



## El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness  
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty-first Year

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### Middle East Council of Churches

## **Election of H.H. the Pope as Supreme Head for the Third Consecutive Time Election of a Coptic Orthodox who is for the First Time from Egypt as Secretary General**

### **Our Church's Delegate for the General Assembly:**

H.H. the Pope traveled to Cyprus on Monday Noon 01/12/2003, to attend the General Assembly meeting there. Those who accompanied H.H. among our Coptic Church's delegate were: H.E. Metropolitan Bishoy, their Grace Bishop Bachomious, Bishop Marcos of Shobra El-Kheima, and Bishop Youanes. At Cyprus, H.E. Metropolitan Abraham of Jerusalem joined the delegate.

On the evening of the same day, H.H. headed to Nicosia to visit H.H. the Archbishop who is suffering illness, then H.H. visited our Egyptian Embassy in Cyprus where a party was held there in the honor of His Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Abd El-Hakam of Egypt.

### **The Meetings of the Council's General Assembly:**

From Tuesday to Thursday, H.H. attended the meetings of the Council's General Assembly, participated in scheduling its agenda; H.H. also

attended some of its meetings.

H.H. attended a dinner party held by His Excellency the Ambassador of Lebanon in Cyprus.

H.H. also headed the Nomination Committee meeting which was held on Thursday evening 04/12, and on Friday, the election of the Council's Supreme Heads took place as well as the election of the Executive Committee members and the Secretary General.

### **The Four Council's Supreme Heads:**

H.H. Pope Shenouda III has been elected as a representative of the Eastern Orthodox Family.

H.H. Petros VII, representing the Greek Orthodox Family.

H.E. Metropolitan John Keltah, representing the Catholic Family.

Priest Safwat El-Baiady representing the Evangelical Church.

It is to be noted that the four Council's Supreme Heads are from Egypt (for the first time).

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## Illustrated Church News

### Ordination of 6 Priests in St. Mina's Monastery

H.H. the Pope went to St. Mina's Monastery in Maryout Desert on the evening of Friday 19/12, accompanied by H.G. Kirolos Ava Mina The Abbot of the Monastery.

H.H. blessed hundreds of the congregation person by person, and then He had a spiritual gathering with the Rev. Monks of the Monastery, Their Grace Bishop Demetrius, Bishop Qozman, and Bishop Kirolos attended this meeting. And on the morning of Saturday 20/12, H.H. ordained six monks as priests, they are: Rev. Fathers Dionysius, Fr. Wasylidus, Fr. Mercurius, Fr. Abanoub, Fr. Elarion and Fr. Yostus.



### Ordination of 8 Priests for Alexandria Churches

On the morning of 21/12, H.H. the Pope ordained eight Priests for Churches of Alexandria, this took place at H.H. Residence in St. Pishoi's Monastery. Their Grace Bishop Sarabamoon and Bishop Pisanti participated in the Ordination Rite Prayers. The eight Priests are:

- 1- Rev. Fr. Metaous, for St. Mark and St. Peter's Church.
- 2, 3- Rev. Fathers. Makary and Fr. Beamen for St. George's Church- Sporting.
- 4, 5- Rev. Fathers Philemon and Fr. Karas for St. Takla Himanout Church.
- 6- Rev. Fr. Kirolos for Virgin Mary and St. Abram Church, Abu Talaat.



7- Rev. Fr. Bishoy for Virgin Mary and St. Mark's Church, Bitash.

8- Rev. Fr. Shenouda for the St. Samuel's Church, Gheit El Inab.

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### With His Excellency the Governor of Alexandria

At the Papal Residence in Alexandria, H.H. the Pope received General Abd El Salam El Mahgoub, the Alexandria Governor, on Sunday 14/12. H.G. Bishim Youanes and Hegumen Cherubim El-Bachoumy the Patriarchal Steward in Alexandria attended the meeting.

## Illustrated Church News

### Virgin Mary's Church, Ezbet El Nakhl

On the evening of Monday 08/12, H.H. the Pope received H.G. Bishop Timothaios and the Rev. Church Fathers: Hegumen Boulus Boulus, Fr. Boutros Al Qommos, Fr. Rafael Edward, Fr. Marcos Gamil, Fr. Antonios Morgan, Fr. Paula Zaki, and Fr. Isaac Shoukry. The meeting concerned the construction license which was granted to the Church to construct a Banquet Hall, Thanks God Foundation is being constructed now.



