



Common Statement
Between
The Coptic Orthodox Church
And
The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
of Alexandria and all Africa
Regarding
Max Michel

We, Pope Shenouda III, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark and Theodorus II Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, find it necessary to express our deep concern and clear position regarding the so called ordination of the "reader" Max Michel as bishop for Egypt and the Middle East by some schismatic and non-canonical bishops who claim to be orthodox.

This person, who was a "reader", left the Coptic Orthodox Church in 1976 and started his schismatic activities outside the Church. He got married and has two daughters. Later, in 2005, he claimed that he was ordained by the name Maximos in Nebraska, U.S.A., as bishop of Egypt and the Middle East, calling his church St. Athanasius Church. In 2006 he declared himself archbishop of Egypt and the Middle East taking the name Maximos I.

We reject the false ordination of this person, because he was ordained by bishops who are not recognized by any Orthodox Church. According to the canon of Orthodox Church, the patriarch, the archbishop or the bishop of an Orthodox Church should not be married, but be celibate.

Therefore, we reject the ecclesiastical and sacramental validity of the ordination of this "reader" Max Michel. Also we reject all the ordinations conducted by him.

Shenouda III

for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate