

# St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church Newsletter

Delivered to you by **Saint Moses the Strong Fellowship**  
2500 Hansen Rd. Hayward, CA 94541

## Logos Newsletter

August 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 78

# Church News

### Newcomers- The Church Welcomes:

- ❖ Maged Mansour and his wife, Dr. Abeer Kaldas who live in Oakland.
- ❖ Isaak Youssef, his wife, Mariam and their child, Philopateer who live in Hayward.

### Blessed Marriage- The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the marriage of the blessed son, Mark Michael & the blessed daughter, Julie was celebrated in Sts Peter & Paul Church of LA by the priests of the Church and some priests Of LA, along with Fr. Matthias. Congratulations also to Dr. Mofreh and Lucie Michael, the parents of the groom.
- ❖ On Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the marriage of the blessed son, Dr. John, son of our fellow priest, Rev. Fr. Salib Guirguis of St. George of San Jose and the blessed daughter, Sally was celebrated in the Archangel Michael Church of LA by His Grace Bishop Serapion and a group of priests of LA, along with the priests of the Bay Area, Fr. Salib, Fr. Anthony Hanna, Fr. John Ragheb, Fr. Pishoy Ray and Fr. Matthias. Congratulations also to Fr. Salib and Tasonry Angel, the parents of the groom.

### Condolences:

- ❖ Ghada Ibrahim and her husband, Amgad Kamel for the departure of her father, the late Ibrahim Zaky.
- ❖ Honey Wahib Zakher and his wife, Narges for the departure of his sister, the late Howayda Wahib Zakher.
- ❖ Mourida Shahid and her children Adel & his wife, Mary, Nasser & his wife, Manal, Zaher & his wife, Jihanne, Saad & his wife, Camelia and to his daughter, Mary & her husband, Curtis Allen for the departure of Zikry Shahid their beloved husband and father.

### SAINT MARY'S FEASTS

Each saint has one feast in the Church that is the day of his death or his martyrdom; and may be another one that is the finding of his remnants, or a miracle which happened relatively to his name, or the building of a church for him. But The Holy Virgin has a very great number of feasts, they are:



- 1. The feast of the announcement of her nativity:** 7th of Misra,
- 2. The feast of her nativity:** first of Bashans
- 3. The feast of her entry to the Temple:** 3rd of Kiahk
- 4. The feast of her coming to Egypt:** 24th of Bashans
- 5. The feast of the death of The Virgin:** 21st of Tubah
- 6. The monthly feast of the Virgin:** 21st of every coptic month
- 7. The feast of the ascent of her body to heaven:** 16th of Misra
- 8. The feast of her miracle: (the dissolution of iron):** 21st of Baouna (In that day also we celebrate the feast of the building of the first church on her name in Philippi)
- 9. The feast of her apparition in Zeitoun:** 24th of Baramhat

All these feasts have special hymns and doxologies in the rites of the Church, which contain many prophecies and special symbols from the Old Testament, concerning her.

## The Virgin's Fast

H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III



*The Church celebrates the fast of our Lady the Virgin beginning with the first of Mesra, (the 7th of August). It is a fast for which people care very much, and they practice it with forceful ascetism. Some add days to it, in regard of the great love of people for The Virgin.*

### *The fast of The Virgin is an occasion for spiritual renaissance in the majority of churches:*

They prepare a spiritual program for daily sermons, and daily masses too in some churches, even the churches which are not named by the name of The Virgin. There is a great feast for our Lady The Virgin, which is celebrated in her ancient church in Mostorod.

### *Feasts of other saints are also celebrated in these days:*

The feast of St. George at the monastery in Mit Damsis, is celebrated in the second half of August, and also the feast of St. Abba Macarius the Great, and the feast of St. Georges in his monastery at Ruzeykat.

### *In the same fast of The Virgin, we celebrate the feasts of reknown female saints:*

St. Baïssa (2 Misra, 6 August), St. Julita (6 Misra, 12 August), St. Marina (15 Misra, 21 August).

Also during the fast of The Virgin we celebrate the feast of the glorious Transfiguration (13 Misra, 19 August).