### The Diocese of Gerga and its affiliated regions

On the evening of Wednesday 10/12, H.H. the Pope received Hegumen Macarius Fayez the Patriarchal Steward, Hegumen Hedra Aziz, Hegumen Mina Marcos, Hegumen Athanasius Al Sadek of the Diocese of Gerga. H.H. discussed with them some issues concerning the Diocese.

H.H. has delegated H.G. Bishop Youanes to organize some issues concerning the Charity Committee at the Diocese, and also to participate in the prayers of the 40<sup>th</sup> day memorial Liturgy prayer for the Deceased Blessings Trinity H.E. Metropolitan Mina on Thursday 18/12.

### With University Professors from Germany

H.H. the Pope received on the evening of Monday 08/12, a group of University Professors from Germany headed by Mr. Malthias Kopp. And upon their request, H.H. talked with them about the Coptic Church, from a Historic as well as a present point of view.



## Illustrated Church News

### With the Coptic Church Delegate which participated in the Funeral Ceremony Prayers for the Blessings Trinity His Beatitude the Patriarch of Eritrea

On the evening of Monday 08/12, H.H. the Pope received their Grace Bishop Tadros, Bishop Pisanti and Bishop Athanasius. Their Grace presented to H.H. a report concerning their visit to Eritrea where they participated in the Funeral Ceremony Prayers for the deceased Blessings Trinity His Beatitude Patriarch Yacabus, the Second Eritrean Patriarch.



### Ordination of Two Priests for Baltim and Kafr El-Sheikh

On Friday 28/11/03, H.E. Metropolitan Bishoy has ordained the Ecumenical Deacon Bahgat as Priest with the name of Fr. Philobos for St. George's Church, Baltim.

And on Sunday 07/12, H.E. ordained Deacon George Wadie Boulus as Priest for the Altar in Kafr El-Sheikh and the Barary with the name of Fr. Youhanna.



### Assignments of Christmas and Epiphany

Papal Decree No. 6/33 has been issued for the assignments of Christmas and Epiphany Prayers in some Cities of America, Canada and Europe. H.H. the Pope has received the Rev. Fathers before their departure.

#### In America

- 1- H.G. Bishop Macarious to pray in St. George's Church, Chicago.
- 2- H.G. Bishop Diskorus to pray in Modesto, South California.
- 3- H.G. Bishop Youhanna to pray in Las Vegas.
- 4- H.G. Bishop Athanasius to pray in San Francisco.
- 5- Hegumen Ermia Ava Mina to pray in Toledo.
- 6- Hegumen Binyamin Kamel to pray in Nebraska.
- 7- Rev. Fr. Bishoy Fayek to pray St. Mark's Church, Indianapolis.
- 8- Rev. Fr. Michael Abd El Nour to pray in Des Moines, Iowa .
- 9- Rev. Fr. Bishoy Abd El Malek to pray in San Ramon.
- 10- Rev. Fr. Sargius Sargius to pray in Richmond.
- 11- Rev. Fr. Aughustinus Fouad to pray in Cerakos.
- 12- Rev. Fr. Zakareya Said to pray in Albany.
- 13- Rev. Fr. Mikhail Al Qommos Youssef Atteya to pray in Howell.
- 14- Rev. Fr. Tadros Fouad to pray in Monterey, California.
- 15- Rev. Fr. Mikhail Shenouda to pray in Roanoke.
- 16- Rev. Fr. Marcos Sobhy to pray in West Chester.
- 17- Rev. Fr. Gabriel Abd El Nour to pray in Denver, Colorado.
- 18- Rev. Fr. Antoniuos Tawfiq to pray in Visalia.
- 19- Rev. Fr. Boutros Amin to pray in Victorville, California.

#### In Canada

- 20- H.G. Bishop Maximous to pray in St. Mina's Church Calgary.
- 21- Rev. Fr. Youhanna Luka to pray in Windsor's Church- Ontario.
- 22- Rev. Fr. Abram Aziz to pray in New Found land.
- 23- Rev. Fr. Ibrahim Abdou to pray in Laval, North Montreal.

#### In Europe

- 24- Hegumen Hedra Ekdawy to pray in Denmark.
- 25- Hegumen Sarabamoon Atteya to pray in France.
- 26- Rev. Fr. Bigaul Mossad to pray in St. Mary's Church, France.
- 27- Rev. Fr. Paula Al Neqlouny to pray in Gutenberg, Sweden.
- 28- Rev. Fr. Domadius Al Qommos Sarabamoon to pray in Amsterdam, Holland.
- 29- Rev. Fr. Youssef Al Qommos Youssef Khalil to pray in Hungary.
- 30- Rev. Fr. Marcos Gamil to pray in Virgin. Mary's Gold's Green, London.

