

# Church News

## Newcomers- The Church Welcomes:

- ❖ Wael Ghobrial, his wife, Gena and their child, Youssef (borne 5/22/05) who returned back after to the US they left for Egypt about 3 years ago. They live in Fremont.
- ❖ E Nader Hanna Matta, his wife, Germine, and their children, Michael (borne 8/27/88) & Mirette (borne 10/2/94) who live in Concord.
- ❖ Nagy Boulos Kalad who lives in Hayward.
- ❖ Adly Sanad and his wife, Ester. They came to join their son, Sameh who lives in Redwood City.
- ❖ Phebe Khalil who lives in San Francisco.
- ❖ Wagdi Mosad who lives in San Francisco.
- ❖ Sarah Ghobrial who lives in San Francisco.
- ❖ Clara Mikhael who lives in San Francisco.

## Blessed Baptism – The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ George and Miranda Bassilios for the baptism of their blessed son, Jonathan.

## Condolences:

- ❖ Ragae Soliman, his wife, Magda & their children, Daniel, Christina & her husband, Sian and to Mourad Soliman, his wife, Samia & their children, Michael, Sylvana & her husband, Ramon & their daughters for the departure of:

### ***Their Mother the Late Ester***

She lived a peaceful life, serving her Church and society. The funeral service took place in St. Antonius Church on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 by Fr. Antonius Hanna, Fr. John Ragheb, Fr. Pishoy Ray and Fr. Matthias.

## Keep an eye on:

**Advent Fast (43 days):** begins 11/25/08

**Thanksgiving Day, 11/27/08:**

The Holy Liturgy from 9-11, followed by the Agape



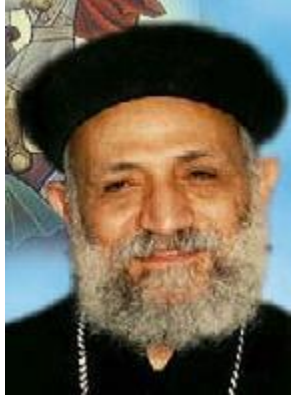
## The 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of H.H. the Pope

We congratulate the successor of St. Mark, H.H. Pope Shenouda III for the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his enthronement



## St. Mary in the Keyahk's hymns

By: Father Tadros Malaty



As we celebrate Christmas on 29th of Keyahk, the whole month (before Christmas) is devoted to hymning - many Marian hymns, added to the daily hymns as a preparation for Christmas. In this month - which we can call the Marian Month –the believers in Egypt assemble in evening of every Saturday and remain in the church giving hymns until the end of the Eucharistic Liturgy on Sunday.

### **The Characteristics of the Keyahk's hymns:**

Beside those characteristics of the "Theotokias" which we have already mentioned, these Keyahk's hymns have the following characteristics:

1. If we eliminate the hymns which were introduced lately by someone who had no theological knowledge, the keyahkal hymn is truly a heavenly symphony, praises not only St. Mary as The mother of God, but also the whole Church as being the holy dwelling place of the Incarnate God. In other words, through the incarnation of God's Son in the holy womb of St. Mary we see Him dwelling in our souls by the sanctification of His Holy Spirit.
2. These hymns have a social trend; every member is praising God, not individually but through all God's saints, through His membership of the One Church. "I praise you in the midst of the great community (Church) (Ps. 22:22)." For this reason many hymns are devoted to praise some saints also, as if they assemble with us to give hymns to the Incarnate God, the Savior of the human race.

كلنا نحب الحرية ولكن ندرب أنفسنا علي أن نسلك في الحرية بإرادة صالحة  
وبضمير سليم وفي حياة روحية وصلة بالله وإلا تحولت الحرية إلى لون من  
التسيب ( البابا الأنبا شنوده الثالث )

Blessings of the Incarnation  
Part I

The problem of knowledge and holiness

H.G. Bp Raphael

This, Christ got back to us on four levels:

**a- Through the model and the pattern:**

So the Lord Jesus-Christ lived among us so as to teach us how to act like Him, since he is the righteous Master "**we follow Him with all our hearts**" (the Psalm or explanation of the third ode). And He Himself said: "**learn from Me**" (Matt. 11: 29), Christ meant to transfer to us all of the knowledge about the Father, in order that we do not doubt the glory of the Father because of Christ abandoning His glory, He said: "**for My Father is greater than I.**" (John 14: 28), so that we understand that the Father has got glory, brightness and greatness much greater than the Son's modesty form, because of the Incarnation that caused Him to abandon His glory (till the proper time), where He will return after the resurrection and the ascension.



