



El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty Fourth Year

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Consecrating Aswan's Church and the Church of Al Gouna Promoting their Grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa as Metropolitans

HH the Pope's consecration of Archangel Michael's Cathedral in Aswan was a historical event which was marked by the large number of Rev Bishops who participated with HH in the consecration prayers as they exceeded in number the participating bishops at any other church consecration event.

25 of the Reverend Bishops participated with HH in consecrating Virgin Mary's Church, Luxor, 27 others participated in consecrating St. Shenouda the Archimandrite's Monastery, 34 of the Rev Metropolitans and Bishops in consecrating Archangel Michael's Cathedral, Aswan, 27 of whom accompanied HH to Al Gouna along with a large number of the Rev Clergy.

Also from the land of immigration their grace Bishop Serabion from America, Bishop Demian from Germany, Bishop Bernaba from Italy and Bishop Sarabamoon from Sudan arrived to attend the consecration of Archangel Michael's Cathedral in Aswan.

Thousands of the congregation were there attending the consecration event of all churches to the extent that those very spacious churches in Aswan and Gouna... were not enough to have them all, our congregation is very loving; with all their emotions they are very much attached to

the fatherhood of the church in a way which is beyond description.

This consecration trip which was to the far southern parts of Egypt had other joyous event which is elevating their grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa as Metropolitans; they were the first two bishops ordained as bishops of dioceses since 31 years ago.

Before this trip, The Pope visited Aswan on 1974 when he wanted to ask the congregation at that time if they wanted him to

ordain a bishop for the diocese, as according to the principle followed by HH (it is the right of the congregation to chose their pastor), so many people there haven't ever seen the Pope in their governorate before and this visit marked HH the Pope's first visit to them since 32 years ago.

We extend our felicitations to everyone: to the diocese of Aswan, diocese of Balyana and to their grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa.



HH the Pope on promoting their grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa

Illustrated Church News

With the Executive Committee of Middle East Council of Churches

The committee convened at the Papal residence, Cairo on Thursday 23/3 and also in St. Mark Center, Nasr City on Friday 24/3.

The photo is in front of the Papal residence.

HH the Pope is seen at the center of the photo with Dr. Safwat Al Baiady and Dr. Selim Sehiouny on both his sides along with the rest of the committee members.



His Holiness the Pope in the Islamic-Christian Interfaith Dialogue

It was held at Meridian Hotel, Cairo on Tuesday 22/3.

HH is seen in the photo with HE Grand Sheikh of Azhar, Dr. Hamed Al Raf'ei and Dr. Safwat Al Baiady.

HE Metropolitan Boules Mattar is seen on the left side of the photo as well as one of the Greek Orthodox bishops who is seen at the right side of the photo.

Luncheon Banquet in Aswan

The Pope is seen in the photo presenting the patriarchate's metal plate award to General Samir Youssef the Governor of Aswan who also presented the Pope the Governorate metal plate award.

HG Bishop Hedra is seen on the very right side of the photo and Eng Nabil George sitting on the left hand side.



Church News



HH the Pope's Meetings

- ❖ HH received on Monday 13/3 Dr. Tharwat Bassilli, Counselor Edward Ghaleb and Dr. Wagdy Louis who are of the General Lay Council's members.
- ❖ And on Thursday 16/3 HH received Mr. Gamil George Editor in Chief of Al Akhbar Newspaper.
- ❖ The Pope also received on Friday 17/3 HG Bishop Maximous and Mrs. Heba Al Asiouty.

With Fr. Anastasy St. Anthony

HH the Pope received Fr. Anastasy at the papal residence in Cairo after his return from Honolulu, the church there is now being served by one of Los Angeles' Priests.

Fr. Anastasy went to St. Pishoi's Monastery where HH the Pope will be elevating him to the Hegomen rank.

In Honolulu Fr. Anastasy was very successful in his service and very much loved by everyone there, also he is loved so much by the congregation in New Jersey who requested that he would serve the youths there.

Ordination of Priests at the Diocese of Beheira

- ❖ On 24/2 HG Bishop Pachumious ordained two priests:
 - Fr. Isaac Fakhry.
 - Fr. Ibrahim Nabih.
 - ❖ On 26/2 HG ordained:
 - Fr. Sidarous Younan as priest.
 - ❖ And on 10/3 he ordained:
 - Fr. Aghathon Maher.
 - Fr. Toma Mounir.
- HG Bishop Tawadrous participated in the ordination prayers... we extend our felicitations to everyone.

