



El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty Third Year

Friday 11th November 2005 – 2nd Hatour 1722

Price 75 pt.

Issues 33, 34

We Remain Silent, so that God Talks...

HH the Pope said in the Cathedral in his meeting on the evening of Wednesday 26/10:

In my mind so many words to say.
And in my heart even more than this.
But I prefer to remain silent.
And I want to be silent so that the Lord talks.
And trust that our silence may be more expressing,
And God
hears this silence,
God hears this silence
And realizes all its meanings
And all what we suffer.

Yes, we remain silent because our subject is in the hands of God and not in the hands of people.

And we remain silent because talking is not brining any benefits.

And talking alone cannot solve the situation.

And many have talked and no benefit added!

Because there are intensions in the hearts

That blocks hearing of the ears...

It is not a matter of talk But it is feelings that dominates and masters

And so long as our talk is of no use

We are waiting for God to talk And talks in actions not words

God made us accustomed to Him working

Without us talking or complaining And he knows more than what we know

He knows the hidden and the apparent

He knows all what happened to us And all what they want to happen

And we are assured to God's knowledge

And we are comfortable to His work

Therefore, we are waiting for the Lord...

And before us the saying of the Holy Inspiration 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)



The Feast of Saint Rowais the Great

On Monday 31/10 the church commemorated the feast of the Great Saint Rowais (it also marks the same day of the altar ballot on which was the choice of heaven for HH Pope Shenouda III as a Patriarch).

On Sunday evening 30/10 HH the Pope prepared the holy spices and embalmed the saint's grave. Their grace Bishop Rowais, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Athanasius and Bishop Ermia participated with HH along with a large number of the reverend priests.

Extending Felicitations to our Muslim Brothers on the Bairam Feast

HH the Pope went to the Azhar then to the Iftaa' headquarters and the ministry of religious endowments to extend His felicitations to the Islamic religion leaders on the Bairam feast. Their grace who accompanied him were Bishop Rowais, Bishop Mousa, Bishop Markos, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia along with Dr Tharwat Basilli, Counselor Edward Ghaleb and counselor Malek Mina. Mr. Hany Aziz also attended this meeting.



With HE the Sheikh of Al Azhar



With HE the Mufti

With the State Security Officials

HH the Pope received on Tues evening 18/10 (immediately after the Cathedral's Iftar Banquet) General Hassan Abd Al Rahman the Head of the state security office, General Wafy the Manager of the State Security office of Cairo, Brigadier General Medhat Kamal and Colonel Ahmed Mostafa. Their grace Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia, Hegomen Cherubim Al Bakhoumy attended the meeting along with Dr. Eissa Girguis, Counselor Fouad Girguis and Mr. Nader Markos of the Alexandrian Lay Council.

And after midnight of Friday 21/10, HH received at the Papal residence in St. Pishoi's Monastery General Salah Al Barad'ie. Their grace Bishop Youanes and Major Yasser Ahmed attended this meeting.

HH also received General Salah Al Barad'ie on the evening of Sat 22/10 at the Papal residence in Cairo; the meeting was attended by their grace Bishop Mousa, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

Felicitating the State Security Officials on the Bairam Feast

HH the Pope designated their grace Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia their Secretaries to extend to the Police and the state security officials their felicitations on the feast...we wish everyone a happy feast.



With HE the Sheikh of Al Azhar

The Incidences of Alexandria

❖ The incidences of Alexandria are well known to everyone. They were audio and video broadcasted on some satellite TV channels and in details, they were also published on the internet, in newspapers and were pointed at on TV, lot of people talked about what happened...

❖ When we write a briefing about those incidences, we don't actually add anything but people will be surprised if the magazine is published without any notice about what happened...

❖ Actually, what we are writing now is not for the people but we present it in front of God as a prayer...throughout our life we didn't ever hide anything from God, and He- blessed be His name- knows everything even if we don't write it down...

