



El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty-first Year

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Middle East Churches Council (M.E.C.C.)

The Council's Heads Meeting

The date of the meeting of the four Heads of the Council was set to be on Thursday 6/11 in Cairo.

Before that there will be a meeting for priests Dr. Selim Sehiouny one the Council Heads and Dr. Reyad Gargour the Secretary General of the Council with His Holiness the Pope on Wednesday 5/11.

The Cairo Council Heads Meeting is expected to be a preparation for the Council General Assembly that will be held on the beginning of December 2003 in Cyprus this year and will end on 5-12. His Holiness the Pope will be attending it and heading its first session.

Also delegates of our Coptic church and others from all the member churches will be attending it.

In that meeting they will select the four Heads of the four families of churches:

Eastern Orthodox Churches, Orthodox Churches, Anglican Churches and Catholic Churches.

During that meeting they will also select the new Secretary General of the Council and its Executive Committee.

And, God's willing, the outcomes of these meetings, whether the Council Heads Meeting or the Council General Assembly, will be published as they come out.

St. Rowais (Abba Tiji)

The Feast of St Rowais

The church celebrated St Rowais feast. There was a special celebration in his old church at St Rowais Monastery in Cairo on the evening of Friday 31-10 where the evening prayer was held. His Holiness prepared the Holy Spices (Honout) with which the tomb of St Rowais was then scented. Some of those participated in preparing the Holy Spices with HH were their Grace: Bishop Rowais, Bishop Metaous, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Athanasius and a number of fathers: monks and priests. St Rowais feast coincide with the day the Altar Lot took place in which His Holiness Pope Shenouda III was nominated.

St Rowais's name became popular nowadays and churches were named after him and bishops, priests and members of the community carried his name.



Church News in Photos

At the Doctors' Association House

On the evening of Thursday 30-10, HH the Pope went to "Dar El Hekma" where he met with Prof. Dr. Hamdi El Sayed the Head of the Doctors' Association and some of the Association members in a friendly meeting that was also attended by HG Bishop Youanes, Rev. Hegumen Ermeya Ava Mina and Rev. Hegumen Kirillos El Baramousy (from His Holiness Secretarial Office).

This was followed by a conference at the Association for the cause of supporting the Struggle of Palestinians, in which HH gave an adequate speech. Then HH left around 10:30 PM.



With the Arabic Information Center at the Opera

On the same Thursday evening after His Holiness's visit to the Doctor's Association, he visited the pavilion that the Information Center had in one of the Opera House yards. HH received an invitation to this event from the reporter Mr. Samir Abd El Qader. It was a lovely event that was attended by a number of media and television men. Some of this event was recorded. This event was also attended by Dr. Mamdouh Riad the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs and General Fouad Allam.

During this event both His Excellency the Sheikh of Al Azhar and His Holiness the Pope were honored and presented the Plate of Appreciation for Distinguished Giving from the media men.



The Ramadan Gathering by the State Council

On Monday morning, 27-10, HH received Counselor Yehia Abd El Megeed the Secretary General of the State Council who carried him an invitation to attend the gathering that the State Council holds on Monday 3-11.

There was also Counselor Edward Ghaleb the Vice President of the State Council and the Secretary of the Lay Council. It was a friendly meeting.



Church's News



Charity Committee in Cairo

Due to the busyness of HH the Pope on Thursday, 6-11, morning with the Heads Meeting of the Heads of the Middle East Churches Council, he decided to meet with the Charity Committee on the morning of Monday 3-11.

With priests, laymen and servants from Shebeen El Qanater Diocese

Their meeting with HH the Pope to discuss issues related to their diocese and the ordination of a bishop for them was set to be on Tuesday 4-11.

With the New Ambassador of England

His Holiness received His Excellency in the Papal Residency in Cairo on Tuesday 4-11.

His Grace Bishop Pishoi's return from his trip to America

HG returned back on the evening of Wednesday 29-10 from a pastoral trip to the USA that followed his return from the Lebanon trip which he went on with the Pope.

