



# NEWS of July 2012

## 1. The Apostles' Feast



On Thursday, July 12 the church celebrates the Apostles' Feast, commemorating the martyrdom of the two apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. The Liturgy starts from 8-11 a.m.

## 2. The Apostle James' Martyrdom:

On Wednesday, July 25, the church commemorates the martyrdom of St. James son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve apostles (Matt. 10:3), the author of James Epistle and the Bishop of Jerusalem (Acts 15).

## 3. Other July's famous Saints:

- 1) July 1, martyrdom of St. Moses the Black.
- 2) July 10, departure of St. Cyril, the Pope of Alexandria 24.
- 3) July 14, departure of St. Shenouda the Archimandrite.
- 4) July 15, the departure of St. Bishoy.
- 5) July 31, martyrdom of St. Abanoub.



**4. The 11th Annual Youth Spiritual Competition (YSC):** It takes place on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at St. John Coptic Church, Covina, with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed by breakfast. Each team will go to various assigned room. Lunch will be served throughout the day. Finally, awards and prizes will be distributed. The Youth Spiritual Competition (YSC) is open to J. High, High School and College youth.

## 5. The Thrice Blessed Pope Shenouda:

Four months cannot make us forget our beloved father and saint of the century and the great wise leader who served us for forty years. He left us amidst of a very difficult time. But if we missed him in the flesh, yet we did not miss his great treasures of spiritual literature and prayers. Let us be sure that he is interceding for the church and for Egypt.



## 6. H.G. Bishop Serapion:



His Grace the bishop canceled the monthly clergy meeting of Southern California, which was supposed to be held on July 5, because he had to attend the Holy Synod's meetings and the nominees committee of selecting the new Pope.

## 7. The Graduation Party of Class 2012:



On Saturday, June 23, St. John Church celebrated the graduation of her youth, College, High School and Junior High.

## 8. L.A. Diocese Summer youth conventions:

Find the full information and details on [www.lacopts.com](http://www.lacopts.com).

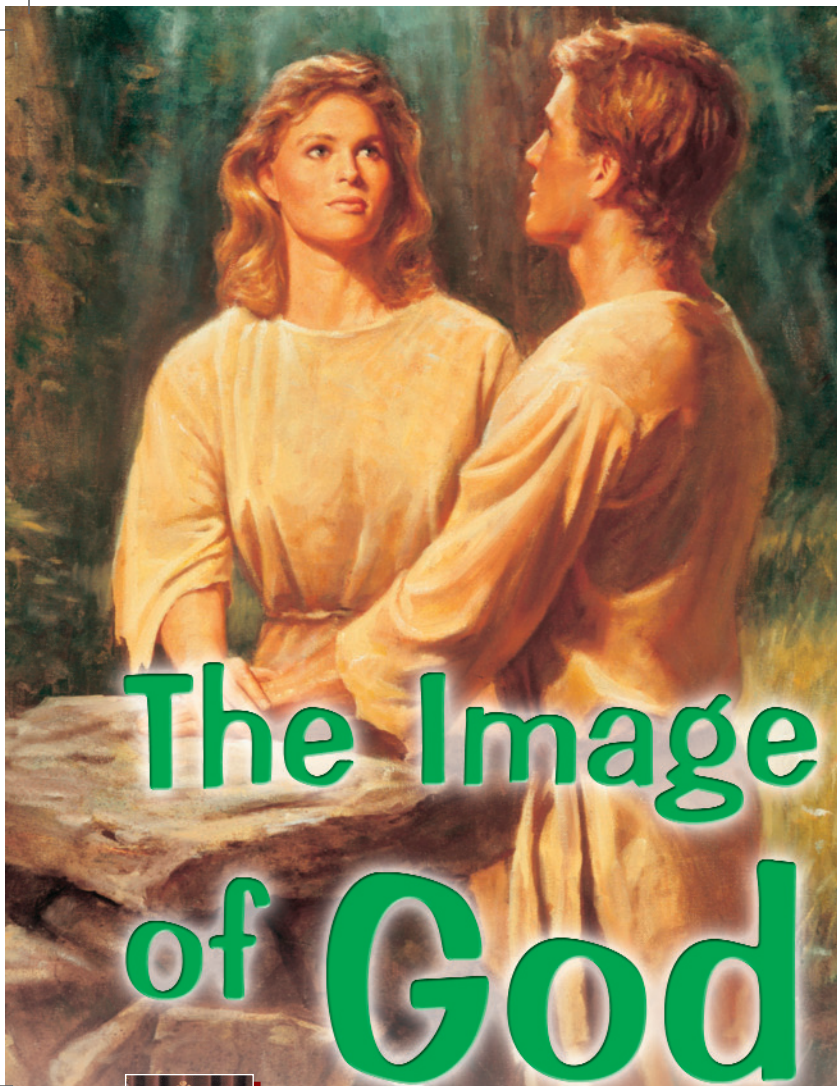
## 9. Three Sermons by Fr. Makary Younan:



Fr. Makary Younan will deliver three sermons at St. John Church, Covina, God willing, during three-day-revival-meetings on Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 of July 2012, from 8:00 -10:00 p.m. Come and invite your friends.







**A Lecture by H.H. Pope Shenouda III  
Delivered on the Occasion of Receiving an  
Honorary Ph.D. in Theology**

On Wednesday, May 2, 2001 from the Nashotah House, an Episcopalian Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wisconsin.

### Who is Man?

Some may say man is a creature of body, soul, and spirit, as mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Others may say he is a living, sensible, intelligent, free-speaking creature. In terms of humility, others may say, as our father Abraham in the past said, "I am dust and ashes" (Gen 18:27). But the most beautiful definition of man is that he is the Image of God. As our Lord said in Genesis 1, "Let us make man in our image and likeness... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him" (Gen 1:26-27).

Perhaps man in the divine image was whom the philosopher Deuginus searched for or perhaps what modern thinkers say about "Superman". But, of course, the image of God is deeper than that.

He is the Image of God, not resembling Him in His divine qualities as infinite, omnipresent, omniscient, creator, etc., but as the Image of God in relative means. So, our study will be about four points:

- How man was the Image of God when he was created before his fall.
- How man lost the Image of God.
- Trials that partially return to that image.
- Man as the Image of God in eternity, in a better condition.

### Man was the Image of God?

What qualities was man created in the Image of God? Of course, when we speak about man as the Image of God, we speak about the spirit.

He was created in the Image of God in purity, righteousness, and holiness. Before the fall of man, he was very innocent, very pure and very sensitive. Adam and Eve were naked and they didn't acknowledge this, in a very pure sense, as children.

The serpent (the devil) lied and deceived our mother Eve who did not know lying, deceiving, or suspicion at the time. Such words were not in her intellectual dictionary at that time. She did not know that someone may lie and deceive. She was very simple and very pure.

He was also the Image of God in perfection. Naturally we mean the relative meaning of perfection. God is the only perfect person, but man may be perfect according to his own level, capabilities, capacities, and according to the extent of grace given to him, the work of the Holy Spirit in him, and his response to the work of the Holy Spirit.

He was without blemish, and so, it is written in the book of Genesis that when God created everything, He saw that everything was very good, among these were Adam and also Eve.

Even after the fall of man, we read in the Bible about certain people who were perfect. It was said about our father Noah, who built the ark, that he was a perfect man. Also, the Arabic translation of the Bible tells us that Job was a perfect person.

Man also was created in the Image of God in authority. Daniel the prophet did not fear at the lion's den.

The three saintly children, [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego], did not fear the fire of the furnace.

The Lord said to him, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28). The same blessing and the same authority was given to our father Noah after the settlement of the ark, as was written in Genesis 9.

When man was in the Image of God, he was the master and king of all creation. When he lost his divine image, the creation started to rebel against him. The serpent bruised man's heel. Also, animals became beasts, and they tried to kill him. The land itself no longer yielded strength to him. He lost his authority.

Man was the Image of God also in strength. The spiritual man is always a strong person. I do not mean having a strong



body like Samson, but being strong in his personality, thinking, will, endurance, combating diabolic wars, etc.