❖ The incidences started as a reaction to what was written with provocative manner in some of the private newspapers, they were not charged or even blamed by anyone for what they wrote. Some people reacted with hostility towards what was written and those incidences then took place...

❖ Thousands of those who participated in the incidences crowded together round St. George Church in Moharam Bek, they were forcefully and vigorously hitting on the church doors trying to break in, we thank the Lord for they weren't able to do so otherwise a catastrophe would have taken place...the police officers hindered them from doing so, and at the same time there were some of the youths inside the church waiting for their destiny in panic...and God witnessed and listened...

❖ Then there was the attack on the devoted sister whom the newspapers said about her that she was a nun; someone waited for her by the church's door and stabbed her many times, one of the police force defended her so he was also stabbed, one of the attorneys was also stabbed and the devoted sister fell on the ground, her photo was broadcasted on some satellite TV channels...and God witnessed all that...God preserved the life of this sister who could have died and the suspect was detained and confessed saying that he is in a healthy mental state and knows what he was doing...!

❖ Incidences then proceeded

harshly and with violence.

❖ Some people said that what happened is a mixture of the previous incidences which took place on the 18th and 19th of January 1977 and what happened in Zawya Al Hamra on 1989.

❖ The incidences which took place on Fri evening 21/10/2005 and on Sat morning include twenty violent acts: setting on fires, damaging, robbery of the houses of Christians, their pharmacies and their stores.

❖ They also attacked the churches; they stoned the Virgin Church in Moharam Bek and threw bottles containing explosive materials at the church. They also attacked the Evangelical Churches in Ibn Zahron Street throwing the Holy Bibles at the streets stepping with their feet over them and burnt them...they attacked the organization named "Friends of the Holy Bible" and destroyed their office, they brought the cross and the books outside and stepped over them with their feet.

❖ They destroyed the office of the Archangel Michael's organization.

❖ They also attacked the "Faith" Evangelical Church at the Iskandarany Street throwing it with explosive bottles and attacked the "Brothers" Church.

❖ They set fire on a religious library with its religious photos, framed icons and Christian statues.

❖ They attacked "Isis" Hospital and stoned it; they broke the hospital's frontage and damaged some medical equipment.

❖ They attacked the "Salvation of Souls" assembly... and God witnessed and listened, a book of remembrance was written before the lord.

❖ Incidences proceeded, and the number of complaints which the Copts registered at the persecution office reached 43 reports which we have their serial numbers, dates and names of those who filed them.

❖ They also put signs on the houses of Christians to make, and this was causing panic among people.

❖ They threatened some people that they would kill them.

❖ One of the priests of St. George church had a nervous breakdown and wives of priests were also in panic.

❖ Some of the police force vehicles were burnt.

❖ 121 were put into custody 104 of whom were then released and 17 are still in jail...

❖ It was such a difficult time in the history of Alexandria, and they were keen to transfer anger and demonstrations to other places.

With His Excellency the Governor of Alexandria

HH the Pope received at the monastery on Fri evening 28/10 Minister Abd Al Salam Al Mahgoub the Governor of Alexandria, their grace Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia and Mr. Hany Aziz attended the meeting.

With the Children of Al Malak Orphanage Moharam Bek, Alexandria

HH the Pope received at the monastery on Thu evening 27/10 fifty five girls of the orphanage who were terrified of the incidences taking place in Moharam Bek. They all stayed there at HH overnight retreat house till the afternoon of Sunday until they were calmed and the incidences were settled down.

With the General Lay Council

HH the Pope chaired the General Lay Council meeting on Sun evening 23/10 where discussions revolved round the incidences taking place.

And on Mon morning 31/10 HH received Counselor Edward Ghaleb the council's Secretary General.

And received on Tues 1/11 Dr Tharwat Basilli the Council's Deputy Chairman and Counselor Malek Mina the council's member and the Coptic Endowments Org' Secretary.

HH also received Counselor Edward Ghaleb the Council's Secretary.