#### In Singapore

- 31- Rev. Fr. Philemon Al Anthony.

**Church's News**



**The Pope in a Seminar about Ethics of Medicine as a Profession**

Professor Madiha Khattab the Dean of the University of Medicine has invited H.H. the Pope to give a speech in Kasr El-Einy where H.H. headed on the noon of Tuesday 23/12/2003, the speech was given in the Seminar in which His Excellency Sheikh of Azhar participated as well as Prof. Hamdi El Sayed which was about the Ethics of Medicine as a profession.

H.G. Bishop Youanes as well as some Rev. Fathers accompanied H.H.

**The Pope Extends his Felicitation on Christmas to the Church's Supreme Heads**

On the morning of Thursday 25/12/2003, H.H. the Pope went to extend his felicitation on Christmas to their Holiness: Cardinal Istefanus II the Patriarch of Coptic Catholics, Pope Petros VII the Patriarch of the Greek orthodox, and

Pope Gregorius Laham the Patriarch of the Greek Catholics.

The Pope's Secretariat accompanied H.H. as well as Mr. Girguis Saleh the Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches.

**H.G. Bishop Mousa**

H.G. traveled to Germany for medical treatment and the trip went on very well.

H. G. also participated in the party which was held by Eng. Ibrahim Samak on the honor of Rev. Hauser who is one of the Coptic Church lovers.

H.G. had the chance to meet with their Grace Bishop Bernaba, and Bishop Kirollos in Italy, Bishop Damien in Germany, and also visited our Monastery in Krivillebach. H.G. returned to Cairo on Tuesday 23/12.

**Father Yacobus, the Second Patriarch of Eritrea Reposed in the Lord**

We were sorry to hear the news from Eritrea about "Father Yacobus" who reposed in the Lord after suffering from illness for several months. He didn't complete one whole year in the service of the Patriarchate.

The Funeral Ceremony prayers were held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of December. H.H. the Pope sent a Consolatory Telegram when He was in Cyprus and also offered his consolation to the church there through the phone. H.H. delegated three Rev. Bishops to travel to Eritrea and participate in the Funeral Prayers as well as extending our condolences to the Church and to the country.

Designated by H.H. the Pope, their Grace Bishop Tadros, Bishop Pisanti and Bishop Athanasius traveled to Eritrea on Friday 05/12, and participated with the Eritrean Metropolitans and Bishops in the Funeral Ceremony Prayers as seen in the photo, H.G. Bishop Tadros gave a word of condolence in English language, and H.G. Bishop Antoniuos the Eritrean a word in their Eritrean language.

His Excellency president Asaeyas Aforkey attended the funeral and received our church's condolences. The Coptic Delegate returned back to Cairo on the morning of 08/12.



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**40<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Liturgy Prayer for H.E. Metropolitan Mina of Gerga**

It was held on morning of Thursday 18/12 in the Angel's Church at the Patriarchate, their Grace who attended the Prayers were: Bishop Kirollos of Naga-Hamadi, Bishop Metaous, Bishop Faam, Bishop Besada, Bishop Bakhom, Bishop Beamen, and Bishop Youanes delegated by H.H. the Pope. We offer our condolences to the congregation and we ask God to repose his soul in the paradise of joy.

**Charity Committee in Cairo**

On Saturday 06/12, H.H. the Pope had to reschedule this meeting to be held on Monday 22/12 when he returns back from his trip, as H.H. will be busy on 25/12 on extending his felicitations on Christmas to the Catholic and the Greek Orthodox' Patriarchs

**H.G. Bishop Rafael**

H.G. traveled to Germany for some medical check ups, he held Divine Liturgies and held meetings in Rome, Milan, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. He also participated with H.G. Bishop Kirollos of Milan in the ordination of some Priests and Monks, and then he was back to Cairo on Monday 22/12.

**H.H. the Pope's Meetings**

- H.H. received, on the evening of Sunday 07/12, the family of Counsel Wasfi Nashed who recently reposed in the Lord and offered them his condolences, they spoke with H.H. about their desire of issuing Counsel Wasfi's biography in a book.

- On the same evening, H.H. received Suheil Arousy who is one of the Senior Leaders of the Syrian Church, and a member in the Syrian Parliament.

**Opening Article Cont'd**  
**The Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches**

Mr. Girguis Saleh Ibrahim has been elected as a Participating Secretary General of the Council. It is the first time to choose a personality for this position from Egypt after Mr. Estiro, Mr. Gabi Habib and Priest Riad Gargour who were all from Lebanon,

**Ceremony Held by the Bishopric of social and Ecumenical Services for the Council's Supreme Heads and the Secretary General**

This ceremony was held in the Conference Room at the Papal Residence on Thursday evening 11/12, attended by almost 200 Rev. Bishops, Priests and also guests.