The strong soul does not shake, fear, hesitate, or despair. He who is the Image of God, until now, does not fear at all. As an example, David the prophet and the king said, "Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident" (Ps 27:3). So those who will become cowardly will not inherit the kingdom of God (Rev 21:8).

The saints and the prophets gave us a profound illustration of having no fear, such as Saint Anthony in the desert, and Saint Athanasius as well, to whom it was said, "The whole world is against you", and he responded, "And I am against the world." So he was called, "Athanasius Contra Mundum." Also martyrs, being in the Image of God, did not fear death or torture.

Also, those who are in the Image of God are always successful. As we read in the Psalm of David, "the holy person is like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever that he does shall prosper" (Ps 1:3). It is also said about the upright Joseph, son of Jacob, "The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man" (Gen 39:2). Therefore the unsuccessful man is not in the Image of God.

Man also was created in the Image of God in humility. Indeed, God is the sole humble being. Although He is the highest, He came down to our level: He deals with us, talks with us, and listens to our prayers. But man also can be humble according to his level. At least, he knows that he is dust and ashes. He is never inclined to thoughts of pride or vainglory, thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think. The proud person is deprived from the Image of God.

Man is also the Image of God in many qualities.

He is the Image of God in love. As Saint John the evangelist said, "God is love. He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 Jn 4:16).

Also man is the Image of God in beauty. God is beautiful and his angels are beautiful. When the first man was created in the Image of God, he was beautiful. Adam was very beautiful and Eve was very beautiful.

It was also said about some of the men of God that they were very beautiful, as was said about Moses the prophet and David the prophet. Sin changes the features of the human being. He loses his the beauty of his face, his body, and his spirit.

Man is the Image of God as light. God is the light of the world (Jn 8:21). He is the True Light (Jn 1:9) and man is His image. The Lord said to us, "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:4). The mission of the children of God is to carry the Image of God to the world.

God wants us to be like Him—in His Image even at work: to walk in his way, to have His same will on earth as it is in

heaven, to speak as if God is speaking in our mouths. We utter His words as it was said "It is not you who speaks but the Spirit of our Father who speaks in you" (Mt 10:20).

Also, as the Image of God we do His work. In our lives, whoever sees us will say, "Truly they are the children of God; they are like their Father having His Image." Whoever sees the sons of God in their love, their calmness, their gentleness, their living examples of holiness may glorify their Father in heaven. Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, but He left His image in His disciples to be carried from generation to generation.

Some may say, "How can man be the Image of God while God alone is unlimited? Is man unlimited?" Of course not, he is definitely limited and cannot be as God who alone is unlimited.

However, God created him in His image. Inside he is longing the unlimited. As a result of this, man has ambition, lack of satisfaction, and struggle for growth. An example is St. Paul who labored more than all the apostles (1 Cor 15:10). He was caught up into Paradise in 2 Corinthians 12:2, to the third heaven. In spite of all this, he says, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forward to the things which are ahead" (Phil 3:13).

### Results of Losing the Image of God

1. Fear: Man began to feel afraid. He was not afraid before his fall when he was the Image of God. It is written in the Bible when Adam and Eve heard the sound of God walking in the garden, they hid themselves from His presence and replied, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I am naked and I hid myself." We lose the Image of God when we become afraid.
2. Feeling that you were naked meant that you also lost your simplicity and purity. Sex became known after the fall.
3. Ignorance: Hiding himself behind the trees meant the ignorance of God as omnipresent.
4. His relation with God became changed. He began to fear God, and deserved to be punished by God. Sin separated him from God.
5. Weakness: His sons went astray, going too far from God, and became weak. So, weakness is one of the results of losing the Image of God. They became so weak that they committed all kinds of evil acts. The first great punishment was the flood. Fear spread and grew. Man became afraid of beasts and devils and other men. In the story of Cain, fear became terror.
6. Losing Faith: In losing the Image of God, the sons of man also lost their faith in God. The devil had authority over them. He guided them to atheism, polytheism and even to worship idols. Man became in conflict with good and evil. He lived in duality—conflict between spirit and body.
7. Losing Dignity and Authority—Man also lost his dignity and his authority. The beasts did not respect him as before.





Even God said unto him, “dust you are and to dust you shall return.” After the fall, he did not call Adam the Image of God, but just dust.

8. The nature of man became corrupted.

Also, in losing the Image of God and being corrupted, death entered the world through sin and spread to all men, as it is written in Romans 5:12. Man was in need of salvation and was in need of returning to the Image of God. Actually, the real return to the Image of God will be in eternity after the general resurrection. But in part, there was a call to return. How did that happen?

### How to Return to the Image of God?

**By Baptism**—As it is written in Romans 6:4-6, “Therefore we were buried with him through baptism unto death... Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” So we should walk in the newness of life. Also, St. Paul said in Titus 3:5, “He saves us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

But yet after baptism, there is free will and man may sin. How deep and impressive is what was said by St. Paul in his epistle to the Galatians, “for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have, put on Christ” (Gal 3:27). What is the meaning of “to put on Christ”? At least it means to put on the Image of Christ. But it is still the case that after baptism we have free will, and through it we may sin. So we move to the second point.

**By Repentance**—We ought not to love the image of the world, but the Image of God, as it is written, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). As an example, St. Augustine was transformed through repentance from being the image of the world to being the Image of Christ. Also, St. Moses the Black, St. Plagia, St. Mary of Egypt, etc.

**By the Life of Spirituality and Holiness**—God is calling us to return to His Image, saying, “Be holy as I am holy” (1 Pe 1:16). In His sermon on the mount, our Lord said, “therefore, you shall be perfect just as your Father in Heaven is perfect” (Mt 5:14). Calling us to be holy and perfect is a call to return to the Image of God. Following is another call from our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, “I am the vine you are the branches” (Jn 15:5). As you can see, brethren, the branches of the vine have the same nature as the vine, so we should have the same the Image of Christ, as He also said that He is the head and we are members of that body.

**By Eucharist**—You can read about it in John 6. He said, “Whosoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in me and I in him.” He who does so has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day.

**By the Work of the Holy Spirit in Us**—The Apostle (Paul) said, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you... Therefore glorify your body and your spirit which are God’s” (1 Cor 6:19-20)

**By Faith and Divine Gifts**—Our Lord Jesus Christ said: “With God all things are possible” (Mk 10:26). He also said, “All things are possible to him who believes” (Mk 9:23). As the Image of God, everything is possible for him. So our Lord said, “He who believes in me, the work that I do he will do also and greater works he can do” (Jn 14:12). Here, through faith, man can return to the Image of God. Also, through divine gifts, he can have the Image of God in wisdom, knowledge, healing, miracles, etc., as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

**Through Humility**—Through humility you can appear in the Image of God who is humble and meek, gentle, and lowly of heart as he said in Matthew 11:28. St. Isaac of Nineveh said, “I want to speak about humility, but I am afraid as if speaking about God, because humility is what God put on Himself when He became man when He was incarnated. So when the devils see a humble man, they become afraid because in him they see God.”

In returning to the image of God, I dare to say that some men were called “gods.” The best example is Moses the prophet. Our Lord God said to him, “See I have made you as god to pharaoh and Aaron will be your prophet” (Ex 7:1). He also said to him about Aaron, “He shall be your spokesman to the people. He should be a mouth for you and you shall be to him as god” (Ex 4: 15-16). We can also quote from Psalm 82:16, “I said you are gods and all of you are children of the Most High.”

Through being the Image of God, others can know God in you. We give information about God through our life. In the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, we see God as he is the Image of the invisible God, and in us, people may see Christ when we become the Image of God. The person who is the Image of God speaks the words of God, does his will and even has God’s will as St. Paul said, “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:16).

Having the Image of God is a kind of preaching and teaching. People may see God the Philanthropic, God the Righteous, the Just, the Giver, The Merciful, and the Slow in anger and many other qualities in us.

