



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 Bishopoy 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 Bishopoy 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 Attैया.

❖ 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.

"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 comforts us tonight is the saying of our Master 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 shelter in 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 maybe what is going to happen in a while and in his knowledge he is just, merciful and a Good Shepherd 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 human'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 there was 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:

Angels in Jacob's ladder, they were going up with the request and going down with the answer and God's interference.

The twenty four priests (elders) who are standing before God's throne taking people's needs and putting them in their golden bowls that are full of incense and raise them to God.

Prophet Moses in his work as a mediator between the people and God.

Also Prophet Samuel.

We do not claim that we solve problems but we present them to God and leave them in His hand.

When God says: "Come to Me, all you who labor..." He teaches us also the danger and failure in going to someone other than God. In his troubles, a person may rely on himself, his intelligence or his skills which do not help. And he may rely on people to find human solutions and this is not useful too.

I remember than in year 1950, before my monasticism, I wrote a poem:

Close the door and argue with Jesus, in which I said:

You, the confused, who is lost in deep thinking
Did people remove the troublesome and sadness
you had

People do not have a fixed healing proper opinion
So, solutions to a team against others to another
But I have a remedy that we all tried

Close the door and argue with Jesus in the depth
on the night

And fill the night prayer, wrestling and tears

Therefore, we go to God and not to people.

People are of different types, some do not care, some offer theoretical solutions and some give feelings without solutions, but God works and steps in even without us asking.

God works and steps in without us asking.

At a time, the people of Israel were in a hardship and they did not ask for anything, but God said to

Moses: "I have looked on the affliction of my people" and he came down to save them.

God interfered in the offering of Isaac as a burnt without him asking.

God spoke in the heart of King Constantine without people asking for it and the result was the decree of Milan on 313 that allowed religious freedom.

God also interfered when St. Peter was imprisoned without St. Peter asking to be rescued.

God did not ignore Abel's blood but said to his murderer "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground". God did not forsake the blood of Naboth the Jezreelite.

God is so tenderhearted, and it is so scary to fall in the hand of God the Eternal.

And the question remains: when does God interfere? And how?

All what we say is that we have faith that he definitely will interfere and without doubt will work, and as it was so it will be. And our experiences with God fills our memories well and says in the psalm: "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say-- "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive" (Ps 124:1-3).

Our belief in God's interference gives us comfort, peace in our hearts and feeling of security.

It is sufficient that God takes the problem, but as for the way it is solved and the time we leave it to His good will and his wisdom and we are feeling safe.

We feel safe and head the bible's saying: "Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you;" (Ps 55:22).

And the saying of Lord Christ: "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." (Jn 5:17).

The Lord is Blessed in all what He does for us and all what He does for our sake.

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.