



El-Keraza Magazine

**Editor-in-chief: His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III**

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A Concentrated Pastoral Trip

The trip that His Holiness the Pope went on starting 9th August to the beginning of September was a concentrated pastoral trip.

Some of the most significant events taking place during it were:

The Seminar of the Priests of the USA and Canada.

159 hegomens and priests gathered at that seminar as well as 11 bishops (other than those who were not able to come due to private reasons).

In that priest gathering the issue of homosexuals were discussed, along with the event of the ordination of one of them as a bishop at the Anglican church!! The meeting issued a statement that condemns homosexuality in general according to the teachings of the Holy Bible and condemns the ordination of homosexuals in specific.

During that seminar there was a great interest in the issue of youths care at immigration countries.

His Holiness the Pope demanded that there should be someone representing the youths in church boards that would be chosen by the youths.

He also announced that he will consecrate a priest that will only be dedicated to youths care. He then gathered recommendation for whom he might be.

During this seminar His Holiness the Pope **had private meetings with each of the**

priests (with around 50 of them) to discuss their matters.

In the seminar, His Grace Bishop Suriel gave a **valuable lecture about Mormons.**

The seminar also discussed other matters related to marriage and the Coptic language. It also discussed the importance of **opening Coptic Schools** abroad, their importance and the experience in that...

During this trip His Holiness the Pope also **consecrated two churches**: one in Greenville and the other in New Orleans. He also baptized some children at the seminar church, at Cedar Grove and at the Greenville church.

A youths' convention was also held at Anba Abram church in Long Island.

It was a successful convention attended by hundreds of youths. The convention was also met with a group of youths from Bless USA at Cedar Grove.

In addition to that he gave sermons and lectures at all the cities he visited especially at Cleveland, Washington and the Papal Residency.

Among the fruits of this trip was the **opening of two Coptic Schools**: one in Washington which was attended by the Egyptian Ambassador and the other in Detroit, Michigan.

The headmistress of our church at Nashville attended the dinner reception held in New Jersey and gave a valuable speech.

His Holiness the Pope also

visited the building at New Jersey that church plans to buy to build a school.

The trip also allowed for meeting the Egyptian Council at New York.

The Ambassador Mahmoud Allam and a deputation of New York Muslims visited His Holiness the Pope. They agreed on the joint work between Copts and Muslims. The Pope also visited the Council and gave a speech in that meeting. He also has an interview with (Good Morning) channel.

At His Holiness's residency he had an interview with Ms. Thanaa' the representative of Akhbar El Youm newspaper, Al-Ahram International newspaper and the Arabic Channel at USA.

His Holiness also met with Churches' representatives.

He studied the conditions of our churches abroad, and their needs for priests.

He also met with the deputy of our monastery at California and with some priests from Canada.

Also met with their Grace the bishops of Australia.

The Pope had a meeting as well at Frankfurt with His Grace Bishop Demian and some of our community at Germany.

This was at the transit time; he said a spiritual word and met with our bishop at Austria (His Grace bishop Gabriel) and some of our priests from France.

(Trip details are enclosed)

Church's News in Pictures

A picture with a history

The picture was taken from around 70 years.

It is for the deceased His Holiness Pope Youanes the 19th with the members of the board of St. Mercurius the Saint with the Two Swords and St Demiana at Shobra.

The picture shows Fr. Abd El Messeih Saad, the first priest for this church.



The promotion of 7 priests to the Hegomen level at USA

On Monday 1/9, His Holiness the Pope promoted 7 priests to the Igumanes level (hegomen level) at St. Mark Church at the Papal residency in Cedar Grove. They are:

Hegomen Arsanious Ragheb, Charlotte, NC

Hegomen Roufail Gerguis, Cherry Hill, NJ

Hegomen Takla Azmy, Seattle, WA

Hegomen Rowais Meshregy, Greenville, SC

Hegomen Pishoi Mikhail, Ambridge, PA

Hegomen Sarabamoon Zaki, Eaglewood, CO

Hegomen Abram Soliman, Jersey City, NJ

At Akhmim Diocese

Visitor's Hall was built and another hall with the same area under it was also built and covered with marble.

General Mamdouh Kedwany, the Governor of Suhag, cut the opening tape for the Hall Inauguration.

The picture also shows His Grace the Bishop and General Ali Abd El Rahman the Head Security Officer (Currently the Head Security Officer of Assiut).

Also shows General Salah El Baradei, National Security Inspector, Dr. Ahmed Abd El Aal El Dardeer, the trustee of the National Party and the Head of the Local Board of the Governorate.



Church's News



With the People's Committee International of the Qathafi prize for Human Rights

On the evening of Saturday the 6th of Sep., 2003 His Holiness the Pope received the committee to present him the its decree declaring that His holiness has been awarded the Quathafi prize for human rights this year. It is to be noted that Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa was the first personality to win this prize.

Following are the members of the committee who were received by the Pope:

Mr. Noury El Hamidi: General Coordinator of the People's Committee International of the Quathafi prize for human rights.

Mr. Mohamed Mohammed Mubarak: the Head Of the brothers (Ekhwa) liaison office- Cairo.

Mr. El Safi Saead: Writer and Journalist, he is a member of the People's Committee Int'l of the Quathafi prize for human rights.

Mrs. Salma Abd El Gabbar: former member in the Secretariat General of the People's General Council, and a Professor in the El Fateh University.

Mr. Dawoud Hallaf: University Professor and an Archeologist.

Akh El Amin Abu Abd Allah: Head of the Relations section At Tripoli.

His Holiness also received with them:

Mr. Ragab Al Quathafi: Representative of the sons Agency for the Republic at Tripoli.

Akh Mohamed Soliman: Photographer at the Libyan Advertisement Center in Cairo.

The Head of the Libyan delegate had greeted His Holiness with words of salute, and The Pope received a message from Chief Ben Belalh declaring that His Holiness' has been awarded this prize, and also to congratulate him.

His Holiness replied with words of love and intimacy, he explained through these words his relation and the Coptic Church's with Libya.

Noted that the presentation of the prize will be on Monday the 29th of September, and H. H. the Pope will be traveling to Libya on the 27th

of September.

The Central Committee Meeting Of The World Council Of Churches

A meeting was held for the Central Committee of The World Council of Churches in Geneva from August the 26th to the second of September. H.G. Bishop Serapion and H.G. Bishop Youanes represented the church in the committee.

During the meeting the following issues were finalized:

- 1- Acceptance of the Eritrean Coptic church's membership in the Council.
- 2- Election of Priest: Doctor Sam Kupia (from Kenya), to be the Word Council Of Churches Secretariat General, noted that the former secretariat general was Doctor Conrad Riser.
- 3- His Grace Bishop Youanes was chosen as a member in the Committee of Development in the Council as an appreciation to the efforts of the Diocese of social and ecumenical services in the area of Development.

His Grace Bishop Besada, the Bishop of Akhmim

Their Grace Bishop Serapion and Bishop Youssef have invited him to visit the States on a journey that will start from the 16th of September. He will be also passing by Canada on his way to the States.

His Grace Bishop Besada had reconstructed the church of his Diocese and also enlarged its area; it is now being under the finishing steps.

A five levels building with two lifts has been constructed attached to the church which will be used for the church's services. Also a library has been built which is being finished now, and a baptismal basin as well.

Papal Decree No. 22/32 concerning St. Mary and St. Abram church in Ajax- Canada.

It has been decided to form the church's council, the members are:

- 1- Fr Mosa Mattar- President.
- 2- Deacon Moudy Farrag, Secretariat.
- 3- Deacon Samson Hassaballah, Treasurer.
- 4- Deacon Kamal Abd El Malik.
- 5- Deacon Samir Rizkallah.
- 6- Deacon John Abraham.
- 7- Deacon Gerguis Asaad (representing the Youth).

Deans And Supervisors Of The Middle East Theological Colleges Meeting "ATIME"

The meeting was held from the 4th till the 6th of September in Damascus, Syria. It was followed by another expanded meeting for the Secretariat General on the days 8th and 9th of September which was attended by His Grace Bishop Pishoi and Mr. Gerguis Saleh.

His Grace Bishop Tawadrus

His Grace traveled to Austria for a one week journey. His Grace Bishop Gabriel has invited him to visit Austria, and he will be staying from the 3rd till the 11th of September, 2003.

Consolation

We were deeply sorry for the departure of the virtuous Father:

Hegomen Daniel Farag

The priest of St. Mina's church in Riverside, Los Anglos.

He had prayed the Holly Mass at his church on Wednesday the 20th of August, and on his way back home he had a sudden acute heart attack and on the spot he was reposed in the lord, everyone was really touched by his sudden departure.

The funeral was held on Saturday the 23rd of August officiated by His Grace Bishop Serapion who prayed for his pure soul with the rev. fathers.



He was born on 19/02/1936 Ordained as a priest on 11/11/1990 in El Menya.

Promoted as Hegomen on 16/01/2000

He constructed a church from A to Z on a hill in the shape of Noah's Ark. H.H. Pope Shenouda used to visit him there and constantly followed him up.

He reposed in the Lord on the 20th of August.2003. Aged 67. May God repose his soul in the paradise of Joy. We offer our Condolences to his congregation, his family and to all who loved him.

A Statement from the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church against Homosexuality and its Ordinations

The Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church, in his meeting of Wednesday morning 3rd of Sept. 2003 presided by **His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**, in Saint Anthony Church, in the Papal Residence Anba Rowais Bldg., Cairo, **after discussing** the actions of some Western Churches, trying to legalize **Homosexuality**, Same-sex marriage, the ordination of homosexuals in different pastoral degrees, and the process to ordain a homosexual bishop in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, U.S.A., consequently - in this special meeting - **the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church decided** unanimously the strong condemnation of these acts, that violate the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Scriptures: Old and New Testaments. This complies with our responsibility to witness for the truth of the Gospel.