He was received by HH the Pope in the Papal Residency in Cairo and submitted to HH a report about his trip.

The Churchly Products Annual Exhibition

It has been decided that HH the Pope will inaugurate the exhibition on Wednesday, 12/11, morning. It will be in a separate pavilion set behind the Papal Residency (like last year) and it will be open for ten days.

With Counselor Nagy Ishaq

❖ On 28-10, HH the Pope received Counselor Nagy Ishaq the Reporter of the Legal Committee of the Lay Council. This meeting was concerning some legal papers that have to be legally registered at the Land and Real Estate Registration Department.

A Conference about the Fayoum Monasteries

On Monday, 27-10, evening, HH the Pope received Dr. Fawzi Istafanous (from Cleveland Hospital); he is also the Secretary General of St Mark Organization for the Church History.

The talk was about the conference that will be held from 6-2-2003 to 10-2 about the monasteries located in the area of Fayoum. This is the second conference about the history of monasticism. 37 scientists will be giving speeches throughout it. The conference will be hosted by HG Bishop Abram of Fayoum.

The first conference was about the monasteries of Natron Valley. And the third conference will be held on 2006, God's willing, and it will be about the monasteries of Sohag and Akhmim.

The second topic that HH the Pope discussed with Dr. Fawzi Istafanous was about: **The Patriarch's Library.**

HG Bishop Besada's return from his trip to America and Canada

HG returned to Egypt on 22-10 after a visit to America and Canada. He prayed Liturgies and Evening Prayers and gave sermons at so many churches. He also met with Their Grace Bishop Serabion and Bishop Youssef.

HH the Pope met with him right after he returned.

HG Bishop Rafael and his visit to England

HG left to England on Thursday 30-10 to continue his treatment.

He prayed a Holy Liturgy on Friday 31-10, morning, at St Mark Church, London. And on the evening he held a meeting for youths at the same church. And during noon he went to the hospital.

On Saturday 1-11, he prayed a liturgy at the Angel and St Mary Church in Golders Green.

HG is expected to come back to Egypt on Monday 3-11, God's willing.

Forty Years for the departure of



HG Metropolitan Binyamin the former Metropolitan of Menofeya 1950 – 1963

11th November of this year is the fortieth Anniversary of the departure of HG Metropolitan Binyamin who was famous for his deep spiritual touching voice.

Mr. Amir Nasr sent us a speech about the touching voice that HG Metropolitan Binyamin had and his high spirituality in praying the Holy Liturgy and in hymns especially in the Gregorian Liturgy.

He left his spiritual signature on all the souls that prayed with him or heard him until today with his spirituality that touches hearts...

St George Feast in his Monastery at Zoriqat

The Annual Celebration will take place as usual during the month of November. It will be under the supervision of their Grace: Bishop Hedra, Bishop Morcos, Bishop Beamen and Bishop Youanes. The Feast Celebration will start on 11th -17th November.

HG Bishop Besenty

HG Bishop Besenty returned to Cairo on the evening of Friday 31-10 after a treatment trip to Canada that lasted for four weeks.

HH the Pope received him and advised him to get some rest as a recovery period.

St. Anthony's Church, San Francisco-America

HH the Pope delegated a Synod committee: their Grace Bishop Pishoi, Bishop Tadros, Bishop Serabion to check on the pastoral issues which concerns St. Anthony's Church at Howard, San Francisco-America. The committee commenced its job by the end of October 2003, and released a report on 26/10 which was approved by HH the Pope, and accordingly:

Papal Decree No. 25/32 was issued concerning St. Anthony's Church-San Francisco

- A- Assigning HG Bishop Serabion to supervise the church, preside its council and manage the church's affairs till a Bishop is ordained for this region.
- B- The church council is to formed of :
 - 1- HG Bishop Serabion-President.
 - 2- Eng. Sherif Tawfiq, Treasurer

- and Co-Executive Secretary.
- 3- Dr. Eng. Sami Hanna, Secretary.
- 4- Eng. Zareef Sawerus, Member.
- 5- Eng. Nagy Aziz Ibrahim, Member.
- 6- Dr. Michael Abd El Malek, Member.
- 7- Mrs. Samia Iskander Mansour, Member representing the subcommittee of women's service.
- C- Signature on Cheques concerning all the church's finances should be of the Treasurer's together with either HG the council's president or the Secretary.

