

# Church News

## Blessed Birth- The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ Sherif and Ghada Girgis for their blessed son, Anthony, born in May 1, 2008.

## Holy Baptism- The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ Nader and Mary Ibrahim for the baptism of their blessed son, Joshua who was called: Matthias.
- ❖ Hany and Claudia Botrous for the Baptism of their blessed son, Ethan who was called: Pishoy.

## Newcomers- The Church Welcomes:

- ❖ Morice Botros Aziz, his wife Hala and their children, Sara, Wessam and Merna. They live in Castro Valley.
- ❖ Hany Gabra Soliman, his wife Engy and their children, Michael and Youssef. They live in Hayward.

## Blessed Ordinations- The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ Servants: Mohsen Attala, Samy Boutros for the ordination as Psaltos (singer).
- ❖ Servants: Hany Soliman, Peter Ghobrial, Zack Girgis, George Nashed, Michael Labib, Michael Gabriel for the rank of Gnostos (reader).
- ❖ Servants: George Bassilios and Michael Bassilios for the rank epi-diakon(sub deacon)

May the lord bless their service for the glory of his name.



Family Retreat- H.G. Bishop Youssef And Fr. Gregory.



H.G. Bishop Raphael Visit



## The 40-Day Period after the Resurrection

H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

The forty days that preceded the Resurrection were happy and joyous days in which the disciples lived with the Lord. He visited, and strengthened them, removed their doubts and confirmed them in the faith. They lived with Him, enjoyed His fellowship, and their hearts were overjoyed at seeing Him. Let us contemplate on these joyous days...

The first thing we realize about the forty days is that it was a period of visiting.

**A period of visiting and pastoral care:** He did not want to leave His disciples in doubt, fear, and

weakness and to psychological disturbance which were caused by the crucifixion.

He appeared especially to those who had a specific weakness. Saint Peter the apostle was in a psychological crisis after his denial. He was terrified of the Lord's saying, "Whoever denies Me before men, him / will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." This is why the Lord appeared to him and assured him of his apostleship.

When the Lord Jesus Christ arose, He did not think about Himself, but of others. He did not reproach those who left and denied Him, but treated them all and visited them with love. He trod the winepress alone, everyone left Him, but He did not reproach them. The faith of his beloved ones weakened and they were afraid. He did not reproach them for their fear and weakness of faith, but He worked at placing faith in their hearts. An example of this is that when Thomas doubted, the Lord was not angry as a result of this doubt, but appeared to him, showed him His wounds, removed his doubt and said to him, "Do not be unbelieving, but believing," then Thomas cried out, "my Lord and my God!"

In this way He led Thomas in the faith, which he would not have reached by reproach.

**A period of God's existence with us and His confirmation in us:** It was possible for the Lord Jesus Christ to strengthen the faith of the disciples in one day or less, but He spent forty days with them because He loves to be with His children, His joy is in mankind. He met them in the Upper Room, at the sea and at Galilee. He visited them many times and spoke to them about the matters pertaining to the kingdom of God. Christ does not only wish to be with His children, but even more so He wants to be in them, to dwell in them, to abide in them and them in Him forever.

He said to the Father about them, "I in them and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one." (John 17:23) He said to His disciples, "Abide in Me and I in you...I am the vine you are the branches, He who abides in Me and I in Him, bears much

fruit." (John 15:4-6) He also said, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood, abides in Me, and I in him." (John 6:56)

Hence it is not merely fellowship with Him, but an inter-abundance.

Christ lives in us and we in Him, existing in Him, as Saint Paul the apostle said, "...It is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in Me." (Galatians 2:20) It is a firm fellowship in God, not only in this world, but also in eternity, in the other world.

In this way the Lord Jesus Christ assured His disciples saying to them, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2&3) In His long prayer to the Father for the sake of His disciples He said, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me maybe with Me where I am." (John 17:24) It was said about the heavenly Jerusalem that, "the tabernacle of God is with men."

(Revelation 21:3)

As for on earth, the Lord said to His disciples. "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

So, we can regard the forty days as, 'a taste of heaven,' in which we Can taste life with the Lord, in order to live with Him forever. He dwells in us, is united in us, abides in us and we in Him. In this way, the forty day period is the period of being with His own.

**How should we receive these days?**

The most important thing during these holy days is that we should receive Christ in our hearts as the apostles did, in order to be His own as they were and to live their lives.

Saul of Tarsus was not one of the twelve, but his inner preparedness granted him to receive from the Lord what the apostles received and to be more eminent than many of them.