- 1- Jesus Christ condemned homosexuality in an explicit way, when He spoke about the devastation of Sodom & Gomorrah (Lk 10:12). See also (Gn 19:24). The Holy Bible warns also saying: "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor homosexuals, nor Sodomites...** will inherit the Kingdom of God" (1Co 6:9, 10). See also (Ro 1:26-32), and what is mentioned in Old Testament: "**If a man also lies with male, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination.** They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them" (Lv 8:22 -Lv 20:13).
- 2- Same-sex marriage is against the Divine plan for marriage and its purpose of procreation: "**But from the beginning of the creation, God made them 'male and female'. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**" (Mk 10:6, 7). See also (Mt 19:4-6, Eph 5:31, Gn 1:27, Gn 2:24).
- 3- Those who are ordained for Church ministry must uphold the teachings of the Holy Bible. "**A bishop then must be blameless... of good behavior... able to teach**" (1Ti 3:2). Consequently, we disapprove and condemn strongly the same - sex marriage generally, and the ordination of homosexuals, which is more erroneous, and more dangerous.

The Holy Synod declares:

- 1- That these movements contradict the teachings of the Holy Bible, and threaten the stability of natural marriage, the nature of forming a family, the morals of the society, the purity of the Church, the future of the efforts toward s Christian unity, and the Ecumenical movements.
- 2- Those who rely on the chains of human rights to encourage homosexuality, neglect the fact that it is not the right of any person to spoil himself or the other. Real freedom does not ruin the human nature, nor contradict with the Divine Commandments, morals, and general ethics.

- 3- We applaud the courageous voices, in and outside those Churches, which oppose Homosexuality, Same - Sex Marriage, ordination of Homosexuals in pastoral orders. We call these Churches to obey the Biblical Teachings without compromise or change. Members of these Churches have no right to vote on the Biblical Divine Commandments.
- 4- This abnormal conduct is a stumbling block for other people, bad example and fame, and dangerous for the future of these Churches themselves leading to divisions and disintegration.
- 5- While we condemn homosexuality, we invite those who are under this sin to repent out of concern for their eternal life.

Our Holy Synod decided to publish this statement on all possible Media inside and outside Egypt, and to send it to all Ecumenical Councils, such as the World Council of Churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, The Councils of America, Canada, Europe, Australia, and Africa.

The Pope's Trip to America

By His Grace Bishop Anthony

In Frankfurt, Germany

His Holiness The Pope left Cairo Airport on the morning of Saturday the 9th of August, 2003 heading to Frankfurt Airport en route to America, with H.G. Bishop Anthony and Hegomen Michael Michael the priest of St. Mark church in Cleveland, accompanying him... A large number of Rev. Metropolitans, Bishops, Priests and members of the General Lay Council, with leaders of the congregation were at the Cairo Airport to bid him farewell before he leaves.

H.H. the Pope arrived at Frankfurt Airport – Germany at 11:00 A.M., where he was greeted at the plane's exit by H.G. Bishop Damien the Bishop in Germany and Engineer Abraham Samk.

Then His Holiness went to the Sheraton Hotel at the Frankfurt Airport where all the Priests in Germany were at his arrival with more than 500 representatives of all the Coptic churches in Germany, and also two of the Ethiopian priests with the grandchild of Former Emperor Hilarasy.

H.G. Bishop Damien gave a word about the greatness of the Coptic Church during the era of H.H. Pope Shenouda III, he spoke about his fatherhood and the integrated care of His Holiness whether inside or outside of Egypt.

The grandchild of Emperor Hilarasy presented three hymns especially for His Holiness performed by the Ethiopian youth who attended this meeting... His Holiness then answered the attendees' questions who all requested a special pastoral visit to them and also some consecrations. His Holiness thanked H.G. Bishop Damien for his great effort...and promised to visit Germany later on.

His Holiness didn't stay in Germany during his stop for more than two hours, yet everyone was joyous with the blessing of meeting with him. Then His Holiness resumed his trip heading to America.

In The United State:

In Newark Airport

His Holiness the Pope arrived at Newark Airport at 16:30 hrs on Saturday the 9th of August, 2003. H.G. Bishop Anthony and Hegomen Michael Michael accompanied him. At his arrival at the airport there were Their Grace Bishop Serapion, Bishop Mecarius, Bishop David, Hegomen Moesis Baghdadi, Hegomen Rowais Awad from Canada, Fr Shenouda Maher Isaac, Mr. Maged El Deiry the legal Counselor for His Holiness the Pope in the States, then they headed to the Papal Residence at New Jersey.

At The Papal Residence in Cedar Grove

His Holiness the Pope arrived at the Papal Residence in Cedar Grove where at his arrival were H.G. Bishop Apollo the Bishop of South Sinai, Hegomen Benjamin El Baramusi the St. Anthony Monastery Secretariat, Fr Antonius St. Anthony, and a large number of priests of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania with a huge number of the congregation joyfully greeting His Holiness on his arrival (after one complete year), and despite of the fatigue of his journey His Holiness blessed every

individual of the congregation.

On the next day, Sunday the 10th of August, 2003. His Holiness met with the congregation of Cedar Grove and the surrounding regions, he answered their questions and talked about the Monastic life: prayer... contemplation... calmness and also talked about life of service which includes visiting, care and education, the meeting lasted for more than two hours, and at the end of it His Holiness distributed sweats on the children.

On the same day His Holiness met with the council for Archangel Michael's church at Howell where Fr Antonius Tanius was with them and also Mr. Maged Reyad El-Deiry. They requested to have a permanent priest to serve the church and also requested to start the construction the church which His Holiness had laid its foundation stone a year ago; it will be on a 15-acre piece of land which its price has been fully paid.

Private Meetings:

On Monday the 11th of August, His Holiness the Pope had private meetings with H.G. Bishop David, Hegomen Rowais Awad the priest of St. George and St. Tiji Church in Toronto- Canada; he discussed with His Holiness the issue of the Coptic school and the utilization of the 100 acres that have been bought before.

Fr Serapion Zaki – Denver Colorado.

Fr Gerguis Sami and his wife - Staten Island.

Doctor Nagy Malik, the member of Belleville church's council.

Hegomen Euthanasia's Farrag, the priest of St. Anthony and St. Mina's church.

Fr Abram Georgey, the priest of St. Mina's church in Holmdel.

H.G. Bishop Apollo and Hegomen Benjamin El-Baramusi, Fr Antonius St. Anthony and also with them was Mr. Maged Reyad.

On Tuesday the 12th of August, His Holiness met with Fr Abraham Azmy the priest of St. Mary and Archangel Michael church, he presented to His Holiness a project of buying a 65-acre piece of land for the church's general activities, and His Holiness blessed the project.

He met also with Hegomen Matthias Farid Wahba the priest of St. Anthony church in San Francisco, with the presence of Their Grace Bishop Anthony, Bishop David and Mr. Maged Reyad El-Deiry.

And on the same day Mrs. Sanaa Henein, who is the "Akhbar El-Youm" newspaper correspondent in the United States, had an interview with His Holiness that lasted for two hours during which he talked about recent present issues as the construction of Coptic schools in the United States, the issue of Jerusalem, the personal status laws for the non-Muslims, the Sultan Monastery, the issue of how to form an Arab Lobby in the land of Immigration, the issue of Iraq, and the issue of civilizations conflict. Mr. Magdy Shaker, the Information counselor in New York attended the interview and also Mr. Maged Reyad and Mr. Medhat Youssef.

His Holiness also met with the Board for the Egyptian Businessmen American Organization:

Mr. Samir Khalil, the Manager of Misr Travel Agency in the States, Mrs. Shereen El Abd, Mr. Sameh Iskander, Mr. Hussein Shahin, Mr. Salah, Mr. Amr El Tahawi, and Mrs. Mona Oreiba. The discussion was about The Pope's positive attitude towards national issues and they requested from His Holiness to give them a copy of his lecture "Israel in the Christian point of view", and also a copy of the book issued by Dr. Duryea Sharaf El Deen who had an interview with His Holiness on the Egyptian Satellite Channel. Their Grace Bishop Anthony and Bishop David attended this meeting and also Mr. Maged Reyad.

After that, His Holiness met for the second time with the congregation of Cedar grove and the surrounding regions at the church in the Residence, he answered the attendees' questions which was about the signs of the end of times, the limits of obedience, how to live as a Christian in an American society, "Speaking with tongues" in the church's concept, the image of the hypostasis of the Son before the incarnation, and also some questions about the family.

St. Mary and St. Mercurius' church at Belleville

On the morning of Wednesday the 13th of August, His Holiness visited St. Mary and St. Mercurius' church in Belleville accompanied by their Grace Bishop Anthony and Bishop David, His Holiness prayed the thanksgiving prayer, then Doctor Nagy Malik gave a word of thanks to His Holiness for the ordination of Fr Youssef Youssef as the church's priest, and also thanked him for His Holiness' love and care, and said that this was a historical day for the church for His Holiness' second visit to the church.

Then the Pope gave a word to the congregation about the work of the new priest, and said that the first year of the priest's service is mainly visiting, and that the church serves everybody.

He added that the word "church" means

- 1- church building.
- 2- Congregation.
- 3- Clergy.

And that the congregations are the living stones on which the church is built.

He also spoke and gave some guidance instructions concerning the Icons and preparation of the Icon stasis. And said about a successful library that it should be for all ages, having all kinds of knowledge (religious and other auxiliary knowledge).

His Holiness blessed the congregation and distributed presents to them.

Visiting the school which is determined to be bought in Kearny:

Then His Holiness visited the Catholic school in Kearny-New Jersey which is determined to be bought, it is a school with big buildings, it is in an area which has Coptic gatherings in New Jersey.

H.G. Bishop David presented and explanation of how beneficial is the location of the school and what is needed to buy this school which will be the first Coptic School in New Jersey. And His Holiness blessed the project.



With the mayor of Cedar Grove

And in the Papal Residence in Cedar Grove, His Holiness met with Mrs. Ann Mega, the Mayor of Cedar Grove, they spoke about education inside the United States, this is the second formal acquaintance with Mrs. Mega, and His Holiness presented to her Coptic Icon of St. Mary beholding The Lord Christ.