### To be the Image of God in Eternity

This is for those who overcome as mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. In eternal life we shall have only the Image of God; there will be a transfiguration and glory of our human nature... far better than the image of man before his fall when he was created. How far is that better condition.

Before the fall, when man was in the Image of God, man was pure, holy, innocent, simple, etc., but he was liable to fall, through his free will, and actually fell although he was the Image of God. In eternal life, man will be granted infallibility as St. John said, “He cannot sin” (1 Jn 3:9). St. Paul said about



himself “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the Righteous judge will give to me in that day. And not to me only but to all who have loved his appearing” (2 Tim 4:8). This crown of righteousness means we will be crowned with it, we shall not commit sin anymore. We will have infallibility in that world. This is far better than the state of Adam who was in the Image of God but still liable to sin. Sin and even knowledge of sin will disappear forever from the memory of human beings in eternal life. We will only know righteousness. It is the everlasting life of holiness.

Man in the Garden of Eden was liable to die if he sinned, although he was the Image of God. Actually, death through sin entered the world and spread to all men because they sinned (Rom 5:12). But in the world to come, there will be no death for those who overcome. St. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15: 26, “The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” Man will enjoy everlasting life, with no fear of death.

At first man was of the earth, made of dust. After the resurrection of the dead, we will have a spiritual, glorified body, as it is written by St. Paul about the resurrection of the dead, “The body is sown in corruption and raised in incorruption. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Cor 15: 42-43). He also said about resurrection, “for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and the mortal must put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:53). He also said about our glorious resurrection that our lord Jesus Christ will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to his glorious body (Phil 3:21). We will be in a better state than that of the first man then he was in the Image of God. We will have a glorious, spiritual, and incorruptible body.

It is also written in Romans 8:29 that those whom God foreknew will be conformed to the image of His Son. And it is written in Daniel 12:3, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever”. Of course, this is far better than the condition of others. How glorious will our life in eternity be, better than the life of Adam even before the fall.

On earth, Adam and Eve were living a material life in the Garden of Eden. However, in the transfiguration of our lives in eternity as the Image of God we shall live in Heaven, and our Lord Jesus Christ said that we will be like angels of God in Heaven (Mt 22:30). This will be our image, far better than that of Adam and Eve before the fall.

We should also shine, as it happened to Moses after staying forty days on Mount Sinai (Ex 34: 29-32). This will be our condition in the other world. If this happened to Moses for spending forty days with God, how much will we shine in living forever with God in His heaven.

As the Image of God in heaven, we shall be glorified, as our Lord Jesus said to the father, “The glory which you gave Me, I

have given them” (Jn 17:22).

The best Biblical verses express your glory in heaven in what our Lord said, “to him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne” (Rev 3:21). There was no chance for Adam to sit on a divine throne, but it will be possible for those who are in the Image of God in heaven. When Adam was in the Image of God, could he have dreamt to sit with the Lord on His throne?! Impossible.

As Images of God, we shall have many crowns in the other world: a crown of righteousness as St. Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:8, and a crown of life as our Lord promises, “Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev 2:10). There are other crowns for some others such as the crown of martyrdom, crown of priesthood, and crown of labor for those who labor for the Kingdom of God. Our father Adam was the Image of God, but he did not have any one of those crowns on earth and had not been crowned yet.

As Images of God in eternity, we will have the privilege of knowing God. For this our Lord Jesus Christ said to the Father about us, “this is the eternal life that they may know You the only true God” (Jn 17:3). We began with only the taste of knowing God on earth. The knowledge of God, as our Lord Jesus Christ said to the Father, “I have declared to them your name and will declare it, that the love which You love Me be in them and I in them” (Jn 17:26). Our love and knowledge of God will grow day by day. To what extent? This is eternal life. St. Paul said about this knowledge, “for now I see in a mirror, dimly, but then face-to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (1 Cor 13:12). In this way the Image of God—I mean ourselves—will know God, and time will not be enough to know Him. God may manifest himself to us in eternity and we become very satisfied and very glad, but yet our spirits are limited, and we cannot take more. Then we will say, “O God, that is sufficient, we cannot suffer more of this beauty and gladness of knowing You,” and then God may enlarge our hearts and minds to know more and more about him. To what extent? This is eternal life to know you the true God.

As the Image of God, we may have gifts promised by our Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation, which were not given to Adam as created in the Image of God.

As the Image of God, we will enjoy the things which are not seen. As St. Paul said, “We do not look at things that are seen but at things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor 4:18). Adam, the Image of God, was looking at visible things that were seen, but we in the eternal Image of God will look at the invisible. As St. Paul said, “eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the hearts of men, the things which God has prepared for those who love God” (1 Cor. 2:9).



# The Apostles Philip

# and Bartholomew



By

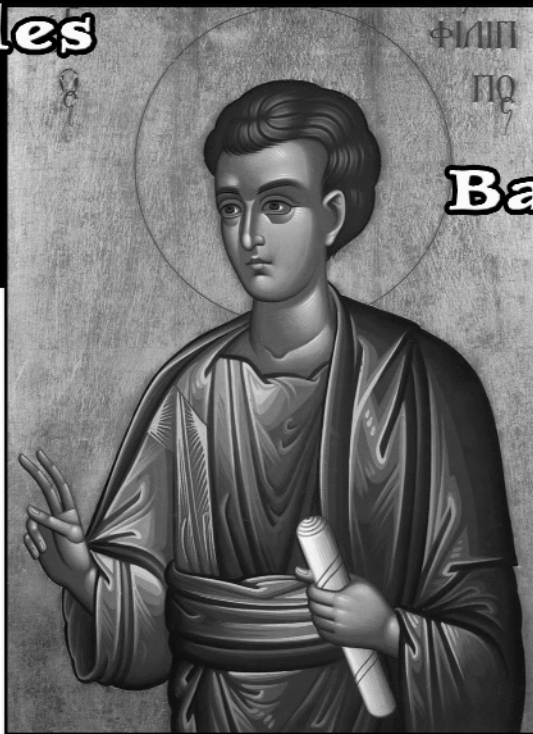
**Fr. Augustinos R.  
Hanna**

On the occasion of the Apostles' Feast, it is fitting to mention two of the 12 apostles, who lived in the shadow. Most of the authors focus on three or four of the apostles, who are mainly Sts. Peter, John and James. But the rest of the twelve we know very little about them. In this article I chose two of them, which are Philip and Bartholomew.

## The Apostle Philip:

Philip was one of the twelve apostles whose name is placed fifth in each of the lists of the 12 after the two pairs of brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, and James and John (Matt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14). John says that when John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus with the words, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" two of his disciples began to follow Jesus, and that one of these two was Andrew then declared to his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah!", and brought him to the Lord Jesus. On the next day Jesus went to Galilee and there found Philip and addressed the call to him, "follow Me." John adds that Philip was from Bethsaida. Philip in turn found Nathanael and told him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, and invited Nathanael, who was skeptical that any good could come out of Nazareth, to come and see for himself (Jn.1 :35-51). From this is concluded that Philip was one of the first to follow Jesus and that he lost no time in persuading others to do the same.

Like the other apostles, however, he still had much to learn about the person and the power of Christ. Hence the testing question of the Lord Jesus to him on the occasion of the feeding of the multitudes 5000. "How are we to buy bread that, so that these people may eat?" and he puzzled response that even if they had 200 denarii (i.e., a large sum,



roughly a person's wages for half a year) it would not buy enough bread for each one to be given just a little to eat. The miracle that followed taught him that the feeding of this multitude presented no problem to the One who is the Lord of all creation (Jn. 6:5-7).

Philip's next appearance is in Jerusalem after Christ's triumphal entry into the city, when "some Greeks" (i.e., Greek speaking non-Jews) approached him with the request, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip informs Andrew and together they bring them to Jesus (Jn. 12:20-22). This perhaps indicates that Philip was a person whom others found readily approachable, and also that he spoke Greek. In the upper room, prior to his arrest and trial, Jesus took the opportunity to impart further instruction to Philip, who had said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Philip hoped perhaps, in all devoutness, for the privilege of some special revelation (reminiscent of the request of Moses, Exod. 33:18); but Jesus teaches him that he himself, the incarnate Son, is the all-sufficient revelation of the Father to mankind (Jn. 14:8-31).