Other Decisions:

- ❖ It has been decided that no more books should be printed as there is big amount of
- ❖ Books as inventory in the church.
- ❖ All the church council meetings

- should be signed upon every time or in the next meeting.
- ❖ And all managerial issues should be approved by the church council before putting them into action.
- The priest of the church should take care of only the spiritual service in the church.
- ❖ No silent auction is to take place.

Subcommittee of Women's Service:

- This committee is to be formed of:
- 1- Mrs. Magda Ghabrael, President.
 - 2- Mrs. Thakaa Malek.
 - 3- Mrs. Afaf Iskander Mansour, Secretary.
 - 4- Mrs. Suzan Sami.
 - 5- Mrs. Samia Iskander Mansour, Treasurer.
 - 6- Mrs. Amaal Dawoud.
 - 7- Mrs. Wafaa Sawerus.

Jerusalem Confederation (Rabtet El Quds) Theatre, Faggala: preparation, activity and its success

It is the theatre of the Resurrection and St. Mary's church affiliated of Jerusalem Church.

Hegumen Ibrahim reported:

The theatre has been established perfectly with 455 seats made of beech wood, with a curtain that weighs 0.75 ton and a wooden floor. It has 13 projectors with ceiling and wall fans...

The theatre has been used since mid August, 2003 till the end of October (about a month and half) by 25 churches from Cairo and Giza.

The Acting team of the theatre has been granted the first award this year in Cairo together with the team from St. Mary's church-Zaytoon.

The awards were distributed on Sunday 19/10 by HG Bishop Mousa and Bishop Rafael at the St. Rowais' theatre.

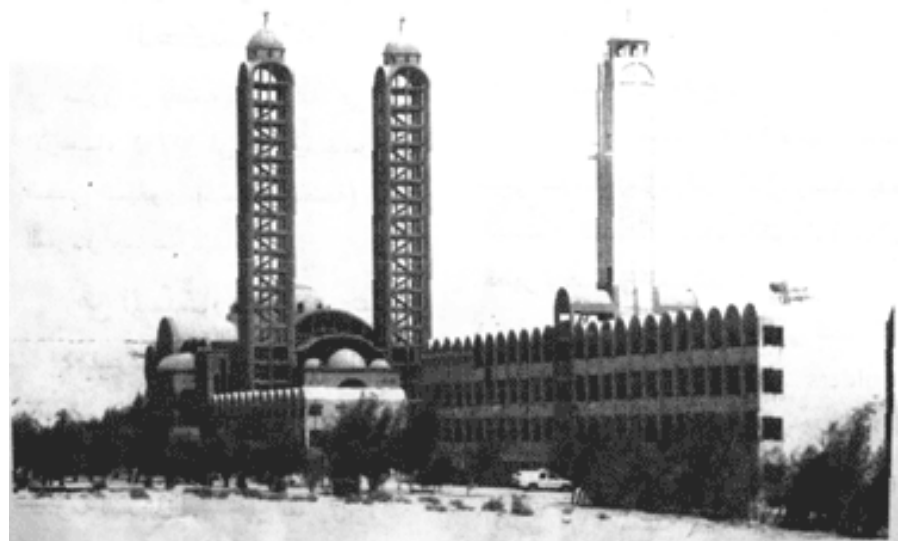
Congratulations to Jerusalem Confederation (Rabtet El Quds) Church, on the opening of its theatre and for this success.

With HG Bishop Rafael

HH the Pope received HG on Tuesday 28/10, and also on Wednesday evening 29/10 (prior to his departure). Attorney Halim Hanna was with him and spoke about buying a building for St George Church, Khamaroweh, Shobra.

Miscellaneous meetings (cont'd)

HH the Pope received Hegumen Philemon Mahrous (Priest at the Diocese of Los Angeles) prior to his return to his church (Wed 05/10).