His Holiness also met with ambassador Mahmoud Allam, the Consul General in New York, and counsel Mahmoud Abu El Foutooh, Counsel Magdy Shaker, then Mr. Mohamed Younis joined them later on, he is the Chief of the Islamic Union in New Jersey, Sheikh Ahmed Deodar, the Imam of the Islamic Center in Manhattan, and Sheikh Ahmed Shedeid, and a number of members of the Islamic religion, the conversation was about the Egyptian community and the common work inside the American society. Sheikh Ahmed Deodar pointed to the wisdom of H.H. Pope Shenouda III and his love for everyone and asked His Holiness to issue down his Philosophy, his experience and his wisdom in a book to benefit the present and the future generations.

Then His Holiness met with Architecture Paul Sionas, to discuss with him the extension of the overnight retreat facilities that are to be constructed in the Papal Residence in Cedar Grove.



with Ambassador Mahmoud Allam The Consul General of New York

In Washington

On the evening of Thursday the 14 of August, His Holiness the Pope arrived to Washington, H.G. Bishop Anthony accompanied him. Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi, Fr Pishoi Andrawous, and Fr Anthony Messeiha were at His Holiness' arrival at the airport with a number of the congregation's leaders.

In St. Mark Church

Then His Holiness headed to the St. Mark church in Washington where he visited the new premises, the school, the computer lab, the library, the Gym, and the extensions, and then had dinner with the congregation.

After that His Holiness met with Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi together with the church councils for Hampton, Richmond and Maryland churches, and some of the congregation of these churches who presented him their request that they are in need of another priest due to the growth of the service, as a church has been bought in Maryland that costed a million and a hundred Dollars, and prayers started there since last April, the new church has one hundred family. Also in Hampton, a three-acre piece of land has been bought for the construction of a church there, they presented to His Holiness the church maps, also a church in Richmond has been rented to settle the service down till a church is been bought there and His Holiness has decided that Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi is to continue his service in those three churches until another priest is sent to serve Hampton and Richmond churches, and Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi will then stay to serve the church of Maryland.

His Holiness also had some private meetings with a number of families; he sat with every family alone, also sat with Fr Gerguis Gabriel and his wife from the St. Mary church in Baltimore. And also with Mrs. Nermeen Reyad and some servants of the Coptic Orphans organization which has been established in the United States and has branches in Canada, Australia, and England for serving the orphans in Egypt.

Inauguration of the Coptic School

On the evening of the same day, His Holiness the Pope inaugurated the first Coptic school in Washington attached to the St. Mark church. Those who attended this ceremony were: H.G. Anthony, the Rev. fathers of the church, Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, Doctor Walid Abd El Naser the Deputy Ambassador, Consul Mahmoud Zayed, Mr. Mohamed Azmy, the Diplomatic attaché, the mayor of Fairfax (the city where the church is), and also churches' representatives of other cults.

The ceremony started by the prayer of thanksgiving, then Fr Pishoi Andrawous gave a word of greeting to His Holiness and talked about the church in Washington and the importance of the new premises, then Fr Anthony Messeiha resumed and talked about the utilization of the premises as a school and also Sunday school classes, and the importance of the Youth service. He talked also about the new building and that it will be a center for the Coptic community services.

Then His Holiness the Pope gave a word about how important the Coptic schools are for the purpose

of preserving spirituals and morals in our children in the Western society, His Holiness asked the families to encourage their children to join this school. He also talked about the history of Coptic schools in the land of immigration: Australia, Canada and America. He talked about the curriculums in those schools and the present obstacles and how to overcome them in establishing the Coptic schools. Then His Holiness cut the ribbon as a signal of the formal opening of the school which will actually start on the 2nd of September.

Then His Holiness had an interview with El Ahram newspaper representative and spoke about the aim of the Pope's visit and how important the pastoral care is, also spoke about the Youth service, the Clergy Seminar in America, the consecration of churches, the Clergy's opinion in the recent problems and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, His Holiness said that the Clergy should always testify the truth whether their opinion is being taken into consideration or not.

Then His Holiness the Pope met with his sons, the congregation, they were more than 700 people in the Church's hall where a girl presented an English poem, then the Sunday school children performed a small play. His Holiness answered the congregation's questions which were mainly about the family relation among parents inside the Christian family and how to deal with our children inside the family and also inside the church, and then His Holiness gave a lecture about the relation between God and human.

In St. George's church-Maryland

On the morning of Friday the 14th of August, His Holiness headed, by car, to St. George church in Maryland, It is a one-acre church. His Holiness prayed the thanksgiving prayer then Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi the church's priest spoke briefly about the church's service and the phases through which this church has been bought since February 2003, and the service offered to a hundred families, he also spoke about how loving the Pope is, as visiting this church was not scheduled but His Holiness insisted on encouraging his children.

Then the Pope thanked Hegomen Shenouda El-Baramusi and the congregation for buying this church and spoke about the Coptic Church's expansion in the whole world and how to care about every individual of the congregation, he also spoke about the best way by which parents should treat their children in the land of immigration. Then photos were taken with his sons, the congregation.

His Holiness met privately with families and individuals of the congregation, he also met with Fr Elisha William the priest at the equator region in Africa and his wife, and with a group of the church's Youth.

Then His Holiness went to Washington Airport by car heading to Charlotte in North Carolina. Those who were at the airport bidding him farewell were: the Rev. Fathers, Doctor Walid Abd El-Naser the Deputy Ambassador, Consul Mahmoud Zayed and large number of the Coptic People.

In St. Mary's Church-Greenville

His Holiness the Pope was at Charlotte Airport in North Carolina on Friday the 15th of August at 3:30 P.M arriving from Washington, H.G. Bishop Anthony accompanied him. Those who were at the airport for

greeting His Holiness were: H.G. Bishop Mecarius, H.G. Bishop David, Fr Rowais Marcos, Fr Arsanius Bassili, Fr Michael Abu El Kheir, and their wives, and a great number of the congregation of St. Mary's church in Greenville holding welcome flags, the Deacons who were on their costumes chanting the hymn of "Aflogemenos". Also some of the congregation from Charlotte and Rally- North Carolina, then His Holiness traveled by car to Greenville.

In the evening, His Holiness met with the congregation of the church at Greenville where he started with the prayer of thanksgiving, and then Fr Rowais Marcos gave a word of greeting and said that the church



During the consecration of the Greenville church in the United States

at Greenville celebrates four feasts: the St. Mary Fast and her Feast, the consecration of the church, the visit of His Holiness to Greenville and the Pope's 80th birth date. He also spoke about the service in that region and how there was only very small church serving about 24 families, and then with H.H. the Pope encouragement, the congregation bought a new two-acre piece of land and then he was assigned by the Pope to serve them starting September 2002. The construction of the church then started in the new piece of land and the number of families increased to 70. The cost of establishing the new church reached up to one and a half Million Dollars, the Pope had visited the church at Greenville in 1992 and encouraged his sons through out the construction phases.

And here it is now, a big church, it has Icons and Icon stasis that has the Coptic design which the Pope admired so much.

Then the children Choir performed some hymns and songs, and Doctor Shawki read a poem to greet His Holiness.

H.H. the Pope then answered all the questions; he thanked Fr Rowais Marcos for his efforts, and thanked the congregation for their contribution in building the church.

Then His Holiness spoke about consecration as mentioned in Genesis with Jacob the father of all fathers, he spoke about the Holy Anointing Oil as mentioned in Ex:30, and the consecration of the house of the Lord, the Altar, vessels, and the usage of the holy ointment in the Old Testament.

The Pope then distributed presents on that occasion to everyone then concluded the meeting with prayer and blessed all.

On the morning of Saturday the 16th of August, H.H. the Pope arrived at the church, accompanying him were: Their Grace Bishop Mecarius, Bishop Anthony, Bishop David, Fr Rowais Marcos, and there was lots of Rev. Fathers at his arrival who served the region before: Hegomen Mina Kamel - Brooklyn, Fr Pishoi Fahmy- Pittsburg. Fr Michael Tobia - East Brunswick, Fr Arsanius Bassili-Charlotte, Fr Michael Abu El-Kheir-Rally, Hegomen Luke-Atlanta, Fr Shenouda Ghattas-

California, Fr Michael the Eritrean, Atlanta.

The consecration prayers started, His Holiness consecrated the Altar and dedicated it to Virgin Mary, also consecrated the Icons, the Icon Stasis, Baptism Basin, and Altar vessels.

Their Grace the Bishops participated with His Holiness, and he baptized three children, then he gave a word to the congregation about the importance of the Sunday school service.

Consul Mahmoud Zayed from the Egyptian embassy in America attended the consecration prayers, and also some other churches' representatives in the region.

His Holiness then had lunch with his sons of the church's congregation whom were so joyous with this blessing, they took photos with the Pope, then Mr. Khairy Wahba gave a presentation which was a map explaining the relation between God, The Father and The Holy Spirit which was in a simple way and His Holiness blessed his efforts.

The Pope then traveled by car to Charlotte Airport to take the plane heading to New Orleans.

New Orleans – Louisiana

His Holiness the Pope arrived at New Orleans on the evening of Saturday the 16th of August at 10:30 hrs after a tiresome day as the plane has been delayed for more than 4 hours due to technical problems.

At his arrival, there were: H.G. Bishop Josef the Bishop of South America and the Rev. Fathers Hegomen Pishoi George, Fr Shenouda Keleeny, Fr Gabriel Samaan, Fr Yustus Ghali, Fr Elijah Iskandar, Fr Kirillos Makar.

30 American Families Joins the Coptic Church

H.G. Bishop Josef declared to H.H. Pope Shenouda III that 30 families in the region have joined the Coptic Church and that His Grace had baptized them and said that Virgin Mary in a vision to the great grandmother said to her if you want to search for the right faith in this disturbed world, go to the Coptic Orthodox Church.

On Sunday the 17th of August the St. Mark church in New Orleans has been blessed by the Pope's visit, (His Holiness' first visit to this church was on October 1994, when he laid the church's foundation stone) Their Grace Bishop Josef and Bishop Anthony accompanied him. The church was joyous and full of people who came from different regions to greet the Pope, the prayer started by consecrating the Altar and the church Icons with His Holiness' own hand and the two Bishops'.

H.H. the Pope gave a word in a wonderful spiritual meeting with all the church's congregation also children and youth, he spoke about the Chrism (Myron) oil and the secret of the

Holy anointment and how it was used in the Old Testament to anoint Kings, Prophets, and Priests, and that it is used in the new Testament in consecration and Baptism.