Nine Reverend Metropolitans in our Coptic Church

And they are their Eminence:
Metropolitan Mikhail of Assuit.
Metropolitan Abraham of Jerusalem.
Metropolitan Domadius of Giza.
Metropolitan Markos of France.
Metropolitan Seraphim of England.
Metropolitan Pachumious of Beheira & affiliated regions.
Metropolitan Bishoy of Damietta & affiliated regions.
Metropolitan Hedra of Aswan.
Metropolitan Wissa of Balyana.

One of the Church's Lay-Servants Leaders Reposed in the Lord

As reported to us from Florida that on 4/3 he left our perishing world:

Dr. Girguis Abd Al Messeih

Who was one of Botroseya & Shubra church servants during the forties, he immigrated to America on 1969 where he served the church in Minnesota then moved to Florida.

HG Bishop Youssef officiated funeral prayers along with some of the rev clergy of Virgin Mary and St. Mina's church, Clearwater, Florida.

May his soul be reposed in the Paradise of Joy; we extend our condolences to his family and all those who loved him.

Board of Trustees of St. Mark Coptic Church Public library

On Monday evening 13/3, 38 members of the Board of Trustees of St. Mark's Coptic Church Public library met formally at the papal residence, some of the Board members are from Egypt and other members are from the USA.

During the meeting Dr. Fawzi Istafanous gave a word and so did Dr Lotfy Basta, Eng Sami Saad, Eng Naguib Sawerous, Dr. Tharwat Bassilli, Eng Mounir Abdou Faam and Counselor Monsef Soliman. And the meeting was concluded by a word given by HH the Pope.

Hegomen Sarabamoon Atteya

We thank the Lord for the success of his liver transplantation surgery which he had in France on 17/2; he is now spending recovery period of time after the surgery and is to be back to his church in Ain Shams.

St. Shenouda Theological Seminary, Krivillebach, Germany

Dr. Michel Badie Abd Al Malek traveled there to give lectures about the church's Forefathers which included:

- ❖ Scientist Tartilianous.
- ❖ St. Caprianous.
- ❖ St. Botros Al Sedmanty.
- ❖ Scientist Yosabious Al Qaisary.
- ❖ Mar Efrahat Al Suriary.



Church News

The Pope in Alexandria

- ❖ HH the Pope went to Alexandria on Friday evening 24/3 after attending the executive committee meeting of the Middle East Council of Churches which was held in St. Mark Center, Nasr City.
- ❖ In Alexandria HH met with Mr Esmat Nathan and some of the Coptic Church Lay members.
- ❖ The Pope attended the charity committee meeting as he usually does in Alexandria every Sat and gave his lectures at the Theological Seminary.
- ❖ HH delivered his sermon on Sun evening at St. Mark's Great Cathedral and was then back to Cairo.

With HG Bishop Serabion

HH the Pope received HG at the Papal residence in Cairo where he talked with him about the church service in Honolulu after reallocating her priest Fr. Anastasy St. Anthony.

HH also talked with Bishop Serabion about church service in San Francisco, USA and church service affairs concerning Zurich-Switzerland.

HG Bishop Pasanti

HG is back to his service in Helwan after completing a successful medical treatment trip to Vancouver, Canada.

With Hegomen Mousa St. Pishoi

HH the Pope received our priest of France Hegomen Mousa St. Pishoi on Thursday 16/3/2006, HH blessed the work of Hegomen Mousa in establishing a cultural and social benevolence in Paris which will be directly affiliated to the Mother Church and will be named after St. Mark.

Premier Liturgy Prayer, Richmond Church Virginia, USA →

Hegomen Shenouda Al Baramousy celebrated the very first Mass Prayer in our new Church in Richmond on 25/2/2006. The congregation who attended this Liturgy prayer is seen in the photo

HG Bishop Suriel's Return to Melbourne

HG traveled back to Melbourne on Monday 27/3. HE Metropolitan Bishoy the Holy Synod Secretary General traveled with him along with HG Bishop Mousa of youths. HH the Pope received them all prior to their travel.

