



## El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness  
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty Sixth Year

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### HH the Pope in Cleveland Hospital

On the evening of Monday 9/6 when HH the Pope left all those accompanying him to his room in the Papal Residence at 10:00 PM. And while he was leaving his room HH slipped and fell on his back on the floor and was unable to move and did not have a phone to call anyone for help. And so HH stayed there until 10:00 AM next day when people came to him and he was unable to stand up. So they called Prof. Atef Hanna, the bones professor in Kasr El Aini Hospital and Dr. Mina El Sheikh the bone specialist in St. George Hospital in Heliopolis, and they called Dr. Maher Asaad Philobos. Eng. Sami Saad also came and an ambulance was called to transfer HH the Pope to El Salam Hospital in Mohandeseen where the needed X-Rays were taken which showed that there is a breakage in the upper part of the left thigh bone. Based on this a decision was taken to transfer HH to Cleveland to treat him. Finally, a medically prepared airplane was prepared to transfer HH on Wednesday 11/6 to Cleveland, where arrangements were made with Dr. Fawzi Istafanous and Dr. Nagi Mikhail to receive HH the Pope at Cleveland Hospital. HH was taken into an ambulance on the evening of Wednesday 11/6 to the hospital and on the morning of Thursday 12/6 an he had a surgery in his left

leg which was conducted by Dr. Wael Barsoum, his assistant Dr. John Botros and anesthesiologist Dr. Maged Argaliouos.

The operation was successful but HH needed to have physiotherapy which normally take six weeks and which started few days later.

A big number of the reverend fathers arrived to check on HH the Pope from the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and Egypt. They were around 40 bishops and 100 reverend fathers and groups of the Copts men.

Also HH President Hosni Mubarak called HH the Pope to check on him.

Also HE Dr. Sheikh Sayed El Tantawy, Sheikh of Azhar, called HH the Pope. Also came a representative of HE Ambassador Nabil Fahmy of Egypt in Washington, also called HH, HE Ambassador Sherif El Kholy the General Consul of Egypt in New York, Ambassador Maged Abd El Fattah the Permanent Egyptian Representative in the United Nations, Dr. Youssef Botros Ghali the Minister of Finance, Dr. Aisha Abd El Hadi Minister of Labor and Immigration, General Eng. Maged George the Minister of Environmental Affairs. Dr. Hatem El Gabaly the Minister of Health and Dr. Hamdi Zaqqouq the Minister of Religious Endowments.



Also visited HH, Dr. Kosgorv the Head of Board of Directors of the hospital and Dr. William Roshab the Manager of the International Medical Center of Cleveland Clinic.

HH the Pope also had more than one interview with El Beit Beitak Show, CTV and Aghapy channel to rest assure the congregation.

And we thank God for HH health condition stability and progress in healing. And HH will be back after recovery and physiotherapy.

## Illustrated Church News

### The Meeting of the Permanent Committee of Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches

The members of the committee were supposed to attend the weekly meeting held by HH Pope Shenouda III on Wednesday 18/6 and meet with HH after the meeting, but they expressed their deep wishes for HH recovery and their thanks for the Coptic Orthodox Church for receiving them.

In the photo we can see Dr. Sam Kobia, HE Metropolitan Bishoy, Mr Girguis Saleh the Secretary General of The Middle East Council of Churches and the rest of the members of the committee at St. Mark's Center, Nasr City, Cairo.



### Pope Kyrillos (Cyril) the Pillar of Faith and Pope Shenouda III Clerical College, El Mahalla El Kobra Branch

After St. Demiana's feast on Friday 23/5/2008, HE Metropolitan Bishoy the Head of the Clerical College, El Mahalla El Kobra Branch received the students of the High Education Section of the Clerical College in the monastery, in lectures that lasted for six hours with one hour break in the middle in responding to the doubts. A memorial photo was taken at the lecture hall in the new building at the monastery.



### The Youths Convention of Eastern Part of the Unites States of America



In the presence of their grace Bishop Rafael and Bishop David from 6/6 to 8/6/2008

## Church's News



### St. Mary Church, Ottawa

HH the Pope delegated HE Metropolitan Bishop to study issues in St. Mary Church in Ottawa and present a report to HH.

