

News of July - August



1. Fast & Feast of the Apostles (June 9 – July 12)

On Monday, June 9, the church starts the fast of the Apostles, until their Feast commemorating the martyrdom of the two apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. Let us follow their great love, zeal, struggle,

ministry, and faithfulness until death.

2. Fast and Feast of St. Mary: (August 7- 22)

On Thursday, August 7, the church starts Virgin Mary's fast for two weeks until her feast on 22nd.



3. Feast of Transfiguration:



On Tuesday, August 19, the church celebrates the Feast of Christ's transfiguration; the liturgy from 8 to 10 a.m.

4. Martyrdom of St. James:

On Friday, July 25, the church commemorates the martyrdom of St. James, son of Alphaeus, the great apostle and the first bishop of Jerusalem. He is also the author of the letter of St. James and presided the first apostolic counsel mentioned in Acts 15, and was known as the "Lord's brother" (one of Jesus' cousins).

5. Other Famous Feasts during July & August:



- + July 1: Martyrdom of St. Moses the Black.
- + July 3: Departure of Joshua, son of Nun.
- + July 9: Martyrdom of the apostle Thaddaeus.
- + July 10: Departure of St. Cyril of Alexandria
- + July 14: Departure of St. Shenouda the Archimandrite.



- + July 15: Departure of St. Bishoy, star of the wilderness.
- + July 22: Departure of St. Ephram, the Syrian.
- + July 31: Martyrdom of St. Abanoub

6. H.H. Pope Tawadros II:

+ Pope Tawadros congratulated the new elected President of Egypt, El-Sisi, wishing him great success with God's blessing and guidance.

+ On June 1, Pope Tawadros ordained seven bishops. + On June 10, His Holiness traveled to Fayoum, Egypt to commemorate the 100 memorial of St. Abraam, the famous bishop of Fayoum.



7. H. G. Bishop Serapion:

+ Bishop Serapion attended the Pentecost and the meetings of the Holy Sinod in Egypt.

+ On June 14, 2014, His Grace established a new church at Chino Hills under the name of "Holy Transfiguration". It will be for youth couples and a Missionary Church.



9. Graduation Celebration:

On Saturday, June 21, St. John Church celebrated her Annual Graduation Party to honor her children who graduated from Junior High, High School, College and Post=graduates and delivered them gifts.

10. The Next Senior Citizen's Cruise:

St. John church seniors will have their second cruise on October 25, to November 2, 2014 to the Bahamas, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, and Grand Turk.

For more information and reservation:

Call Maher Saleh
(626) 222- 6558.



* St. John's Grand Festival (Sept. 26-28):

St. John Church in Covina, CA will hold her Annual's Grand Festival on the occasion of the Feast of the Cross, from Friday, September 26 until Sunday 28. The goal of the festival is a combination of raising funds for the church, to pay off the debts, complete the icons, and to show the activities of the youth, women and senior citizens.

Who is Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, The New President of Egypt?

By Ahmed Eleiba (Al-Ahram)

The recently appoint-ted defense minister who replaced Field Marshal H. Tantawi is a powerful and charismatic figure in the Egyptian army, and boasts an impressive CV. Before being promo-ted head of military intelligence, El-Sisi served as commander of the Northern Military Zone and, before this, as chief of staff of the N. Military Zone. Such appointments followed an un-inter-rupted series of promotions since he graduated from the Egyptian military academy in 1977. El-Sisi also went on to pursue higher education, in the course of which he obtained two masters degrees, one from a British military college and the other through a fellowship with an American academy. This formation enabled him to develop extensive relations in international and regional military circles in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. In view of this background, it is small wonder that his selection as the replacement for Field Marshal Tantawi, who is nearly 20 years his senior, not only obtained Washington's blessing but Riyadh's as well. El-Sisi has been one of the top Egyptian military elites to coordinate with the US in the war against terrorism in this region and he is a familiar face in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the man who has now become Egypt's most senior military official recently met with senior officials in the Barack Obama administration, including Obama's top advisor on counter-terrorism. Following El-Sisi's appointment, US officials expressed confidence that he will maintain close relations with their country, which provides Egypt with \$1.3 billion a year in military aid, and that he will uphold Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. The newspaper cited US officials as saying that, as former head of Egyptian military intelligence, El-Sisi has close ties to the US military and intelligence agencies. It noted that Obama's top counter-terrorism advisor, John Brennan, had dinner with El-Sisi during a visit to Cairo in October.

Although El-Sisi is a member of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) he was known to have had



strong reservations about the way SCAF was handling the post-revolutionary transitional phase.

The new defense minister's first major task is to remedy the situation in the Sinai, which had deteriorated in part because of the poor way it was handled by Tantawi and his commanders in the field. El-Sisi's previous experience in counter-terrorism is likely to prove crucial here. However, in the long term, he sees his most important task is the restructuring and reconditioning of the military establishment which has suffered attrition at various levels during the previous era.

El-Sisi won 96% of the vote for a four-year term. Egypt's former Military Chief, El-Sisi was sworn in Sunday, June 8, 2014 (Pentecost!) vowing to lead the country through important changes.

Egypt's new President vows to correct the mistakes of the past. He said, "Egypt will witness a total rise on both internal and external fronts, to compensate what we have missed and correct the mistakes of the past. In the long history that goes back thousands of years, our homeland did not witness democratic transfer of power. Now, for the first time, the President elect shakes hands with the outgoing President (Adly Mansour) and together they sign a power-transfer document in an unprecedented occasion, he said in front of the Supreme Constitutional Court's General Assembly in Cairo."

We, as Coptic Orthodox Christians, are commanded by both the Holy Bible and the Holy Church to pray for our new President: "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence (2 Tim. 2:1, 2, 3).

Doubts

By H. H. Pope Shenouda

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE DOUBT; its kinds, reasons, danger, harm and its remedy.

Kinds of doubt: There is doubt in God, doubt in dogma, in faith, in values, principles, doubt in others, and even doubt in oneself! Sometimes you ask yourself, "can I do that or not?" Man doubts in his power and his ability just like the child. Therefore, we have always to encourage small children that they trust in themselves.

Doubts in reality: We ask where the truth is. Someone reads a certain newspaper and says (Egypt has been ruined and the world ended)! Then he reads another newspaper and finds that everything is OK.