St Samuel Monastery in at the Qalamoun Wilderness

Spiritual weakness

Pope Shenouda III



I would like to talk to you today about a spiritual subject which is important to all of us; the spiritual weakness.

What is the spiritual weakness? What causes it? How to overcome this weakness? That's what we are going to talk about.

There isn't any spiritual life that stays straight all the time, with no curves. And there isn't any, which its curve stays all the time at its optimum high level. There is always time of weakness in a spiritual life, even in the life of saints.

Though there are levels for the spiritual weakness; what is considered to be weakness in the spiritual lives of saints might be very high spiritual levels to us, to which we didn't even reach yet.

In the life of the same person, and throughout his spiritual maturity, he might pass by a period of weakness which is considered to him as being of higher spiritual level than some passing days of his life...

We should find out whether this state of spiritual weakness is permanent or is it just temporary in a person's life...is his life always spiritually active except some few intervals of weakness, or is his spiritual life on the contrary always weak except for some few periods when it is warm and active?

Also this person should find out whether this spiritual weakness is caused by his own will, or by outside wars? Is it a result of his carelessness, or is it due to some external pressures?

Let's find out now the reasons behind passing by spiritual weakness and how it attacks the soul...

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1- One of the causes of Spiritual weakness is lacking of the warmth of repentance:

A person, who has just repented, usually lives in the warmth of his spirituals which got him out of the darkness of sin to the acknowledgment of God. But he doesn't usually reserve these spirituals for too long. As days pass, he might forgets his sins, forgets his falls and disgrace, and disregard the grace which saved him on the first place, so he loses his preliminary warm spirituals...!

His self rebuke soon vanishes, and his humbleness as well, life drifts him away and he soon forgets.

David the Prophet preserved his high spiritual life, because his sin was ever before him, wept on it and wet his bed with his tears, so he cannot lose his spiritual strength.

Also the Publican, who repented, standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

If you were ever distant from the feelings of repentance, and your spiritual life is weakened; listen to Mar Avraam the Syrian's advice "He then remembered Mary by her sin, and Israel by his repentance." Sit and remember how much you hurt

God's heart, and weep upon your sins.

Sometimes the spiritual weakness is due to being distant from the warm feelings and high spirituals of repentance, because at that point the causes which drove a person to repentance, its effect just goes away.

The motive which leads to repentance might be an effect of a special incident, an illness may be, a death incidence, a temptation, this motive could be the fear of a divine punish, or a person may be affected by a spiritual person, by meetings or readings...by time, this effect is less, it is forgotten or even vanishes, then the heart falls into spiritual weakness as a result of being apart from the warm feelings which accompanied his repentance.

At the same time, this person might have not even reached and felt the warmth of love. He then becomes distant from the warmth of both repentance and love.

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2- Another cause of spiritual weakness is lacking of spiritual bonds...

And that is a result of keeping away of grace intermediaries, like spiritual readings, contemplations, prayers, spiritual meetings, chants and hymns, giving alms and attending the divine liturgies, and also drifting away from acquiring spiritual friendships.

The world at the same time is so much negatively affecting our lives, and on the other hand spiritual effects are not even enough to keep equilibrium.

When a person loses his spiritual food, and is far from positive effects, keeping away of grace intermediaries, then his life becomes weak due to lack of spiritual fuel which was keeping it always on.

So, you have to reconsider your life, did you neglect something of the spiritual bonds which push you towards God, which help reminding you of Him, and grant you power?

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3- One of the reasons which causes spiritual weakness is the spiritual growth, when it just stops:

Growth in the spirituals gives warmth, as it is constantly moving forward. Growth is the spirit of progress which gives a person the strong desire of achievement.

A person whose spiritual growth stops, his warmth as well goes away and he is weakened. This happens when this person is happy at a certain level at which he is and stops moving on, his life is then frozen at that point.

The Christian perfection to which God has asked from us when He said "Be perfect", has no limits, so we should enthusiastically go for it.