### The Churches in USA and Canada Awaits HH the Pope to Consecrate them

In USA: Las Vegas, Rochester, Syracuse and Virginia (The Angel and St. Antonious Church in Richmond, St. George Church in Maryland and St Mar Mina Church in Acosta Pennsylvania), placing the foundation stone of the new building in Heward, San Francisco and St. Mark's Church (following the Angel and St. Mar Mina Church in Staten Island).

In Canada: Winnipeg, Windsor, Halifax, St. Mary's Church in Mother of God Valley, St. Abraam Church in Richmond Hill, a Church following the Virgin's Church in Montreal and the new Baptismal font and the icons in St. George Church Ottawa.

### The New Church Project in Hamilton, Ontario

- The project started to build a church and a service center at the end of August 2006 on a 28.5 acres land that was for sale.
- The land was bought for 1.5 million Canadian Dollars in September 2006 and the price was fully paid in September 2007.
- The project of building of the church was then given to a Building Canadian Company that has experience in building churches. The starting date was decided to be on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and it will take 13 months.
- The Budget of this project is around eight million Canadian Dollars.
- We ask the Lord to bless this project and make it up for all those who participate in it.

### The Meeting of the Permanent Committee of Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches

As a response to an invitation from the Coptic Orthodox Church and hosted by HH Pope Shenouda III in St Mark Center, Nasr City, the committee met from 16 – 21/6 and the representative of our Middle East Orthodox Churches is HE Metropolitan Bishop. (Check the photo on the cover).

And members of the committee paid a visit to HB Patriarch Theodoros II of the Roman Orthodox in Alexandria. And on their way back to Cairo they visited St. Pishoi Monastery in Natroun Valley and Baramous Monastery where they were received generously and they were impressed with the spirituality of the monastical life in Egypt.

Mr Sam Kobia the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches on the first day of the meeting and gave a speech. He also met with members of the committee on their visit to the Roman Orthodox Patriarchate in Alexandria. And on these occasions he was accompanied by Mr. Girguis Saleh the Secretary General of the Middle Easter Council of Churches...

The Committee discussed preparing branching theological conferences about sources of authority in the church including writings of the fathers on the first five centuries for Christianity and their explanations for the holy books. Also about matters related to moral issues of which some might cause internal divisions inside the churches or conflicts among the churches. And another conference about the church science Ecclesiology which is concerned with the nature of the church.

The dinner on Thursday 19/6 was attended by HE Metropolitan Mounir Hanna the Head of the Bishopric Church in Egypt and the Middle East and HE met with the new Head of the committee and HE Metropolitan Bishop who conducted with him a private meeting that will results in a report to be presented to HH Pope Shenouda III about the Lambeth Conference for the Anglican Churches that will be held in July 2008 and HE sent with him a message to take to HH the Pope in Cleveland about this.

### The Coptic Studies Center, HH Pope Shenouda Language Center

The center announces the start of new courses in the following languages: English, French, German, Italian, Coptic, Greek, Spanish and Syrian.

And also new specialized courses in:

English Translation.

Theological Terms in English.

IELTS Exam Preparation.

TOEFL Exam Preparation.

Applying and reservation is open from now and those interested should fill the application form and apply at the Secretarial Office of the Center in the Coptic Studies Center.

For more information contact the Secretarial Office of the Center from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM all weekdays except Saturday and Sunday.

Tel: +202 24882568 - +202 26824960

### The Youths Bishopric The Computer Centers Service Committee

The committee held a meeting for the heads of servants and the servants of the church computer centers in the Virgin's Church, Ayad Bek to exchange experiences and enhance and advance the centers service in IT. Also to help establishing new centers in the places in need. 250 servants attended the meeting from around 42 churches in Cairo, Alexandria and some dioceses.

The meeting also included distributing awards, international certificates and honors certificates to those who passed Leadership Preparation courses which was attended by 80 servants from 18 computer centers.

A fair was held for the best products offered by the centers including programs, electronics magazines and competitions.