Doubt because of fear or lack of faith: Peter walked over the sea, then he saw the high waves and got scared; he doubted and then he started to drown. "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt" (Matt.14:31). Someone fears and worries about his health, or sees a bad dream and starts to panic. Another doubts and panics when a certain trial or tribulation comes, like the children of Israel when Pharaoh appeared suddenly from behind them and the sea was in front of them, therefore, they were terrified (Exod. 14). Doubts come often when we forget the grace of God. The demon of doubt comes when you live or spend time with the skeptical; so you contract the virus of doubt. There is another sort of doubt, which comes from rumors: Once someone told his friend, "Do you want to set the country on fire, just create a rumor and watch how fast it will spread and set the world on fire!" A famous Egyptian poet once said, Man looks like a parrot whose mind is in his ears! Did I tell you the funny story about the man who had a parrot that heard him once saying, "O, Lord, please take my mother in law to be with you", and the parrot kept repeating this request over and over whenever it sees the old woman. Then when the mother-in-law complained to a friend of her, he said to her that he has good parrot who is always singing church hymns, and he asked her to bring his parrot to stay in his house for a week so



that its character would improve and learn some church songs. And she did, but after a week when she went to bring her parrot back home, as soon as she entered into the friend's house, her parrot started singing, "O, Lord take the old woman" and the other parrot replied singing, "Amen!" Now in our modern days, rumors may take modern fashion more dangerous, wider and faster, such as to spread in the media, newspapers and in the internet and satellite! So, do not believe all what you hear.

You may think of one cause, but there are many other causes. For instance a mother, when her daughter delays outside at night, she worries and thinks that a disaster has happened; her daughter might have been kidnapped or went through bad accident. But there is a possibility that the daughter delayed at her friend's house and nothing wrong happened. Fear

leads to doubt. There is a doubt comes due to the work of Satan: From the beginning Satan planted doubt as he said to Eve, "Has God indeed said, 'you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"(Gen.3:1). The same temptation Satan used with Christ when he said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread" (Matt. 4:3). On the cross, he said, "If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matt. 27:40). Doubts may come also, from false witnesses.... And some people may doubt as a result of some studies in the books of the so-called "Biblical Criticism!" For instance, they may say to you, "Do you think that the gospel of St. John was really written by St. John the Apostle, no it was written by other person called John!" And there are some people who doubt as a result of their occupation like the prosecutor and the judge. The prosecutor considers the defendant guilty unless proven otherwise. And contrary to that, the judge considers the person innocent unless proven guilty.

The harms of doubt: Doubt causes much harm. It causes worrying, confusion, hesitation, disturbance and insomnia. In some cases doubt turns life into hell. Doubt leads to fear, and fear leads to more doubt...it is a vicious circle. Doubt enters man's mind easily, but departs hardly. Someone doubts in God's existence like the Marxists and that leads them to atheism and some doubts in God's promises like Abraham, when God delayed in fulfilling his promise, he started to find human solutions and sought Hagar. . . One doubts in God's wisdom, and another doubts even in the virtues like the benefit of fasting or giving alms whether this poor man deserves help or not, will humility be understood or is considered weakness..etc.

LORD

Save ME!” I’M SINKING!

An Irish priest once visited the Holy Land. Desiring to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee, he asked what the rates were. When told it was \$10.00 an hour, he complained that the price was too high. “Why, I can rent a boat back home for \$1.00 an hour,” he said, “Yes,” said the person who was in the business of renting, “but this is the sea on which Jesus smiled and fished, where He stilled the storm and walked on water.” “It’s no wonder,” said the Irish priest, “with the price of boats, it’s no wonder He walked on water!”

Once when Bismarck the German Kaiser saw his picture hanging on a wall he said, “Is that the way I’m supposed to look? That’s not me.” He turned around, pointed to a picture in the opposite wall of Peter sinking beneath the waves, and said, “That is me.”

LORD, I’M SINKING

We see the picture of St. Peter sinking beneath the waves in today’s Gospel lesson and it is a picture with which we find it easy to identify. The waves have often been too high for us, too. Immersed in anxiety, we too, have cried out in critical moments, “Lord, save me. I’m sinking.” No one expressed this better than the Psalmist when he wrote: “Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I’m sinking. Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me” (Psalm 69:1-2). How often, like Peter and like David, we, too, sink in the waves of doubt, guilt, fear, tension, anxiety, temptation, despair, sin. I don’t know what kind of waves and winds you have in your life, but the Gospel assures us of one thing: in the wind and the waves there is a Presence. The same Jesus Who was with Peter when he began to sink is with us. His presence can make all the difference in the world. “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid” Jesus has been coming to His friends in the midst of storms for the past 2,000 years.



(Matt.14: 30; Psa.69:1, 2)
By Fr. Anthony Coniaris

HE REACHED OUT HIS HAND

“Lord, save me! I’m sinking!” Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him. That same hand reaches out to save us today when the waters come up to our neck and we begin to sink. For, Jesus has two hands. With one He points out to us the way, and with the other He lifts us when we fall and raises us when we begin to sink. And I need to be reminded every time I offer my hand to someone in life who is sinking, that it is Christ Himself Who is stretching forth His hand through me. For are we

not members of His body? Are not my hands His hands extended in love to suffering humanity? When you know you’re going under and you feel a big hand taking hold of you and pull you up, that’s God. Every time in your life when you’ve been going under, and strength was poured into you and you were lifted up, that’s God. That’s Jesus pulling you up. Thank you, Jesus. You’ve pulled me up so many times in my own life when I was sinking.

“IMMEDIATELY”

Notice how Jesus responded to Peter’s cry for help, “Immediately.” When Jesus looked out across the water and saw His disciples in trouble, He immediately went to them. When He saw Peter begin to sink in the waves, He immediately stretched out His hand to rescue him. He did not let him go down twice, catching him the third time to teach him a lesson. He did not let him thrash about wildly in the waves. He immediately stretched out His hand and caught him. This is the single most important message of the Gospel lesson today. The important thing is not whether or not Jesus could walk on water, or how He did it. The important thing is that He was where He was needed. That has always been so, and will be so to the end of time.