Look at St. Paul the apostle's fight for the Bible, look at all what was revealed to him, he was caught

up to the third heaven, and God granted him so much miracles, wonders and signs, he said" forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead". This reaching forward to things which are ahead, was preserving his spiritual warmth for himself, as he said "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold". This act of following gives the soul a continuous movement; fill it with spiritual desire, so it continues growing without weakness.

So, beware of your spiritual growth that it might stop. Be like a battery which as long as the vehicle is moving, its power is recharged, so it acquires more power and give power to the vehicle as well to go forward...

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4- Another reason causing spiritual weakness is the formalism of worship:

When the worship turns to be monotonous, without understanding, with no soul, nor emotion, without contemplation, turns to be work that should be done.

The reason behind this might be the interest to increase the amount without caring about going into more depth.

Some worshippers want to increase the amount of their prayers, so they hurry while praying, they don't understand or contemplate. And their care for the amount doesn't give them any chance to go deeper into their prayers, and the same goes for the spiritual readings and studying the prayers by hard.

Thus their prayers become weaker, as the desire of increasing the amount exceeded the love of the heart to enjoy the presence of God through prayers.

How beautiful is what St. Paul the apostle said that he would rather speak five words with his understanding, than ten thousand words in a tongue. (1Cor 14:19).

Also what Mar Isaac said that if a person faces this kind of war during praying, he should fight it back by saying "I stood up in front of God to pray not to prepare my words".

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5- A reason that may cause spiritual weakness is best seats:

Best seats are considered one of the main reasons which cause the spiritual weakness, because a person loses his humbleness, consequently he loses his soul and his spirituals.

At first he used to enter the church with much humbleness, feeling unworthy of even entering, so he prays deeply asking for mercy. And then he became one of the leaders in the church, he cares for others even if it costs him neglecting his own soul...!

He used before to read and benefit from his readings, to apply what he learnt on himself through spiritual exercises, but now he might only read to prepare for a speech or to give a lesson.

He turns into a teacher or a scientist in his readings rather than a worshipper!

He might get so busy in researches or studies that have nothing to do with his soul's salvation. Things that are important only for giving his lectures... and little by little these studies might overwhelm him thus ignoring his own special contemplations, and his spirituals is then weakened.

Best seats can be a source of trouble when it

involves people's appreciation, which make him forget his sins, lose his humbleness, making his spirituals become weaker.

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6- Consequently, having people entering his life is a reason causing spiritual weakness:

Some dramatic changes in a person's spiritual life are sometimes a result of people evolving in his life, his interest in how they judge things and in their opinion... those people might consider his spiritual growth to be exceeding limits, they might see that his strictness is a bit of suspicion, and consider his care about something to be as if he complicates matters, so they ask him to change, and he tries to please them so his spirituals is weakened...

He used to do virtues as he loved righteousness and loved God himself. And now he is doing it in order to be a good ideal example to other people: he stays away from evil not because he separates evil from God, he does so as not to offend anyone!

Thus the spiritual objective is now changed or even deviated, and consequently the spiritual life of this servant is weakened, as the warmth of divine love is now away from his life, and new objectives appeared in the way, and God is not the axis of his life anymore.

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7- Deviation of the spiritual objective is another reason that causes spiritual weakness

Like when worshipping becomes only like a model, or turns to be a habit or an obligation, the objective turns then to be just caring about people and try always to please them, at that point the service becomes a goal rather than a tool, so God and our relation with him isn't anymore the centre of attraction of our heart and our thoughts...

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8- Another reason causing spiritual weakness is the world's overwhelming distractions

The world is so busy, most people are all the time busy working or studying, different aspects of activities which are means of living for many people keeps them always busy having no time left for God and their own spiritual life.

Unfortunately there are lots of pious people and also servants whose life is so busy; they don't have enough time to spend it with God!!

Their service consumed all their time, and their life activities as well are consuming all their thoughts and their emotions. If God might knock at their doors, they reply "go now, and when there is enough time we will call you"!!