Archangels Michael and Gabriel Church Boards in Fresno

Papal decree No 8/35 was issued to form the board of this church as follows:

- 1- Fr. Mina Faam, President.
- 2- Eng. Samir Awad.
- 3- Dr. Naguib Michael.
- 4- General Mounir Fahmy.
- 5- Accountant Bassem Michael.
- 6- Eng. Ihab Ibrahim.
- 7- Eng. Nadir Shoukry.

The Virgin & Archangel Rafael Church Board, Mansheyet Al Nozha, Alexandria

Papal decree has been issued No 9/35 to form the church board as follows:

- Mr. Wageeh Agbaan Hakim.
- Eng. Rafaat Lam'ey Ibrahim.
- Mr. Bekheit Abdullah Faam.
- Mr. Mamdouh Mikhail Isaac.
- Mr. Romany Wafik Mahrous.
- Mr. Kamak Habib Shehata.

Diocese of Red Sea Governorate

❖ It is a diocese on the Red Sea coast Northern of which is the diocese of Suez and Sudan is at its South.

❖ This diocese includes five major cities: Ras Ghareeb, Hurghada, Safaga, Al Qouseir and Marsa Alam...it was before affiliated to the diocese of Qena then after the departure of HG Bishop Macarius of Qena HH Pope Shenouda named it as a diocese on its own and ordained HG Bishop Thawfelous to serve it.

❖ **There are four churches** the oldest of which is St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Church which was established on 1922.

There is also St. Mina the Miraculous Church which the Pope visited on the evening of 19/3/2006 and delivered his sermon there, it is the most spacious of all the old churches in Hurghada and then comes St. Mark's Church as regards the size the church's size.

The fourth church is the church of Al Gouna and was consecrated at the hands of HH the Pope on 20/3 dedicating her to the Virgin and Archangel Michael.

❖ **The church of Ras Ghareeb** which was established on 1951 and since then repair and expansion have been done there twice.

❖ Abu Sefein Church, Safaga.

❖ Al Qouseir Church named after Virgin Mary and St. Bernaba, the Italians had built this church on 1938, it was handed over to HG Bishop Macarius on 1964, now two priests are serving this church.

❖ There is also the church service of Marsa Alam and the tourist village along the 130 Kms Southern the Red Sea governorate.



HH the Pope's Historical Trip to Aswan and Al Gouna

By HG Bishop Youanes

HH the Pope left Cairo Airport on Saturday 18/3 on the private plane of Eng Naguib Sawerous and was accompanied by their eminence Metropolitan Pachumious and Metropolitan Bishoy along with their grace Bishop Sarabamoon, Bishop Rowais, Bishop Boutros, Bishop Serabion, Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Athanasius, Bishop Kirolos Ava Mina and Bishop Ermia, also Eng Naguib Sawerous and Eng Nabil George accompanied them.

At Aswan's Airport:

HH the Pope arrived at Aswan Int'l Airport at about 10:00 hrs where at his arrival there was General Samir Youssef the Governor of Aswan, HG Bishop Hedra and the public and executive officials of the governorate, there were also their grace: Bishop Wissa, Bishop Tadros, Bishop Kirolos (Naga Hammadi), Bishop Metaous, Bishop Besada, Bishop Abram, Bishop Pasanti, Bishop Demetrious, Bishop Lucas, Bishop Thomas, Bishop Bakhoum, Bishop Aghabious, Bishop Cherubim, Bishop Sarabamoon (Sudan), Bishop Bernaba, Bishop Demian, Bishop Gabriel, Bishop Maximous (General Bishop), Bishop Gorgeous, Bishop Istafanous, Bishop Timothaus and Bishop Aghathon. There were also a large number of the Reverend Clergy and Lay members of the church at HH arrival.

On The High Dam:

They all went in cars from Aswan's airport heading the high dam area and on the buildings of the high dam the Governor explained briefly the architects and buildings of the High Dam, memorial photos were taken and then they all went to the Patriarchate of Aswan.

On the Way to the Patriarchate of Aswan:

On the way there crowds of the congregation gathered on both sides of the road to salute HH the Pope with cheers and claps and some were taking photos for HH...

In front of the patriarchate thousands of the congregation gathered since the early morning to salute HH the Pope and take his blessing, the Pope arrived at Old Cataract Hotel which is opposite to the Patriarchate at around 12:00 hrs accompanied by the Governor and the Reverend Bishops.