NOT ALONE

For the disciples the worst thing about the storm-tossed ship at midnight was that Jesus was not there with them. They had left Him ashore when they embarked. He had taken the road to the hills, spending the night in solitary prayer. He knew nothing of what was happening. How could He know, thought the disciples, that death was on the sea! He was totally ignorant of their peril. “If only Jesus were here!”

And that is the real trouble in the storms of life – to lose our trust in God. In days of tension and stress when we are burdened with problems and all the world looks dark, - “If only Jesus were here!”

In moments of anxiety when you do not know how you can possibly face what lies ahead, - “If only Jesus were here!” In days of fierce temptation, when we feel so powerless against the wracking passions of the soul – “If only Jesus were here!”

NEARER THAN WE THINK

He is here – nearer than we think. That night when He was praying among the hills, Jesus had a vision. He saw the frail little boat tossing on the sea. He sensed the sudden fury of the storm. He knew the urgent peril of His friends. “And,” says the evangelist, “in the fourth watch of the night He went unto them, walking on the sea.”

There are those here today who have encountered Jesus on seas as wild as Galilee. For it is one of the big discoveries of life, how stress and need and desolation may bring the Master suddenly near. When life becomes a boiling sea of troubles, the Lord is there within the shadows, keeping watch, able to bring peace and calm.

“He plans His footsteps in the sea

And rides upon the storm.”

“Be of good cheer, it is I; have no fear,” He said to His disciples as He came upon the waves.

HE DOES NOT ALWAYS SAVE US FROM THE STORM

This does not mean that God will always save us from the storm. Sometimes He chooses to save us in the storm. He doesn’t always stop the storm, but He does give us the inner strength to weather the storm. For it is in facing storms that we grow. And God knows how much we need to grow. When Jesus Himself endured the terrible storm of anxiety in the Garden of Gethsemane just before His crucifixion; when He hurt so much that He said, “My soul is very sorrowful, even unto death,” God did not stop the storm. Rather He strengthened Him inwardly to be able to face the cross. Let us trust Him to keep us safe whether He gives us calm or storm.

How true are the words of Merv Rosell:

“God could have kept Daniel out of the lion’s den. . . He could have kept Paul and Silas out of jail. . . . He could have kept the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. . . . But God has never promised to keep us out of hard places. . . .What He has promised is to go with us through every hard place, and to bring us through victoriously.”

HE IS IN YOUR BOAT

Jesus does not promise to still all our storms, but He has said that He will always remain in the boat with us. “Lo, I am with you always,” is His promise –and in His company we can face whatever storm may come.

The presence of Jesus in the boat does not prevent the storm from taking place. That surprises a lot of people who have come to believe that the presence of Jesus means no more emergencies, no bitter experiences, no occasions when you can say to yourself, “I never thought this could ever happen to me.” It is still possible, even when Jesus is present, for some terrible disease to appear suddenly, or some dreadful accident to happen. But His presence in the boat with us will make a difference in the way we face the storm.

Behind all the dark, threatening clouds of impending storms, behind all the tragedies that come our way, we have the assurance not just that the Lord is close by, but that He is ready to come right into the boat to be with us as He did with His disciples.

“COMMAND ME TO COME TO YOU ON THE WATER!”

When Peter saw Jesus walking on the stormy waters, he said, “Lord if it is You, command me to come to You on the water” (Matthew 14:28).

And the Lord Jesus immediately said, “Come!”

And He says the same to us today, “Come, you too can walk on the troubled waters of your life.” If some illness has struck you or a loved one, you can say, “God bid me walk on the water of this illness.” If financial trouble has torn your life apart, you can say, “Jesus bid me walk on the water of this need.” If there is trouble in your marriage, you can say, “God, bid me walk on the turbulent waters of my marriage.” The same power, the same faith, the same Jesus Who helped Peter walk on the stormy waters of the sea of Galilee is available to you today; the power to weather the storms of your life, to walk over them and through them to victory.

HOW TO BUILD A LASTING AND SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE (5)

14- Overcoming negatives and blind spots:

These negatives and blind spots are not discovered during the engagement period, because some couples put masks which are absolutely catastrophic. Others try to hide the negatives from the other fiancé. There is a truth in saying, “Love is blind”. Rev. Constantine Nasr (Mastering the Art of Marriage) said that some grooms thought they married a Rachel, but they discovered later that they married a Leah. Some brides thought that they married Jacob, but they discovered that they married an Esau. Some girls ignore the negatives of their fiancée because they believe, falsely, that they would be able to change and correct them after they get married. Everyone must be honest with the one he/she loves. After marriage, we will discover areas which are alike and areas which are different.

In successful marriage, every spouse helps the other to know his/her negatives and the blind spots. Through their great love and humility to trust one another, they discover these negatives and blind spots. Each of them does not get disappointed when these spots are discovered, and they honestly confess that these negatives do exist. For example one spouse tells the other that he/she is a worrywart, messy, easily frustrated, sarcastic, self-centered, tied to home, poor personal hygiene, not romantic, moody, insecure, overly sensitive, ... etc. Both work together to overcome these real negative behaviors.

Eventually we will grow tired of wasting so much energy hiding in our home from our own spouse. The growth of our marriage involves the process of letting our spouse help us to see our blind spots. We all have blind spots. By gently talking about our negatives with our partners, we minimize their power to be a ticking time bomb waiting to destroy our relationship. Our partner knows our negatives and loves us anyway, because love will cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8). Let our love for each other give us the courage to learn how those who love us most see us. There is a proverb, saying: “If love is not forever, then what’s forever?” All our blind spots can become strengths within our marriage if we approach them in a loving spirit. With each passing year, our negatives begin to fade away.

Change of the negatives cannot easily happen, but it may take several months. Thus each spouse should be patient, as love suffers long, endures all things and bears all things.



By Fr. Gawargious Kolta

On the other hand, the positives of each spouse (discussed later) can help the other spouse to be patient and become tenderer. By gently encouraging one another, all our negatives will disappear, and our positives will increase in number, year after year. St. Paul advises us, saying: “Comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient

with all” (1 Thess. 5:14).

15- Encouraging the positives:

In successful marriage, both spouses must discover the positives of the each other. Most of them appear before marriage, during engagement. The real positives can be shared with our partners. These positives such as being generous, romantic, caring, gentle, compassionate, loyal, admitting mistakes, supportive, affectionate, not selfish, flexible, creative, tender, ambitious, optimistic, adaptable to change, gracious... etc. appear in daily relations. Rev. Constantine said that when we encourage one another, we can acquire new positives, and the positives we already have can grow and deepen. Let our love for each other gives us the courage to learn how to care for and to cherish this one who knows us best and loves us most.