### St. Mark Preaching Festival 2008

"I and my house worship the Lord"

The topics of the study competition are being explained in St Mark Hall, St Rowais Church, Abbasseya from 5:00-8:00PM for the following classes as follows:

University students: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July

Secondary Students: 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July.

# HH the Pope's Trip to Canada and America

By HG Bishop Youanes

HH the Pope left Cairo Airport on Saturday 24/5 on Egypt Air heading to New York accompanied by their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

## At New York Airport

HH the Pope arrived at John Kennedy Airport, New York on the afternoon of Saturday where was in HH reception their grace Bishop Sarabamoon, Bishop David and Bishop Aghathon (Brazil), Hegomen Mouis Baghdadi, Mr. Maged Reyad the lawyer and some of laymen of the congregation...

HH rested a little and then travelled to Toronto, Canada.

## At Toronto Airport

HH the Pope arrived at Toronto Airport on the evening of Saturday 24/5 where was in HH reception HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy the Egyptian General Consul in Montreal and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi the Ambassador Representative in Ottawa (and this due to the Egyptian Ambassador Travel). Also was in HH reception HG Bishop Paula, a big number of Canada's priests and congregation of our churches in Toronto and Mississauga. Then HH headed to our church in Mississauga.

## In the Virgin and St. Athanasious Church in Mississauga:

The church was crowded with thousands of people and HH the Pope went through hardly to the inside of the church where HH gave Thanksgiving prayer and gave a spiritual speech.

And HH thanked Hegomen Angaelos Mikhail and the church's priests for their outstanding activities and the expansion and growth of the service in Mississauga.



## The expansion and growth of the service in Mississauga:

We thank God for the service growth in Mississauga Ontario, Canada which serves now more than 2500 families.

HH the pope had consecrated the altar of the first church in Mississauga on 1989 on the name of the Virgin and St Athanasius the apostolic. After that many acres surrounding the church were bought on which our big beautiful church was built there (which is considered the biggest church in immigration lands), and the Coptic school and the service center (Coptic Canadian Center).

**On 1989** HH the Pope consecrated the altar of the big church, and inaugurated the new Coptic School in Mississauga which is called St. Phelopateer Christian College. After that some of the acres surrounding it were bought... So now the land area on which both churches are on, the college and the Coptic Canadian Center is around eleven and a half acres.

**On year 2000:** A third church in Mississauga was built under the name Martyr Abu Sefein and St. Antonius which is surrounded by five acres... And now the new design is diagrams are being prepared to rebuild the church and a new building for the High School of the college.

We thank God that the Coptic school in Mississauga now has 200 students from KG1 to Grade 8 in addition to 110 children in Little Angels class.

**On year 2006:** A fourth church in Mississauga was built which is called St. Mar Mina and Pope Kyrillos the Pillar of Faith and it surrounded by four acres... And HH the Pope consecrated the altar on this church on the morning of Sunday 25/5/2008.

**On January 2008:** Prayers started on Saturdays in the fifth church which is called St. Peter and St. Paul in Oakville which is on the west extension of Mississauga.



**On August 2008:** with God's grace prayers will start in the sixth church which is called St. George and Martyr Abanoub in Milton which is a new inhabited area in the north west of Mississauga.

May the Lord bless every work that is being done to glorify His Holy name.

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### **Consecrating St. Mina and Pope Kyrillos the Pillar of Faith in Mississauga:**

On the morning of Sunday 25/5, HH the Pope consecrated the altar of St. Mina and Pope Kyrillos the Pillar of Faith in Mississauga. Participated in the consecration of the church with HH the Pope their grace: Bishop Botros, Bishop Pasanti, Bishop Youanes, Bishop David and Bishop Ermia.

HH consecrated the main altar on the name of St. Mina and Pope Kyrillos the Pillar of Faith and the northern altar on the name of St. Abraam former Bishop of Fayoum.

After consecration prayers Hegomen Angaelos talked thanking HH the Pope for coming and blessing Mississauga churches and consecrating the altars. He also thanked HE Mrs. Hazel Maclion the Mayor of Mississauga, HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi the Ambassador Representative for attending the consecration prayers.