With the Alexandrian Lay Council

HH the Pope received on Sat evening 29/10 at His residence in the monastery: Dr Eisa Girguis the Alexandrian Lay Council Secretary and Mr. Nader Morcos the Council's member.

And on Tues morning 8/11 HH received counselor Fouad Girguis the council's Deputy Chairman and Attorney Samir Mansour the council member.

The Alexandrian lay Council issued a report about the incidences of Alexandria and this report has already been published.

The Pope with Law Specialists

HH the Pope met on Tues 8/11 with a group of Christian counselors and Attorneys for counseling and discussion.

Church's News



The Pope extends His Felicitations to President Mubarak on the Bairam Feast

HH the Pope sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency President Mubarak on the Bairam Feast and also called him on the feast day.

With the Reverend Bishops

❖ HH the Pope received on Sat morning 29/10 at the monastery their grace Bishop Mousa, Bishop Beamen, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Aghathon and Bishop Ermia.

❖ HH also received on Sun morning 30/10 at the monastery HG Bishop Sarabamoon and HG Bishop Tadros.

❖ And also received at the monastery their grace Bishop Isotheres, Bishop Apollo and Bishop Thomas (Quoseya).

❖ HH the Pope received on Tues afternoon 1/11 their grace Bishop Rowais, Bishop Mousa, Bishop Markos, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

HE Metropolitan Bishop Visiting Luxor & Dshna

His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop traveled by plane on Mon 31/10 to Luxor to teach at the theological seminary's branch there on Mon, Tues and Wed, He was back to Cairo on Wed evening and headed to Damietta to extend His felicitations on the Bairam Feast.

On the next day Metropolitan Bishop traveled to Dshna to follow up the supervision of the pastoral service there, he will back to Cairo by plane on Mon 7/11 and will be presenting a report to HH the Pope.

HG Bishop Thomas of Quoseya

HG will be traveling to Norway for a quick visit from 7/11 to 11/11.

The Great Saint George's Feast in Rozeykat

The church commemorates on Wed 16/11 the feast of the Great Saint George, a huge spiritual celebration will be held at His inhabited monastery in Rozeykat from Wed 9/11 to Wed 16/11 which will be attended by almost a million of the congregation who love the Saint.

HH the Pope designated their grace Bishop Hedra, Bishop Markos, Bishop Beamen and Bishop Youanes to supervise this festivity.

With some of Cairo Churches

HH the Pope received the Priests, boards, servants and the congregations of:

❖ The Northern Archangel's Church on the evening of Mon 31/10.

❖ The Churches of Al- Salam & Al Herafeyeen Cities on the evening of Mon31/10, and it has been agreed upon ordaining as a priest:

- 1- Mr. Talaat Nabeeh Ragheb.
- 2- Mr. Nabil Naguib Shehata.
- 3- Mr. Nageh Fahem Abd Al Messeih.
- 4- Mr. Adel Ezzat Baskhayroun.
- 5- Mr. Girguis Naguib Habib.

❖ St. Paul the Apostle Church in Al Obour City on Thu evening 3/11, and it has been approved upon ordaining as a priest:

- 1- Mr. Sameh Adly Ibrahim.
- 2- Mr. Mo;nes Sedhom Atteya.

❖ Martyr Mercurious with the Two Swords' Church in Kebaa' City on the evening of Thu 3/11.

Ordinations of new priests will take place on the 14th of November at St. Pishoi's Cathedral in His inhabited monastery with the ordination of other priests for Brooklyn and East Brunswick.



Church Products Fair

On the occasion of HH the Pope Enthronement feast, a fair for the church products will be held as it is usually done every year in the Cathedral's yard at the back of the Papal residence on Wed 9/11 till Sat 19/11.

HH the Pope at the Ranch of the Diocese of Social Services in Wady Al Natroun

HH the Pope visited on Fri 14/10 the ranch of the diocese of social services in Wady Al Natroun, HG Bishop Youanes accompanied HH and visited the agriculture and animal production at the ranch.