Wives can always see the positives of their husbands, such as:

- + He opens the door for me.
- + He brings me flowers and candy.
- + He remembers my birthday and our anniversary.
- + He respects my family and spends time with them.
- + He is always sensitive to my needs.
- + He shares his thoughts and plans with me.
- + He listens, hears me and spends quality time with me.

He said also that many husbands find many positive things in their wives:

- + She encourages me to go to the gym.
- + She prepares for me my favorite meals.
- + She buys me all my needs without asking.
- + She holds my hands in the car.
- + She listens and respects my views.
- + She works hard to make our relationship grow.
- + She is a very present help in trouble.

Rev. Constantine said that God is the One who can hold the following four categories for a lasting and successful marriage.

1- Time: Time for the spouses as a priority for each other; time to shop, time to go to the gym, time for conversation, listening to each other.

2- Love: This makes them stay together no matter what.

Love is unconditional. Both are hooked to each other.

3- Sacrifice: The willingness to give up personal preferences, habits, plans, privacy for the other spouse. It is the martyrdom element of marriage, where self-will places second.

4- Discipline: Doing things right, paying the bills on time, doing regular laundry, arriving places in time.

16- Protect your marriage:

For successful marriage, the spouses must not get disappointed when their needs are not fulfilled, or postponed. They must exercise and practice learning how to agree. Both spouses must equally share time, sacrifice, housekeeping, and other responsibilities. Also, marriage needs regular maintenance. It is like a garden. If you want to eat from its harvest, you must plant it, fertilize it, water it, and then harvest it. But you must consider that your garden may be attacked by birds, animals, or insects. You must protect your garden from things that may destroy it. Of course, your marriage is more precious than a garden. Spouses must hold hands to grow together the whole journey of the whole life.

Many negative forces attack our marriages. We are surrounded by a culture that is against marriage. There are many enemies who may destroy our marriage. Television, unethical movies, magazines, websites promote behaviors that will destroy our marriage if we engage in them. We must consider that these enemies need strong will and insistence of refusing all things that can destroy our holy marriage. Sometimes temptations of these enemies and their seduction may appear as gentle friends and source of knowledge, but actually they are wolves waiting to devour us. St. John said: “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 Jn. 5:19). St. Peter resembles Satan as a lion, saying: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). We must resist him by taking the armor of God and putting on the breastplate of righteousness. For a successful marriage, we must build it on a deep and strong foundation. It needs energy and effort. On the other hand, it is difficult, but not impossible, to repair a marriage built on poor foundation, because with God all things are possible. Our Lord told the multitudes about two different kinds of foundations, saying: “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who builds his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Mat. 7:24-27). In order to protect our marriage from the storms of life, we must be careful not to build it on sand. It is not enough to build it on a firm ground instead of sand. It is important to put a strong foundation in order that

our marriage could survive. The first and the most important foundation is unconditional love. Love does miracles, as love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy, ... love does not rejoice in iniquity and thinks no evil (1 Cor. 13).

In order to protect our marriages from the negative forces that attack us, we must be wise in making countless joint decisions. Each day brings issues and we will need to adapt daily to each other's physical, emotional, spiritual and financial needs. Both spouses are dependent on each other. In marriage, both spouses must look to the responsibilities of life realistically. The love of the two spouses will protect them from the storms of life that allow our marriage to fail. We must recognize that in order to have successful marriage we must be well prepared for changes in different aspect of life, such as:

- 1- Change in our lifestyle.
- 2- Change in our relation with friends.
- 3- Change in our relation with our family members.
- 4- Change in our attitudes and plans.
- 5- Change in our finances.

Also, we must overcome all the illusions that we have during engagement time, and live a real world with real people. This requires adapting to the changing of life circumstances. It requires communication, which is absolutely necessary. The types of illusions are:

- 1- One may think that a good marriage will be always romantic. This is myth.
- 2- One may think that as long as we love each other, everything else will fall into its place. This is myth.
- 3- One may think that my spouse has one goal in our marriage which is to meet my needs. This is myth.
- 4- One may think that having a disagreement or conflict in our marriage means my spouse doesn't love me.

We must remember that Satan is always laboring to bring conflicts and defeat in our marital lives. We must continue in our communication and keep trust and intimacy for each other, and through the crisis we rebuild and repair any damage that has happened. Our marriage needs constant nurturing. These are some hints which can lead to a lasting and successful marriage:

- 1- Never both be angry at the same time.
- 2- Never yell at each other.
- 3- Yield to the wishes of the other as an exercise in self-discipline, if you can't think of a better reason.
- 4- If you have a choice between making yourself look good and making your spouse look good, choose your spouse.
- 5- If you have any criticism, make it lovingly.
- 6- Never, ever bring up a mistake of the past.
- 7- Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
- 8- Never let one day end without saying at least one kind of compliment to your spouse.
- 9- Never let sun go down on an argument unresolved.
- 10- When you do wrong you have to ask forgiveness.
- 11- Never meet your spouse without an affectionate welcome.

THE ENDING OF THE APOSTLES' LIVES

The Bible, tradition and history teach that the apostles were insulted, hated, persecuted, martyred and suffered violent deaths.

• **Matthew was martyred and killed with a sword in a city in Ethiopia.**

• Mark died in Alexandria after being dragged with through the streets.

• Luke was hanged on an olive tree in Greece.

• John was put in cauldron oil but, escaped miraculously to be banished to the Island of Patmos (Rev. 1: 9).

• Peter is believed to have been crucified at Rome with his head down.

• Paul after severe persecution and several imprisonments, he was beheaded by Nero at Rome. (2 Cor. 11 & 2 Tim.4)

• James the brother of John was beheaded by the sword at Jerusalem (Acts 12:2).

• James the less was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple, stoned and clubbed to death.

• Bartholomew was flayed until dead.

• Andrew was bound to a cross X from where he preached to his persecutors until his strength gave out.

• Thomas had a lance run through his body in Coromandel in the East Indies.

• Jude is alleged to have been shot to death with arrows.

• Matthias was first stoned and then beheaded.