After that HH the Pope talked and said: Consecrating this church is one of the activities of Hegomen Angaelos... May the Lord bless his work in this area.

Then HH the Pope talked about consecrating churches in the Holy Bible... And finished his speech by talking about the importance of youth service and Sunday schools in the church.

Then HE Mrs. Hazel Maclion, the Mayor of Mississauga (who is 86 year old) talked and we would like to highlight the following words of her speech:

I have never met in my life a religious leader who is always smiling and have a sense of humor like HH Pope Shenouda III.

It makes me very happy the expansion of churches in Mississauga... and I look forward to see all Mississauga churches filled with children... for they are the future of the church as HH the Pope says: "a church without youths is a church without a future".

And I believe that the church is the life of people.

And HH followed HE the Mayor speech by saying: the expansion of churches in Mississauga has a great impact in the inner building of Copts and contributes also in security and safety of Mississauga... Also the Copts elect you as Mayor always... And everyone smiled.

It was a joyful day... and after HH and the revered bishops and fathers had breakfast in the hall following the church HH headed to St. George and St. Rowais Church in Toronto.

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### **In St. George and St. Rowais Church in Toronto:**

The church was also crowded with thousands of the congregation and HH the Pope also hardly went inside the church.

HH the Pope prayers a thanksgiving prayer... then Hegomen Rowais Girguis Awad gave a short speech in which he welcomed HH the Pope... and talked in short deep words about HH love and kind heart... then the Choir sang some hymns.

After that Mr. Jason Kenny the Canadian Vice Prime Minister spoke a speech welcoming HH the Pope... And we would like to highlight the following saying:

I get humbler when I am in the presence of the successor of the great saint St. Mar Mark the Apostle.

Then HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy gave a nice welcoming speech... And she was followed by Mrs. Hala Bashlawi who said in her speech: I heard a lot your Holiness about the love people have for you... but what I heard does not compare to what I saw yesterday and today... This love is the result of your love to your congregation and you loyalty and faithfulness in you work...

After that HH the Pope blessed the foundation stone of the new services building (The Coptic Education Center in Toronto) which is going to be built in front of the church... And Hegomen Rowais explained a documentary film about the building... the land area is around 2.5 acres... and the building includes an extension to our Coptic School in St. George church for around 250 students and a kindergarten that can take up to ninety five children, in addition to a church called after the Angel and St. Mar Mina.

### **Then HH the Pope finished the meeting with speech of which we highlight:**

I tell you my beloved what St. John the Gospel writer said: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"

And this church has increased in congregation, grace and projects... and this because of the activities of Hegomen Rowais and the church priests... and

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.

And I recommend you a lot to care for the service of children and youth.

After that HH rested a little in the church residence then headed to the house of Mr. Ikram Youssef and Dr. Nahed Fahim in Toronto.

### **HH the Pope in Cleveland:**

HH rested four days in Cleveland where some medical checkups were done for him. And we thank the Lord for the stability of HH health condition.

This and HH the Pope received in the residence following our church in Cleveland their grace Metropolitan Bakhomious, Bishop Morcos and Bishop David, also Hegomen Shenouda Maher (Rochester), Fr. Mouis Baghdadi (Cedar Grove), Fr. Morcos Abd El Messeih (Morris Town), Hegomen Sidarous Abd El Messeih (Columbus), Fr. Angaelos (Dayton) , Mr. George Youssef and Mr. Emil Megalla.

### **HH the Pope in Ottawa, Canada:**

HH arrived at Ottawa on Friday 30/5 where was in HH reception at the airport HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy, the Egyptian General Consul in Montreal and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi the Ambassador Representative in Ottawa, their grace Bishop Botros and Bishop Youssef (Bolivia) and the priests of the churches in Ottawa, Montreal and some of Toronto priests and a big number of members of the congregation.

HH then went to Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa.

### **The Egyptian Embassy Reception:**

The Egyptian Embassy in Ottawa held a reception on the honor of HH the Pope at Sheraton Hotel, Ottawa which was attended by the reverend bishops, fathers, the Embassy family and a big number of laymen of the congregation.