The Church Council's Heads attended the ceremony except H.H. Petros who happened to be in Greece. Mr. Girguis Saleh of course attended the ceremony.

It was a very nice celebration with an atmosphere full of love and simplicity, the three Council's Supreme Heads and the Secretary General gave speeches about "Joint Efforts".

**A Celebration in the Council's Branch in Cairo**

Held by the Council's employees on the honor of their Secretary General Mr. Girguis Saleh where everyone was joyous with this election.

**The Secretary General Trip**

Mr. Girguis Saleh traveled to Syria and Lebanon on Saturday 20/12 where he met with their Holiness:

Patriarch Zakka Ewas I.

Patriarch Ignatius Huzeim of the Greek orthodox.

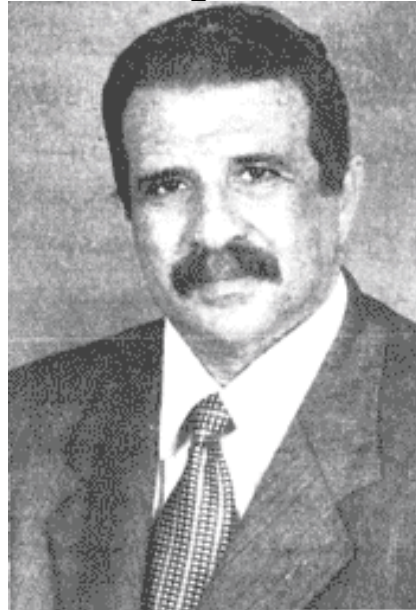
Catholicos Aram I of the Armenians.

Priest Selim Sehiouny of the Evangelical Church.

He also met with employees who work in the Council's office in Beirut and extended his felicitations for Christmas.

Then he was back to Cairo on Wednesday noon 24/12, where he met with H.H. Pope Shenouda III on Thursday 25/12.

**Mr. Girguis Saleh the Council's Secretary General**



**Birth date:** 16/09/1953.

**Educational background:**

- 1- Bachelor of Social Services, Helwan University- grade V.G.
- 2- Masters in Old Testament Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary-U.S.A., year 1984, Grade V.G. where he stayed there then for two years.

**Teaching Experience:**

- ❖ He taught Old Testament Subject in the Theological Seminary and its branches from year 1980 in Cairo, Tanta, Shebeen El Koum, Damanhour and Port Said.
- ❖ He has been elected by H.H. the Pope to teach the "Divinity of Christ in The Old Testament" in the "Divinity" Section which is headed by H.H. the Pope in the Institute of Coptic Studies.
- ❖ Invited by H.H. Zakka Ewas, he taught in the "Mar Avraam" Theological Syrian Seminary

since 1999. as well as giving lectures concerning Divinity for Religious Education Leaders.

- ❖ Invited by H.H. Catholicos Aram I, he also taught in the Armenian Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kefya, Lebanon.

**Ecumenical Work:**

- ❖ He represented the Church since year 1993 in the "Faith and Unity" Sector in the Middle East Council of Churches.
- ❖ He presented many Religious researches...
- ❖ He represented the Theological Seminaries and the Supreme Coptic Institutes in The meeting of the Theological Seminaries and Institutes in the Middle East **ATIME** since year 1995 up till now. He participated in the Professors and Students' of "Divinity" subject's meetings in the Middle East. And as well gave Lectures in this same subject...

**Newspapers' Articles:**

Some Newspapers published some of his articles, the most important of which is the one which he replied on Dr. Mustafa Mahmoud in Al- Ahram newspaper dated 04/04/1997.

**His Work in the Middle East Council of Churches**

With the Blessings of the three Patriarchs of our Eastern Orthodox Churches, he has been nominated as Participating Council's Secretary General starting February 2001. And he was then responsible for the Middle East Council of Churches Office in Cairo, he has well administered it and lots have witnessed for the successful work of this office.



**Our Service Starts in Mexico**

Finally the entry and work visa for our Priest (monk) Fr. Aghabius Anba Paula Has arrived and he will be traveling to Mexico and start his service by the beginning of year 2004.

Congratulations to him and to the Coptic Church in Mexico, we ask the Lord to bless his service with special success and Grace.