• Barnabas was stoned to death at Salonica.



Such is the fate of the apostles, some according to the Holy Bible and some from history, tradition and ancient writings of the fathers as taken from the Christian index.

That is why St. John the beloved disciple and evangelist said in the introduction of his Revelation, "I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ..." (Rev. 1:9)

Dear Parents with Young Children in Church

You are doing something really, really important.

I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms over-flowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring, really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your pre-schooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way. I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about Bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and behave in worship.

I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

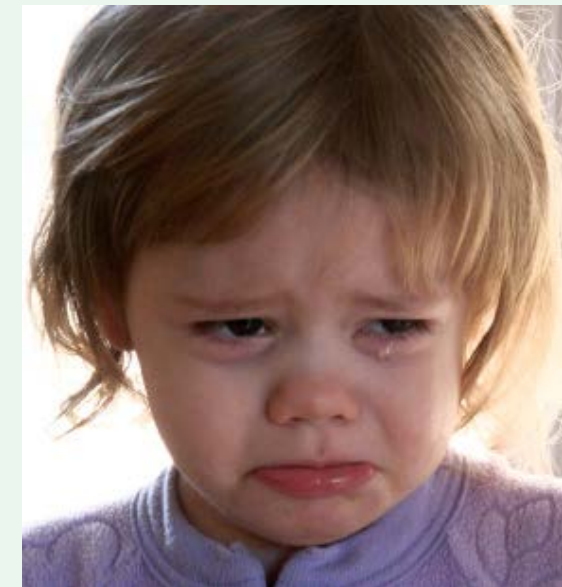
I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone

she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echo's of "Amen's" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of those mornings; I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know it matters. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are enough right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are

a joyful noise because it means they are present. I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.





China on course to become ‘world’s most Christian nation’ within 15 years

The number of Christians in Communist China is growing so steadily that it by 2030 it could have more churchgoers than America

Christian congregations in particular have skyrocketed since churches began reopening when Chairman Mao’s death in 1976 Photo: ALAMY

By Tom Phillips, Liushi, Zhejiang province
Apr 2014

It is said to be China’s biggest church and on Easter Sunday thousands of worshippers will flock to this Asian mega-temple to pledge their allegiance – not to the Communist Party, but to the Cross.

The 5,000-capacity Liushi church, which boasts more than twice as many seats as Westminster Abbey and a 206ft crucifix that can be seen for miles around, opened last year with one theologian declaring it a “miracle that such a small town was able to build such a grand church”.

The £8 million building is also one of the most visible symbols of Communist China’s breakneck conversion as it evolves into one of the largest Christian congregations on earth.

“It is a wonderful thing to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It gives us great confidence,” beamed Jin Hongxin, a 40-year-old visitor who was admiring the golden cross above Liushi’s altar in the lead up to Holy Week.

“If everyone in China believed in Jesus then we would have no more need for police stations. There would be no more bad people and therefore no more crime,” she added.

Officially, the People’s Republic of China is an atheist country but that is changing fast as many of its 1.3 billion citizens seek meaning and spiritual comfort that

neither communism nor capitalism seem to have supplied.

Christian congregations in particular have skyrocketed since churches began reopening when Chairman Mao’s death in 1976 signalled the end of the Cultural Revolution.

Less than four decades later, some believe China is now poised to become not just the world’s number one economy but also its most numerous Christian nation. “By my calculations China is destined to become the largest Christian country in the world very soon,” said Fenggang Yang, a professor of sociology at Purdue University and author of Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule.

“It is going to be less than a generation. Not many people are prepared for this dramatic change.”

China’s Protestant community, which had just one million members in 1949, has already overtaken those of countries more commonly associated with an evangelical boom. In 2010 there were more than 58 million Protestants in China compared to 40 million in Brazil and 36 million in South Africa, according to the Pew Research Centre’s Forum on Religion and Public Life. Prof Yang, a leading expert on religion in China, believes that number will swell to around 160 million by 2025. That would likely put China ahead even of the United States, which had around 159 million Protestants in 2010 but whose congregations are in decline. By 2030, China’s total Christian population, including Catholics, would exceed 247 million, placing it above Mexico, Brazil and the United States as the largest Christian congregation in the world, he predicted.

Created in Christ for Good Works

Summer Contests



By Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna

I. Old Testament:

1. Who is the woman whom her seed was prophesied of, to bruise the head of the serpent?

- A) Eve B) Virgin Mary C) Church D) All

2. The seed of Abraham in which all the nations will be blessed is:

- A) Isaac B) Christ C) Israel D) The church

3. Esau’s repentance was rejected because:

- A) It was not serious B) Too late
C) Not complete D) Without enough tears

4. With whom did Jacob wrestle all the night?

- A) Unknown man B) An Angel C)
Christ in one of His pre-incarnation appearances.
D) All the above.

5. Joseph was a role model to the youth in purity for:

- A) Rejecting the sexual temptation of Potiphar’s wife.
B) He fled from youthful lusts. C) Saying, “How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”
D) He lived before the time of the Law and the Gospel.
E) All the above.

6. Is Christ’s priesthood according to the order of:

- A) Aaron B) Melchizedek C) Both D) None

7. The offering of Melchizedek was a type of:

- A) Baptism B) Eucharist C) Tithes D) Priesthood.

8. Jacob’s prophecy about his son Judah, in Genesis 49, contained:

- A) Christ as a descendant from the tribe of Judah.
B) Christ as the lion of Judah who prevailed (Rev. 5:5). C) Jesus Christ as the Vine.
D) Christ as the Lawgiver, Comforter, Redeemer and the king of peace who rode on a donkey E) All

9. Jacob’s ladder; the burning bush and Aaron’s rod were types to:

- A) Christ B) Virgin Mary C) Both D) The church

10. Started a concierge and ended a prime minister:

- A) Jibes B) Boaz C) Ishmael D) Mordecai

II. New Testament:

11. Why is baptism necessary for salvation?

- A) Because it is the order of our Lord in Mark 16:16.
B) The old man must be buried and rise with Christ.
C) It is a second birth from the Spirit of God and water. D) All of the above.