After that His Holiness officiated the prayer of the holy liturgy with his deep spirituals which touched everyone, the Rev. Bishops and Fathers participated with him.

After reading the Gospel, H.G. Bishop Josef gave a word of love and thanks to the H.H. Pope Shenouda III and said that, in the image of His Holiness', we see St. Paul the Apostle in his strong serving and preaching, we also see St. Athanasius the Apostle in his strong faith. History witnesses that our blessed era is in a spiritual renaissance in the whole world, as churches and the service has expanded and enlarged in everywhere from one end of the world to the ends of it thanks to the service of His Holiness and his fruitful efforts.

After the Holy Mass was finished, His Holiness met with H.G. Bishop Josef in a private meeting. Then the Rev. Fathers and their wives joined them later, and this was a chance for the answers of all their questions.

Then His Holiness traveled after that to Cleveland-Ohio.

In Cleveland – Ohio

On Sunday the 17th of August, His Holiness arrived at Cleveland – Ohio at 11:00 hrs accompanied by H.G. Bishop Anthony, at his arrival there was Hegomen Michael Edward Michael, Hegomen Sydarus Sydarus (Columbus), Fr Johanna Ragheb (Dayton and Sensaty), and the congregation of St. Mark church in Cleveland.

And on the noon of Monday the 18th of August, His Holiness met with Dr. Fawzy Estefanus, the conversation was concerning the following issues:

- Final preparations for the Clerical Seminar with Coptic orthodox Clergy at Fayoum on February 2004, its subject will be "The Fayoum Monasteries"
- The establishment of the library at the new Papal Residence at the Cathedral.
- Preparation to host the International conference for the Int'l organization for Coptic Studies which will be at Cairo by God's willing in the year 2008.



During the consecration of the church in New Orleans, South America

And in the evening His Holiness received Hegomen Michael Edward concerning the service in Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico and about the service in St. Mark church in Cleveland.

In St. Mark's church

On the morning of Tuesday the 19-8, His Holiness received His Grace Bishop Serapion the Bishop of Los Angeles and its affiliated regions in a private meeting.

And on the evening His Holiness headed to St. Mark's church where he prayed the thanksgiving prayer then had a spiritual meeting with hundreds of the congregation of the church and the St. Mary's church in Columbus, and the church was overloaded with people. Those who attended the meeting are: Their Grace Bishop Serapion, Bishop Anthony, Hegomen Michael Edward, Hegomen Sydarus Abd El-Messeih, Hegomen Bassilious Sydrak and Fr Youhanna Ragheb. then gave presents to all the children, and Hegomen Michael Edward the church's priest welcomed His Holiness the Pope by giving a word of thanks for his efforts, love, he thanked him for this trip and also for the care that he gives to his sons in the land of immigration. Then His Holiness answered the people's questions and gave a lecture about God's Gifts to man from the beginning of creation till now.

Then Hegomen Sydarus Abd El Messeih, the priest of St. Mary's Church in Columbus gave a word to congratulate His Holiness on his 80th birthday and said: "In you shall all families of the earth be blessed, your teaching reached the ends of the whole world your Holiness, it reached all hearts, we ask God to give you the age of Methuselah for serving the church."

On the morning of Wednesday the 20th of August, His Holiness inaugurated and blessed the St. Mark house in Cleveland, it is near the church on a 3850 Ft square, and its price has been fully paid, it will be utilized in different church activities.

Then His Holiness visited the library of Cleveland Medical organization as a model of public libraries, at his arrival Dr Fawzy Estfanus and Dr Nagi Mikhail with the medical library manager were there to welcome him, they presented to his Holiness all the aspects of the library as an idea for the implementation of the library at the New Papal Residence in Cairo.

In Detroit

His Holiness the Pope arrived at Detroit Airport on 18:00 hrs on Wednesday the 20th of August, H.G. Bishop Anthony accompanied him. And at his arrival there were H.G. Bishop Antonius Marcos the general Bishop of Africa's affairs, Hegomen Mina Isaac, Fr Meximus Habib, the Priests of St. Mark church in Detroit, Fr Youanes Awad Allah from Windsor, Canada, and large number of the church's congregation. Then His Holiness headed to the church where he met with the congregation and gave a word about the roll of the family and the Coptic school in preparing successful Christian generations in the land of immigration. Then he listened to the church choir performance, His Holiness then blessed the congregation and distributed presents on them.

The first Coptic school in Detroit

On the morning of Thursday the 21-8, His Holiness the Pope blessed and inaugurated the new premises of the first Coptic school at the Midwest, noted that school year will start on the 8th of September, 2003.

At His Holiness' arrival at the church there were the church priests, a group of priests from the nearby region, the school headmaster and the teaching staff. His Holiness visited some of the classes, and also the new buildings which are in the finishing stage from the inside. He also gave a word about the importance of the Coptic school and its roll in assisting the church in raising her children in the fear of God.

Then His Holiness went to the formal reception held, where he met with church representatives and Government officials:

Archbishop Nathaniel	Romanian orthodox
Bishop Nicholas	Greek Orthodox
Mr. Robert Ficano	Wayne county executive
Mr. Brooks Patterson	Oakland County Executive
Mr. John Pappageorge	State Representative
Mr. Matt Pryor	Mayor of Troy
Mrs. Nancy White	Chairmember of City Boar

During the meeting, His Holiness spoke about the importance of youth service and the roll of the church, school, and the society all together in this service. They exchanged presents then had lunch

together with the congregation of St. Mark church in Detroit, during which everyone was joyous by this meeting.

Hegomen Mina Ishaq the priest of the church said that St. Mark church is built on a 9-acre piece of land. His Holiness laid the foundation stone of this church in 1977, and work has been completed in this region when His Holiness laid the foundation stone of the new church and the services' premises in 1994.

This church serves Troy and the surrounding regions. It also serves the following small churches: St Mary church, Ann Arbor, St Mary church, Grand

Rapids, and the Coptic community in Lansing, the average total number of families which this church serves is about 450 families.

And by the end of the reception, His Holiness traveled to New Jersey.

At the Papal Residence In Cedar Grove

On Friday the 22nd of August, His Holiness met with the priest of Connecticut church and a group of the congregation at the Papal Residence, the conversation was about caring for youth service, Sunday schools. They also talked about how to prepare servants, and the church membership. It is well known that the service was initiated there in the year 1984, and it is growing a year after year.

Then His Holiness met with Fr Abram Dawoud Solomon and Fr Marcos Solomon Ayoub the priests of St. Mark church in Jersey City.

At the Egyptian Consulate In New York

His Holiness the Pope visited the Egyptian Consulate in the evening of Friday the 22nd of August. At His Holiness' arrival there were: Ambassador Mahmoud Allam the General Consul in New York, Counselor Mahmoud Abu El Fotouh the assistant General Consul for the Community and the Religious Affairs, Counselor Magdy Shaker the Information Counselor in New York with a large number of the Egyptian community Christians and Moslems, the Egyptian Television, and Representatives of the Egyptian and American Press.

The "Good Morning Egypt" program had an interview with His Holiness which was about the main features of the visit, the Jerusalem issue, about how Copts and Muslims are gathered together in the land of immigration for the reinforcement of the issue of "one homeland", His Holiness also spoke about his message to the Egyptian immigrants to keep their identity, traditions and virtues which they previously received.

Then the ceremony started at the Embassy, His Holiness listened to words of greeting from Ambassador Mahmoud Allam the consul of Egypt, Sheikh Ahmed Dwedar, Mr. Mohamed Younis, and a delegate from the Protestants and the Catholics in an atmosphere full of love and frankness.



With the Representatives of the American churches, some Bishops and Fathers

Then His Holiness gave a word of thanks for everyone, He then spoke about "Identity" and how to preserve it, also about our responsibility for the coming generations in the land of Immigration, and also spoke about the absolute and the proportional perfection.

Then His Holiness answered the Press Reporters questions about the problem of the St. Anthony's Monastery fence at the Red Sea, and the Copts' problems and how to face it, he also spoke about freedom in Egypt today and in the past and other questions as well. At the end, His Holiness distributed some presents to the supreme in charge attendees, then left surrounded by everyone's love.

On the morning of Saturday the 23rd of August, His Holiness had an interview with the Arabian TV Channel in America, the main issues which he talked about was: the program of his visit to the States, the service in Latin America, the source of the Coptic church's strength as she is an apostolic, old and historic church, she is a preservative church who didn't deviate of the Apostolic tradition which she received since the first century, also talked about the City of Alexandria and the famous church leaders as Athanasius the Apostolic, Kirillos the Great and others, also about the spreading of the church in the whole world. H.G. Bishop Anthony and Mr. Gamil Tawffik the owner of the Arabian TV Channel attended the interview, and on that occasion he requested from H.H. the Pope to send him Coptic Orthodox sermons to broadcast it successively in the Arabian Channel and His Holiness responded to his request.

Then His Holiness met with Hegomen Gerguis Tadros, Long Island, Mira Maged Reyad concerning the youth service, Dr. Nabil El-Deiry concerning the congregation request of St. Mark church at Ripon in Modesto of having a permanent priest as they have bought a big church that is spacious enough for more than 800 individuals and it is being served now by Fr Antonius Hanna in addition to his basic service in St Mina's church in Concorde.

New Jersey and New York Churches' Youths Meeting

His Holiness the Pope arrived at St. Abram's church in Long Island on Sunday the 24-8 at 2:00PM, where he met with New Jersey and New York churches' Youth, Their Grace Bishop Mousa, Bishop Anthony, and Bishop David attended the meeting. There was a huge number of youth with priests and leaders of their churches, the meeting lasted for more than three hours, His Holiness prayed the Thanksgiving prayer and the Youth Choir performed the Hymn: "Kalby al Khafak"/"My Beating Heart" English language, and the children's Choir presented the hymn: "Ila Montaha al Aawam"/"Till the end of the Years", also child Mina Akhnoukh presented a card for His Holiness where all the Youth of all church had their signatures on it, then His Holiness distributed presents to everyone.