**Meeting with Ambassador Yeftahi the Eritrean Church Delegate**

H.H. the Pope received him at the Papal Residence in Cairo, where he thanked H.H. on assigning three Rev. Bishops to participate in the Funeral Prayers for the deceased Fr. Yacobus.

This was a chance to discuss together the issue of who will be the Third Patriarch of Eritrea.

## **With the Rev. Bishops**

H.H. the Pope received, throughout the last two weeks:

### **H.G. Bishop Pisanti**

Concerning his trip from which he returned recently, his medical condition, about the service in Helwan and the ordination of the new Priests and talked about other Church news.

### **H.G. Bishop Rafael**

They talked about the service in Downtown District, the poor districts and some Churches in Cairo which are under his supervision.

### **H.G. Bishop Tadros**

Concerning the service in Vancouver, and His Grace's trip to Eritrea and the service in some Churches in the land of immigration.

### **H.G. Bishop Seraphim**

Concerning service issues in the Diocese of Ismaelia.

### **H.G. Bishop Yacobus**

Accompanied by a delegate from Zaqaziq, concerning the ordination of one of the Rev. Fathers.

### **H.G. Bishop Macarius the Eritrean**

Concerning St. George's Church in Chicago and his service in general in the land of immigration, they discussed His Grace's suggestions.

### **H.G. Bishop Basillius**

Accompanied by some Monks, concerning the Feast of St. Samuel the Confessor on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Kiahk. H.H. the Pope has prepared, with H.G., the Chrism (Holy Spices) for the Saint's Remains.

### **H.G. Bishop Martyrus**

Concerning the service of the Eastern Sekka Hadid District in Cairo, and the Mahmasha Church.

### **A Study About "Fayoum", its past and its present by H.G.**

#### **Bishop Abram**

It is a huge study of about 450 pages which includes: Fayoum in the Coptic Era, the history of its ancient Monasteries, its Martyrs and its Saints. The Patriarchs, Bishops, Monks, Priests and Laymen who are related to Fayoum. And also Fayoum at the present time with all the details which concerns these points.

## **With the Rev. Fathers**

H.H. the Pope received, in the last two weeks:

### **Hegumen Bishoy Boshra, London**

He is the Priest of St. Mark's Church in Kensington, concerning the Pope's trip to London on 15/01/04, to celebrate the Church's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and also concerning issuing a book about this Church.

### **Hegumen Rowais Morcos**

Concerning his return to Greenville-America where he is transferred from Alexandria to serve there.

### **Fr. Ignatius Ava Mina**

Where he presented, with his colleague, a report about their service in Marseilles and Nice, France, and about the church which was granted as a gift for us from the Catholic Church there.

### **Fr. Seraphim Al Surianny**

He is our Priest in Nottingham at the diocese of Birmingham; he presented to H.H. a report about his service there.

### **The Priests of Gerga and Ezbet EI-Nakhi**

(look p. 3)

Those who are nominated for Priesthood in Alexandria:

H.H. met with them in Alexandria where he examined them in the "Comparative Divinity".

### **Hegumen Sharoubeem EI-Bachomy**

He is the Patriarchal Steward in Alexandria, H.H. the Pope has met with him on Saturday in St. Mina's Monastery concerning the Priests who are to be ordained in Alexandria God's willing.

### **Fr. Lucas Anba Bishoy**

Who is the Supervisor of Al Zugag Monastery. It was concerning the Monastery's news. He had prepared a colored Brochure with photos about the Monastery.

### **Fr. Shenouda St. Anthony**

Concerning his return to his Monastery in America, he went back on 29/12.

### **One of Abu EI-Matameer Priests**

**H.H. the Pope will spend the New Year's Eve in the Monastery**

## **The Institute Of Coptic Studies Pope Shenouda Language center**

The center announces the beginning of new courses to study the following languages: English, French, German, Coptic, Greek, Italian and Spanish.

In Addition to courses in:

English translation- English Theological expressions - English Conversation-

Coptic Conversation- Bysubess Curriculum,

Preparation for TOEFL exam and IELTS.

You can apply now, the Courses will start by the end of January 2004.

### **Ordinations in Milan**

- ❖ On Saturday 20/12, H.G. Bishop Kirolos of Milan has ordained Brother Magdi Mikhail as Priest to serve in the Patriarchate with the name : Fr. Rafael.
- ❖ On Monday 22/12, H.G. ordained Monk Paula Anba Shenouda as Priest and also promoted two of the Monks as Priests for the St. Shenouda's Monastery- Milan:  
Fr. Mathew Anba Shenouda.  
Fr. Marko Anba Shenouda.