HE Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi gave two words welcoming HH the Pope... And before the reception HH the Pope had a TV interview for Egyptian Nile News TV channel.

HH the Pope then headed to St. George Church.

### **In St. George Church, Ottawa:**

HH the Pope arrived to St. George Church in Ottawa around 8:00PM and the church completely full with the Coptic congregation who loves Christ.

HH prayed thanksgiving prayer then the Choir sand some nice hymns. Then Fr. Mikhail Fam the church priest welcomed HH the Pope and expressed his happiness and the congregation happiness with this historical visit.

Then HH talked and congratulated the congregation on their new big beautiful church which is also unique in its architecture... And HH thanked the artist Eng. Mounir Abdu Fam who designed the church and he is the brother of Fr. Mikhail Abdu Fam the church priest (who was an architect) and thanked

everyone on exerted effort in love to build the new church.

HH the Pope after that gave a spiritual speech titled "Thanking always for everything" and answered many questions.

On the morning of Saturday 31/5 HH the Pope baptized five children.

### **Consecrating the altar of St. George Church, Ottawa:**

On the morning of Saturday 31/5, HH the Pope consecrated the altar of the church naming it after martyr St. George and St. Antonious. And participated with HH in the consecration prayers their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia and Bishop Youssef (Bolivia).

And after the consecration prayers HH the Pope draw the attention of the priests and the congregation to the importance of establishing Coptic schools... And HH blamed the reverend fathers of the church in Montreal for being late in establishing a Coptic school in Montreal.

Here and after consecrating the altar of our new church in Ottawa it is expected that HH the Pope will visit this church soon to consecrate the new Baptismal font and icons.

### **From Ottawa to Toronto:**

On the afternoon of Saturday 31/5, HH the Pope left Ottawa airport heading to Toronto and he was accompanied with their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes Bishop Ermia and Bishop Youssef (Bolivia), Hegomen Angaelos Mikhail (Mississauga), Hegomen Rowais Awad (Toronto), HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy, Mrs. Hala Bashlawi and Mr. George Youssef.

And from Toronto Airport HH headed directly to the Mother of God Valley at Monotown.

### **Inaugurating the Mother of God Valley in Monotown:**

HH the Pope reached the Mother of God Valley around 5:00PM of the evening of Saturday 31/5 where HH prayed a thanksgiving prayer and he unveiled the marble board announcing the inauguration of the Mother of God Valley.

Then a big group of doves were released to celebrate this occasion... and a helicopter flew above the valley driven by a Coptic pilot and had a big ribbon linked to its tail on which was written: Welcome HH Pope at the Mother of God Valley.

And the Mother of God Valley as e mentioned was a Catholic Ukrainian Monastery around 308 acres and contains a number of buildings. And HH the Pope wandered in the Valley and blessed it accompanied by Hegomen Angaelos who talked about its buildings...

And this evening HH the Pope met with around two thousand of the congregation of the churches in Mississauga... And the choir sand beautiful hymns...

And at the end of the meeting the sky of the valley were filled with fireworks in joy and celebration of HH the Pope historical visit.

## **With St. Morris and St. Verina Church, Toronto:**

On the evening of Saturday 31/5, on the Mother of God Valley, Monotown, HH the Pope received Fr. Bishoy Salama and around one hundred of the congregation of St. Morris and St. Verina Church in Toronto which serves multiple nationalities. The meeting had almost ten nationalities (from Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Holland, China, Iran,...).

HH the Pope thanked Fr. Bishoy Salama for his active service and answered many questions asked by the attendees.

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On the morning of Sunday 1/6, HH travelled around two hours with the car to London, Ontario.

## **Consecrating the altar of our new church in London, Ontario:**

On the morning of Sunday 1/6 (The Feast of the Entry of the Holy Family to Egypt) HH consecrated the altar of our new church in London, Ontario naming it after the great St. Paul the first Hermit. Participated in the consecration prayers with HH the Pope their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia and Bishop Youssef (Bolivia).

And HH congratulated Fr. Youanes Awad Allah and the church council and congregation on the consecration of their new nice church. HH said: we are happy today that three of the bishops from St. Paul Monastery in the Red Sea participated in the consecration of St. Paul Church and they are their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Youssef (Bolivia).