Then His Grace Bishop Mousa the Bishop of the Youth greeted His Holiness the Pope and said that His Holiness travels hundreds of miles to meet with his sons in the land of immigration, ask about them, care for them, and know what their needs are.

He also said that this year the church celebrates a special occasion to His Holiness which is his 80th

birthday, we pray that it will be the first 80th and hope for the second and the third to come....thanks to our Pope that the church has become an international church which is spreading in the whole world.

Then His Holiness gave a word to the youth about the relation between God and man, he said that this relation started when we were just a thought in God's heart, God gives us more than we demand. He gave us life, God gave Adam and humanity to dominate over the animal and plant Kingdom, He gave us to be on His own image, the image of God, He gave us the commandments, He gave us the freedom to chose, and He gave us the secret of Repentance to always come back to Him.

When God created man, He gave him beauty; he also gave beauty to nature, He gave man to live as a vegetarian, and after the water flood man got the freedom to eat animal meat, also man was given promises whether in this life or in eternity, man was given the secret of incarnation, and salvation (blessed be my nature in You) He gave us His sacred soul and made us altars for His soul, He gave us the gifts of the Holy Soul, He gave us Salvation on the cross.....

His Holiness then resumed the lecture and answered the questions of the youth.

Then his Holiness went to the Airport by car heading to Boston.

In Boston

His Holiness arrived at Boston on the evening of Sunday the 24-8 accompanied by His Grace Bishop Anthony, at their arrival there were Their Grace Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Suriel the Bishop of Melbourne and its affiliated regions, Hegomen Moses El Gohary, Fr Angilos Bishara, Fr Antonius Wassef, Fr Youhanna Gobran and a large number of the congregation.

The Deacons received His Holiness the Pope at the Plane's exit with church hymns till the car door by which His Holiness and the accompanying delegate went to the Virgin Mary's vine (karma) where the Clerical Seminar with Coptic Orthodox Clergy of America and Canada will take place.

Clerical Seminar with Coptic Orthodox Clergy Of America And Canada At The Virgin Mary's Vine In Boston

The Seminar was held on Monday the 25th of August, till Wednesday the 27th, 2003 headed up by His Holiness the Pope.

Their Grace the Bishops who attended the Seminar are: Bishop Rowais, Bishop Moses, Bishop Serapion, Bishop Mecarius, Bishop Josef, Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Anthony, Bishop Suriel, Bishop David, Bishop Apollo, and Bishop Daniel. It is for the first time in America that the number of Clergy who met with their Father His Holiness the Pope reaches 159 Priest from the United States of America, and Canada. Also 62 of Priest's wives also attended, noted that this is the 6th Seminar to be held in the Virgin Mary Vine.

The Blessed Monday The 25th Of August, 2003.

His Holiness the Pope with their Rev. Bishops and Priests raised a flag with the Vine's logo on, which is the Virgin Mary's photo, then His Holiness inaugurated the Activities Hall which contains an Assembly Room, Living Room, Gym. And Art Studio.

Then His Holiness met with the attendees, and a committee has been designated to draft down a declaration against the ordination of homosexuals, the members of this committee were Their Grace Bishop Serapion, Bishop Suriel, and some Rev. Fathers.

Then His Holiness inaugurated the Archangel Michael church, and then he visited a location that has a tent called "The Harvest Of Years" which contains all the books issued by HH, the Pope in English and in Arabic.

In the evening's meeting, H.H. the Pope enquired about the Declaration which was to be prepared and H.G. Bishop Suriel read the Declaration which is by the tongue of all the Orthodox Clergy of North America that condemns the ordination of homosexuals in different Pastoral degrees, and also condemns same-sex marriage.

There were some comments from Rev. Fathers concerning this issue, one of which declared that the Canadian Government cares for everyone's freedom and doesn't care about what the Bible says, H.H. the Pope replied that: "there is no free person who can break the laws of a country, how much more shall it be to break God's Commandments, we don't believe in absolute freedom, we believe in the freedom that is bounded with God's Commandments."

Another comment was that protests who are against this issue, from the clergy of other unorthodox churches, are silent. As they fear the consequences after they declare their point of view. H.H. the Pope said: "It is a war, and we are going into it, St. John the Golden Mouth rebuked the Emperor and the Empress, also John the Baptism rebuked Herod and we are going to testify for Christ, and invite other churches to testify with us, regardless of the consequences...and we should gather the family of the Orthodox Church to condemn this situation, and in the meeting of the Orthodox family which will be held in October, H.H. the Pope will raise this issue for them, this Declaration is the beginning of other issues which we will do...the issue will also be raised to the Holy Synod, As God said" ye shall be witnesses unto me ...,we should not fear of Evil, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you, "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin." (He 12:4)"and in (Ez 3 and 33) It says that we are watchman unto people, and we should warn them and testify for the truth"

One of Christianity characteristics is Strength, as we say "Holy the Powerful Lord", and we, as the image of God, have to be strong, Jesus Christ was strong and rebuked the scribes and Pharisees, Peter the Apostle was strong, even the young men (1Jn 2:14), we invite the Youth to be strong.

Jesus Christ said: "But ye shall receive power" in (Acts: 1:8), "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword" (Heb: 4:12), and in the Acts of the Apostles it is said that with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

From the examples of strength, St. George who tore the Emperor's release, and turned the Emperor's wife towards faith.

The Lord said: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." resist steadfast in the faith, even if he is a lion, as what David the Prophet did, and strength is not against meekness. The Holy Spirit fell as cloven tongues like as of fire which means power, and this

power was spread over the world.

And at the end of the meeting H.H. the Pope greeted the newly ordained Fathers, also the Rev. Fathers who attended the Seminar, and gave them presents, and His Holiness concluded the meeting with prayer.

And On The Morning Of The Blessed Tuesday, 26th Of August

With His Holiness the Pope's assignment was His Grace Bishop Suriel who gave a lecture about the Mormons, their origin, the establishment of their faith on the claim of seeing visions, the dangerous of their teachings as they believe in the Diversity of Gods, and that God the Father has a body, and that he was a human at the beginning and then became a God, they believe that Jesus Christ had a sexual relation with Virgin Mary and the God Father, they also believe that Christ and Satan are brothers whom fought over who shall be the savior of the world, and that Christ's blood is not enough to forgive the dreadful sins, and that the sinner who committed an awful sin should be killed, and his blood should be shed so that his sin might be forgiven, so that sinner might be saved in the last day. They also say that whoever will condemn in the condemnation day will be the Christ of the Mormons and Josef Smith the Mormons founder. They believe that there is general salvation and private salvation, and that there are three skies, and three kingdoms, and that their utmost goal is the divinity of human. The Mormons believe in polygamy, Josef Smith had 49 women, his successor had 27 women, Mormons can exchange wives, and they linked Salvations with polygamy. His Grace spoke about how they are spread all over the world and also spoke about their financial capabilities and how they are deceiving people, and the lies of their prophecy that nothing of it has been fulfilled. They are in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Mt 7:15).

His Holiness the Pope thanked His Grace Bishop Suriel, and demanded that this lecture should be published in a book for the benefit of the congregation.

During the evening meeting, His Holiness the Pope answered questions concerning the problem of St. Anthony Monastery's problem, which occurred during His Holiness' presence in the United States.

And about questions about the church's reaction towards the press in the land of immigration, His Holiness the Pope said that whoever talks sense we approve what he says.

His Holiness also talked about the problem in Brighton, England, and explained thoroughly all what concerns this issue and said that the Holy Synod reassured that the service of any priest in another Diocese is not lawful except with the consent of the priest's Bishop and the Bishop of the other Diocese.

His Holiness the Pope also agreed on establishing Ecumenical councils Subdivisions, on the condition that those who are in charge should know the laws of the personal affairs.

His Holiness also answered questions about the ordination of girls as Deacons and said that it should not be for serving the Altar, but young girls could have special customs, and girls Deacons could perform social services.

Also His Holiness explained the fault of collecting donations during the Mass prayer and how it could be

embarrassing and a kind of showing, and comparison, also it might disturb prayer and hoped that this habit should stop.

His Holiness answered a question about the Coptic language saying that it shouldn't be attacked as it is the language of our fathers and we should be proud of it, and declared that neglecting the Coptic language means the neglect of the spiritual hymn.

And about the Youth representation in the church council, His Holiness replied that "Youth is the future of the church, and much care should be given to them, he hoped that every church council could have one young aged member, youth should chose who represents them, so we should respect the youth as Jesus Christ respected Judas, this week I thought about ordination of a priest for the youth who would be responsible for some churches in the land of immigration, I care so much for the youth, and whoever is absent of the church we give an account of him in front of God, I wonder how much are the youth in every church? And who will give an account of the youth, when we specialize a young priest for the youth, he will take the responsibility of us, I wonder how can we keep the youth always busy, how to make them involved in a responsibility and how they feel their existence, we should beware of the other churches who wants to steel our youth, there are wars coming towards our youth from universities, from other cults, from sex, from the family, and all that encounters the presence of a young priest for the youth in every region, how can we attract the youth towards the church and give them responsibilities.

The youth representative should be chosen by the youth themselves and should be mature, as this is a huge responsibility, Jesus Christ when he found one percent is missing, He went to him and brought him back, and when Jesus Christ chose his disciples, he chose John the beloved who was young, and there was a young Patriarch who is St Athanasius the Apostolic.

"For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." (2Co 3:6). And every church must preserve a budget for the youth, and woman should be a representative in the church council.

- After that a movie was shown which was prepared by the Diocese of Los Angeles about teaching Deacons how to serve inside the Altar.

Hegomen Angilos Saad then talked about children service, as children as important as youth are, he said that there is a committee which its members are all professionals in all fields, there are also

conventions for the children, this year there were about 580 participants, there is a competition for the children and we have been doing these conventions 11 years ago.

- Then Hegomen Moses El Gohary said that he prepared a video tape which explains the steps and also their meaning of the Holy Liturgy, and will be beneficial for beginners.
- The Kat mares and the e-Synexarion was presented on the computer, it has been published on CD by one of the churches in English, and it could be used for a good 100 years.
- After dinner, H.H. the Pope and all the attendees were invited to sit outside in front of the spacious field at the vine, and Fire works started to glitter in the darkness of the night, sometimes it was given the shape of a cross of lights in the sky, and at the end of the show, there was a big cross with the numbers 80 written with lights as a celebration of the birthday of our beloved Pope, may God preserve him for his church and his congregation for many years and peaceful times. Everyone cheered, and chanted Axious Axious Axious Baba Ava Shenouda Pi Archy erefsi, which means that he deserves he deserves he deserves the Pope Abba Shenouda the Patriarch.