### **Theological Seminary of Kerrville Bach in Germany**

Dr. Mina Badea Abd EI-Malek traveled to Germany where he taught introductions about the Church Forefathers.

Last year he taught the Eras of the Apostolic Fathers, the Defendant Fathers, and the Fathers who wrote in Latin Language (Kebrianus- Tertilian- Hipolitus).

This year, he will concentrate on the Alexandrian Forefathers who were the first to establish the Theological Seminary during the Era of St. Mark, he will also speak about Scientist Pentinus, St. Eclimandus the Alexandrian, St. Daidimous the blind, St. Athanasius the Apostolic and St. Kirolos the Pillar of Religion.

**With Virgin Mary's Church, El Nozha El Gedida**

H.H. the Pope received, on Monday morning 15/12, Fr. Thawfilus Al Qommos Abd El Messeih the Church's Priest, Counsel Monsef Naguib and dr. Tharwat Bassilli with some of the Church's Leaders.

**With St. George's Church in Khamaroweh**

H.H. the Pope received, on Monday morning 15/12, H.G. Bishop Rafael and Attorney Halim Hanna concerning some buildings which belong to the church.

**With St Mark Church, Winnipeg**

H.H. the Pope received on Monday 15/12, Dr. Amazis and some of St. Mark Church's Leaders, Winnipeg. They thanked H.H. for the ordination of the new Priest for the Church.



**H.H. the Pope with Cardinal Casper in Cyprus presenting Him a souvenir from the Council, Metropolitan Kirolos Pastorus is in the photo**

# Praising and Glorifying

The prayer of praising and glorifying is the most sacred type of prayer.

That's because it is very special for God alone, and far from all human requests.

In such prayer one praises God's fine features and glorifies Him for them.

And you can find many of those in David's Psalms where he says: "Sing to the LORD a new song", "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles!", "Sing to the LORD, bless His name", "Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!", "Praise, O servants of the LORD"...

And sometimes the word "Bless" replaces the word "Praise" and Prophet David, the praises singer, says "Behold, bless the LORD, All you servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD".

**One of the most famous praising prayers that the bible mentions is:**

The seraphim praise (Is 6), in which they say: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!". Here, there is no request at all; and we have a similar one in our prayers, which is the hymn of the Trisagion...

- ❖ It was also mentioned in the Revelation Book (Rev 15:2-4) that a group of heavenly people were singing the words: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested"... In all that there is no single request. It is all praising and glorifying.
- ❖ Another example of it also is the Prophet David's saying: "Who is like You, O LORD, who is like You? For there is none like You among all the gods...!" Also the prayer by Solomon at the time of consecrating the temple when he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You... Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!" (1K 8:23, 27).

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**In the prayer of praising and glorifying one can meditate in the Lord's greatness, the Lord's humility, the Lord's love and the Lord's strength and ability..**

Not only in that, but also in all God's fine characteristics.

A lot of the time we find most of the people, keep asking for things as they pray. It is not a sin to ask because the Lord himself said: "Ask and you shall be given". But it is a shame that all our prayers aim only for asking the Lord for something and are free from praising and glorifying the Lord for His loveable characteristics.

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**An example of meditating in God's Greatness, the prayer's saying:**

O Lord, who is higher than all, to whom heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. God who is incomprehensible, immeasurable, almighty. God who has all the knowledge, He who tests hearts and minds

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and knows thoughts, He who knows all the hidden and the manifest. You Lord are present everywhere, you who fills all... You Lord who is the everlasting alone, eternal, the creator of all...

We also in our prayers mention the Lord the Pantocrator, the philanthropic...

**And in the Holy Liturgy prayers** we say: "Before Whom stands the angels, the archangels, the principalities, the authorities, the thrones, the dominions and the powers" "You are He before whom stands the Cherubim and the Seraphim, for whom six wings for the one and six wings for the other" "thousands of thousands and ten thousand times ten thousands offer You service" "You, who are praised by the invisible ones".

In all that there is no request, and no shadow of the human selfishness. It is recognition of God's greatness. And there are so many such prayers in the Gregorian Holy Liturgy.

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**In your prayers also you can meditate in God's humility:**

You, O Lord, who allowed the dust and ashes to talk to you. You who have ultimate greatness allowed the dust to speak with You. And not only that, but also allowed it to reproach You as You allowed our father Abraham (Gn 18) and Prophet Moses (Gn 32).