HH then talked about the reverend hermits and the great St. Paul and distributed presents to the congregation.

After that a lunch banquet was held in the hall following the church in which Fr. Youanes Awad Allah welcoming HH the Pope then Dr. Waggeih Abd El Shahid the member of the church council about the

history of our church in London Ontario, then Mr. Khalil, Mr. Chris Bantley Ramal, members of the Canadian Parliament welcoming HH the Pope... Then talked Dr Paul Hubert Minister of Education in Ontario... then Mr George Girguis from Detroit... And finally Hegomen Rowais Awad from Toronto who talked about the beginning of the service in London, Ontario in the seventies... And it was a joyful day.

HH the Pope then travelled with the car around two hours from London, Ontario to Toronto airport... And on the way HH also blessed the home of Mr Ikram Youssef and Dr Nahed Fahim.

## **In Toronto Airport:**

Was in airport in Toronto HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi whom we thank for accompanying HH the Pope to everywhere he went and blessed in Canada. Also were at the airport a big number of Toronto and Mississauga reverend fathers and a big number of the congregation... HH left Toronto heading to New Jersey through Cleveland.

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## **In New Jersey:**

HH arrived on Monday 2/6 to Newark airport, New Jersey where was in HH reception their grace Bishop Tadros, Bishop Pasanti, Bishop Sharobeem, Bishop David, Bishop Athanasious and Mr Maged Reyad.

HH left Newark airport heading to the papal residence in Cedar Grove where was in HH reception around forty of the reverend fathers and hundreds of the congregation and HH blessed them each one by one.

And on the evening HH received Fr. Mina Mina and some laymen from our church Delaware.

On the morning of Tuesday, in the papal residence HH the Pope received Hegomen Shenouda El Baramousy and Hegomen Anastasy St. Antony. Also HH received n the morning of the same day some laymen from our new church in Martyl Beach who asked him to ordain a new priest for them and HH delegated HG Bishop David to visit them and ask the congregation opinion.

## **The trip back:**

HH the Pope left John Kennedy Airport in New York on Tuesday 3/6/ accompanied by their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia. And they arrived safely to homeland on the afternoon of Wednesday 4/6/ where were in the reception of HH the reverend metropolitans, bishops and priests and laymen of the congregation...

HH the Pope rested a little and gave his weekly lecture as usual...



# He loved them to the end

(Jn 13:1)

## Pope Shenouda III



When He says His own who are in the world it is because He has His own in Heaven and not only in the world like angels and spirits of the virtuous.

**He loved His own who are in the world applies to both testaments the old and the new.**

Really, The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. (PS 24:1). Everyone are His creation and made by His hands yet He has a specific some whom He calls His own.

His special ones are those who lived for Him in the Old Testament like Abraham the father of fathers, Jacob whom was said about him in the bible: God loved Jacob, Prophet Moses and the Twelve Tribes.

**Many of the prophets where God's special ones.**

He loved His own in the world, meaning that when God burnt Sodom He said: "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing" (Gn 18:17) and starting speaking with Abraham his slave. This how is the relation between God and His own.

Also when Israeli people built the Golden Calf and God wanted to consume them, He first talked to Moses and told him: "let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them." (Ex 32:10). Can your servant Moses, O Lord, interfere in Your will? But the Lord did not want to consume them unless Moses agrees with it, and Moses did not agree "So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people" (Ex 32:14). How amazing is Your love to Your own, O Lord!!

The Lord loved His own who are in the world, He loved them to the end to the extent that He gave Himself for them, but there was a love also while they are in the world, like the bible said: "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 Jn 3:18). He loved them to the end indeed and for real.

His own in the Old Testament were known like the big characters, and in the New Testament His own were the twelve disciples but they were not the only, there was also the seventy apostles and after that among His own there was also Lazarus whom He loved and cried at the place of his death.

**And no doubt, among His own, there was also the Lady Virgin Mary, His mother.**

And among His own there were some female characters who followed Him and spent from their money on Him (Lk 8).