A Special Celebration for His Holiness the Pope

- At the end of the meeting, words were given on the occasion of the Pope's birthday; His Grace Bishop Moses gave a loving word about his studentship to His Holiness the Pope. And the feeling of free to move during work with His Holiness, and how the Pope supports every energy for the benefit of the service, and that the only person whom he forgets among all that is himself. His Grace concluded his word saying happy birthday your Holiness and described him as "huge"
- His Holiness thanked His Grace Bishop Moses for his word, and His Holiness welcomed Their Grace Bishop Apollo and Bishop Daniel for they attend the Seminar for their first time.
- Then Hegomen Moses El Gohary gave a loving word about God's gift to the church in this generation which is His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, and concluded his word saying" we are the happiest generation enjoying the presence of the greatest patriarch in his sincerity, gentleness and love. Happy birthday our pope"

(See the rest on page 16)



with the Rev. Bishops in the Seminar at Karma, Boston

View Of Optimism

This optimism comes from faith and hope: faith in God being the beneficent, and hope for what He is going to do.

Successively After the flood of water, there was the Ark. And God promised that He shall never destroy the earth anymore (Gn 8). After the Crucifixion events, there was the joy of the resurrection. As God said to His disciples: "but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no man will take from you." (Jn 16:22).... your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

Yes indeed, God can turn all sorrow into joy.

The dark night, no matter how dark it becomes, the bright dawn will come, the proverb says that dawn comes after the darkest hours of the night.

A person who lives in the joy of hope, never gets tired, he feels that the winter cold will be successively have the warmth of spring afterwards...

History gives us many examples of hope.

When the human being committed sin, he was driven out of heaven, but a promise from God for salvation was always there, it didn't stop at the driving out stage... then comes the promise for the paradise, then for the heavenly kingdom....which means to a better life.

Likewise, death is a stage where a human being doesn't stop at, as after that there will be the resurrection, and then the eternal glories with the spiritual body, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love him." (1Co 2:9).

So let's observe carefully the white points in all our surroundings.

Also view the story of Creation and how it commenced.

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." (Gn 1:2). Though hope is being concealed in the successive phrase: "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good." (Gn 1:3,4).

If man has faith inside his heart, he shall see prosperity in everything.

Man will then not see the current darkness, but he will look to the light that will come. In other words, not seeing what is happening now but what God has prepared for us for later on.

Concerning this issue, let us meditate upon the lives of some of God's saints.

Observe the life of Job the righteous in his trial, and see how it turned to be with him.

In his trial, he had lost everything, all his sons, his house, his belongings. He lost his health, lost his dignity among his friends and even in front of his servants..! Though God among all this was preparing for his salvation, and compensated him with twice as much as he had before, the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his

Pope Shenouda III



beginning (Job 42:1-17). "After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations."

The same almost goes for Josef the righteous.

He had so many discomfords in his life: his brothers' envy to him, they also sold him as a slave. And in spite of his faithfulness in Potiphar's house, he was unfairly accused of dishonesty and was thrown into jail where he stayed for a while... But Hope was always in front of him so let's see what God has done with him..

He became the second in the kingdom "a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt." (Gn 45:8). His brothers came to him and kneeled between his arms, he saw his father Jacob and his brother Benjamin, his sons were blessed by his father and he lived for a hundred and ten years.

I used to say: remember three phrases during every trouble you face:

God is present (Rabena mawgoud), everything is for the best interest (kolo lelkeir), it will come to an end (mesirha tantahi).

There isn't any difficulty that lasts, however long it might stay, it should end, the difficulty rises in a pyramid shape till it reaches its top then slides downwards and finishes.....it will come to an end, it will end in a good way. Yes indeed, everything goes for the best because God is present.

By the optimistic view-meaning with Hope-you know with certain that God will interfere.

And when God interferes-which he definitely will-all the problems will be solved, all the difficulties will go away, and the situation will be fixed up.

Nehemiah the prophet: he was discomforted on hearing the bad news, he cried, he fasted and prayed. The walls of Jerusalem were broken down, and the gates were consumed with fire. But God interfered and gave him favor in the eyes of Artaxerxes the king of the Persians. Nehemiah traveled and built the walls of Jerusalem, thus returning peace and righteous to its people..

So whenever you see broken walls, say within your heart: God will definitely send us another Nehemiah to rebuild it, and we shall never be disgraced anymore.

And as God sent Nehemiah to rebuild the broken down walls, He also sent David the little boy to save everyone from Goliath and his threats.

People were scared, the army was frightened, and also was Saul the King. This was very distressing. Goliath was dangerously armed and was scary in his huge body, yet the optimistic look never departed David's heart and said his phrase which is full of tranquility: "Let no man's heart fail because of him" (S

17:32), and promised to go and fight him. And when he was going for the fight, Hope never departed him, instead he said "This day the Lord will deliver you into mine hand" "for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." (1S 17:46, 47).

So, each Goliath you meet in your life never let your heart fail because of him. On the contrary, with all Hope make sure that God will send you David with his sling and stone to fight him for you, and saves you.

Even if you are restrained in between the Red Sea and the chariots of Pharaoh, remember St. Moses phrase" The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." (Ex 14:14).

Don't you ever say we're lost, don't give up, and never let faith with all its optimistic view depart from you, have strong faith. Be confident that The Lord is capable of dividing the sea and make for you a road through it. And you will safely get out, as was written "the just shall live by faith" (He 10:38).

The view of fear and suspicion, brings desperation - but the optimistic view and faith, is confident that The Lord will do something, even if at the 24th hour.

And if we do not trust God's hand in incidents, we will definitely become discomfited....

Let's remember God's saying "Fear not; for I am with you" and also David's saying to The Lord who is his Shepherd "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" (Ps 23). And God was with David and saved him from all Saul conspiracies which were against him, and saved him from fighting Absalom, from counsel of Ahithophel, and also from the troubles of the Joab son of Zeruiah.

Jeremiah as well had encountered the same Divine encouragement; he was a boy, afraid of his mission, so God told him "Do not be dismayed before their faces... For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land... They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you", says the Lord, "to deliver you." (Jr 1:17-19).

Also Hannah the wife of Elkanah, she was barren, Peninnah her adversary provoked her and made her cry, with Hope, God gave her a son who is Samuel the Prophet.

About this Hope and optimistic view, God says about women who don't bear children:

"Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud,... Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings... For you shall expand to the right and to the left. And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed" (Is 54:1-4).

And with the same words of encouragement, He says about all those who are in trouble:

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound... To comfort all who mourn" (Is 61:1-2).

The optimistic view is nice and consoling, also is the feeling of Hope in God's deeds.

It's not what we see, but what God sees for us.

And it's not what we do, but what God does

for us.

That's how we should think, and we should also confidently wait, as David the Prophet says in the psalm "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!" (Ps 27:14).

But if man fears and says I'm lost, so this is not out of Faith or out of Hope, and this doesn't benefit the heart at all.

Who might have thought that Moses the child was sentenced to death before he was even born(according to Pharaoh's order to the midwives), this same Moses becomes a great prophet, and God's speaker, many miracles is been done by him...!

Who might have thought that Mary Magdalene, who had been healed of seven evil spirits (Lk 8:2), might become a disciple for God, and a bringer of good news of Resurrection to his disciples (Mk 16:9).

It is the work of God in all of them; it is which we wait for with Hope...

Or who might have thought that **Saul the Tarsusian**, who was aggressively persecuting the church, and who brought men and women to Jail (Acts 1), might become the greatest Apostle in Christianity, as he "labored more abundantly than they all" (Co 15:10), he was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words (2Co 12:4 :)...

It is God's deeds that are beyond description....

Or who might have thought that **Aryanus the governor**, who was one of the most violent and cruel governors in the days of king Dekledianus, might God works in his heart, believes in Christianity and become a martyr.

Not only all that, but also the **Romanian country**, who severely and cruelly persecuted Christianity, issues Milan Decree in the year 313 declaring the religion freedom, then it becomes a Christian country...it is Hope that makes every person looks optimistically to the future believing in God's work.

This "Hope" also was known to the church in repentance of lots of sinners.

For example, the repentance of St. Ignatius, St. Moses the black, St. Mary the Coptic, St. Pilagya, St. Sarah... How desperate were their lives, but there is definitely no desperation with the work of God who is able to raise up children to Abraham from stones. (Mt 3:9).

God's work can change hearts; can even rebuild those hearts, as previously promised... "Then will I sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep my judgments and do them..." (Ez 36:25-27).

God is able to get forth sweetness out of the strong, and forth meat out of the eater.

He is able to transform the sinner into a saint.

We can see God's work in our daily life, in Egypt and in the land of Emigration, and also in the spreading of the church in all the continents of the world.

God's work in the past, gives us confidence and Hope in what he will do in the future.

God who has worked with the people, and with the idolatry till He destroyed it, and who also broke the sting of the atheism, is capable of work now and at all times.

The Pope's Trip to America (cont'd)

- Then words were spoken by Fr. Istafanous (Lancaster) and Hegomen Flimoun Mahrous from Los Angeles. Then His Grace Bishop Youhanna talked about the loving fatherhood of His Holiness the Pope. Then His Holiness finalized the day with a speech thanking everyone. The celebration ended after midnight with half an hour.

On the morning of the blessed Wednesday 27th August

The day started with the holy Liturgy which was attended by almost all priests.