HH also visited the rehabilitation house affiliated to the "better life" program for treating addiction, Dr. Nahed Fahim the program and the servant's manager was at the arrival of HH there. HH the Pope pointed out that a new well is to be dug at the region of the rehabilitation house.

And on Mon morning 17/10, HH received HG Bishop Sarabamoon and Hegomen Istafanous Abba Pishoi concerning the digging of the new well, HG Bishop Youanes and some of the leaders at the diocese of social services attended that meeting.

The Arrival of some Reverend Bishops from the land of Immigration

On Wed 2/11, the Rev Bishops arrived from the land of immigration:

HE Met Markos and HG Bishop Athanasius (from France).

HG Bishop Serabion of Los Angeles, and HH the Pope received him.

HG Bishop Rafael

HG left to London on Thursday 20/10, and on Friday he went to the hospital to continue his medical treatment. Then he started holding conventions for the youths in Europe.

In London: from 22/10 to 24/10.

In France: from 24/10 to 28/10.

In Vienna: from 28/10 to 31/10.

In Germany: from 31/10 to 3/11.

In Milan: from 3/11 to 7/11.

He came back to Egypt on 7/11.

**"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
(Mt 11:28)**

The lecture that HH the Pope gave on Wednesday 26-10-2005

Ye, brethren:

**In my mind so many words to say.
And in my heart even more than this.
But I prefer to remain silent.
And I want to be silent so that the
Lord talks.
And trust that our silence may be more
expressing,
And God hears this silence,
God hears this silence
And realizes all its meanings
And all what we suffer.**

Pope Shenouda III



The verse that consoles us tonight is the saying of the Master and the Lord:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Meaning, come to Me all you who are under the toughness of the hardship that became even more than what you can bear. The world is full of hardships either those facing individuals, groups, cities or the whole world, but people rarely resort to God.

The Holy Bible taught us, in the Lord's Prayer, to say on every time and every day **"And lead us not into temptation"**.

God is the one who rescues but unfortunately we repeat this prayer many times but not from the heart, out of faith or out of having enough internal confidence.

In all what we are surrounded with of hardships we put the problem before God and leave it in his hands and say: Your will be done, if You want to solve this problem and Your will be done, if You want us to get the blessing of a cross to carry.

We put our problems before God, but the question is, why before God?

Because God is the Pantocrator, He sees everything, hears, knows and writes before Him a book of remembrance, because God knows the apparent and the hidden too. He knows what is happening and what may be going to happen in a while and in his knowledge he is just, merciful and a good shepherd and in that the book of Ezekiel the Prophet says:

"I will feed My flock" and the Lord God says also "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment." (Ez 34:15).

He also says in the book of Isaiah the Prophet:

"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" (Is 61:1).

Our previous experiences with Him shows us how God steps in and how He works and when things get complicated, God's hand work in power and clarity and thus the bible says:

"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 P 5:7).

And says also that He "will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape" (1 Co 10:13).

God always comforts and that is His work comforting from the outside and the inside.

He comforts from the outside from the side of external matters that tires the human.

And He comforts from inside from the side of the man's pain and suffering.

God's powerful hand extended and comforted Jonah's and saved him in the fish's belly, as God's powerful hand extended and comforted Daniel and saved him even when he was in the den of lions, also His merciful powerful hand extended to Joseph the virtuous while he was in prison...!

God wants and is capable. He wants to do good to us and he is capable of doing this good.

The examples of God's working hand for us are clear in the holy bible and in history. He says: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest".

But how do you "Come to Me"?

You "come to Me" through prayer, psalms, fasting, liturgies, vows, mercy actions and by taking hold of the horns of the altar.

At a time, the hardship became tough and thus Esther came to God with the fasting of all the people and God spoke in the heart of King Ahasuerus and that brought all good. And on a time, Nehemiah came to God with prayer and tears when he saw Jerusalem wrecked down and all its doors burnt and God spoke in the heart of the Persian King and God did a work.