12. Where do we find the Holy Communion in N.T.?

- A) Matthew 26:26 B) John 6:53-60
C) 1 Cor. 11:23-30 D) Heb. 11 E) All except D

13. What are the three organs of the sinner, which will suffer more in hell?

- A) Tongue B) Eyes C) Teeth D) All E) None

14. How many criminal kings were called Herod?

- A) 2 B) 3 C) 4 D) 5

15. Which of those is called the Letter of Joy?

- A) Romans B) Titus C) Philippians D) Jude

16. The only Prophetic book in the N. Testament is:

- A) Mark B) Acts C) Revelation D) John

17. According to the New Testament, Mohammad is not considered a prophet, because:

- A) Any creature, even an angel, who contradicts Christ is anathema (cursed- Gal. 1:8).
B) There are no prophets (slaves) after the Son of God.
C) Mohammad denied the Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, the Divinity of Christ, the Cross and the Resurrection.
D) He was an anti-Christ E) All the above F) None

18. The New Testament tell us that hell is:

- A) A real place of eternal torment.
B) A place of darkness, demons, wicked people and thirst.
C) No exit in hell and no hope. D) Entertainment, dancing and drinking. E) All except D.

19. Heaven is:

- A) Where Christ lives with His people and angels.
B) The place of eternal joy, which an eye has not seen.
C) The meeting of all believers, relatives and friends.
D) Outside are dogs, sorcerers and sexually immoral and whoever practices lies. E) All of the above.

20. How many languages, did the Holy Spirit give to the apostles to speak with in the Day of Pentecost?

- A) 3 B) 5 C) 12 D) 17

The Sins of the Pharisees (3) Judging the ones Jesus loves!

By John Hakim



We have shown that two reasons Jesus spoke against the Pharisees was because they loved money and stored up possessions, and because they focused on religious rules more than God's love and doing good.

A few Pharisees did eventually come to follow Him, such as the Pharisee named Nicodemus and the Pharisees mentioned in Acts 15:5. But why didn't more of them leave their previous ways and trust in Jesus?

A major reason Pharisees couldn't trust Jesus was because they didn't trust the people Jesus associated with. They didn't believe a holy person would be a friend with "tax collectors and sinners" (Mark 2:1617-, Matthew 11:19). They grumbled against Jesus that, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2, 19:10). They thought a real prophet wouldn't dare touch a sinful woman (Luke 7:39). They wanted to kill an adulterous woman who Jesus was willing to love, save and forgive (John 7:538:11-).

The Pharisees in Jesus' time were a respected group that was known for keeping God's law.

They believed their religious identity elevated them above others. But Jesus told them that God is looking for good fruit, and He can raise up children who produce this fruit from anywhere (Matthew 3:737-12:33 ,10-). The "sinners" were rejected by the Pharisees because they failed to follow the right rules, but they were accepted by God because they showed love (Luke 7:47). Even the Samaritan, a heretic, could follow God's command to love your neighbor (Luke 10:2537-). And the publican

who repented was justified over the Pharisee who tithed and did his fasts perfectly (Luke 18:914-).

Israel was God's chosen people, and they were given the Torah and the Temple to help them follow God. But they were given these blessings to share with the world, not to hide in their own group. In fact, Jesus came to judge the Temple itself, because it wasn't a house of prayer serving all the nations (Mark 11:17). The true worshippers of God that Jesus was looking for can come from anywhere, for they worship God in spirit and truth, not just in one particular temple or on one particular mountain (John 4:1924-).

If we are to avoid this sin, we need to stop judging our neighbor (Matthew 7:15-). St. Athanasius stated that fasting did no good to the Pharisee, "only because he exalted himself against the publican" (Letter 1), and St. John Chrysostom said that merely by saying "I am not as this publican", the Pharisee destroyed all his merit (Homily 2 on 2 Timothy). The fact that someone is not a part of our group does not mean that they are not accepted by God.

We must be careful not to accuse others of failing to meet the standard we think we have obtained, because God is looking for repentance rather than judgment and self-righteousness (Luke 15:7-32).

False prophets are revealed not by whether they meet our religious standards on the outside, but whether they produce good fruit, because the fruit shows what is happening on the inside (Matthew 7:1520-). Fruit is produced when you abide in Jesus and keep His commandments, especially his command to love others (John 15:117-). May God give us the strength to love others as He loved us, and through this to draw people who we would never expect into the Kingdom of God.

Life and Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Cassian

AS A YOUNG MAN CASSIAN (360435-) JOINED A monastery in Bethlehem; he left there with a friend, Germanus, to study monasticism in Egypt and Syria. The material he collected during that time later formed the basis of his two books, the Institutes and the Conferences: the institutes describes monastic life as he had seen it in Egypt and Syria, and deals with the eight chief hindrances to perfection; in the Conferences, Cassian gives long expositions of various spiritual topics, set out in the form of conversations between himself and the leaders of early monasticism whom he had met in Egypt. In 415 he founded two monasteries near Marseilles; he died in 435 AD. Cassian's writings are the work of a sophisticated writer reflecting on his experiences and interpreting them in the light of other influences. But the basic material he used was the tradition of desert teaching and his works filtered these early ideals for the use of the West. The Rule of St. Benedict recommends the Institutes and Conferences' and the Lives of the Fathers, as also the Rule of our holy father Basil' as tools of virtue for good-living and obedient monks', thus ensuring that the tradition passed on by Cassian would become one of the most potent and formative influences in western monasticism.

1. Abba Cassian related the following: "The holy Germanus and I went to Egypt, to visit an old man. Because he offered us hospitality we asked him, "Why do you not keep the rule of fasting, when you receive visiting brothers, as we have received it in Palestine?" He replied, "Fasting is always to hand but you, I cannot have with me always. Furthermore, fasting is certainly a useful and necessary thing, but it depends on our choice while the law of God lays it upon us to do the works of charity. Thus receiving Christ in you, I ought to serve you with all diligence, but when I have taken leave of you, I can resume the rule of fasting again. For 'Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, but when the bridegroom is taken from them, then they will fast in that day.'" 2. The same abba said, "There was an old man who was served by a holy virgin and men said he was not pure. The old man heard what was said. When he was on the point of dying he said to the Fathers, "When I am dead, plant my stick in the grave; if it grows and bears fruit, know that I am pure from all contact with her; but if it does not grow, know that I have sinned with her." So they planted the stick and on the third day it budded and bore fruit, and they all gave glory to God.