The morning meeting concentrated on problems faced by youths and marriage. This meeting had bishops and priests and can be summarized as follows:

- 1- We should understand the psychology of youths and ease the way they get to know each other in a true Christian way.
- 2- We should hold conventions to increase awareness of those wanting to get married. Also family conventions should be held and at the same time hymns conventions for children of families that attend.
- 3- His Grace Bishop Paula held a convention about the family in Tanta where a lot of specialized people talked, its recommendation are useful.
- 4- At the entrance of the married parade we have a ritual which is that deacons enter the church saying hymns and the father of the bride submits her to the groom at the church door.
- 5- Do not bring in the world to the church but convert the world into a church.
- 6- University students and graduate youths conventions should be mixed and he left each area to choose what is best for them in terms of number and supervision.
- 7- We should hold marriage preparation conventions for university graduates.
- 8- We should hold conventions to teach parents how to deal with their children in terms of marriage.
- 9- We have to hold conventions for priests' wives.
- 10- Prayer and fasting are very important before marriage so that God interferes along with seeing practical ways that we should go through.

At the end of the seminar His Grace Bishop Mousa thanked His Holiness the Pope for the effort he spent, his love and his care for his children abroad.

Meetings that His Holiness the Pope had in Boston

His Holiness had private meetings with His Grace Bishop Daniel along accompanied by Hegomen Tadros Samaan, His Grace Bishop Suriel Melbourne Bishop, His Grace Bishop Sarabion accompanied by Fr. Morqos Hanna, Fr. Youssef of St Paul's Monastery from Bolivia, and with 53 of priests from USA and Canada.

A meeting with Boston Community

On Wednesday 27-9 evening, His Holiness met with Boston community in a holy gathering at Al Karma. He thanked Hegomen Mousa El Gohary for the hard spiritual, pastoral and constructional work he spent... How Al Karma before was and what it became... Among the applause of everyone in gratitude for his efforts... He also thanked Boston priests and workers who served the place. He also spoke a word on Work and service.

On Thursday morning he headed to the airport aiming for New Jersey.

In New Jersey

His Holiness the Pope headed to his residency at Cedar Grove.

+ At the residence, His Holiness met with Mr. Magdy Khalil the one responsible for the immigrant land section at Watani newspaper...

His Holiness also met with servants from Bless USA and they did a Presentation and gave a full report on their service for the year 2002-2003.

His Holiness the Pope thanked them for their efforts and had a talk with them about serving youths and that talk lasted till midnight.

Receiving the Jersey City Mayor

On Friday 27th August, His Holiness the Pope received Mr. Glenn Cunningham, the Mayor of Jersey City accompanied by the Vice-Mayor Eugene Drayton and the Mayor's Assistant Mr. Maher Khalil.

Their Grace Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Anthony and Bishop David and the priests of Jersey City attended that meeting.

Also Mr. Maged Reyad, the Legal Councilor of His Holiness the Pope attended that meeting.

The conversation was about the importance of establishing relations between local authorities and the church through which a lot of the problems can be solved in all fields.



With Members of Bless USA at Cedar Grove

His Holiness the Pope asked the Mayor to solve the Zoning problem the currently faces the project of the new building of St George and Abba Shenouda in Jersey City.

And the Mayor promised to spend all possible efforts to remove any obstacles and to fully cooperate with Hegomen Dawood Bawaway and all the other Fathers... He also suggested using the Parking Area at a school close to the church.

The Mayor also accredited the Coptic community at Jersey City describing them as quiet and not causing trouble and also recognized them as givers and never takers.

He also showed his deep admiration of His Holiness's unique personality and described him as The Great Man. He also admired his writings that reached 105 books, his teaching in all fields and the different languages the His Holiness the Pope masters including the Coptic. Therefore, His Holiness the Pope explained to him about the origin of the Coptic Language and its usage especially in church hymns because of its music.

The conversation also discussed Pastoral Trips that His Holiness goes for to check on his congregation around the world. The Mayor also invited His Holiness to a great meeting that includes all the Coptic Community and priests of Jersey City in his next trip to America to introduce the Coptic Church to different community levels at Jersey City.

At the end of that meeting which was cheerful and full of warmth, His Excellency the Mayor read the Proclamation and exchanged gifts with His Holiness. He gave His Holiness the Pope the City Key and when Holiness took it he said to the Mayor in a joking tone: "Do not worry I will not open or close without your permission."

His Holiness gave him an icon featuring the visit of the Holy Family to Egypt and he also gave presents to all present people.

Mr. Alaa Reyad, Al Ahram Newspaper representative at Washington interviewed His Holiness in the presence of Mr. Magdy Shaker the Head of the Information Office at New York and Mr. Maged Reyad.

The interview was about Coptic Schools abroad, His Holiness's vision of the future of Egyptians living abroad, the problem of St. Anthony's Monastery wall at the Red Sea area, about His Holiness's published writings and about the meeting that His Holiness had with the Mayor of Jersey City which is considered to be one of the most populated areas of Egyptian immigrants.

Then His Holiness met with some of the members of St Mark church at Winnipeg – whom had bought a little church – fully paid and has icons and icon-bearer. The number of families there is 57 and they are increasing and they are requesting to get a priest to serve there. His Holiness asked His Grace Bishop



With the New Jersey Mayor

David in agreement with Canada priests to alternately serve this church Sundays every week until a fulltime priest is assigned to this place.

His Holiness also met with Dr. Heshmat Shenouda and his family from St Mina's Church in Calgary, Canada. The talk was about the need of the congregation there for a regular service because there are two churches at this area: St. Mina Church and Archangel Michael Church... His Holiness gave them a promise to send a priest for their service very soon.

His Holiness also had a meeting with Eng. Paul Sionas who showed His Holiness some sketches containing primary ideas of new building at His Holiness's Papal Residency.

On the morning of Saturday 30-8, His Holiness the met with Dr. Nagi Malik, the board member of St Mary and the Saint with the Two Swords Church at Belleville. His Holiness gave his blessings to the opening of Milik University Medical School, where Dr. Nagi as a President of the University offered a scholarship to whomever chosen by His Holiness from his sons.

The Celebration of New Jersey and New York Churches

It started with the entrance of His Holiness's parade to the celebration hall on the hymn Esmarout accompanied by their Grace the bishops, priests and deacons. Then the Choir Group of St George and St. Shenouda Church and the Choir Group of the Papal Residency at Cedar Grove sang a bouquet of chants.

The celebration program was presented by Mr. Pishoi Al Qommos Mikhail who congratulated His Holiness the Pope for his 80th Birthday and showed His Holiness's care of Christian Teaching and the project of establishing the first school at New Jersey and New York. This was followed by a number of speeches which were received with great admiration and applause.

Speakers:

- Hegomen Mina Yanni the priest of St George Church, Brooklyn, New York. He congratulated His Holiness the Pope and compared between His Holiness and Prophet Moses in a number of life stages and service.

- Hegomen Makarios from Æmaelia Diocese and he described His Holiness the Pope as the Monk, the Teacher, the Preacher and the Noble and he told a number of situations that shows how noble His Holiness is when he was secular, monk, the bishop of teaching and the Pope following St Mark's preaching.
- Mr. Steve Lipski City, Councilmen in Jersey City also congratulated His Holiness the Pop and said that His Holiness did not only gave his life to the Lord but he also worked with enormous energy in ecumenical work and preaching in the whole world. He talked about the expansion of the service in His Holiness's time during which the number of Coptic Churches increased in USA from 3 to 135 churches. He also expressed his pride of the Coptic Community in Jersey City and thanked all those dealing with them from the Coptic community, priests and seculars. He also praised the cooperation between the church and local authorities.
- M. Maged Reyad El Deiry, he talked about the loving and loved person of His Holiness the Pope. The person who sacrificed himself a lot for the sake of everyone and told the story that it happened after a long hard working day, His Holiness went up the stairs at the residency to pray for a sick woman refusing that she comes down to him.
- Miss Fausta the Headmistress of the Coptic School at Nashville, Tennessee. She spoke a great spiritual speech in which she had deep meditations using verses from the 23rd psalm "The Lord is my shepherd". She clarified the great importance of raising Children and youths in the a Coptic Church where God is there to shepherd and save them from the valley of the shadow of death which is represented in the ethical decline that is present in public schools and the society in general, seen in drugs and pornography. This school can lead them to a life in the field of the attractive personality of Jesus. She told a story about a boy who was away from the Lord's barn and had a total switch in his life after joining the Coptic Church and even became a deacon and a servant.
- Michael Youssef, representing youths, congratulated His Holiness and talked about his writing, sermons and teachings that affect youths spiritually. He also thanked His Holiness for his great care and sacrificing his time and effort to them and sending His Grace Bishop David who looks after them. He also gave credit to His Holiness's care to establish a Coptic school and other activities that are of great benefit to youths, and to ordain a priest dedicated to youths at this area.
- Tasouni Souad Zaki, the wife of hegomen Roufail Zaki and the daughter of hegomen Basilious Sydrak recited a beautiful poem that expressed her feelings as a daughter towards her Godfather.
- Dr. Nagi Malik, who is establishing Medical School, MILIK University, Caribbean Islands, also congratulated His Holiness with a word from the heart.
- The child, Marina Megalaa, recited an English poem.
- His Grace Bishop David congratulated His Holiness on his 80th birthday and talked about the manifestation of the virtues from a group of saints in His Holiness's person. He talked about his strength and his humbleness and how that he is in his love has strongly condemned the project of the ordination of a homosexual bishop at the Anglican Church. He also showed a video presentation about the school building that they plan to buy God's willing at Carney, New Jersey. It consists of two buildings next to each other. The main building is a four-story building with 30 big classrooms equipped with soundproof glass and a big hall that can be used for youths activities or prayer. It is offered for sale for \$2.5 million USD and its real cost might exceed \$6 million USD. Then he gave His Holiness a present that is a cross that has the life stages of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

The Speech of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

He thanked all the speakers, the children who sang the hymns and the audience. He then talked about the history of building churches at the area of New York and New Jersey which reached a number of 16 churches today. This indicates that there is a big concentration of Copts at this area and this requires building a Coptic church there. He also spoke about building Coptic schools in immigration countries and that it has started in Australia that started by establishing two schools in Melbourne and three in Sydney and they are preparing to build a fourth one in Sydney. Then schools in Mississauga, Toronto and Montréal followed and finally in Washington, Nashville and Detroit in the USA. He stressed on the importance of Coptic schools to spiritually raise youngsters. Students at these schools start their school day with prayer and in addition to their general educational curriculum they take lessons in hymns and the Coptic language. There is also spiritual follow up at the school. His Holiness also talked about the possibility of removing all obstacles standing in front of building schools such as distances and expenses. He encouraged everyone to support this project financially for the benefit of their children and to protect them from the dangers of the common atmosphere. He also praised the word spoken by the headmistress of Nashville school for its depth, which showed her spiritual care of her students. At the end of his speech, which was interrupted by periods of strong applause, some of the attendees offered their donations for the sake of the project. The celebration ended with prayer and blessing.