You come to Me with the intercession of angels and saints.

On the days of our fathers the apostles, the apostles were in hardship and the church was praying for them.

David used to hear this verse "Come to Me, all you who labor..." before it is said in the bible and thus he said: "LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God."" (Ps 3:1, 2). But he used to hear in his heart the comfort of the Lord and thus he says afterwards: "But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head..." (Ps 3:3).

We as clergymen and religious men, collect the people's sorrows, pains and troubles and place them before God and so was the work of:

shepherd and He is present in the midst of the churches and among His people constantly. And He will remain among His people even at the end, in Heavenly Jerusalem, He will be there with hem, God is among His people and says: "where I am, there you may be also" (Jn 14:3), these are all comforting statements about the presence of our Lord with His sons who believe in Him.

In spite of the fact that St. Paul the Apostle lived facing many dangers, he speaks and says: "in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren..." (2 Co 11), and in spite of all this, He felt that God was there with him, present in his words and present in his court trials.

He was present in his words for he said: "pray for me that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph 6:19). Even the words that he said were given to him from God. And in trials God gave him a huge grace to the extent that when he was speaking before Felix the governor that Felix got afraid from Paul while he was a prisoner of him (Ac 24:25) and King Agrippa said to him: "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (Ac 26:28).

So God was present with him in spite of the many dangers.

✠ ✠ ✠

Among the most wondrous scenes: the presence of God with the three young men in the fiery furnace. This means that God may allow for fire to start but He does not allow for this fire to harm his children.

He was there with the three young men in the fiery furnace and those who saw them said that they were loose and not bound and with them there was a fourth and the form of the fourth was like the Son of God (Dn 3:25). This fourth is the one who untied their binds and who did not allow fire to have any effect on them and thus they came out of the fire safely.

A very beautiful picture that gives us an idea about our Lord who says: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

✠ ✠ ✠

And this story repeats in Noah's Ark.

Picture that in Noah's Ark, there were 8 lives were saved with water: Noah, his wife and his three children and their wives, and the ark was rising up and up, above high mountains and above the water and they were saved into it.

One of spiritual fathers said a nice word, he said: in reality the ark did not have only 8 lives, no... but it had the ninth who was unseen. And this unseen ninth was the one directing the ark and moving its helm until He parked it safely on the Ararat Mountain.

✠ ✠ ✠

God is always present with people, all the days and until the end of the age.

He was there with David in his fight with Goliath.

Who could have imagined that this lad, this "ruddy, with bright eyes" was standing against that champion whose spear was like a weaver's beam. And David was feeling this. And he said to Goliath "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand" (1 S 17:46)... also said: "the battle is the LORD's". And the Lord can win with the much and the little.

David's stone was placed in the sling but what directed the stone to Goliath's head was a grace from

God, because it could have gone in any direction.

✠ ✠ ✠

When we say that God is with us, and it is a nice statement, we mean that God is with us with his power, meaning with us with the power, the help and keeping.

The statement God is with us is not just words, no... God is with us in saving. And that was what the psalm said: "The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore." (Ps 121).

This is the meaning of the statement God is with us.

✠ ✠ ✠

Prophet Elisha, when the enemies were surrounding the city, and his servant Gehazi was afraid, he said: "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' What may he see? To see that those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And really when the Lord opened the eyes of the young man he saw the whole city surrounded with the spiritual angels and they were not apparent but they were of the invisible troops whose work can be seen well (2 K 6:14-18).

Many angels were there around people who were unaware of them and unable to feel them with their senses. Therefore it was said about the church that it is the Home of Angels. We say in the praise "Peace to you, oh church, the home of angels".

And the bible says: "The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them" (Ps 34:7). And says: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone." (Ps 91:11, 12).

Be sure that there are angels encompassing around people. And when I say that God is with us, I mean that He is with us in His power and keeping. He is also with us by His preserving angels the saints, even if they were invisible to the bare eye.