They started their service on the first place for the sake of God, and as going through it they almost forgot God, and thought of their service only and its matters that keep them busy so their spiritual life becomes weak.

Few of them sit with themselves, examine where they stand, and divide their time fairly between their services and their spiritual life.

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9- The reason which causes spiritual weakness could be a sin or a lust:

with which when a person is captured, it takes his love, and keeps this love always busy; God becomes no more the centre of emotions in this heart, and because of this lust the heat of his spiritual life which

was there cooled, and the spirituals became weak...

Everyone who feels that his spiritual life became weak should search deep into his soul, and find out if there is a sin which lies at the door, to which he has granted his longings, and it ruled over him, and occupied God's place in his heart? If so, he should repent and get away with his life, so that he might retain the warmth of his spiritual life...

Search for the reason which caused your spiritual life to become weak, as the book says "Remember therefore from where you have

fallen; repent" (RV: 2:5).

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10-Pride could be also a reason that causes weakness of the spiritual life

May be you thought of yourself being a great thing, and when pride entered your life after repentance, pride then entered your heart as well. So God deprived you of his grace which He granted you before, so that you might recognize and feel how weak you really are and be humble instead, and that's why God permitted spiritual weakness to come to you in the first place...!

Reasons behind leaving the first love

One of the reasons behind Spiritual Weakness might be: the routine of the spiritual life, the fact that it is not growing and the conscience carelessness.

Routine and no growth:

The spiritual heat rules over the heart of the repenting person because he feels the big difference between his life in repentance and his former life in sin.

He feels that he started getting to know the lord and His way. Feeling that change, he gets filled up with heat. Some sects even call this change (Renovation).

But if this new life got ruled by routine again the heart heat will cool.

The one style might bring sleep sometimes...

You have to feel ongoing change in your life and movement in it.

The change should not only be accompanying repentance but should continue for the whole life. It should be a change to the best, a growth and a reaching forward to what's ahead...

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Repentance is not a stage that you only pass by but it is for the whole lifetime... And so is change in your life... Everyday you evolve and your knowledge of the Lord grows, and your knowledge about yourself also grows. How can this be?

God, in His love, does not reveal all your sins and imperfections at the beginning of your repentance so that you do not fall in desperation and feel that the road is hard to go through.

But he first reveals the horrible sins so that you confess them... You might be tired of a big sin like adultery, robbery, lying, cursing, oppressing... And when you get rid of it, you think you have repented and that your life has changed and you got to know the Lord...

During that you forget about other sins that are still inside of you without you feeling them... Therefore the wise repenting person always searches inside himself to reveal its weakness and imperfections and repent for them.

And with that inspection for the small sins, one lives the life of circumspectness. And with continual repenting a person goes into the life of contrition that brings him the passion.

And such person continually keeps on trying to repair himself and keep growing and his life gets better everyday...

If you do not go forward everyday then you are prone to going backwards. Spiritual life is an ongoing moving life that never stops.

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❖ **An example of that is the repenting person's attitude towards prayer...**

Before repenting, you did not use to pray, but if you started to pray and stopped at that level, your life will cool. But the spiritual person grows:

He trains on understanding, meditating, being deep in prayer and praying submissively whether spiritually or physically and trains also on submissive prayer remembering his sins. He makes himself get used to praying passionately and with longing to God and with love... His conscience reproaches him if he loses one of these elements.

His conscience used to rebuke him if he does not reach where he wanted. But now his conscience reproaches him in spite of his prayers because it is not as spiritual as it should be.

After that comes the training on continuously praying, during work, on the road, in every interview or meeting and on the beginning of every action... And prayer becomes more serious and with an aim and not only a routine. And the person praying feels that he is in the presence of God and feels the connection he has with Him...

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And if he was absorbed by prayer it leads him to silence because talking delays him; and silence leads him to solitude because being among people embarrasses him...

He experiences continual speaking with prayer words, and prayer meanings get revealed to him. This makes new meditation every time and the prayer words get sweeter to him until he cannot leave his prayers.

With all this growth he feels more his imperfection in praying.