On the evening His Holiness also met with:

Dr. Adel Suriel and Dr. Sami from the Papal Residency Church Board.

Miss Fausta the Headmistress of the Coptic School in Nashville, Tennessee State.

His Excellency the Ambassador Mahmoud Mubarak, Assistant Minister at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his wife.

On the morning of Sunday 31-8, His Holiness baptized 7 babies at St. Mark Church in the Papal Residency. And on the evening he met with:

The family of the deceased Hegomen Antonious Ragheb to thank His Holiness for delegating the Holy Liturgy Prayer to His Grace Bishop Anthony at St George and St Shenouda Church on the occasion of the memorial of Hegomen Antonious Ragheb... Fr. Suriel Suriel the priest of the church attended this meeting.

The Board of Archangel Michael Church in Howell for the second time.

Fr. Shenouda Maher, Rochester, NY.

Promotion

On the morning of Monday 1-9, His Holiness promoted 7 priests to the Igomans grade (Hegomen grade) in St Mark Church at the Papal Residency in Cedar Grove. **(See the picture in page 2).**

Prayer for the deceased:

On Monday 1/9, His Holiness the Pope visited the cemetery of Hegomen Antonious Ragheb for prayer. The family of the deceased was waiting for him there. He also prayed in front of the cemetery of Hegomen Ghobrial Abd El Sayed and the deceased Copts that are at this place.

The Return:

On the same day at 6:00PM, His Holiness started his return flight accompanied by His Grace Bishop Anthony and Fr. Yostos Iskander from New York airport heading to Cairo. On His Holiness's farewell on his way back to Cairo were Their Grace Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Youssef, Bishop Suriel and Bishop David and a large number of the priests from New Jersey and New York.

The plane reached Frankfurt airport, Germany on Tuesday 2/9 at 7:30AM. On the reception of His Holiness were His Excellency Mr. Mohammed El Oraby the Egyptian Ambassador in Germany, Their Grace

Bishop Mousa,
Bishop Kirollos,
Bishop Demian,
Bishop Angilos,
Bishop Gabriel,
priests from Europe
and Eng. Ibrahim Samk. They had a reception during the transit at the Sheraton Hotel in the airport which was attended by representatives of the Egyptian Embassy, Christian holy men: Catholics and Protestants and more than 400 members of the Coptic community.

During the celebration, His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud El Oraby, the Egyptian Ambassador spoke a word. Also Dr. Barbara Rudolph, representing the German Church Board talked. And Eng. Ibrahim Samk spoke a word and gave His Holiness a present consisting of the Cup of the Fourth Convention for the Youths of Europe, 2003 which got signed by all bishops and priests attending that meeting. More than 530 young man and woman are inviting His Holiness to be with them in the Fourth Convention God's willing.

His Grace Bishop Demian, who organized this celebration in a magnificent way, also spoke a word and he was translating the speech by His Holiness from Arabic to German fluently.

Between the celebration sections, Ethiopian youths along with Coptic deacons received His Holiness with the proper hymns exchangeable.

His Holiness then spoke a word about the importance of taking care of youths because they are the future of the church.

He added that, in order to take care of youths we have to take care of children too because one day they will be the church youths. Then he finished his word by saying: "Live with people with Love – make the Lord commandments obvious and clear in your life. It is not enough to live a righteous life, but you have to also grow in the life of virtue until you reach the life of perfection."

Then he thanked His Grace Bishop Demian for the effort he is spending in the service.

At 10:30, His Holiness his flight left Frankfurt airport heading to Cairo accompanied by Their Grace Bishop Mousa and Bishop Anthony and Fr. Yostos Iskander.

The flight reached Cairo airport at 3:40PM. On the reception of His Holiness were Their Grace the Bishops, archbishops, priests and a large number of members of the Lay Assembly, Servants and people .



In Frankfurt, Germany (during transit), His Grace Bishop Demian speaking his word

Church News at Immigration Countries

New Churches in Sydney and Japan

It has been reported by His Grace Bishop Daniel that the following churches were built:

- 1- St Mary and the Martyr St George Church at New Castle, New South Wales State.
- 2- St Mary and St John the beloved Church at Wagga Wagga.
- 3- St Mary and the Martyr St Sidhom Bishay Church at Costle Hill.
- 4- St. George and St Theodore the Shatby at Liverpool, New South Wales State.
- 5- St Mary and St Marina Church at Penrith, New South Wales.
- 6- St. Demiana and St. Athanasius at Punchbowl, same state.

There is also a suggestion to buy a church in Singapore and another one in Japan.

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The Coptic School in Toronto

It has been reported to us by Hegomen Rowais Awad, the priest of St George and St Tiji Church at Toronto that a building and wide land (2.5 acres) next to our church in Toronto, were miraculously bought.

That is to move our Coptic School, St Meronia Elementary School and its church, St. George Mini School (both are currently residing inside the church building) and a Services and Conventions building.

The church awaits His Holiness the Pope to give his blessings and open that building.

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A New Church at Bayon

Our community at this area in New Jersey sent us that due to the fact that Bayon became crowded and the efforts other sects to spread through it, a new church has been built under the name of St Mary and St John.

They are requesting the presence of a Permanent Priest so that the service becomes regular and settled there. They also sent a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of members of this church.

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Buying a huge building for the church of St Mary and St. Moses the black at Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Fr. Youanes Awad Allah the priest of the church reported a glimpse of the church's history and the buying of the new building, in which he said:

The church has been registered on 18th June 1996 and His Holiness the Pope has delegated the service of this church to Fr. Mousa Mattar on 17-11-1999. Liturgy prayers and evening offerings and the rest of services were done at the church once every two weeks.

On August 2001, Fr. Mousa Mattar was moved to Ajax, and Fr. Youanes Awad Allah was appointed at Windsor.

The search then started for a building to be the church.

At the end of year 2000 AC, a contact was made with the Catholic Bishop at Windsor, and a contract was signed to buy the building for \$500,000 Canadian Dollars, part of which was paid and the rest is on installments. The final contract was then signed and keys of the church were submitted on 31st December 2001.

This church is considered to be the best church at Windsor, it has room for 1,200 people, and it is considered an architectural work of art. It has many pillars, a lot of marble and many coupled glass paintings featuring saints. It also has a large Hall, a theatre, different rooms, kitchens, and a three-story house that was used as a residence for Catholic priests.

Fr. Mousa Mattar prayed the first evening offerings at this church on the evening of 1st March, 2001 AC, and the first liturgy on Saturday Morning 2/3/2001 and this is considered a gift from the Lord to us.

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Buying a Land in Daytona Beach

We knew from Fr. Ishaq Basily the priest of our church at Daytona Beach, Florida, that a ten-acre land was bought with a big house on top of it that will be used for different church activities.

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Buying a Land at Connecticut

Fr. Ibrahim Azmy, the church priest told His Holiness the Pope when he was at the USA that they bought 67 acres to be available for projects by the youths.

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Our New Church at Geneva

Geneva Copts celebrated the beginning of prayers at our new church in Geneva Sunday morning 31-8. Their Grace: Bishop Serabioun, Bishop Youanes and Mar Ivram Karim the Archbishop of Syrian Orthodox at New Jersey attended the prayers.

Also Fr. Mikhail Sabry the church priest, Fr. Desqorus from St. Anthony Monastery and Fr. Sydrak El Anba Pishoi Monastery who both serve our church at Zurich participated in the prayers. A large number of Zurich Copts also came to share the church opening joy with their brothers and sisters at Geneva.

Their Grace showed their admiration of the architectural beauty of the church. Copts of Geneva are looking forward for His Holiness's visit to consecrate their new church (it may take place next January).

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The Coptic church hosts the Conference of All Churches in Africa (AACC)

That conference met at St Mark church in Nairobi on 4th May. It was attended by Heads of the churches of Africa and representatives from churches and institutions from all around the world. There were also our Ambassadors from Somalia and Kenya and the vice-president of South African Republic as a guest of honor (Rev. Frank Chikani).

The celebration was great and everyone praised it and the magnificent role played by the Coptic Church in South Africa.

The Coptic church was also invited to lead the main prayers at the International Conference for AIDS in which a leading role was given to the Coptic Church.

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Dioceses' News in Pictures

The ordination of 3 priests at Menya Diocese

On Sunday 10-8, His Grace Bishop Arsanious had an ordination for three Clerical Deacons to be General Priests and they are:

Fr. Suriel Abd Allah.
Fr. Ghobrial Mahfouz.
Fr. Roufail Louis.

They will be serving district areas at the diocese and people who don't have someone to remember and serve.

We offer congratulations to His Grace and the new priests.



The meeting among students of Middle East Theological Colleges (ATIME)

From 19-8 to 26-8
In Lebanon – at the Lady of
Charity Monastery

It is about the church role against violence. Ten students from our Theological College and its branches participated.

Also participated in lecturing and biblical studies were: His Grace Bishop Paula, Hegomen Ishaia Mikhail, Dr. Rasmy Abd El Malik, and Mr. Gerguis Saleh. The Coptic deputy gave an honorable image in defending the Holy Bible against myths and in talking about violence.



A youths convention in Stevenage, UK

It was prepared and chaperoned by His Grace Bishop Angilos, and had the participation of His Grace Bishop Suriel the Bishop of Melbourne and Hegomen Tadros Yaaqoub Malaty.

200 young people attended at two age stages (from 14-17) and (from 18-21).

The picture shows, left to right, Fr. Philopatir Morris (Wales), Fr. Shenouda (Stevenage), His Grace Bishop Angilos, Fr. Tadros Yaaqoub, Fr. Thomas Fayez (Kingston).



The Seminar for Priests of America and Canada (August 2003 AC)

159 Hegomens and Priests along with 11 Bishops