Therefore we pray in the Gregorian Mass saying: "**You gave me the learning of Your knowledge... Who revealed to us the light of the Father... Who bestowed upon us the true knowledge of the Holy Spirit**". The most favorite title to Christ was "the Righteous Master", and this explains to us why Christ fasted, prayed and carried out the law, and was baptized by John.. He did all that to teach us to act like Him.

**b- Through antecedence and Priority:**

Then Christ was prior to and for us... He opened to us the sealed doors that the humankind would not have dreamt to open... For He is the first man to enter the paradise, then following Him entered all of the saints from Adam until the robber at the right hand... And He will lead this same procession when the slaves make their companions perfect "**God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**" (Heb. 11: 4), He will lead the same procession after its perfection; so that we enter with Him, by Him, and in Him to the eternal kingdom as we are members in His Holy body and he enters prior to and for us..

Also Christ was anterior to and for us through all spiritual practices... He prays to give our prayers a meaning and an acceptance in front of God His Father; Christ fasted as well to give our fasting a theological value, a divine dimension, an acceptance and a meaning in front of God His Father.

Christ accepted the Holy Spirit in the Jordan waters, so that he opens to us the door of the possibility of accepting the Holy Spirit in ourselves through baptism, all what Christ did as a whole in the flesh was for us, for our benefit and for the sake of our humankind.

**Look for Part II in December issue**

*The Lord's Day is a mystery of the knowledge of the truth that is not received by flesh and blood, and it transcends speculations. In this age there is no eighth day, nor is there a true Sabbath. For he who said that 'God rested on the seventh day,' signified the rest [of our nature] from the course of this life, since the grave is also of a bodily nature and belongs to this world. Six days are accomplished in the husbandry of life by means of keeping the commandments; the seventh is spent entirely in the grave; and the eighth is the departure from it.*

*St. Isaac of Syria, The Ascetical Homilies.I*



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

### Feasts of the Month:

- ❖ **November 1, Paopi 22:** Martyrdom of St. Luke the Evangelist
- ❖ **November 6, Paopi 27:** Martyrdom of St. Macarius, Bishop of Tkoou
- ❖ **November 14:** Enthronement of H.H. Pope Shenouda III
- ❖ **November 16, Hatour 7:** Martyrdom of St. George of Alexandria
- ❖ **November 18, Hatour 9:** The First Ecumenical Council of Nicea, 325AD
- ❖ **November 24, Hatour 15:** Martyrdom of St. Mina the Miraculous
- ❖ **November 25:** Beginning of Advent Fast
- ❖ **November 26, Hatour 17:** Departure of St. John Chrysostom
- ❖ **November 29, Hatour 20:** Departure of St. Inianus

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## Happy November Birthdays to:

11/1 Hisham Samaan	11/17 Miray Gendi
11/1 Jakie Awad	11/17 Vally Mikhail
11/1 Julie Hana	11/18 Millen Kiflegiogis
11/1 Linda Khalil	11/18 Ragdha Sarkis
11/1 Manuel Sleem	11/19 Karim Habib
11/3 Alexander Bishara	11/20 Ann Mary Salib
11/5 Angela Abed El Messih	11/21 Francois Marcus
11/5 Marlene Rizkallah	11/21 Monique Nashed
11/8 Jonah Aziz	11/22 Gabrielle Gourgy
11/8 Maryam Yousef	11/22 Krollos El Gendy
11/10 Anthony Daoud	11/22 Michael Iskander
11/11 Daniel Kifle	11/23 Emad El Gendy
11/11 Kirollous Salama	11/24 Michael Gaballah
11/11 Mira Loffy	11/25 Mary Ann Sharkawy
11/11 Sarah Saleh	11/26 Mayce Cath Keilo
11/12 Christian Athanasious	11/27 Daniel Soliman
11/13 Gregory Thomasin	11/27 Jonathan Awad
11/14 Mazin Ahwal	11/27 Sofia Andrawess
11/14 Mitchell Naguib	11/27 Youssef Tawfik
11/14 Nicole Kukas	11/28 Anne Sawiris
11/15 Fady Hanna	11/29 Alexander Raid
11/15 Nadia Hanna	11/29 Joseph Barsoum
11/16 Clara Matta	11/29 Manar Janho
11/16 John Wahba	11/29 Mena Gendi
11/16 Mary Ann Moussa	11/29 Paulette Malak
11/16 Mary Hanna	11/30 Ayman Shahid
11/17 Amy Sadek	



## Riddle me this....



1. You can take away the whole and still have some left. You can take away some and still have the whole left. What is it?
2. Alex bought a bag of apples on Saturday, and he ate a third of them. On Sunday he ate half of the remaining apples. He ate one more on Monday and one more on Tuesday, then ate half of the remaining apples on Wednesday. On Thursday he looked in the bag and saw that there was just one apple left. How many apples did the bag have to begin with?

**Answers in the December issue!!**