✠ ✠ ✠

So beautiful is the word that our Lord said to the angel or the pastor of Philadelphia in the Revelation book. He said: **"These things says He who is holy... who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" "... I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it" (Rev 3:7, 8)...**

This is the power of faith: to feel the hand of our Lord in your life.

Our Lord is the one who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens. But out of His mercies He makes before you an open door than no one can shut.

And therefore Jeremiah said: "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 1:18,19).

And so He said to St. Paul the Apostle: "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you" (Ac 18:9, 10).

This is the Divine saving, the Divine saving for people and the church.

✠ ✠ ✠

I remember that on year 1946, almost 60 years ago, I wrote a poem: "How hard was the injustice on you!! How much did death come after you" it was about the church. And after I talked about the troubles church faced, I said:

It is a voice that kept repeating in your ears
Fires power in you when God said about you
That the gates of Hades shall not prevail against you.

And truly in the church History, there were many times at which the gates of Hades arose against it but were unable to prevail because the church used to raise its face to God constantly.

And in the psalm says: "The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea." (Ps 93: 3, 4).

Truly, He Who dwells on high is almighty. Therefore he says in the psalm: "A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you." (Ps 91: 7). Also says: "I will never leave you nor forsake you says the Lord" and says: "If a mother forgets her nursing child, I will not forget you" "I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands" (Is 49:16). "he who touches you touches the apple of His eye" (Zec 2:9). And He said to Jacob the father of fathers while he was escaping from the face of his brother Esau: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land" (Gn 28:15).

✘ ✘ ✘

And says in the psalm "May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;" (Ps 20:1).

I remember that this psalm was the topic of my meditations on year 1969. And that was on February while I was in London and I said: I traveled to London and this psalm traveled with me. It was with me in Cairo, in the plane, in England, then with me later in the lecture and after that it became a book.

The statement: "May the LORD answer you" is a very encouraging and powerful statement that fills the heart with assurance.

Joseph the Virtuous was faced by so many trails.

His brothers threw him in the pit and sold him as a slave and he moved to a foreign country. And the

bible says about Joseph that "he was a successful man... the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand" (Gn 39:2, 3).

True, he was thrown in the pit, true, he was sold as a slave but God remained with him. God stayed with him in the pit, in slavery and in the prison and stayed with him until he moved him to glory.

✘ ✘ ✘

Really, our Lord is powerful and those who depend on God's power are not let down.

And we say this to him in the Trisagion, we say "Holy God, Holy Mighty" so that we feel comfort because of His power. And if you believe in His power, the bible says: "all things are possible to him who believes" (Mk 9:23).

The psalm says: "the right hand of the Lord has wrought mightily. The right hand of the Lord has exalted me" (Ps 117).

✘ ✘ ✘

And the history provides us with many stories: How God was there with the church, and how He saved St. Athanasius the Apostolic. He saved him from the conspiracies of the heretics and saved him in the exile. He was exiled four times. And in every time God was with him; and he preached faith in his exile until God returned him safely once again.

And God saved the church on the days of Diocletian and of Arianus governor of Antioe (Ansenia).

God also preserved the fathers the hermits while they were in the deep wilderness, he saved them from beasts, from earth creepers and from the devils' fights.

God is wondrous in His keeping; God is wondrous in His keeping.

✘ ✘ ✘

Believe me my brothers and sisters: Our Lord, for me, is not the God who exists in theology books, but He is the God whom we touch in our life day by day; and we realize Him and realize His features practically.

How often came the statement "I am with you" in the Holy Bible where the Lord says it. And how often came the statement "Peace to you".

May God be with you and His peace too.

Illustrated Dioceses' News

HG Bishop Morcos in a Meeting with his Priests' Wives

His Grace invited the Priests' wives of the diocese for a meeting with him for discussion and some pastoral and fatherly advices.



The News of the Diocese of Bani Mazar

On 9/9/05, the Virgin & St. Abanoub Church has been inaugurated and consecrated in Nazlet Gilf of Bani Mazar.