### *In the same month (August 13, Misra 7), we celebrate the feast of the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Joachim, of the birth of The Virgin Mary:*

The feast of The Virgin is not the only occasion on which the Church celebrates the feasts of The Virgin, but more is celebrated in the month of Kiahk which is full of hymns, doxologies, and psalms for the saint Virgin Mary.

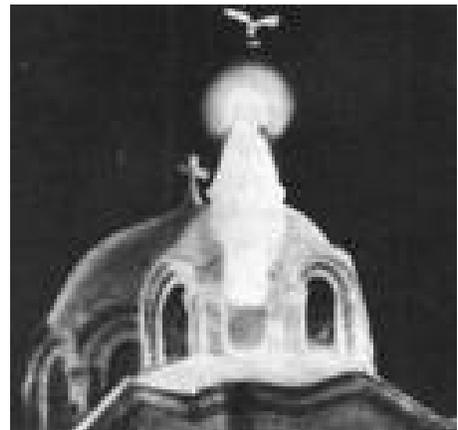
### *Copts in Egypt, and especially women, take care for the fast of The Virgin, in a manner that exceeds description:*

There are many who fast it (with water and salt), that is without oil.....Many add a third week to it, as a kind of vow. There are also those who vow to fast this fast without eating or drinking till the appearance of the stars in heaven.....

### *What then is the secret behind this care?*

First: The love of Copts for The Virgin who had visited and blessed their country, and left her traces in numerous places where churches have been built.

Second: The multiple miracles which happened in Egypt through the intercession of our Lady the Virgin, made many people optimistic to build churches dedicated to her name. The apparition of The Virgin in her church at Zeitoun, and the many miracles that accompanied this apparition, have certainly increased the affection of the Copts for The Virgin, and for the fast which bears her name.



## The Virgin Mary

By H.G Bishop Raphael

### Mother of god

A virgin whose purity is above all heavenly saints a wise mother whose talents exceed many girls, a servant who worships her son, who brought her God huge congregation " who could resemble you mother of heaven? " the father looked down from heaven and found n one like you, so he sent his only begotten son to become fresh from you.

### Saintly in everything

Blessed o you mother of the true light ... o pure virgin because truly you are saintly in everything

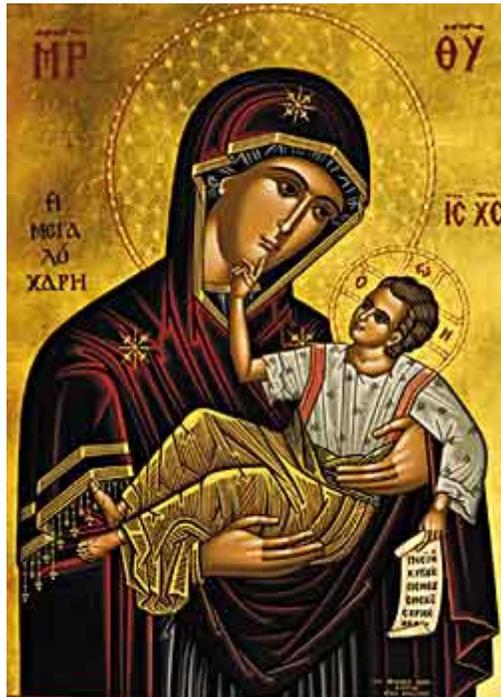
A woman among the congregation raised her voice saying: "blessed is the womb that bore you and breasts which nursed you" (Lk 11:27). Because you bore son of God and your breasts nursed him he who feeds all Manheim but our lord draws our attention; Is she blessed just because she bore and nursed me?? No... but "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11:28). She is blessed not only because of being saintly in everything but also because "she kept all these things in her heart" (Lk 2:51). Moreover she was the first to hear, keep and carry out the word of god when she said "behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38) thus she was blessed twice ...for being mother of God and saintly in everything.