There is a tendency to confuse the apostle Philip, with the evangelist of the same name, Philip the preacher and deacon (Acts 6: 5). Philip, who preached in Samaria and to the Ethiopian eunuch and baptized him and was caught away by the Spirit in Acts 8, and was found at Azotus was Philip, the evangelist and deacon. He also appeared in Acts 21:8, where we read, "On the next day, we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him..."

Finally, Philip after preaching in various parts he settled in Hieropolis, a city of the Roman province of Asia, and was martyred there.

(See the Apostle Bartholomew in page 18).







## A message to be kindly forwarded to Secretary H. Clinton

From Dr. Tarek Heggy

*Personal to Secretary H. Clinton: I cannot believe the "rumors" that the USA wants to see the MBs as Egypt's new rulers. If correct, it will be the hugest strategic mistake made by the USA since the end of WWII.*

*Also "if correct", it will reflect nothing but an amazing inability to understand the fact that while there are many moderate MUSLIMS, there is no single moderate ISLAMIST on the face of earth.*

*Political Islam (that world-class scholars believe that the undersigned understands more than any western scholar) is anti modernity, anti progress, anti humanity, anti democracy, anti peace, anti otherness, anti plurality, anti women rights, anti liberal education and anti free & critical mind BY DEFINITION.*

*Those who speak about "moderate Muslim Brothers" need a great deal of education about the history, nature and literature of political Islam.*

*Education by world-class scholar, not by the peers of Tarek Ramadan who master the game of "fooling the west"!*

*Finally, I hope that the USA shall not repeat its 1979 grave mistake when THE USA & KSA formed the Mujahedeen movement(s) in Afghanistan , a mistake that ultimately drove the world towards September 11th 2001.*

*Tarek Heggy.*





## Coptic News Update

### Egyptian Election: Islamist Victory- or Deceptive Strategy?

By Raymond Ibrahim

It is counterproductive for the West to eat straight out of the Brotherhood's hands and unquestioningly disseminate its unsubstantiated information, as the Islamists would like: It works to their advantage.

Has anyone stopped to ask where the headlines "Muslim Brotherhood wins Egypt's presidential election!" originated? They came, of course, straight from the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies, particularly the Qatari Islamist propaganda machine, Al Jazeera, and were then helpfully perpetuated by the mainstream media and talking-heads.

That allegation might sound suspiciously like a "conspiracy theory" were it not for the countless statements by the non-Islamist Egyptian media that were left unquoted by the western media, as well as many analysts who had a different tale to tell: The election was actually won by the secular candidate, Ahmed Shafiq.

What does the Muslim Brotherhood have to benefit by claiming victory now, if it might be proven otherwise three days from now, on June 21, when the results will be officially announced? Simple: they will be able to scream foul play—and gain the world's sympathy. For days the world will have been inundated with news that the Brotherhood won; when and if it hears that Shafiq won, it will naturally conclude that there has been electoral fraud — as serves the Islamists' interests. Mahmoud Baraka, a Shafiq campaign spokesman, maintains that "their candidate won the presidency, with 52% of the votes"—precisely the same number the Brotherhood is claiming—adding that the Brotherhood's claims to victory "are bizarre and unacceptable," a "big act."

Similarly, talk show host Tawfik Okasha appeared, emphatically saying that the Brotherhood's claims are "all lies," that most polls indicate their candidate, Muhammad Morsi "failed," and that the Islamist group's motive is simply to sow "discord and dissension." He then





provided several examples of how the Brotherhood's claims are incongruous with reality. Why believe Shafiq's spokesman and staunch secularist Okasha? Good question. Here's a better question: Why believe the Muslim Brotherhood?

Knowing the Brotherhood's deceptive tactics—"War is deceit" as their prophet said—there is good reason to think that they may have planned a propaganda victory well before the elections. They could claim victory, won fair and square; they could have their Islamist and Western media supporters trumpet it; they could embed it in everyone's mind for over three days before the results were formally announced—all to set the playing field to their advantage. If Shafiq wins, everyone—from militant Islamists in Egypt to a grandstanding US Secretary of State—will shout, "foul play!", thereby exonerating the long promised civil war Egypt's Islamists vowed to wage if the election did not go their way. So much for democracy. The rebellion they have threatened to stage would then be portrayed in the West as the result of a "grievance." At this moment, no one knows which candidate won. The race is close. In the meantime, even though it is naturally the business of every news bureau to "break the news" and not be left behind, it is counterproductive for the West to eat straight out of the Brotherhood's hands and unquestioningly disseminate its unsubstantiated information, as the Islamists would like: It works to their advantage.

### Eye Witness Testimony about Fraud in Egypt's Presidential Elections

Published on Friday, 22 June 2012

*Editor's note: This report was given to us by a reliable person who seeks anonymity for security reasons. The report is published as is, including some obvious language errors*

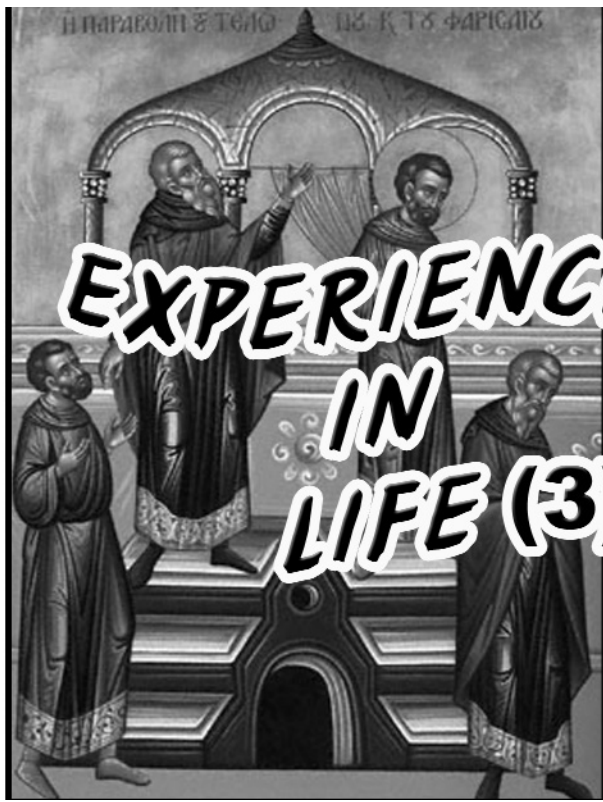
I volunteered as a local observer with the Afro-Egyptian human rights organization, which gave me a permit to get into the election poles and to get first-hand objections or requests for help.

**I personally saw (in the poles that gave Shafik a majority vote) people were told to click right in front of their favored candidate and wrong in front of the other; which voided the vote.** The strange thing is that all the voided votes were because Shafiek got a right click and Morsy a wrong. There were no voided votes were Morsy got a right click and Skafik wrong.