Fr. Ibrahim Ayoub the priest of St. Mark Church- Ezbet Bani Samet has been elevated to the Hegomen rank and Deacon Roshdy Welson was ordained as Psaltos.

It was such a joyous day for the congregation of Bani Samet, we extend our congratulations to everyone.

Family seminar in Beba

The Patriarchate of Beba, Alfashn and Samet held its annual family seminar on the 22nd and 23rd of September.

Their grace Bishop Istafanous of Beba, Bishop Daniel the general bishop in Maadi attended the seminar, Hegomen Antonius Kamal gave a word about marital harmony and Dr. Claire Fahim gave a word about the role of parents in raising children, also Dr. Zakhareya Al Fakhory gave a word about the language of love between married couples.



Illustrated Dioceses' News

Ordination of New Priests in Beheira

On Fri morning 7th of October, HG Bishop Pachumious the metropolitan of Beheira and its affiliated regions ordained four new priests for the service of villages and desert regions at the diocese and they are:

Fr. Sedrak Mo'awad (the villages in Southern Beheira), Fr. Bassillious Matta (Amreya and the surrounding areas), Fr. Bavly Fawzi (the villages at Southern Beheira), Fr Abakeer Ibrahim (the villages of Bangar in Mariout desert).

HG Bishop Tawadrous the general bishop participated in the ordination prayers.

The new priests are now spending the forty days at St. Pishoi's Monastery.



A class of adult learners in Shobra Al Kheima

The graduation of the first class of adult learners who are newly introduced to learning how to read and write was celebrated at St. Demiana & St. Thomas the Anchorite Church in Shobra Al Kheima on Tues 28/10/2005, they are 44 students who have been graduated in the attendance and under the auspices of HG Bishop Markos of Shobra Al Kheima and its affiliated regions, Counselor Adly Hussein said after the Ramadan Iftar Banquet that the church recorded a 20 % increase in the rate of eliminating ignorance among adult learners compared to other centers.

HG Bishop Markos also consecrated the baptistery of the church on Mon morning 19/9.



The Diocese of Abanoub & Fateh

On Mon 22/8, HG Bishop Lucas ordained Deacon Karam Louis as a priest giving him the name of Fr Isaac for the Virgin's church in Abanoub City. HG Bishop Gawargious of Mattay and its affiliated regions participated in the ordination prayer. The new priest is now spending the forty days at St. Mina's Monastery-Mount Abanoub.



Illustrated Church News

With the Archbishop of Canterbury

HH the Pope received on Thursday evening 27/10 HE Dr. Rowan Williams the Archbishop of Canterbury; HE Metropolitan Mounir Hanna attended the meeting along with their grace Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia and Fr. Jonathan the Archbishop's Assistant.



With Metropolitan Mounir Hanna and some of the Anglican Bishops

HH the Pope received on Monday morning 24/10 His Eminence Metropolitan Mounir Hanna of the Anglican Churches in Egypt and some of the Anglican bishops of the Southern parts of the globe who arrived to Cairo for a religious seminar. HH the Pope designated HG Bishop Mousa to attend this seminar.

A Special presentation of the Movie Titled "The journey of Salvation"

It is a movie presenting the rituals and hymns of the Orthodox Church starting from the Nativity Church starting from the Nativity till the Pentecost on four parts through the life of Jesus Christ Glory be to Him.

HH the Pope saw the movie, gave some observations and presented the film.

This film was revised by 8 of the reverend bishops and also Dr Youssef Mansour.

The Church hymns were performed by a group of the missionary deacons (Mr. Antone Ibrahim, Mr. Diaa Sabry and Mr. Saned Mikhail).

The movie was shot at a large number of churches and monasteries in Egypt and took about three years to finish it.



Clerical Deacon Morcos Ghatas Bishara wrote the script, and was directed by Mr George Rashad.

Part one of the movie will be presented on Mon the 7th of

November at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's Cathedral theatre in Abbasseya.

Everyone is invited.