

INTRODUCTION

Father Mikhail Ibrahim

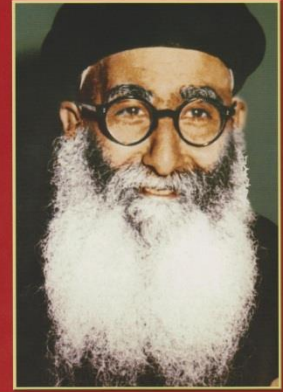
On the occasion of the publishing of this volume, I wish to write to you about the life of this saint. The guidance of God and His good will allowed my weakness to interact with this saint for eighteen years when he was a priest in Saint Mark Church, and then when I dealt with him after his departure in my personal life and in my service for twenty four years as a priest on the altar of God.

In fact, the life of this saint requires many hours for one to recall his work with me and with those whom he served. In his service he always focused on the salvation of his soul, and the salvation of the souls of others. He used to live on earth in a way that was unique from many others. His life was more a reflection of an angelic life rather than a human life in his dealings with people and his various services. His Holiness Pope Shenouda, during Fr. Mikhail's funeral, mentioned that he was a man from the heavenly family, and that the heavens delegated him for a period of time so that he would dwell among us and to offer to humanity a good example and a bright image of a sound spiritual life. He worked as a priest and a spiritual guide, and now he is an intercessor for people. He is an apostle from earth to Heaven. He understands our circumstances here on earth, and he is able to ask God on our behalf.

I found that everyone he met became filled with peace and tranquility, and in every tribulation and hardship I encountered I relied on him. He used to tell me with a smiling face that all will be well. He used to say it with certainty and assurance that this tribulation was for my own spiritual good, and peace would eventually fill my heart. Sure enough, his sayings would come true.

Hegumen Mikhail Ibrahim Hegumen Gawargious Kolta

EXCERPTS FROM *Memoirs from a Church Servant*



On the Life of Hegumen Mikhail Ibrahim

By Hegumen Gawargios Kolta

Introduction :

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Father Mikhail the priest and the saint

He obtained the blessing of priesthood in 1951, and was promoted to the rank of a hegumen in 1952.

His congregation felt the depth of his love, and fatherly kindness, as well as the power of his prayers.

He gave everyone in his congregation special attention and worked to meet their individual needs.

My personal experience with Father Mikhail

He was a man of prayer, he did not talk much during confession and guidance, but used to say "let's pray". His prayers to God used to accomplish the impossible.

The departure of his wife

Thanks God she has arrived to Christ, how lucky she is, ... , now I have three children and their mother in heaven, and they are all praying for us to the lord.

Fr. Mikhail Ibrahim and the life of prayer

Fr. Mikhail brought a young deacon who was serving on the altar. He made him stand before the entire congregation and prostrated before him three times, while saying to the child "I have sinned, forgive me"