We ask the Lord to reveal Himself to us as He appeared to them so that we may say with them, "Which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled." (1 John 1: 1)

We ask of the Lord to visit us in these holy days as He visited His pure disciples in all care

## اعترافات شيطان

في ذات ليلة ، و بعد انتهاء العشيّة ، و بعد أن أرهق الأب الكاهن من سماع الاعترافات و سماعه لمختلف الخطايا ، ذهب لبيته. و بعد تناول العشاء ، ذهب ليصلي و ينام . و لكن في حجرة نومه وجد ضيف غير مرغوب فيه ، صرخ الأب الكاهن و كاد أن يرشم الصليب و لكن ذلك الضيف قال له : إياك ، فإني أحترق عندما تفعل ذلك ، فأنا الشيطان .

قال الأب الكاهن وهو مذهول : لا يمكن أن تكون أنت . فقال : كلا ، بل أنا هو . قال الأب الكاهن ماذا تريد ؟ أجاب الشيطان في هدوء : لقد قررت التوبة و أنوي بيع أسلحتي . قال الكاهن ضاحكا كيف تنوي التوبة ؟ هذا لا يمكن . قال له الشيطان : دعك من هذا الآن . المهم أن تجمع من الشعب التبرعات لكي تشتري الخطايا مني ، فلا أوقع البشر في الخطايا ، فيقتربون من الله و يكون لهم ملكوت السموات . و هذا ما تحيا من أجله . أليس كذلك ؟ قال الأب الكاهن : بلى . ماذا ستبيع ؟ بكم ستبيع ؟

أجاب الشيطان في حزن لأنه سيستغني عن أسلحته : سأبيع خطايا اللسان ، من شتيمة و كذب و حلفان و إدانة و سيرة الناس ، بمليون دولار . و سأبيع الغضب و النهب و السرقة و القتل ب2مليون دولار . و سأبيع خطايا النجاسة من زنى و أفكار شريرة ب3 مليون دولار . و سأبيع ....

و استمر يسرد الخطايا المختلفة التي تمثل أقوى أسلحته .

وافق الأب الكاهن و لم يماطله في السعر ، و استراح و شعر أن خطايا العالم انتهت . و لكن الشيطان استطرد قائلا : و لكني سأحتفظ لنفسى بسلح واحد فقط . غضب الكاهن و قال : لم يكن اتفاقنا على ذلك أيها المخادع . أجاب الشيطان : لا يمكن أن أستغني عنه قط فهو أمني الوحيد

قال الكاهن في فضول : و ما هو يا ترى ؟

أجاب الشيطان في ثقة : **التأجيل** . قال الكاهن في سخرية : هل هذا هو أقوى أسلحتك ؟ قال الشيطان في فخر : بالطبع ، فالتأجيل هو السلاح الذي لا يفشل أبدا . فعندما أقنع الشاب أن الاعتراف ليس مهم ، يجيبني بالآيات القوية ، و لكن عندما أقول له " إن الاعتراف هام و لكن ليس الآن ، ممكن أن تعترف بعد الامتحانات ، عندما يكون عندك وقت " . يقتنع الشاب و يؤيد كلامي ، و عندما تنتهي الامتحانات و تأتي الإجازة ، أكون دبرت له رحلة ثم مصيف ثم أشغله بالكمبيوتر و الإنترنت ، فيؤجل الاعتراف و هكذا أسرق منه الأيام حتى يجد نفسه بدون اعتراف لمدة شهور و سنين . و ما أفعله في الاعتراف ، أفعله معه في قراءة الإنجيل و الصلاة و حضور القداس . و هذا ما أفعله.....

و استيقظ الأب الكاهن من نومه و رسم نفسه بعلامة الصليب . و قد فهم حيل الشيطان .

## Happy Birthday To:

6/1 Amanda Ghali  
6/1 David Hanna  
6/1 Maggie Gaddis  
6/2 Ann Tadros  
6/2 Joseph Metry  
6/3 Corrina M. Tadros  
6/3 Justin Allan El-diwany  
6/3 Mark Gad  
6/3 Mina Ebeid  
6/4 Harife Tesfamichael  
6/4 Phobe Mankaryous  
6/7 Isaac Halasa  
6/8 Andrew Hamilton  
6/8 Bishoy Kaldas  
6/8 Marina Kamel  
6/8 Youssab Kamel  
6/9 Maria Zamary  
6/10 Domanic Marcus  
6/10 Michael Issa