3. He also said, "There was a monk living in a cave in the desert. His relatives according to the flesh let him know, "Your father is very ill, at the point of death: come and receive his inheritance." He replied to them, "I died to the world before he did and the dead do not inherit from the living." "

Church Fathers' Sayings On Fasting

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

+ St. Ambroz: "If our Master and Lord Jesus Christ, the most Holy and Perfect One, fasted 40 days, how can you a sinner resent fasting?" He also said about Joseph, the pure young man, that "Our own inner lusts are more dangerous than the external enemies. What Joseph did by self-control and resisting the seduction of his evil master's wife, was greater than all what he performed in Egypt."

+ St. Augustine: "If you wish for your prayers to reach heaven, they must have two wings, fasting and almsgiving"

+ St. John Chrysostom: "Fasting and prayer tame the lions and frightens the demons. It fights our enemies for us and delivers us from their captivity and makes us restore our original freedom. Look at the hermits and monks how did they flee to the mountains tops and caves making fasting their armor, companion and refuge all their life. Fasting made them earthly angels. Moses and Elijah started with fasting and then reached the high level to talk to God and appear with Christ. ..."

+ St. Basilios the Archbishop of Caesarea: It was said that meat was never been cooked at his kitchen all the period of his presidency. He said, "We were exiled from the earthly Paradise because we didn't fast. So, it is necessary to fast to regain the heavenly Paradise."

+ St. Jerome: "The Lord Himself sanctified His baptism by fasting 40 days before it, and He taught us that the toughest demons cannot be defeated except by fasting and prayer. He also said in his letter the Dimetrias the virgin, "We can collect from Scriptures countless number of Divine testimonies about fasting and how we have to overcome gluttony and prefer simple food.

+ Mar Isaac the Syrian: "Fasting is the beginning of God's holy way. It is the source of all virtues, the starting point of battle, the beauty of consecration, the protector of chastity, the father of prayer, the teacher of silence, the fountain of quietness and the proclaimed of all good things. + St. Gregory of Cyprus: "He who has big belly, his dreams are bad and will trouble his heart; but he who decrease his food will be always attentive. As the weather is dark because of the fog; so the mind will be darkened if the belly was filled

Change Me O Lord

By Mark Girguis



On July 12 we celebrated the martyrdom of two of the greatest personalities involved in establishing the Church of Christ on earth, Saints Peter and Paul. When I sit and think about these two saints I am in awe at the great works that God was able to do through them. And I begin to wonder if it is possible for there to be another Saint Peter or St. Paul. God how is it that You were able to use them? Why were they so successful? Aren't there millions of people serving Your Name today, yet they are nothing when compared to these two great apostles?

Dear Lord, I know that neither of them was perfect when they first started. I don't know if the Bible records anyone who made more mistakes than St. Peter. It seems as though He did not take Your calling seriously at first and You had to be patient with Him and go after Him, and give Him numerous chances. Even after following You he tried to understand things by his own mind, and accomplish things with his own strength.

Wasn't Peter the one that You called to walk on water and doubted when He looked away? I know he confessed You were the Christ, but right after did not You call him like Satan. Peter was the one who claimed to be the most devoted disciple, and yet he denied you three times. God it appears as though he had many weaknesses, yet he became a great apostle. Can You show me how?

And what about St. Paul? When first hearing about him, he was aiding in the death of one of Your beloved saints. He wrought havoc on the Church. Even You said Yourself that He was persecuting You, fighting against Your will. God I confess I have done the same thing. Is there hope that I can be as St. Paul?

Lord, there is one thing I do realize about these two

great saints. Their beginning was not like their end. And this gives me hope. I cannot help but notice, Lord, that these men underwent a transformation as a piece of clay in a potter's hand. They went from vessels of dishonor to vessels of honor. Was it simply because they allowed themselves to be changed by You. I suppose they came to a point where they became aware of their own insufficiencies and weaknesses and stopped trying to do on their own, and began to allow You to do through them. God I realize my own weakness. Will You tell me like St. Paul that Your grace is sufficient for me, and that Your strength can be made perfect in my weakness? And if You see me kicking against the goads, and resisting You, can You restrain me?

God I want You to come into my ship as You did for Peter. I want to stop toiling night after night only to catch nothing. God, come into my boat, take me into the deep! No longer do I want You to be a master, but in my eyes become as Lord. God I have seen how You have changed even the weakest of men, and made them the greatest of Apostles because You changed them. God Peter was a small pebble tossed back and forth by the waves of the sea, yet You made out of Him a rock, a pillar for Your Church that Hades could have no power against. And Paul, a persecutor of the Church, allowed himself to be persecuted for the Church. He allowed himself to be crucified for Your sake that Your life would be manifested in Him. He was able to do all things because You gave Him strength. Lord, after looking at their lives I can't help but to feel a need to be changed. God, please prune this branch that it may bear more fruit, even if the pruning is going to hurt me and my ego. God I know You love each and everyone of us the way we are, but I also know that You love us too much to leave us this way. I know You want more for us so I ask You, stretch out Your mighty hand. Consume all that is dark in me, cleanse me from all my iniquities, compliment my shortcomings. Change me, O Lord, just change me!

Fun Facts about the Bible You Never Knew!



By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

- (1) Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Anniversaries must have been a problem!
- (2) Bethlehem means, "house of bread".
- (3) The Ark was made of cypress wood (gopher).
- (4) The four men who lived the longest life throughout history were (1) Methuselah: 969 years (2) Jared: 962 years. (3) Noah: 950 years.
- (5) Adam died at 930 years of age (Gen. 5).
- (6) In the entire book of Esther, God is not mentioned once! But His Providence appeared from behind the curtains.
- (7) Israelites were forbidden to wear clothes made of two kinds of material (So much for 50% cotton/50% polyester) --Leviticus 19:19
- (8) David's warriors could shoot arrows right and left-handed (1 Chronicles 12:2).
- (9) Manna tasted like honey wafers (Ex. 16:31).
- (10) In ancient Israel, men closed a deal by exchanging sandals (Ruth 4:7).
- (11) Ham, Noah's son built Nineveh (Gen. 10:11)
- (12) The ultimate sarcasm: God described the people of Nineveh as not knowing their left from their right. Some say it refers to children (Jonah 4:11).
- (13) They had peanut butter in the Bible- Ezekiel's tongue was stuck to the roof of his mouth until the Lord gave him words (Ezek. 3:26, 27).
- (14) Jonah wasn't the only one sent to Nineveh, the prophet Nahum also ministered there (Nahum 1:1).
- (15) The Levites had a mandatory retirement age of 50 years (Numbers 8:25).
- (16) During a famine in Samaria, a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels of silver (2 Kings 6:25).