Press Conference at the Hotel:

A large number of Press and Satellite Media representatives gathered at one of the halls soon after HH arrival, they asked for a meeting where HH answered their questions. The Governor attended

that meeting which lasted for almost two hours.

Luncheon Banquet on the Honor of HH the Pope:

Then a luncheon banquet was held at the hotel on the honor of HH the Pope and was attended by the Governor as well as the Executive and public officials of the governorate along with the Reverend Bishops, Clergy and church lay members. HG Bishop Hedra first gave a word of welcome expressing their joy on HH the Pope visit and blessing, he also spoke about the work of God with him all through the 30 years of service and also in building the Archangel Cathedral, then HE the Sheikh Deputy Chairman of the ministry of religious endowments in Aswan gave a word then Governor Samir Youssef and finally the banquet was concluded by a word given by HH the Pope.

Meeting the Congregation at Archangel's Cathedral:

On Saturday evening HH the Pope accompanied by the Reverend Bishops went to the Archangel Cathedral which was packed with more than four thousands of the congregation in addition to other thousands who were at the ground floor and thousands standing outside the Cathedral whom all received HH the Pope with touching great Joy.



The two photos show how crowded the Cathedral was with the congregation: the upper picture was of the men and the lower one with women

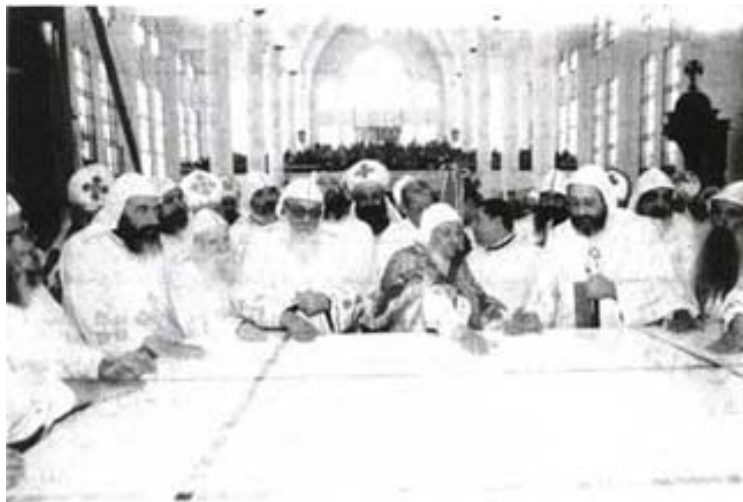
Choir teams performed some church songs welcoming HH the Pope then HG Bishop Hedra spoke about the work of God in building the cathedral mentioning the efforts of HH the Pope to purchase the land before and after HG ordination as a Bishop of Aswan, HG also mentioned the love and generosity of the congregation of Aswan and he told some very touching stories.

HG Bishop Hedra also thanked Eng Nabil George, Eng Onsy Sawerous and Dr. Tharwat Bassilli then the meeting was concluded with a spiritual word given by HH the pope about the work of God with us in missionaries and everywhere else.

Hegomen Markos presented this meeting.

Consecrating Altars of Archangel Cathedral, Aswan: →

On Sunday morning 19/3 (the feast of the Holy Cross), HH the Pope consecrated the three altars of the church: the one at the middle was dedicated to Archangel Michael the Northern altar to St. Mark and the Southern altar was dedicated to the great St. Anthony. 34 Reverend Metropolitans and Bishops participated in the consecration prayers and then HH also consecrated the baptistery.



Elevating their grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa: →

On the same day HH the Pope elevated their grace Bishop Hedra and Bishop Wissa as Metropolitans; they are the first two bishops of dioceses ordained by HH the Pope on the Pentecost of 1975.

It was such a joyous occasion for all Clergy and Laity.

Foundation Stone for a New Patriarchate in Aswan:

Prior to leaving Aswan, HH the Pope and the Governor along with HE Metropolitan Hedra laid the foundation stone of a new patriarchate near the Archangel Cathedral in Aswan.

From Aswan to Al Gouna:

Around 14:30 hrs HH the Pope and the accompanying delegate left Aswan heading Al Gouna Airport on the private plane of Eng Naguib Sawerous, another private plane was prepared to have on board a large number of the Reverend Bishops and Scouts youths who were accompanying HH.