How far is he still from prophets' prayers that used to move out the place, the prayer of Elijah that used to open the heaven, David's prayer that contained granting and the prayers of saints that did miracles? How far is he from the high prayer levels and from being wonder-struck by God?!

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If you put in front of you a real program for spiritualities in its depth and you measure yourself to the high levels, you will always feel that you did not reach them yet...

We lose the passion sometimes because our spiritual measures are limited.

Only one or two psalms are sufficient to make us ease our conscience and might even make us feel that we are righteous, while in fact our prayers are still **shallow and weak!!**

You can feel the prayer sweetness when you love prayer more than anything else; and then everything else become insignificant for you when compared to it.

A person, who always aims to reach forward for what is ahead, becomes full of passion because movement generates heat. And the one who does not move becomes cold and weak.

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❖ **Among the reasons that lead to weakness in spiritual life is caring only for worshipping and leaving purity of the heart... How can that be?**

In spite of his worship, there might be a little pride in his heart, self righteousness, lack of love for the neighbor, lack of faith or lack of trust... And he does not care, thinking that worshipping deeds are sufficient...!

Back, when you were in the world, the big sins fought you. But now you fight sins that you think are small. That is why we find in the Song of Solomon the saying: "Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines..."

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But even some sins come to us in sheep's clothing!!

They take the form of virtues while they are sins!!
How does that happen?

Anger may take the form of sacred zeal. So that a person gets angry and rages, might even curse, rebuke, flare up, intensify and convict others and fill the world with noise and thinks that he does that all for God!!

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He might even mention verses that justify his attitude so that his conscience does not rebuke him!

The bible says: "Convince, rebuke, exhort". And mentions that the Lord Jesus Christ held the whip and cleared the temple. Also mentions his saying: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites!". And they quote St Paul the Apostle when saying: "O foolish Galatians!" and the Baptist says: "Serpents, brood of vipers!"... And they do not remember from the bible anything other than that...!!

He, in his own eyes, is a new Baptist and a new Elijah who can say: "Let fire come down from heaven and consume the fifty". And in all that he loses his humility.

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In the past, when he was far from God, he was hard-hearted, intense and violent to the extent that people get annoyed from his hardness. And he thinks that he repented and got changed by abandoning some of his obvious sins... But till now he is still too harsh... Judges people harshly inside the church... And it seems as if people of the world are more sensitive, gentler and politer than he is.

What is strange about that is that his conscience does not rebuke him. The devil has taken the form of an angel of light and the sin has taken the name of a virtue!

Conviction has taken the name of reform and strictness has taken the name of circumspectness and angry attitude has carried the name of zeal... And verses started giving a good cover for sins!!

The conscience has become so flexible that it can swallow so many sins...

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The most astonishing of all is that this person might commit a sin and the vanishing glory still fights him.

With all his cruelty, and judging others, and his loud rebuking for everyone, he still sees himself as the only one implementing the verse "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Eph 5: 11).

There is a big difference between one person and another: the first one is nominated by God to rebuke people, the Holy Spirit is rebuking people on his tongue, with divine words, examples of which are Elijah and Simon, and another person rebuking people with a cruel heart and a harsh tongue, because he has bad habits and didn't repent yet...

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This person as he justifies his sin, he justifies his laziness in worship

Like he justifies his sin using examples and verses from the bible that do not apply to him, he justifies his laziness in: prayers, contemplations, spiritual readings, by the excuse of being busy in the service!! My advice to such people is as follows:

Refuse every new virtue that you acquire that is a destroyer to another one which you already posses, and say to yourself: I don't

want it, it is not from God.

The righteousness which God grants you doesn't destroy another one that you already have, but builds on it for God's deeds do not destroy one another...

Satan, the wise in evil, as was written about the serpent "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field" (Gn 3:1), destroys whatever virtues he finds in you promising you with others... **He destroys your meekness under the cover of zeal, and takes away your prayers under the cover of the service...** then in turn makes you lose the blessings of both zeal and the service by judging others and anger...