### The pride of our race

Virgin Mary is truly the pride of our race, as she raised

the value of human hind for at the same time that she was a human being just like us; she becomes mother of god in truth. So she was the junction between God and the human family. The daughter of Adam, Abraham and Jacob has become mother of God, so the begotten son of god become truly the son of Adam, Abraham and

David, Thus the son of God become man and resembled us in everything, since he has taken flesh from our mother Mary ... so, he shared us human flesh and blood ... he raised us to be sons of God because of the pure virgin. Thus, as much as eve has demand us, virgin Mary has raised us ... she is truly our pride. The faithful intercessor



so, we appeal to her beloved son as his mother, she stands high in his favor he will answer the prayers if we beseech the intercession of his beloved mother. For example, at the wedding of Cana Galilee, she asked and found, requested and was given, not for her but for others. Therefore, she always asks on her behalf and we truly trust her as our behalf and we truly trust her as our faithful intercessor. Through her intercession we may have strength from God because of the special favor she has in His eyes.

### Mother of all saints

She is the mother of Christ and we are Christ's body. Thus, she is our mother (in Christ). Everyone who is baptized becomes a member in Christ's body and thus a son to the mother of God. Whoever eats of Christ's body and drinks of his blood becomes a member in the holy body and becomes a son to the mother of the holy body. Thus she is truly our mother and mother of all saints, mother of all the living. She is the new eve.

### Prayer

O mother of God, Pray for us before whom you gave birth,  
Jesus Christ, That He may forgive us our sins o mother of the true light,  
Ask him on our behalf to have mercy upon us, to sustain in the diabolic wars,  
Purify us and make us sons worthy of our purity and his divinity, AMEN.

**SMS** speakers schedule for the month of  
**August:**

See last page of newsletter for St. Mary's Revival  
Schedule of Speakers

**Speakers will begin at 7pm each night**

**Feasts of the Month:**

- ❖ August 4, Epip 25: St. Mary Magdalene
- ❖ August 7, Messori 1: The Virgin's Fast
- ❖ August 8, Messori 2: St. Paesa
- ❖ August 13, Messori 7: Annunciation of the birth of St. Mary
- ❖ August 19, Messori 13: The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor
- ❖ August 21, Messori 15: St. Marina, the ascetic
- ❖ August 21, Messori 16: Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary
- ❖ August 25, Messori 19: Trans-location of the holy relics of St. Macarius to his monastery in Scetis
- ❖ August 26, Messori 20: The holy seven youths, martyrs of Ephesus

To download previous issues of the Logos ,visit  
our new site: <http://www.antonius.org>

**St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church Newsletter**

Delivered to you by **Saint Moses the Strong Fellowship**  
2500 Hansen Rd. Hayward, CA 94541

**Logos Newsletter**

August 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 78



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Hayward, CA  
Permit No. 247

Return Service Requested

If you would like to subscribe to this magazine, please send us your information to [logos@antonius.org](mailto:logos@antonius.org) or fill out the attached form.

## حياة القداسة في رسائل القديس أثناسيوس الفصحية (رسالة ماجستير للقمص متياس) بقية

2:3 السقوط

2:3 - أ اندحار

طالما أن البشر يحملون صورة الله، فهم يحملون الله الكلمة، ويسكنون في عدم الفساد. أما بعد السقوط، فالقديس يعبر عنهم أنهم "نزلوا، وانحدروا إلى أسفل" ويصور لنا عارهم وسقوطهم من النعيم. بقوله "أنهم لا يحملون صورة حياة القديسين، ولا صورة الله" بل رغم أنهم بشر صاروا يصلون بالكاد إلى مستوى الحيوانات، أما دوافعهم السائبة نحو الهفوات والملذات فهي يمكن أن تقارن بالأحصنة المغلوفة السائبة في شهواتها (إر 8:5). ولأجل غشهم وجرائمهم وخطاياهم فهم يلقبون بأولاد الأفاعى (لو 7:3).

وهكذا سار الناس، بمشورة الشيطان (تك 5:3) وراء الأشياء الحسية التي تتناسب مع طبيعتهم الساقطة. إذن فأساس الخطية يكمن في هذه الحقيقة أن البشر، إذ نزلوا إلى مستوى أن يتمرغوا في التراب مثل الحيات، صارت عقولهم لا تتجه إلى شيء أعلى من مستوى الأمور التي ترى، معتبرين أن هذه الأمور هي أسمى من أي شيء آخر. لذلك فهم يتلذذون بهذه الأمور الحسية، وبهذا فهم لا يخدمون الرب بل شهوتهم الخاصة... وبعبارة أخرى قد تحولوا من صورة الله إلى صورة البهائم.