At Al Gouna Airport:

HH the Pope arrived at Al Gouna Airport, Red Sea governorate at around 15:00 hrs where at HH arrival there were their grace Bishop Yustus, Bishop Thawfelous, Bishop Qozman along with Hegomen Daniel St. Paul the Steward of St. Paul's Monastery and large number of Reverend Clergy and

Monks. Mrs. Yosreya Loza and Eng Samih Sawerous were also at HH arrival with some of the church lay members.

HH then headed Movenpick Resort, Al Gouna.

On the Way from the Airport to the Hotel:

On the way from the airport to the hotel thousands of the youths who work in Al Gouna were on both sides of the road saluting HH the Pope, they were so joyous that they even started clapping when the plane passed around during flight before it landed...



After their Elevation as Metropolitans Luncheon Banquet on the honor of HH the Pope's visit:

It was held at the Movenpick Al Gouna Hotel and was attended by Governor Abu Bakr Al Rasheedy along with the executive and public officials of the governorate also HE Sheikh Ibrahim Abd Al Hamid Manager at the Ministry Religious Endowments.

St. Mina's Church Hurghada:

On Sunday evening 19/3 HH the Pope went to St. Mina church, Hurghada accompanied by the Reverend Bishops where HH met with a large number of

congregation with whom the church and its yard were both packed.

HG Bishop Thawfelous first gave a word welcoming HH the Pope then HH answered lots of the congregation's questions.

Consecrating Altars of our New Church, Al Gouna:

On Monday morning 20/3 HH the Pope consecrated the altars of our beautiful new church in Al Gouna: the middle altar was dedicated to Virgin Mary, the Northern to Archangel Michael and the Southern altar was dedicated to St. Anthony and St. Paula, 27 of the Reverend Metropolitans and bishops participated with HH in the prayers, it was a joyous day for everyone.

Prior to his departure HH the Pope blessed the thousands of congregation who were waiting for him outside since the early morning and were not able to enter.

And at about 10:00 hrs HH the Pope left Al Gouna Airport with his accompanying delegate returning back safely to Cairo...

Special Thanks:

We extend our thanks to Eng Naguib Sawerous for his efforts in preparing for this trip.

We also thank the security officials for their efforts in securing safety and discipline.

We thank the scouts' youths who left Cairo prior to HH travel to prepare for this trip then they accompanied the Pope from Aswan to Al Gouna.

We also thank all those who exerted efforts in secret...

May God reward them all with heavenly rewards.

We ask the Lord to preserve the life of our beloved Pope Shenouda III whom during his papacy beautiful churches and spacious cathedrals were built and St. Mark's missionary grew everywhere, actually it is the kingdom of God which grew in hearts...

Glory be to God forever Amen.



HH the Pope visiting St. Mina Church, Hurghada where he delivered his sermon...the Reverend clergy are seen waiting to receive HH outside the church with decoration and congregation all around it, the roof was also full.



Coptic congregation on both sides of the road joyously raising his photo saluting HH the Pope



The New Church in Al Gouna

Meditations

in

Heaven and Heavenly Beings

The Arabic word of Heaven comes from elevation or highness. And it has levels: The first heaven is the birds' sky... and it is where birds and planes fly. **The second heaven** is the astronomy heaven in which the Sun and its surrounding objects exist. **And the third heaven is Paradise** to which St. Paul the apostle was taken (2 Co 12:2, 4), whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body he does not know, heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter...

Above all those there is **the heaven of heavens**, which has God's Throne, surrounded by the seven Chief Angels, the Cherubim and Seraphim and the Four Incorporeal Beasts. And no man has been elevated to it. And the Lord Christ, may He be glorified said about it "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven." (Jn 3:13).

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And we better, while in these holy days, have our meditations on heaven, our relation to it and our destiny in it.

In Prayer

When we pray we raise our eyes to above, to heaven. Why? And we say "**Our Father who art in Heaven**"... Although God is everywhere, in Heaven and in Earth and in what is between them...

But we do so because God, may His name be blessed, as He has the passion of the fatherhood, He also has glory greatness and highness. So His solemnity may always be before our eyes in spite of our closeness to it in love as children.