Quiz Time!

I. What was his original profession?

1. Demetrius? (Acts 19:24)
2. St. Paul? (Acts 18:13-)
3. St. Luke? (Col. 4:14)
4. Alexander? (2 Tim. 4:14)
5. Lydia? (Acts 16:14)
6. Zacchaeus? (Luke 19:2)
7. Tertullus? (Acts 24:1)
8. Amos? (Amos 7:14)
9. Ezra? (Ezra 7:5, 6)
10. Nehemiah? (Neh. 1:11)

II. References...Where do you find it?

1. "Jesus wept?"
2. "A man reaps what he sows"
3. "Let My people go"
4. "Whatever He says to you do it"
5. "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men"
6. "God is love"
7. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"
8. "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"
9. "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not father with Me scatters abroad"
10. "Flee from youthful lusts"

III. Who Said...?

1. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9).
2. "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10)
3. "From now on, all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1).
4. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8).
5. "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39).

Full of Grace or Favored One

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

In the Annunciation, Archangel Gabriel's greeting to St. Mary, mentioned in **Luke 1:28**, is translated differently. Here are some of these translations....

1. The Coptic Orthodox Version:
"The angel said to her, "Peace be with you, O full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women."

2. The Catholic Jesuit Version:
"Peace be with you, O full of grace...."

3. New King James:
"The angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored...."

4. Living Bible:
"Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'congratulations, favored lady!...'"

5. Today's English Virgin:
"The angel said to her, 'Peace be with you, the Lord is with you, and has greatly blessed you.'"

6. New International Version:
"The angel said to her, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored.'"

7. Phillips Modern English:
"Greetings to you, Mary, O favored one."

8. Jerusalem Bible:
"He said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favored!'"

9. Revised Standard Version:
"He said to her, 'Hail, O favored one.'"

10. New English Bible:
"The angel said to her, greetings, most favored one!"

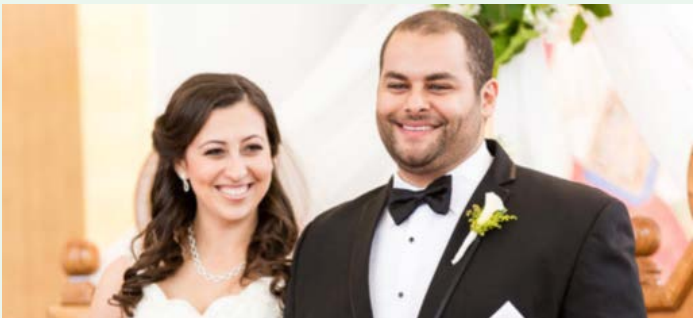
In the footnotes of the Orthodox Study Bible, which is printed by the Greek Orthodox Church using the New King James Version, we read the following comment on that verse, Luke 1:28, "Highly favored (Greek: Charitoo) can also be translated

"Full of grace."



"Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great fiery red dragon...stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron." (Revelation 12:16-).

Congratulations



St. John Church congratulates
Nathan and Dina Kamel
for their blessed marriage, wishing them an ideal Christian happy, successful life and a great home built on the Rock of God's word and His church. Congratulations also to their two families, Michael and Randa Kamel and Dr. Shafie and Dr. Sanaa Abdel-Masshih.
+++

St. John Church congratulates
Michael Abusaad & his bride Reham
for their marriage, praying that God may bless their life together and grant them love, joy and harmony.



St. John Church congratulates
Dina George and Karim Nashed
for the baptism of their baby girl



Natalia (Mariam)
May the Lord Jesus bless the child and grant her health, growth and long life.

News In Pictures



Our Clergy Voting



Our Youth in Africe

Congratulations

CLASS 2014



College

Marina Mikhael

On your graduation from the University of California (UCLA) with a Bachelors of Science in Biology. You demonstrated how clinging on to God will sustain you so that you overcame every hardship.

-We love you, Dad, Mom, Mary, Peter and Mina.

Olivia M. Ishak

On your earning a Masters of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy «MFT». God promised,» I honor those who honor Me» and we all saw how He honored you. We are so proud of you, your drive towards your goal, your Christian work ethic, service to Christ and overcoming so many challenges along the way to graduation. -Love, Mom, Mary and Teta.

Monica Youssef

On earning a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology from the University of California at Riverside. Congratulations also on getting accepted California Polytechnic Institute (Cal Poly Pomona) to earn a Masters Degree in Psychology. We are proud of you, May God always direct your path dearest Monica. Love, Dad, Mom and Paul.



Ereny Hanna,

Our blessed daughter Ereny: congratulations on your graduation from CSUN and receiving a B.A., in Electronic Media Management. May the Lord Jesus bless you and your dreams. Love, Dad, Mom & Teta Nadia.

Ogen Emad

For your graduation from Art Institute in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania - Love, Dad, Mom and Madonna

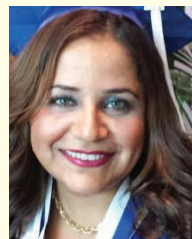
Souzan F. Shehata

For your graduation from San- Antonio College in Medical Billing & Coding. -Love, Family and Church.

High School

Antony Yassa

For your graduation from High School and going to college. May God grant you His blessings and more success in life. -Love, Dad, Mom and Daniel.



Junior High

Kerollos Yacoub

For your graduation from Junior High. May the Lord bless you and grant you continuous success. Dad, Mom and Mariam



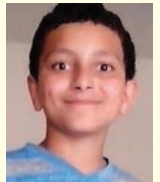
Yohana Nasif

For your graduation from J.H. Love, Family and Church



Peter Georges

For your graduation from Junior High - Love, Family and Church.



David Tawadros

For your graduation from Junior High - Love, Family and Church



Veroneka Matta

For your graduation from Junior High - Love, Family and Church



Marolla Hanna

For graduation from Elementary to J.H. and for learning violin - Dad, Mom, George and Church

