebrated the feast of its saint; the celebration was under the supervision of his grace bishop Sarabamoun the abbot of the monastery. Thousands of Saint Pishoi's lovers attended the ceremony as they do every year.

On the morning of Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, his holiness the pope had prepared the holy spices (Honour) for covering the tube that contains the saint's remains. Those who participated with his holiness are their graces the abbots of the three monasteries at Natroon Valley: Bishop Sarabamoun, Bishop Mettaous,



Bishop Esothorous, and also Bishop Gwargeous the bishop of Mattay and its affiliated regions. The Rev. Monks were chanting hymns.



### With The Financial Committee At The Diocese Of Luxor, Esna and Arment

His holiness the pope had received on the afternoon of Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July Mr. Mamdouh Philip, Eng. Zakareya Wisa and Mr. Bassem Philip.

His Grace Bishop Youanes and counselor Monsef Naguib Soliman attended the meeting.

### Patronage Synod Committee, The Family committee

His grace Bishop Bachomeos, he is the head of the patronage synod committee, is seen in the photo with his grace Bishop Lukas the Bishop of Abanoub and El-Fateh he is the supervisor of the Family committee which is a sub branch of the patronage synod committee. There were lots of Ref Fathers and large number of the congregation as seen in the photo who attended the Family seminar.



## With The High Theological College And Religious Institutions' Council



### Church News in Pictures

#### The Feast Of Abba Shenouda At His Ancient Monastery At Sohag

General Mamdouh Kedwani the Governor of Sohag is seen in the picture with General Salah El Baradie the state's security inspector, his grace Bishop Youanes, his grace Bishop Bachoum the bishop of Sohag, General Darwish Mostafa the Ruler of Sohag, and also Dr. Ahmed Abd El-Aal Al Dardeer the Secretary General of the Watany political party and the head of the people's council.



#### His Grace Bishop Anthony Receives youth from Sweden

His grace bishop Anthony had traveled to Sweden deputized by his holiness the pope for some pastoral issues, he made such good relation with the youth there through his young and lovable spirit, now they are visiting him in his diocese as seen in the photo.