I personally was asked by a voter if his double marking was right, I informed him that he had to direct his inquiry to

the Judge and I personally saw the judge ask him about his choice; **when he knew it was Shafik the judge took the ballot and put it in the voting box instead of giving the voter a new ballot paper.** I also saw the same judge do the same thing with a voter who put three right clicks for Shafiek instead of one. **I saw several cases were voters complained of having someone sign that they have voted i.e. someone else voted for them.** There are many empty votes which is not reasonable because those who were pushing for the third choice (neither of the two candidates) went to the poles and clicked wrong on both or wrote we object and it is not possible that they left it blank. **The blank votes were done by a "magic pen" which was distributed by those who claimed to be supporters of Shafik (supporter of Morsy would not take a pen Shafik's supporters).** Marks of magic pens disappeared after about four hours. As an observer I got a number of requests for help calls from Upper Egypt from Christians who were threatened by armed hooligans from leaving their homes on the election days. In other places Copts were forced to vote for Morsy (without vote concealment curtain) by the employees organizing the poles. **My sister's sister in law, who is paralyzed in the hands, went to the pole with her brother. He was not permitted in because it was a women's pole. She asked the judge to mark for Shafik but he put the mark for Morsy. When she rejected and told him she was paralyzed in the hands but was good in the brain she was kicked out. Her brother was not allowed to object or to record his objection.** I have witnesses moderate Moslems, liberals and Christians to have voted for Shafik but the Moslem Brothers declared their triumph before less than five hours from closing the ballots and before counting of more than fifty percent of the votes just to be able to claim that the elections were rigged when Shafik won. Before the elections when Morsy was asked if he would accept the ballots results if he lost, he said that if he lost it only means that it was rigged. **I personally believe that the Moslem Brothers are taking people to the Tahrir square to scare the military council from declaring the results.** And Shafiks supporters are neither organized nor are they armed to be able to get out to the streets. Come to the square and you will see three meals bottled water pocket money and transportation are provided for all. Who is paying for all this? And why is Hamas celebrating with Morsi before and all before the results are out.





BY H. H. POPE SHENOUDA III

### [1] Forgetting the Good (1)

Do good works and forget about them. Don't seek any reward or praise for that.

**Don't expect that the one whom you have done a good deed will repay you the same way or give back.**

One thing is sure which is that you have not done good with some expectation of a reward! When you do good just because you love to do good and because you cannot help doing good, then you can be sure that you have done good.

**Let goodness be a character trait in you. Let it be something spontaneous, which requires no effort just like breathing.**

If you forget it, God will remind you, here and in eternity.

But if you recall it, even if it is only inside you, then you might well lose it... ?

### [2] Forgetting the Good (2)

Do good and forget it...

**It is inside yourself.** Do not think about it, otherwise you will fall into self-righteousness, conceit and thinking too highly of yourself...

**Forget it before other people.** Don't speak about it, in case you fall into pride and get your reward for it from people, while you lose that blessing of having done good in secret...

**Forget this goodness too before God,** lest you do what the Pharisee in the temple did, for he did not go home justified before God. (Luke 18)

**Forget any good deed that you have done,** so that it can be stored up for you as treasure in heaven, because by recalling it

you lose it.

This was the problem of the righteous Job, and the cause of his trial. (Job 29)

**Forget this good that you do and God will remember it for you. But do not forget the good which others do to you,** rather make it a reason for them to be closer to your heart. Be grateful to them and thankful for what they have done...

### [3] Mediators

Sometimes a person makes a mistake and does not apologize for his error, in fact he does not even admit to having done wrong...

**Even though his mistake has put him in trouble, he remains defiant. Mediators intervene to make excuses for him but he insists proudly that he has done nothing wrong!**

Whenever he does wrong, there is always someone to intercede on his behalf to defend him and he becomes more brazen because of these defenders of his who continue to plead for him as he continues to sin, even after the situation has been restored, though not amended!

The situation may reach the point that it is neglected as a result of the mistake being longstanding, continually defended and going unpunished and excused...

**In the meantime, values and discipline are lost. Those who love goodness become upset and protest, and it appears that there must be intervention of a decisive nature and the imposition of a penalty as a deterrent.**

The strange thing is that the mediators who defend justify their position saying that they are acting out of love and a desire for peace. Yet in all this they do not realize the real meaning of love. For to defend one who does wrong is to do him harm spiritually and harm the interests of the world and harm the model of goodness.

It is your love for one who does wrong which can save him from sin, not punishment.

Your love for him should push him to repent, not you to defend him. It should make you persuade him that he has done wrong and that he must change his course. If he does not, and is punished then those who love him will be convinced that he deserved the punishment and will not protest at it. Nor is it possible that their defense of him in this way will ever make him stubborn and insist on doing wrong and thus go from bad to worse.

So let those mediators put before themselves the words of the Bible: **"Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent, the Lord detests them both"** (Prov.17:15)

We notice here in regard to what is abhorrent to the Lord, firstly the case of the guilty being acquitted, that whoever acquits a guilty man is not putting before him the Truth, and the "Truth" is one of the names of God, (John 14:6) It is not





right for anyone to defend a sinner more than he would defend the Truth.

And so I said to them in surprise, "Is the leader led?!"

It is the job of one who is in a position of authority to lead others not to be led by others! There is nothing wrong with his listening to all opinions or taking into consideration the views of those with experience, who give good advice. Then he can examine them carefully and find out what is best and true out of what he hears, without having to be led by all that he hears!

He must follow Goodness and Truth and not merely follow all that people say.

**If the leader is led by Goodness and Truth, then this is proof that he is fitted to be a leader.**

**Whoever declares the guilty man innocent is sharing in his crime.**

As for saying that meditation is for the sake of peace in the Church, it is impossible to build peace on the continuation of an error. Real peace is not in the defending of the false, but in the prevailing of righteousness, because, "There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked". (Isa. 57:21). **Some people ask me: "Is it wrong then for me to act as a mediator?"**

And I answer, "Being a mediator isn't wrong as long as it isn't at the expense of the Truth".

So be a mediator then, but without flattering what is untrue and without shutting your eyes to the Truth.

#### **[4] Forgiveness and Trust**

He said to me: "I have forgiven him for his disloyalty to me after I had left all my secrets in his hands. I forgave him because of the Lord's commandment and because we had been together as servers in the Church for a long time, but..." Then when I asked him, "But what...?"

He answered with a profound gaze,

**"Forgiveness is one thing and trust is something else..."** I have forgiven him but I no longer trust him, because of his disloyalty. I no longer tell him my secrets. I don't leave my office open for him anymore. I simply don't have confidence in him any longer.

#### **[5] Should I tell Him Off?**

One of his brother monks offended him very deeply so that he came and said to me: "Should I go and tell him off?!" So I said to him, "If his conscience is alive he will come of his own accord to apologize to you. Otherwise there is no use in telling him off. It will probably make this end up worse. However, if he is really ignorant of the seriousness of what he has done, it would be better for a third party to intercede between you in this matter, to explain to him the extent of his offence.

Whatever the case, it is better for you to wait, you might be

lucky enough to forget him and forget his offence!"

#### **[6] The Hand of God**

In all the events which we go through and all the details of our lives - as individuals and groups - we cannot forget the hand of God in all these things and in the life of each individual...

After He created the world, God did not leave it to progress as it chanced, or let people direct it according to their wishes, without the intervention of divine providence!!

God is almighty, and the freedom which he has given to people is not absolute freedom, but a freedom controlled by divine arrangement.

The eye of God does not slumber or sleep, but watches over everything, recording it and calling it to account... It is the hand of God intervening in events which makes us have confidence that He is intervening and arranging everything.

**Even if God seems to be silent at times and mistakes occur, He intervenes later to correct and turn the bad into good...**

What is prayer but a call for God's hand to intervene?

And what is faith, but the confidence of God's hand intervening?

Blessed is the hand of God. It is full of love...

#### **[7] After the Loss**

**Many people do not feel the value of something until after they have lost it!**

A wife clashes with her husband and disagrees with him and does not feel his value until after she has lost him, whether she loses him emotionally or by separation...

The school pupil does not feel the value of time and its importance to his future until the end of the school year, after he has lost it...

The friend who is not faithful to his friend loses him, and only feels his worth after he has lost him... The son who neglects to honor his parents mistreats them and only feels their value after he has lost them, whether it is through their death or by losing their approval or blessing...

**In general, a person is not aware of the value of life and importance of eternity until after he has lost that life and eternity both together...**

Judas did not feel the value of Christ until after he had lost him, when he lost all hope and went and hanged himself...

How nice it is if a person wakes up to himself and perceives the value of his situation before he loses it, especially something which cannot be retrieved once it has been lost!!