And the statement the heavenly Father or your Father who art in heaven, is repeated many times in the holy Bible, and we take from it the same meditation and meaning...

And we find the same sign in the heavenly host praise on the time the Lord was incarnated when they said "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Lk 2:14). As if they are emphasizing that He who "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:7), and was born in a manger... But He has glory in the highest...

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In Giving

Giving is also associated with Heaven. The Lord says on that:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...

Pope Shenouda III



but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Mt 6:19,20). And here giving is not only offered on Earth but mostly it is saved in Heaven. It is offered to the Lord Christ Himself in Heaven. That on which He said: "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me"...And also said: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Mt 25:34-40).

And He says about giving in secret: "do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Mt 6:1, 2). But the charitable deed should be in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly...

And what is the charity deed payback? The Lord says in Prophet's Malachi's Book "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it" (Ml 3:10).

So the charitable deed is offered to heaven, and the heavenly Father sees it and rewards on it by opening for you the windows of heaven and pouring out for you the heaven's blessings.

As we should not forget God's giving to us which He brought from heaven: Manna and Quails.

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In Hardship

In hardships we have no place to turn to but heaven, we resort to it. And regardless of how many doors are seen shut before us, we remember from the bible the saying of St. John the divine "**I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven**" (Rv 4:1).

This door is that which the Lord said about that it "opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (Rv 3:7): "I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it" (Rv 3:8).

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The Sin

The sin is also directed to heaven. And so in the repentance of the lost son he said to his father "**I have sinned against heaven and before you**" (Lk 15: 18, 21).

And here we see that sin is too wrongful, because it is first of all directed to the Heavenly Father: as a disobedience to Him, free from love and a rejection to the work of His Holy Spirit. And thus we see that

Prophet David did not say I sinned against Uriah the Hittite, or against his wife Bathsheba, but he said in the psalm: "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight" (Ps 51:4).

Also when the sin was offered to Joseph the virtuous and he refrained from it he said: "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gn 39:9).

So long as the sin is against God and His Heaven, then its forgiveness comes from there. And so the Lord says: "your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses" (Mk 11:25) and says "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Lk 15:10). The heaven that awaits the repentance of the sinner and helps him do it of course rejoices his repentance.

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Obedience and Good Deeds

God wants of us obedience like that which is in heaven: and so He taught us in the Lord's prayer to say "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". That is because God's will in heaven is done precisely, quickly and without discussion and it was said about God's angels in heaven "Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word." (Ps 103:20).

And about good deeds, the Lord said "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16). So the aim of our good deeds is to glorify our Father who is in heaven.

But all good deed in its whole is doing the heavenly Father's will. And on that the Lord said "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (Mt 12:50) meaning that he who does it becomes a member of the heavenly family.

And what about the reward of doing good deeds? The Lord says "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, **for great is your reward in heaven**" (Mt 5:12). And says on another occasion: "but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Lk 10:20).

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The Keys of Heavenly Kingdom

It is excessively joyful that God gave the keys to the Heavenly Kingdom to His Disciples, the saints, and to whom He trusted on the pasturing His people. So He did this with His disciple St. Peter (Mt 16:15) and with the twelve when He told them: "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mt 18:18).

And He repeated that to them after His Resurrection as He "He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:22, 23).

But He rebuked the Jews Chiefs who put on people heavy loads from commandments and told them "But woe to you... For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." (Mt 23:13).

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The Second Coming

When the Lord Christ Rose to Heaven and while His disciples were looking at Him, two angels stood by them in white apparel and told them: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Ac 1:11).

Therefore, we look to the heaven that the Lord Christ will come from and takes us to Him. The bible says: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Rv 1:7) and "we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Th 4:17).

Truly, how beautiful is His coming with all the holy angels with Him (Mt 15:31).

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Where Our Eternal Destiny is

We care for heaven because it is going to be our eternal destiny, and that's why the Lord has talked many times about the Heavenly Kingdom and gave many parables in which He said: "The kingdom of heaven is like..." and many are in (Mt 13, Mt 25).

And St. Paul the Apostle said "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Co 5:1). Here and we say may Jehovah's Witnesses and Adventists be ashamed for asking for an Earthly Kingdom, and that the redeemed will build in the new earth houses and live in them.

While the bible teaches us that we will live in Heavenly Jerusalem "the tabernacle of God is with men" (Rv 21:3).