- ❖ Even, Jeremiah the prophet said to you: "Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?" (Jr 12:1). Also Prophet David in reproaching You said: "Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?" (Ps 10:1)... These are words that no man can tell to his human boss, who is still dust as he is.
- ❖ It is a great humility from You Lord to allow that dust to talk to You even while he is in the state of sinning and breaking your commandments! It is even a humility from You that You have created this human on Your image and on Your likeness (Gn 1:26, 27).
- ❖ It is also humility from You that You gave existence to creatures that never existed.
- ❖ **We thank You, O Lord, for Your humility by which You have incarnated.**
- ❖ You have made Yourself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men (Phil 2:7) all that because of Your love and desire to save us.
- ❖ Your humility also was shown in Your crucifying and Your act of redemption and allowing some people to treat You in a way that does not go with Your unlimited glory. And as we say in the Gregorian Holy Liturgy "You gave Your back for the thongs striking it and Your cheeks were left for slapping."

You did not hide Your face from the shame of spitting"! And yet You did not allow fire to go down from heaven to consume those deniers, arrogant, violators...

- ❖ You Lord are humble, and if it was not for Your humbleness we would have never been able to talk to You.
- ❖ **You Lord, are loving and You always give...** You continually give and give without us asking. You even give more than what we ask for and with generosity. We enjoy Your generosity... You, the kind and tender God, the One caring for all. Even for animals; You give them their strengths and give food to the young ravens that cry to You. You make Your sun rise on the evil and on the good, send rain on the just and on the unjust and satisfy all the living with Your favor. You Lord granted us life and gave us care and saving; You are the good shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (Jn 10). You, redeemer; You, savior; You, who looks for the lost sheep. You, who rejoice for finding the lost coin. You, who rejoice for the return of the sinner and his repentance more than the ninety-nine righteous men who do not need to repent! (Lk 15).

**We thank You and praise Your name, O Lord, You who forgive our sins.**

You who erase our trespasses, You, who said that You will no longer remember them. You, who allow our sins to be washed to be whiter than snow. You, to whom prophet David said: "You have not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. But as far as the east is from the west, So far have You removed our transgressions from us." (Ps 103).

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**In our prayers we may as well meditate in God's power and ability.**

We may say to Him: we praise you, O Lord, who are powerful, You, who are the source of every power, You, who have no limits for His ability, You, who do wonders alone.

You, O Father, who dwell between the cherubim, You, who walk on the wings of the wind. You, who go about doing good, healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

- ❖ We never forget Your benefits given to us...
- ❖ As we pray and say in the Psalm: "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's..." (Ps 103).
- ❖ We praise You Lord, the powerful God, who let manna and quails fall from the sky, broke open the rock and gave water and sent Your angels to rescue and make miracles.
- ❖ You who granted some of this power to your apostles and saints. And gave us humans from Your love abundance and Your strength abundance. You gave us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. And gave us the Spirit gifts and how many they are (1 Co 12)...
- ❖ We thank You, O Lord, who saved Daniel from the den of lions, saved the three young men from the fiery furnace, got the prophet Jonah alive out of the fish's belly, showed your benefits to all your

righteous men over all ages and kept safe ascetics, anchorites and hermits in wildernesses and deserts, rescued them from beasts and livestock and sent them their food like You sent food to prophet Elijah on the Carmel mountain. We, O Lord, never forget Your lovingkindnesses, that renew generation by generation and they are new for us every morning...

- ❖ We praise you, O King of Kings, Lord of Lords and Master of Masters. You, to whom the whole universe subjects under Your power, O Strong God...
- ❖ We praise You, whom life and death are in His Hands, You, the source of life and the granter of it, You who grant rising of the dead... You, the source of every blessing.
- ❖ You, who have kingdom, strength, glory, blessing, majesty, power before all ages and forever... You, who has an eternal kingdom...
- ❖ **You who will come back to judge the living and the dead...** You will come in Your glory, with Your holy angels, and You will sit on Your throne of glory, gather all people and separate the wicked from among the just... And You will open before them all the books and reveal all the secrets, say to everyone "I know your works" and reward everyone according to his deeds... O Lord, who has prepared for us the heavenly Jerusalem the tabernacle of God with men (Rev 21) with all its beauty, purity and happiness dwelling inside.

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**We praise you, O heavenly Father, who never treated us as slaves but rather as sons.**

And said: "No longer do I call you servants, but I have called you friends" you even called us brothers...

We, Lord, raise our prayers to You. May our petitions come before You. Receive them to You as Your great mercies, as a real father who is passionate with his children...

You, O Father, who have inscribed us on the palms of His hands, and promised us safety...

We pray to You as a father, You who said: If a mother forgets her nursing child, I will never forget you...