وهكذا فإن انعدام وجود العلاقة القوية مع الله الكلمة يعني أن البشر قد تجردوا من العقل بصورة ما. فهم إذ يعيشون في الخطية فأنهم لا يختلفون كثيراً عن الحيوانات. ولذلك يقول لهم المزمور "لا تكونوا كفرس أو بغل بلا فهم" (مز 9:32). كذلك لأنهم يسمحون لأنفسهم بأنواع كثيرة من الفساد الأخلاقي. وأن أسوأ هذه الأنواع من الفساد هو عبادة الأوثان. فقد صار الناس أغبياء وعديمي الفهم، حتى أنهم صاروا يشبهون أنفسهم بالله، ظانين أنهم يمكن أن يخترعوا شيئاً مساوياً له، كما يقول بولس الرسول "بينما يزعمون أنهم حكماء صاروا جهلاء. وأبدلوا مجد الله الذي لا يفنى بشبه صورة الإنسان الذي يفنى، والطيور والدواب والزحافات" (رو 1:32-33). ويقول النبي "فيمن تشبهون الله؟ وبأى شبه تعادلون به؟" (اش 18:40). لذلك يقول عنهم داود النبي "مثلما يكون صانعوها، بل كل من أكل عليها" (مز 108:8).

أما الهرطقة والمشقون وكل من هم غرباء عن الكنيسة الجامعة فهم أسوأ من الوثنيين. ذلك لأنهم خطاة ومحرومون من الشركة في تسييح الله مع القديسين. لذلك رغم أن هؤلاء الأشرار يزجون بأنفسهم في كنيسة القديسين، إلا أن الله يرفضهم. كما أنه لا توجد شركة بين البر والإثم، ولا بين النور والظلمة (2كو 14:6).

لقد نتج عن سقوط الإنسان أنواع كثيرة من الخطايا، والأنا ما هي طبيعة الخطية؟

### 3:2 - ب طبيعة الخطية

أن المفهوم الأساسي للخطية هو أنها ظلمة، وانعدام وجود النور والفضيلة. بعيداً عن النور توجد ظلمة، وبعيداً عن البركة توجد لعنة. كما أن الشيطان بعيد عن القديسين، والخطية بعيدة عن الفضيلة. (رسالة 4:10).

وهذا معناه أن الخير موجود أما الشر فليس له وجود. لأن الفضيلة هي نور أما الشر فهو ظلمة. وبما أن الظلمة هي غياب النور، فالخطية هي غياب الفضيلة. وهكذا فالقديس أثناسيوس يصف الشر بأنه عدم، مستخدماً أسلوب الأفلاطونية وتعبيراتها. ولكنه يرفض وجهة نظر الذين يعتبرون المادة كأصل للشر. ومن أشهر هذه المجموعات هم الغنوسيون والمانويون!!

أذن فالخطية هي ظلمة، لذا فالخطاة مثل اليهود والأريوسيين وكل الأشرار هم محرومون من النور والحياة والنعمة التي كان يمكن لهم أن يحصلوا عليها في المسيح المخلص. أنهم يعيشون في الظلمة "لأن الروح القحس يهرب من الفس، ولا يسكن في الأجساد التي تحب الخطية، بل ينزع منهم الأفكار البعيدة عن الفهم (حكمة 1:4، 5)

لذلك أذ هم بلا فهم، فهم يعيشون في الظلمة، أذ ليس لهم "النور الحقيقي الذي يضيئ لكل أنسان أتى إلى العالم" (يو 1:9). أنهم هكذا عميان عن الحق، حتى أنهم يزحفون في الظلام كما يقول أشعيا (اش 6:9، 10). كذلك أيضاً بما أن الأشرار محرومة من الحياة فهم أذن أموات، إذ هم يصلون (اش 13:22). أنهم يدفنون أرواحهم في الخطايا والسخافات، ويغذونها بالشيء المائتة. فهم مثل النور التي تنزل على جثث الأموات