6/11 John Sidhom  
6/12 Juliette Takla  
6/12 Peter Beskalis  
6/12 Shady Awadallah  
6/14 Justin Abdelshahid  
6/14 Mark Tony  
6/14 Sandra Shawky  
6/15 Aaron Abdel-Malek  
6/16 Maged Yousif  
6/16 Sarah Fahmy  
6/16 Shareen Saddik  
6/17 David Masoud  
6/17 David Massoud  
6/17 Matthew Ghobrial  
6/18 Mariam Fikry  
6/18 Michael Gabriel  
6/18 Monica Nader  
6/21 Joseph Haddad  
6/21 Michael Takla

6/21 Peter Ghobrial  
6/22 George Khalil  
6/22 Nardeen Maximous  
6/23 Christopher Malek  
6/23 Mary Gabriel  
6/25 Joseph Abdelsaid  
6/26 Sally Mickhail  
6/28 David Sorour  
6/28 Juliana Shahid  
6/28 Noah Guirguis  
6/29 Peter Saweres  
6/30 Ashley Metri  
6/30 Christina Soliman  
6/30 Christopher Chahrestan



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

6/6/2008 Andrew Michael  
6/13/2008 Fr. Shenouda Roshdy Ghattas  
6/20/2008 Trip to San Diego  
6/29/2008 Fr. Kyrillos Ibrahim

SMS Meeting Agenda

6:30 – 7:30 pm Agape  
7:30 – 8:00 pm Praises & Songs  
8:00 – 9:00 pm Lecture, Q & A

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our new site: <http://www.antonius.org>

**Feasts of the Month:**

- ❖ June 15, Paoni 8: Feast of Pentecost
- ❖ June 16, Paoni 9: The Beginning of the Apostles Fast. for 26 days.
- ❖ June 22, Paoni 15: Translocation of the holy relics of St. Mark, the Evangelist.
- ❖ June 22, Paoni 15: Consecration of the Church of Abba Mena at Maryut.
- ❖ June 23, Paoni 16: St. Onuphrius (Abba Nofer), the Anchorite.
- ❖ June 26, Paoni 19: St. George, the New Martyr.
- ❖ June 28, Paoni 21: Dedication of the first Church of the holy and blessed Virgin St. Mary in the city of Philippi.
- ❖ June 29, Paoni 22: Consecration of the Church of Sts. Kozman and Damian the physicians, their mother, and brothers.
- ❖ July 12, Abib 5: Feast of the Apostles.

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## The Paraclete

By H.G.BP Raphael

While Joseph was talking with one of his school mates, he understood that his colleague thinks of the Holy Spirit to be a human being who came to earth after Christ the Lord ascended to Heavens.

Joseph got very surprised with that strange concept, as we all that the Holy Spirit is one of the Holy Trinity hypostases, and he is the spirit of God. But such a conversation that took place between them made him a bit confused... Did really the Holy Spirit get incarnated in a man like form, the same as the incarnate Logos hypostasis in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord? Quite sometime later, Joseph met with father Stephen and exposed his question to him... Father's answer was truly sufficient to the point that made Joseph write it down to all dear readers.

Father said: the Holy Spirit would never be a man... the proof is what Christ the Lord said about him:

1. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" (Jn. 14:16). Would there be anyone who could stay with us forever!
2. "The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (Jn. 14: 17). Is there a person whom we could possibly call "The Spirit of truth"! Is there a person whom the world could not see or know? Would it be possible for any person to dwell and be "in you"?
3. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (Jn.

14: 26). Is the man, whom your colleague meant, sent by the Father in the name of Christ? Did He bring to the people remembrance all things that Christ said?

4. "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." (Jn. 15: 26). Does your colleague admit that the person who represents the Holy Spirit (according to his viewpoint) is sent by Christ "whom I shall send to you"? And if it is to be true, would he acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God who sends the prophets and the missionaries? Would it be possible to say about a human being that he "proceeds from the Father"? Would that person testify of Christ according to the verse?
6. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;" (Jn. 16: 8). Is there someone - an ordinary person - who is able, capable and has the power to "convict the whole world of sin"? Of course it has to be the Spirit of God, and not an ordinary person!
7. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (Jn. 16: 13). Would it be possible for a human being whatever his sanctity is, to guide people "into all the truth"?
8. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (Jn. 16: 14). Did the person, whom your colleague meant, come to glorify Jesus Christ, to take of what is His and grant us and declare it to us?