And this New Heaven "There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." (Rv 22:5) and "They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads" (Rv 22:4).

Delegations of the Holy Week and the Holy Resurrection Feast to Europe

1. Fr. Mina Ezzat, to pray in the virgin's Church in Paris.
2. Fr. Girguis Michael to pray in Colomb North West of Paris.
3. Fr. Suriel Helmy to pray n our new church in San Touan North of Paris.
4. Fr. Ibrahim Abdu to pray in Drancy North of Paris.
5. Fr. Bigoul Mese'ed to pray in Holland.
6. Fr. Morcos Yassa to pray in Romania.
7. Fr. Mikhail Ibrahim to pray in Spain.
8. Fr. Ibrahim Ayad to pray in Austria.

Ordaining New Priests at Dioceses

New Monks at St. Mina's Monastery, Mount Abanoub

On Thursday 2/3/2006 HG Bishop Lucas ordained three monks:

Monk Abraam Al Abanouby

Monk Lucas Al Abanouby

Monk Markos Al Abanouby

HG Bishop Abram of Fayoum participated in the ordination prayers.



With HG Bishop Bernaba

HG Bishop Bernaba was among the Reverend Bishops who arrived from the land of immigration to attend the Archangel cathedral consecration in Aswan.

This photo was taken for him with HH the Pope and three of the monks whom he chose to serve with him in Italy.

Ordination of Two Priests in Ismaila

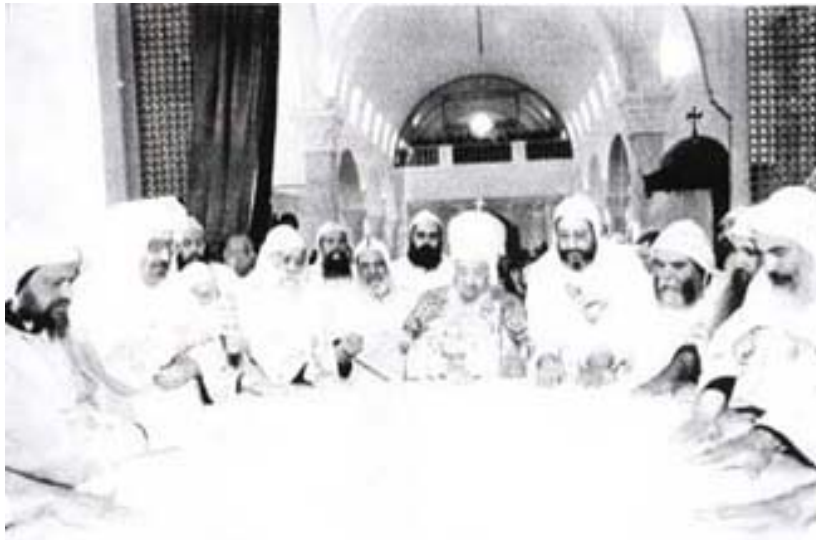
On Fri 3/3 HG Bishop Seraphim ordained two priests for St. Pishoi's Church, Ismaila and they are Fr Dawood Naguib and Fr Benyamin Mazeed.

HG Bishop Dawood of Mansoura participated in the ordination prayers.



Illustrated Church News

Some of the Reverend Metropolitans and Bishops who attended the consecration ceremony and participated in the prayers, at the front row from the right hand side HE Metropolitan Pachumious is seen in the photo, HG Bishop Sarabamoon (Abbot of St. Pishoi's monastery), HE Metropolitan Bishoy and HG Bishop Rowais.



Consecrating Al Gouna Church

The Pope consecrating the altar of the church, to his right HG Bishop Thawfelous and Bishop Serabion are seen in the photo, behind them HG Bishop Sarabamoon (Sudan) and Bishop Istafanous (Beba) are also seen in the photo along with their grace Bishop Ermia, Bishop Botros, Bishop Kirolos (Naga Hammadi) and Bishop Yostus who are seen standing to the left of HH the Pope.

In front of Al Gouna Church's Altar, Red Sea Governorate

HH the Pope is seen in the photo next to are their grace Bishop Yostus and Bishop Kirolos, HG Bishop Ermia is in front of them with Eng Naguib Sawerous between his brother Samih and his mother Mrs. Yosreya Loza.