We have tried Your love in the past, and we still enjoy Your love in the present, and we will enjoy it in the future... In you tender loving heart that has place for all and is open for all...

You, the good shepherd, who said: "I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick... and feed them in judgment..." (Ez 34)... Yes, You will feed them in green pastures and lead them to still waters...

We are the sheep of Your flock. We have got used to the fact that you never leave us in need for any of your passionate deeds, You, who is generous in Your giving.

**We praise You, O healing physician, You, who said: Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...** You who said "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"... We stand in Your hands, asking for the cure on Your hands...

You, O righteous God, You are the righteous alone, the holy alone. You are the one who wants us to be holy like You are... You know our nature. We ask You to help our weakness and grant us Your grace...

## Illustrated news of the Dioceses

### Ordination of 5 Priests for the Diocese of Giza

On Saturday 29/11, H.G. Bishop Domadius, with H.G. Bishop Daniel and Bishop Qozman have ordained:

- 1- Fr. Nehemiah Isaac (Bachelor of Commerce), for St. Mary's Altar in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City.
- 2- Fr. Qozman Fouad (Bachelor of Science), General Priest for the Southern Region.
- 3- Fr. Harpoon Rizk (Bachelor of Engineering, Communications), for the St. Anthony's Altar, Ard El Lewaa.
- 4- Fr. Teddawus Naguib (Industrial Proficiency Diploma), Priest for Virgin Mary and St Josef the Carpenter's Altar, Al Mo'tamadeya
- 5- Fr. Abraham Wadid (Bachelor of Archeology), for the St. George and St. Mina's Altar, Sol Al Maneeh.



### Ordination of Two Priests in the Diocese of Port Said

On Friday 28/11/03, H.G. Bishop Tadros has ordained:

Deacon Dr. Osama Fouad as Fr. Gawargious for the St. George's Church- Port Said.

Deacon Rafik Youssef as Fr. Philemon ,a General Priest for the Youth Service at the Diocese.

We congratulate them, wishing them success in their service.

### Ordination of 3 Priests for the Diocese of Mansoura and its Affiliated Regions

On Friday 28/11, H.G. Bishop Dawoud has ordained 3 Priests:

- 1- Fr. Morcos Aziz, for the service of the Salamon Villages, Mansoura.
- 2- Fr. Athanasius Anwar, for the St. George Church, Mansoura.
- 3- Fr. Yousab Thabet, for the St. George Church- Mansoura.





**Mass Communication and Technology Seminar**

**This Seminar was held in Karma, Damanhour where Their Grace Bishop Bachomious and Bishop Marcos attended. It is one of the activities of the Patronage and Service's Synod Committee, Mass Communication and Technology Branch.**

**Ordination of Two Priests for the Moharraq Monastery**

H.G. Bishop Sawerus has ordained two Priests for Moharraq Monastery. Their Grace the Bishops who participated in the Ordination Prayers are: Bishop Kirolos Nagaa Hamadi, Bishop Ghabrael, Bishop Timothaous, and Bishop Istefanus.

The new Priests are: Fr. Youssef Awny, Bishop Bishoy Al Qommos Luka.

We offer them our Felicitation and wish them success in their service.



**Ordination of Three Priests in the Diocese of Mallawi**

H.G. Bishop Demetrius of Mallawi has ordained three Priests on Sunday 30/11:

**Fr. Philopatir Sedeeq**  
Abu Sefein Church, El Balkeya.

**Fr. Abaskhayron Kamel Daniel**  
Virgin Mary and Martyr Bestavrus Church, Abshadat.

**Fr. Mousa Girguis Ayoub**  
Virgin Mary's Church, Mallawi

H.G. Bishop Qozman of Northern Sinai participated in the Ordination Prayers.

## Middle East Council of Churches' Meetings



**In the Middle: Pope Shenouda, Patriarch Peter VII and three of the Catholic Patriarchs surrounded by the General Assembly members. In front of them is H.G. Bishop Morcos and Mr. Girguis Saleh**

### **A Photo in our Embassy in Cyprus**

H.H. the Pope with Cyprus President's delegate the Chief of the Parliament in Cyprus.

In the photo H.H. Patriarch Peter VII and Our Ambassador in Cyprus His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abd El Hakam.



### **A Celebration held in the Papal Residence for the Supreme Council Heads and the Secretary General**



**In the middle: H.H. the Pope surrounded by Metropolitan Youhanna Keltah, Priest Safwat El Baiady and the Secretary General. You can see in the photo their Grace Bishop Mousa, Bishop Marcos, Bishop Youanes and Patriarch's Peter VII Delegates.**