The Holy Spirit who is definitely the Spirit of God who proceeds from the Father from everlasting to everlasting, who is of one essence and divinity with the Father and the Son... He is the only one who can take from the precious salvation that Christ the Lord accomplished on the cross and declare it to us through the church's sacraments.

The Holy Spirit grants us every day the true flesh and blood of Christ the Lord, on the altar. Every day, He gives birth to new sons to the Father through baptism by burying them and raising them up with Christ... and so He is working in all the sacraments.

It was really a sufficient answer that pleased Joseph and encouraged him to write it down for us to help the believers trust their righteous Christian faith that others are trying to fill them with suspicion about.

### علمتى الحياة

ان لا يمر يوما دون أن تعلمنى درسا جديدا...  
يوما أتعلم ان العطاء اعظم متعة فى الوجود وان الذى يعطى  
لا ينقص منه أبدا بل يزيد وانه مهما حاول تقنين العطاء فهو  
لا يستطيع... فالعطاء يجرى فى دمه، ينقطع فقط حينما  
يموت!!  
ورأيت أن هناك من لا يعرفون معنى العطاء، فهم لم  
ينعودوا أن يعطوا، فهم يستمتعون بالأخذ فقط.. وأراهم رغم  
ذلك دائما متذمرين.. تعساء.. غير مقدرين لما فى أيديهم من  
أشياء ثمينة.. لا سعادة فى عيونهم ولا فى حياتهم!!

# The Reality of Christ's Resurrection

Edited by Fr. Matthias

## *What we have proved before!!*

What we have said before is no small proof that death has been destroyed and that the Cross of the Lord is a sign of victory over it. But of the Resurrection of the body to immortality accomplished by Christ, the Savior and true Life of all, the demonstration by facts is clearer than arguments to those whose mental vision is sound.

## *A strong proof of the Reality of Chris's Resurrection!!*

For if as our argument showed, death has been destroyed, and because of Christ, all people tread it under foot, much more did He Himself first tread him down with His Own body, and destroyed it. But if death had been slain by Him, what could have happened but the rising again of His Own Body?!! or how could death have been shown to be destroyed unless the Lord's body had risen?

## *Another proof!!*

But if these proofs of the Resurrection seem to any one insufficient, let him be assured of what takes place before his eyes. For whereas the dead man can have no power, but his influence lasts to the grave and thenceforth ceases; but actions, and power over men belong, to the living only; let him who will, see and be judge, confess the truth from what appears to sight. For now the Savior works so great things among men, and day by day is invisibly persuading so great multitude from every side of the world to come over to His faith, and all to obey His reaching!! Will anyone still hold his mind in doubt whether the Resurrection has been accomplished by the Savior, and whether Christ is alive, or rather is Himself the Life?!!

## *More and more about the power of the Living Christ!!*

Or is it possible for a dead man to be pricking the consciences of men, so that they deny their hereditary laws and bow before the teaching of Christ?!! Or how, if He is no longer active (for this is proper to a dead one), does He stop from their activity those who are active and alive, so that the adulterer no longer commits adultery, and the murderer

murders no more, and the profane is henceforth religious?!! Or how, if He be not risen but is dead, does He drive away, and pursue and cast down those false gods said by the unbelievers to be alive, and the demons they worshipped.

For where Christ is named, and His faith, all idolatry is deposed and all deeds of evil spirits is exposed, and any spirit is unable to endure even the name, and on barely hearing it flies and disappears. But this work is not that of one dead, but of one that lives, and especially of God. In particular, it would be ridiculous to say that while the spirits cast out by Him are alive, He who chases them away, and by His power prevents their even appearing, and is being confessed by them a son of God, is dead.



## *The constraining power of Christ and of the Sign of the Cross!!*

The Savior does daily so many works, drawing men to religion, persuading to virtue, teaching of immortality, leading on to a desire for heavenly things, revealing the knowledge of the Father. inspiring strength to meet death, and revealing Himself to each one.

By the sign of the Cross all magic is stopped, and all witchcraft are destroyed, and all the idols are being deserted and left, and every unruly pleasure is checked, and every one is looking up from earth to heaven.

## *He is living and active!!*

For the Son of God is living and active, and works day by day, and brings about the salvation of all. But death is proved to have lost all its power, and idols and evil spirits are proved to be dead rather than Christ, so that henceforth no man can any longer doubt of the Resurrection of His body. For as the Savior fashioned it for Himself, it was impossible for it to remain dead, because it had been made the temple of life. Whence, while it died as mortal, it came to life again by reason of the Life in it.