وتأكلها. وإنما نجد الناموس يأمر بعدم أكل النسر ولا أى طائر آخر من اطيور التي تتغذى على (لا 13:11) كرمز موجه ضد الذين يقتلون أرواحهم. لذلك لا عجب إذا كان هناك نوعان من الطعام يمكن للنفس أن تتغذى بهما. فإن الله يغذى كل البشر بالمسيح، الله الكلمة الحي، ويقدم طعاماً وحياة للقديسين، كما يصرح الرب ويقول "أنا هو خبز الحياة" (يو 48:6). ومن الناحية الأخرى، فالخطية أيضاً لها خبزها الخاص، خبز الموت، لأن الذين يحبون الملذات ينقصهم الفهم!!

**خاتمة**

وفي ختام هذا الفصل، نود أن نقول أن نتائج السقوط يمكن أن تتلخص في نقطتين رئيسيتين وهما الموت وتعتيم الصورة التي كان يمكن بها للإنسان أن يعرف الله الكلمة. وهاتين النقطتين تتفقان مع السببين الرئيسيين للتجسد الإلهي وهما إيتعادة الخلود وتجديد صورة الله في الإنسان الساقط.

**St. Mary's Revival Schedule 2008**

Lectures to begin each evening at 7pm at St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church

Day	Date	Speaker	Church
Friday	8.8.08	Fr. David Abdelsayed	St. Maurice – Pomona
Saturday	8.9.08	Fr. Matthias Farid	St. Antonius – Hayward
Sunday	8.10.08	H.G. Bishop Thomas	El Kosia Diocese
Monday	8.11.08	Fr. Athanasius Ragheb	Archangel Michael – OC
Tuesday	8.12.08	Fr. Athanasius Ragheb	Archangel Michael – OC
Wednesday	8.13.08	Fr. Youhanna Ragheb	Archangel Michael – OC
Thursday	8.14.08	Fr. Youhanna Raghob	Archangel Michael – OC
Friday	8.15.08	Fr. Boulos Baký	St. Verena & the Three Holy Youth - Anaheim
Saturday	8.16.08	Fr. Boulos Baký	St. Verena & the Three Holy Youth - Anaheim
Sunday	8.17.08	Fr. Anthony Hanna	St. Mina – Concord
Monday	8.18.08	Fr. John Ragheb	St. Mary & St. John – Pleasanton
Tuesday	8.19.08	Fr. Youhanna Sadek	St. Mark – Modesto
Wednesday	8.20.08	Fr. Salib Girgis	St. George – San Jose
Thursday	8.21.08	Fr. Bishoy Ray	St. Antonius – Hayward
Friday	8.22.08	Fr. James Soliman	St. Mary - Pasadena

**Happy August Birthdays to:**

8/1	Morina Awad	8/14	Amir Fahmy	8/30	Sandy Mickhail
8/2	Michael Soliman	8/16	Mina Kasisa	8/30	Alison Badrous
8/3	Mary Fouad	8/16	Jan Salib	8/30	Peter Daheb
8/3	Waseem Fahmy	8/17	Marianne Naoom	8/31	Daniel Sedrak
8/4	Marian Karaman	8/18	Jonathan Tadros		
8/5	Christopher Nordahl	8/19	Shirly Naoom		
8/6	Joseph Fouad	8/19	Jehan Bekhit		
8/6	Angela Hamilton	8/20	Kirellos Zamarý		
8/6	Alexander Kukas	8/22	Michael Mankarious		
8/7	Rahwa Asmerom	8/22	Gina Rizkallah		
8/8	Dimyana M. Hanna	8/22	Marie Terese Hanna		
8/10	Mounir Gad	8/23	Tigsti Beraki		
8/10	Nathaniel Moussa	8/24	Elizabeth Gebremichel		
8/11	Sonia Rizkalla	8/24	Gregory Mansour		
8/11	Mary Ann Moussa	8/25	John Gerges		
8/12	Mark Shenouda	8/26	Crystel Mary Malek		
8/14	George Fahmy	8/28	Jennifer Kyrollos		
8/14	Amanda Riddle	8/28	Jane Astrinos		