Also became of His own the thief on the right on the cross and He told him: "today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43).

**Also firstborns in the Old Testament where of His own.**

He said "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine" (Ex 13:2).

And after that He replaced firstborns with Leviticus and priests. Those are His own.

**And God's anointed ones were also among His own.**

**Even the twelve whom He loved, there was three of them who were special for Him and they were John, James and Peter,** and with those He had special meetings and in the Transfiguration miracle He had only those three with Him, those were among His own whom He loved to the end.

**Later on, Saul of Tarsus** became of His own and He appeared to him and called him to become an apostle for the nations. Then He appeared to him again and told him go far to the nations. A third time he told him to go to Jerusalem and he had many visions between him and God.

**He loved His own who are in the world to the end.**

He loved His own who left everything and followed Him. They left the father, the mother, sisters and brothers and the house and followed Him.

In the Old Testament, Abraham went after Him without knowing to where he was going.

And in the New Testament, the apostles left the nets and the fishing and Mathew left the tax office, they left everything and followed Him.

They believed in Him and accompanied Him and told Him once: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68).

Those, His own, listened to His teachings and carried His message. There is a fictional story that says that when God ascended to Heaven, angels met Him and asked Him: God, did you spread the faith in the whole world? He said: No. So they said: Did you spread the faith in Jewish land, in all of Jerusalem? He said: No. So they said: What did You do? He said: I prepared 12 and they will spread the faith in the whole world. Because these are the ones who were filled with every grace, every blessing and every power from the Lord and He entrusted them with His church so that they build God's Kingdom on the Earth.

These are His own who preached His name and suffered for Him and when they were set before councils they said: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Ac 5:29).

These people had special spirituality level and they were strong in spirit.



## Illustrated Dioceses News

### The Celebration of St. Abraam Feast, the Bishop of Fayoum and Giza and Ordaining New Priests

On 2/6, Fayoum diocese started celebrating the feast of St. Abraam the Bishop of Fayoum and Giza by getting out his remains from his compartment and holding the Divine Liturgy, where HG Bishop Abraam of Fayoum ordained four new priests and they are: Fr. Adam for churches of Senours Center, Fr. Noah for the churches of St. Prince Theodor at El Nazla, Fr. Haroun for the churches of Senours Center.

Participated in the ordination prayers HG Bishop Makarious the Eritrean, HG Bishop Lukas and



HG Bishop Mina.  
Our deepest congratulations to

the diocese, HG and the new priests.



### Ordaining a New Priest at Bani Mazar

HG Bishop Athanasios of Bani Mazar and its Affiliated Regions ordained on Sunday 25/5/2008, deacon Fayez Eid, the Headmaster of a Secondary School as a priest under the name Fr. Abraam to serve on Bani Mazar altars.

HG after that travelled to the USA to continue his treatment we wish him recovery soon.

### Our Church in Japan

On Saturday 3/5, our priest there Fr. Thomas (the Japanese), baptized the Japanese young man Mr. Takashi Sunahara in Tokyo, Japan.



## Illustrated Church News

### The Reception Held by our Egyptian Embassy

Our Egyptian Embassy in Ottawa held a reception on the honor of HH the Pope in Sheraton Hotel, Ottawa. The reception was attended by the reverend bishops, the priests, the embassy family and a large number of laymen from the congregation.

In the photo HH the Pope is between HE Ambassador Mrs. Wafaa El Hadidy the Egyptian General Consul in Montreal and Mrs. Hala Bashlawi the Ambassador Representative and behind them some members of the Egyptian Embassy.



### In a Visit to the Injured from Abu Fana Monastery, Mallawy

On Friday 7/7, HH the Pope visited the injured monks and monkhood seekers from Abu Fana Monastery in Borg Mina Hospital, Roxy.

Their grace Bishop Botros, Bishop Demetrious, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia accompanied HH in this visit.

### With Counselor Yehia Abd El Megeid, Governor of Sharqeya

HH the Pope, in his Papal Residence in Cairo, received HE Counselor Yehia Abd El Megeid, the Governor of Sharqeya.

This meeting was also attended by their grace Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