If Satan tells you: leave your humbleness aside, so that you might reprove, rebuke, exhort, tell him I do not want that reproofing, I am leaving it to leaders. If he tells you are now a leader and have responsibilities, you are not young anymore, tell him: I would like to stay young my whole life.

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Satan fights everyone: he fights the sons of the world by sin and lust. He fights sons of God by virtues... a virtue that destroys another one!!

As for you **may your life be built on the foundation of humbleness** on which all your spiritual life should be built on as well... this humbleness warms up your spiritual life, hence you will grow in the knowledge of God, the knowledge that gives depth to your love not that makes you lose your way into dark misleading subways...

Climb up the ladder of virtues, slowly, wisely and with counseling, don't climb up a step until you make sure that your feet are well fixed in the previous step. Every single step that is built on the prior to it does not contradict or destroy it.

Let your spiritual work be done consecutively, for that Satan's deeds are never so, they are so disorganized.

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There are reasons for leaving the first love: Sometimes leaving the first love is due to fear, like when Peter denied Jesus. When the shepherd is stricken, the sheep of flock scatter, then whoever escapes escape, and whoever denies deny.

It is also possible that a person might leave his first love because of Satan's fights.

Although the heart that is full of love always wins over Satan's wars, so even if Satan appears to him in dreams or visions, he refuses to believe those dreams, as not every vision or dream is from God!! And likewise he refuses the thoughts, doubts and suspicion.

It is possible that leaving the first love is because one's heart is turned away to another.

Like when a father leaves the love of the children of his first wife for the love of his second wife; his heart has deviated, and love has deviated with it.

He might leave his first love because his false explanation for some situations.

Or because the one he loved did not fulfill his aims, and he deals with God the same way...

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God considers leaving the first love as a fall, and He gives a warning.

He says "or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - unless you repent." (Rev 2:5)

May God give us to repent and go back to our first love.

General Committee for Chanting Meeting of the Dioceses at the West Coast



This meeting was held on Tuesday 21/10 at Archangel Michael's Monastery, Niqada.

34 Reverend Priests and Monks attended this meeting, 172 youths also attended 72 of which were female servants, in addition to producers and Choirs.

Four lectures were given at that meeting:

The first lecture: by HG Bishop Hedra, it was about the Coptic hymns and its effect on the Coptic chants.

The second lecture: by HG Bishop Martyrus, it was about

chanting in the New Testament and the first Christian centuries.

The third lecture: by Hegumen Botros Botros on behalf of HG Bishop Pishoi.

The fourth lecture: by Dr. Osama Asham, about the spiritual basis of the chants.

A Photo at One of Our Churches in Sydney, Australia



During HG Bishop Pishoi's visit to Sydney, Australia, with HG Bishop Daniel

Illustrated Photos

Consecration of Virgin Mary and St Rowais Church, Hadayeq El Ahram

HH the Pope received His Eminence Metropolitan Domadius on Wednesday 29-10 who invited HH to consecrate the church. And on the morning of Saturday 31-10 HH went there and consecrated the church.

His Eminence Metropolitan Domadius participated with HH in the consecration prayers with HG Bishop Metaous, Bishop Eshea, Bishop Daniel, Bishop Athanasius, and Bishop Kirolos Ava Mina.



Ordination of Three New Priests for St. George Church-Beba

On the morning of Tuesday 28/10, HG Bishop Istafanus and Bishop Beamen, ordained three clerical deacons as priests with the names:

Fr. Andrawus Habib.

Fr. Beamen Hegumen Anton.

Fr. Basillius Thabet.

Congratulations to the new priests, the Diocese of Beba and to HG Bishop Estefanus.

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And on the same day, the uniform has been granted to 10 of the consecrated sisters (mokarasat) with the names:

Tasouny Mariam.

Tasouny Phoebe.

Tasouny Youana.

Tasouny Pestis.

Tasouny Barbara.

Tasouny Elisabat.

Tasouny Doulagi.

Tasouny Rafaela.

Tasouny Susana.

Tasouny Helbees.

Congratulations to all and may their service be successful.