**(To be continued)**





# Why the Church of the apostles was very strong?



By Fr. Gawargious Kolta

When we read the book of Acts, the Epistles, and the church history, we will find out that from the day of Pentecost on, many of those who heard the word believed and the number of the believers increased enormously every day (Acts 4:4). The church was so strong that many people of men and women were added to the Lord (Acts 5:14). There are many reasons that made the church of the apostles that strong. These are:

## 1- Life of Teaching and Preaching with a Fervant Spirit:

The apostles spoke the word of God **with boldness** in the temple every day, giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:33). **They had holy zeal** that they preached the Gospel in season and out of season (2 Cor. 4:2). The Lord granted them to speak His word, confirming it with signs and miracles. They did not cease **teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ every day**, in the temple and in every house (Acts 5:42), and considered that necessity was laid upon them to preach the gospel, despite of the threats of the elders of the Jews. Thus, St. Paul said: **“Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel”** (1 Cor. 9:16). He presented the gospel without charge, making himself a servant for all, in order to win all people and save them. He served the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to him by the plotting of the Jews (Acts 20:19). The apostles were courageous and did not fear the threats of the Jewish Sanhedrin, who were marvelled as they found the apostles speaking with boldness. We also find that St. Peter in his first sermon, did not defend himself but he strongly accused them of crucifying the Lord (Acts 4:10).

## 2- Life of Liturgical Assemblies:

The apostles experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in **liturgical assemblies every day** in the Temple (Acts 2:46), following the Lord's commandment that Men always ought to pray and not lose heart (Lk. 18:1). They continued **with one accord in prayers** and supplication. It was mentioned that they (the believers) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the **breaking of bread** (Holy Communion), prayers and praises from house to house (Acts

2:42-47). The apostles and all the believers used to gather on the first day of the week (Sundays) to break the bread and preach the word of God (Acts 20:7, 11). **Their prayers were so strong** that when they prayed, **“the place where they assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 4:31). Thus, through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were done among the people. The people esteemed them highly (Acts 5:12, 13), and the number of the believers increased daily, and many of the Jewish priests believed. The apostles did not count their life dear to them so that they might finish their race with joy, and the ministry which they received from the Lord to testify the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).

## 3- Life of Deligation of Authority:

The apostles deligated the authority of serving the needy to the deacons. They **ordained deacons** to serve the needy widows. They chose seven deacons of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom and they appointed them over that business, so that the apostles gave themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:1-4). Thus, St. Paul wrote his disciple Timothy a special chapter asking him to **take care of the widows and the elders** (1 Tim. 5:1-16). Deacons were also ordained to help the apostles in Evangelism. St. Paul also mentioned the qualifications of deacons to his disciple Timothy, saying: **“Likewise deacons must be reverant, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless”** (1 Tim. 3:8-10).

## 4- Life of Charity:

The church of the apostles was also strong because they willingly did what was necessary for the wellfair of the community. They preached the life of charity, as mentioned in the book of Acts: **“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common”** (Acts 4:32). There was **none of the believers who lacked**; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and **they distributed to each as anyone had needed**. Barnabas was an example of





those who gave everything willingly (Acts 4:34-37). St. John the Baptist had taught the same thing to the Jews, saying: ***“He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and He who has food, let him do likewise”*** (Lk. 3:11). The apostles thus followed the Lord’s command that ***to take care of the needy*** (Mat. 19:21), because we are all organs in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:25, 5:30), and He called them His least brethren (Mat. 25:40). St. John said that whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 Jn. 3:17).

#### 5- Life of Discipleship:

The church of the apostles was strong because they kept the Lord’s final commandment which He delivered to them after His resurrection, saying: ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”*** (Mat. 28:19). This should be the theme of the church until His Second Coming. The power of His resurrection is granted to all believers, helping them to live a Christian life and preach His name. The apostles made disciples not only in Judea but also all over the world. They followed the steps of our Lord Jesus, who appointed 12 apostles and 70 disciples, and sent them to preach the kingdom of God and gave them the power to perform miracles (Lk. 9:1, 2, 10:1). They planted the church throughout the world and most of them labored for Christ unto death. They were faithful servants of the Lord and of the church. St. Paul also appointed many disciples, such as Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Tychicus, Archippus, Artemas, Titus, Aquila and Priscilla. They were faithful disciples and helped St. Paul in his mission, to preach the gospel and proclaim Christ to the world.

#### 6- Life of Martyrdom:

The apostles suffered many tribulations, hardships and persecutions during preaching the word of God. They rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ’s name, knowing that the reward of the Kingdom of glory far outweighs any sufferings on earth (Acts 5:41). They carried the cross willingly, remembering the Lord’s words: ***“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it”*** (Mat. 16:24, 25).

St. Paul said: ***“... We also glory in tribulations”*** (Rom. 5:3), and he said that ***he was ready not only to be bound, but also to die for the name of the Lord Jesus*** (Acts 21:13). When St. Peter was arrested by Herod and put in prison to be killed the next day, he did not fear death, but slept peacefully till the angel of God struck him on his side and raised him up (Acts 12:5-10). Martyrdom was the desire of the apostles, to be with Christ. When St. Paul was in jail, he said: ***“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”*** (Phil. 1:21). The apostles had good testimony through faith in Christ’s commandment, who

said: ***“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.... But be ware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles”*** (Mat. 10:16-18).

Our Lord Jesus encouraged the believers to stand tribulation, because it is enough for a disciple that he be like his Teacher. He said to them: ***“Therefore do not fear them. ... And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”*** (Mat. 10:26-28). They knew that they had to confess Him before men awaiting the reward in heaven, as He said to them: ***“Do not be afraid little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”*** (Lk. 12:32). St. James mentioned that the believers must be prepared for tribulations. We must ***count it all joy when we fall into various trials***. And if we endure temptation, we will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him (Jam. 1:2).

#### 7- Life of Parousia:

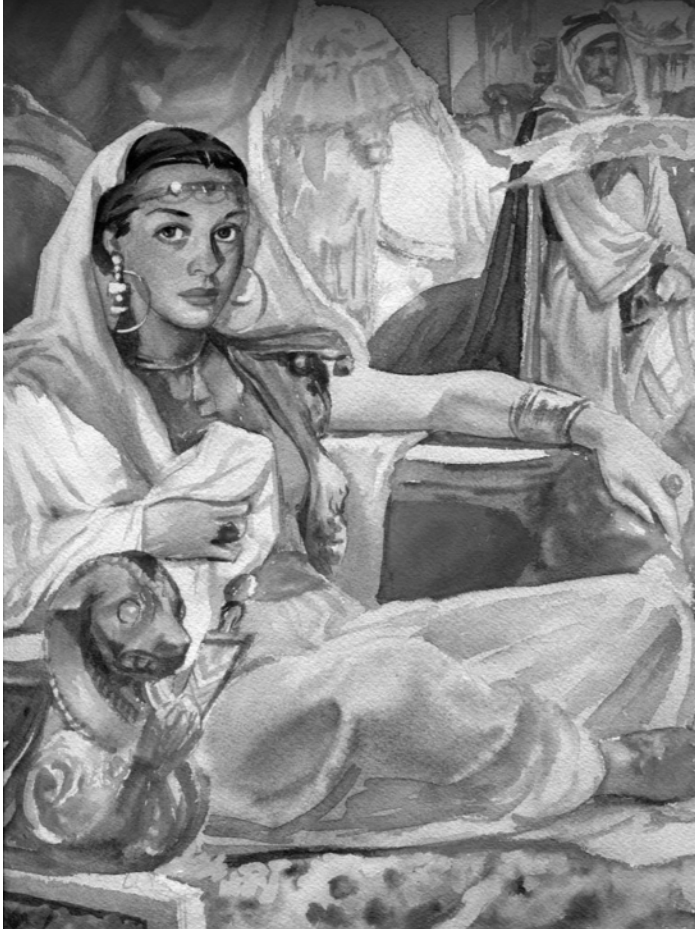
Parousia means the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples before His crucifixion, about His Second Coming in the fullness of time. They believed the words of the Lord: ***“... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”*** (Jn. 14:2, 3). In the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead, the Lord said: ***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live”*** (Jn. 11:25).

St. Paul ***lived by the hope of the resurrection***, and he 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...For who we are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life”*** (2 Cor. 5:1-4). He knew that God created us not to die, but to be transformed from mortality to life, when the union of the soul with the glorified body is done, to join the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:8).

The apostles believed in the Second Coming of the Lord, which was affirmed by Christ, who said: ***“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”*** (Jn. 5:28, 29). They also remembered the Lord’s promise, who said: ***“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day”*** (Jn. 6:40).



# DNA clues to Queen of Sheba tale



By Helen Briggs BBC News

Clues to the origins of the Queen of Sheba legend are written in the DNA of some Africans, according to scientists. Genetic research suggests Ethiopians mixed with Egyptian, Israeli or Syrian populations about 3,000 years ago.

This is the time the queen, mentioned in great religious works, is said to have ruled the kingdom of Sheba. The research, published in [The American Journal of Human Genetics](#), also sheds light on human migration out of Africa 60,000 years ago.

## The Queen of Sheba

Queen mentioned in [the Bible](#), the Koran and the Ethiopian Kebra Nagast

Sheba was a rich kingdom that prospered through trade with Jerusalem and the Roman Empire, and spanned modern day Ethiopia and Yemen

Queen said to have visited Jerusalem with gold to give to King Solomon

Some texts record that she had a son with King Solomon. According to fossil evidence, human history goes back longer in Ethiopia than anywhere else in the world. But little has been known until now about the human genetics of Ethiopians.

Professor Chris Tyler-Smith of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK, a researcher on the [study](#), told BBC News: "Genetics can tell us about historical events.

"By analysing the genetics of Ethiopia and several other regions we can see that there was gene flow into Ethiopia, probably from the Levant, around 3,000 years ago, and this fits perfectly with the story of the Queen of Sheba." This paper sheds light on the very interesting recent and ancient population history of a region that played an important role in both recent and ancient human migration events" Lead researcher Luca Paganini of the University of Cambridge and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute added: "The genetic evidence is in support of the legend of the Queen of Sheba."

More than 200 individuals from 10 Ethiopian and two neighbouring African populations were analysed in the largest genetic investigation of its kind on Ethiopian populations.

About a million genetic letters in each genome were studied. Previous Ethiopian genetic studies have focussed on smaller sections of the human genome and mitochondrial DNA, which passes along the maternal line. "Ethiopia is a very diverse region culturally and linguistically but, until now, we've known little about genetic diversity in the region.

"This paper sheds light on the very interesting recent and ancient population history of a region that played an important role in both recent and ancient human migration events.

The scientists acknowledge that there are uncertainties about [dating](#), with a probable margin of error of a few hundred years either side of 3,000 years.

They plan to look at all three billion genetic letters of DNA in the genome of individual Ethiopians to learn more about human genetic diversity and evolution.







# Summer Contest (1)

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

## 1. These are the most four difficult commandments in Christianity; except?

- a) Love your enemies.
- b) Pay more than the tithes and the first-fruits.
- c) Forgive up to 70 times 7.
- d) Love your mother in law.
- e) Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## 2. What is the proper time to repent?

- a) When you reach age 60.
- b) Tomorrow.
- c) Today.
- d) Right now, immediately.

## 3. How many times should I pray daily?

- a) According to the Coptic Orthodox church, seven times from the Agpeya plus my own prayers.
- b) Three times like the prophet Daniel.
- c) Twice, in the morning and at bedtime
- d) Unceasingly.

## 4. How should I deal with the Bible?

- a) To read it at least once in order, from Genesis to Revelation.
- b) To study the Bible and understand it.
- c) To do its commandments.
- d) To spread it and teach it to others.
- e) All of the above.

## 5. As a beginner, how can I study the Bible?

- a) By reading it on daily basis.
- b) Attending a weekly Bible Study meeting.
- c) Reading a commentary on the book you study.
- d) Lift up your heart with a short prayer such as "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18).
- e) All the above.

## 6. What is the best way to evaluate confession?

- a) It is one of the seven sacraments.
- b) It is like a shower.
- c) In confession we gain forgiveness of sins and spiritual guidance.
- d) It is a MUST, because we cannot get saved without confessing our sins and repenting.
- e) All the above.

## 7. The steps of your salvation are:

- a) Believing in Christ as Lord, God and Savior, being baptized and repent.
- b) Abiding in Christ through the means of grace.
- c) Growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ
- d) Keeping God's commandments by doing good works and abstaining from evil.
- e) All the above.

## 8. The Power of the Early Church was in its:

- a) Continuing daily with one accord in the temple.
- b) The first Christians continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine, prayer and loving fellowship.
- c) They continued in the Eucharist (Communion).
- d) Being filled with the Holy Spirit and witness-sing courageously for Christ's resurrection.
- e) All the above
- f) None of the above.

## 9. Being prepared for having communion with worthiness, needs:

- a) A repentant heart.
- b) To be filled with the love of God and people.
- c) To forgive and be reconciled with everyone.
- d) To confess your sins and to correct your faults as in the example of Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:8).
- e) All the above
- f) All except (a & c).

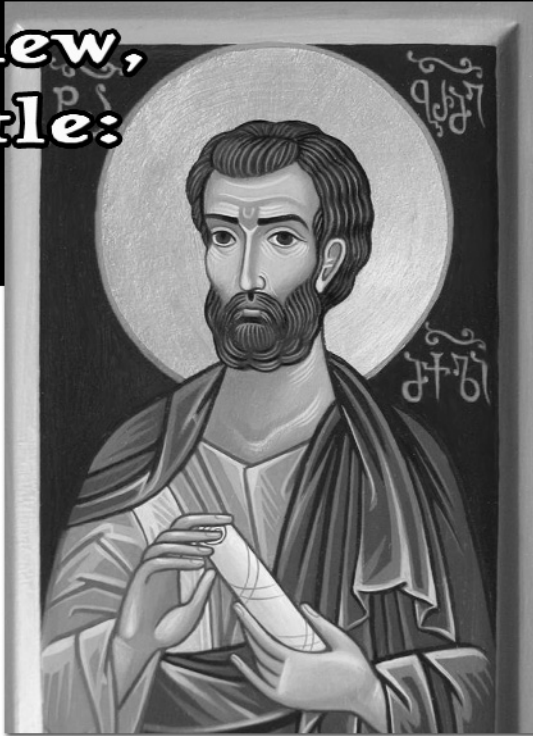
## 10. The first psalm teaches us to:

- a) Love one's friends over family members.
- b) Take all kinds of people as friends.
- c) Avoid evil company and delight in God's word.
- d) None of the above.



# Bartholomew, the Apostle:

completion of Apostle Philip



He was one of Christ's disciples included in all four lists of the 12 apostles (Matt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:16-19; Lk. 6:14-16' Acts 1:13), though not otherwise mentioned in the NT. Nothing is told about him in any of the lists. Because the name means "Son of Tolmai," it has been speculated that he was known by another name in addition to his "patronymic" name.

In the lists in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Bartholomew is named immediately after Philip suggesting the possibility that the Nathanael brought by Philip to Jesus (Jn. 1:45-50), who seems to be linked with some of the disciples (Jn. 21:2), was Bartholomew. It thus seems possible that the apostle Bartholomew is referred to in the fourth Gospel by another name; it is not certain, however, that John's references to Nathanael were intended to identify him as one of the twelve.

Eusebius (AD 340), an early church historian, recorded an early tradition that Pontaeus, the first head of the catechetical school in Alexandria (AD 180), went to India and there found Christians who knew of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew letters. According to Eusebius, Bartholomew had preached to them and had left the Gospel of Matthew with them. In other traditions, Bartholomew was an evangelistic partner of Philip and Tomas and suffered martyrdom in Armenia.

In the fourth century Jerome mentioned a Gospel of Bartholomew which is also noted by a few other writers. There are also references to the so-called *Questions of Bartholomew*, and to a book of the *Resurrection of Jesus Christ* by Bartholomew extant in Coptic.

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+ Eusebius (AD 340), an early church historian, recorded an early tradition that Pantaenus, the first head of the catechetical school in Alexandria (AD 180), went to India and there found Christians who knew of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew letters. According to Eusebius, Bartholomew had preached to them and had left the Gospel of Matthew with them. In other traditions, Bartholomew was an evangelistic partner of Philip and Tomas and suffered martyrdom in Armenia.

In the fourth century Jerome mentioned a Gospel of Bartholomew which is also noted by a few other writers. There are also references to the so-called *Questions of Bartholomew*, and to a book of the *Resurrection of Jesus Christ* by Bartholomew extant in Coptic.





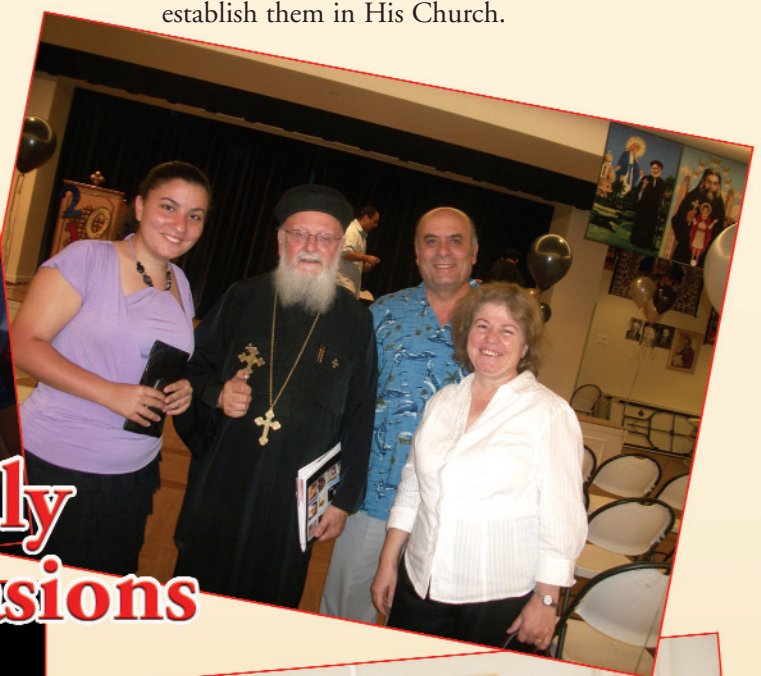
# Congratulations



St John Church congratulates  
**Mary & George Zakhari**  
on their wedding, praying that the Lord may grant them a  
happy, fruitful & prosperous life.



St. John Church congratulates  
**Thilo ("Irenaeus") and Michele ("Anastasia") Young**  
on their baptism, which they celebrated before the Divine  
Liturgy of the Holy Resurrection. We are blessed to have  
them be with us, and we pray that the Lord continue to  
establish them in His Church.



## July Occasions





# Congratulations Graduates - Class 2012

## College

**Maria Morcos:**



**John, Teta Nabila, Mona, Joe, Maged, Monica, Anna, Paul and Sophia.**

We are so proud of you. May God continue to bless your steps with His grace and joy. **Lots of love from Mom, Dad,**

**Diane Bolose – BS in Business, Management and Human Resources**



stage of your life. Best wishes in accomplishing your MBA.

**Love, Mom, Dad, and Mary**

Congratulations Diane on graduating from Cal Poly with your B.S. in Management and Human Resources. May the Lord continue to guide and comfort you through every

**Abraam F. Girgis**



**Love Mom, Dad, Nancy, Daniel, Sarah and Demiana**

Congratulations on graduating from UC Irvine with B.S. in Biology and getting accepted into Marquette School of Dentistry. May the Lord be with you always.

**Olivia M. Ishak—BA in Psychology**

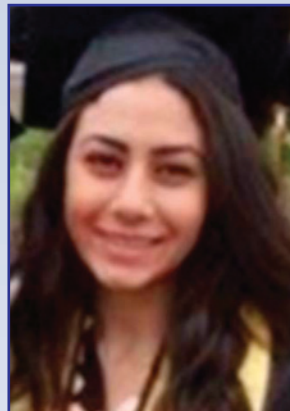


just like You were with the wise king Solomo be with her as a therapist. We all love you and are proud of you. We are sure of God's guidance in all your life.

**Love, Mom, Dad and Mary**

Thank you Lord for bringing us to this time to rejoice for Olivia's graduation from UCR and her acceptance to the Masters program at CBU. Lord bless the road ahead of Olivia and

**Kathy Mehany - BA in Liberal Studies**

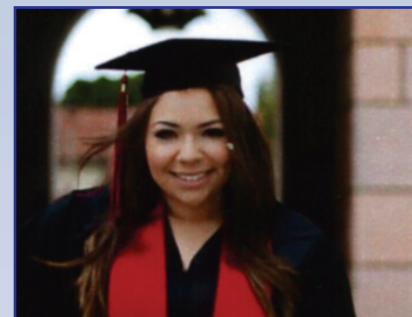


**Maryann Farag – BA in Liberal Studies**



**Christina Yassa:**

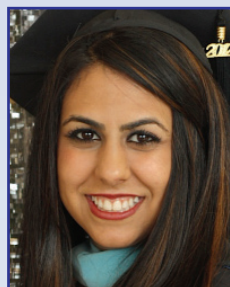
congratulations Christina for graduating from college. We're so proud of you! **Love- Mom, Dad, Anthony and Daniel.**



**Katherine Selim:**

Congratulations on your graduation from San Diego State University with a Bachelors in Communication. May God bless you. We wish you a bright future-

**Dad Selim, Mom Ligia and Gina.**



**Sarah Girgis:**

Congratulations on receiving your Master's degree in Psychology. We are so proud of you and love you so much. May the Lord bless you.

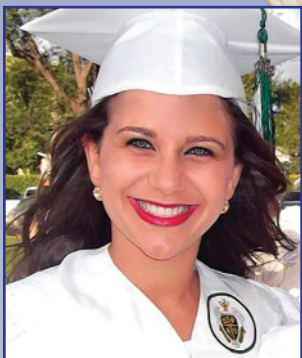
**Love Mom, Dad, Nancy, Abraam and Demiana**





## High School

**Marina G. Michael**



**Abram Estahanovs**



Dear Abram, We thank the Lord for all his good deeds and blessings. Congratulations Abram on your graduation from high school. We are very proud of you. May the Lord continue to bless you and grant you continuous success.

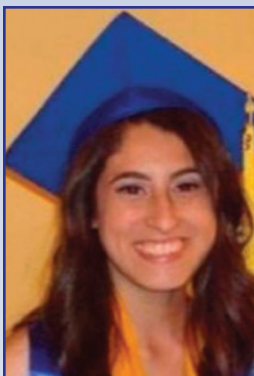
**your family**



**Andrew Kirolos Mikhail**

Congratulation on your graduating with highest honors and attending University of California San Diego.

**From Michael, Nagat, Abanovb and Monica**



**Mary Ishak,**

We are extremely proud of the woman you're becoming! Congrats on your graduation from high school and your speech. We know God is going to lead you into the correct paths of success.

**We all love you. Mom, Dad and Olivia**



**Mark Bolose**

Congratulations on your graduation from High School. May the Lord bless you and guide you in your future.

**Love, Mom, Dad, Diane and Teta**

## Junior High School

**Joseph Botrus**



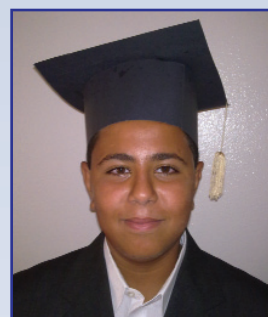
"We are so proud of you completing the 8th grade. May God bless you with success in high school and your future."

**Love Mom, Dad, and Tony.**

**Joseph Basta**



**Robert G. Karam**



**Peter Soltan**



**Mary Ayad**



**John Soliman**



**Matthew Tadros**



The rest of the graduates did not provide photos

