

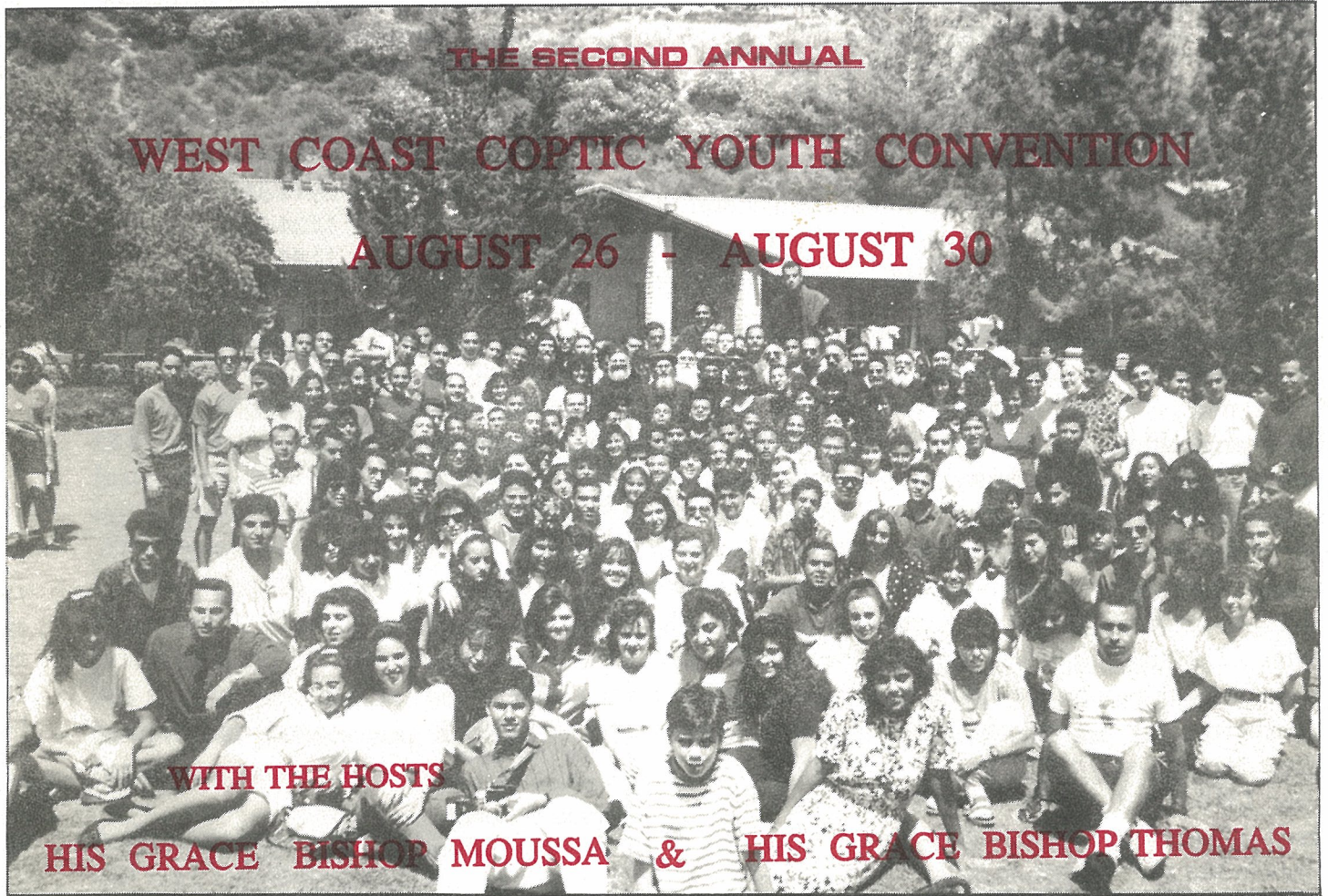
# ST. JOHN

SEPTEMBER 1991

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**NAWRŪZ**, thought to be of Persian origin on the assumption of its traditional use in Iran, word originally derived from an ancient Egyptian equivalent adopted by the Persians during their occupation of Egypt. It denotes Coptic New Year's Day, commemorated in the Coptic church liturgy but also celebrated as one of the great popular feasts by the whole Egyptian nation. It falls on 1 Tūt (11 September), which is the first month of the Coptic year and takes its name from the Egyptian god Thoth. In ancient Egypt, it was a day of celebration, ceremonies, and processions in which the golden statuette of Hathor, the goddess of plenty, was taken out of

its temple at Dandarah at the break of dawn amid music and chanting to inaugurate the New Year. This same day is still a day of tremendous celebrations among all the people of Egypt. The fourteenth-century Arab historian al-MAQRĪZĪ devoted space in his work to a description of the popular festivities associated with that day in medieval times. Dressed in their best attire, people exchanged visits and fruits of the season, notably dates. The festivities continued throughout the night, and the populace took to drinking and debauchery until the Mamluk state decided to suppress Nawrūz as an approved public holiday in the year 1378-1379. In the church, however, its celebration continued. The Coptic New Year still figures in the Synaxarion as a day of healing by water.

\* القمص تدارس يعقوب مع رحلة الكنيسة  
بالاسكندرية.



	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Light Under a Bushel	5:15-16	4:21-22	8:16-17
New Cloth, Old Clothes	9:16	2:21	5:36
New Wine, Old Wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38
Sower of Seeds	13:3-23	4:2-20	8:4-15
Mustard Seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
Wicked Tenants	21:33-45	12:1-12	20:9-19
Leaves on a Fig Tree	24:32-33	13:28-29	21:29-31
House on Rock, Sand	7:24-27		6:47-49
Leaven (Yeast)	13:33		13:20-21
Lost Sheep	18:12-14		15:3-7
Talents, Pounds for Three Servants	25:14-30		19:11-27
Weeds in the Wheat	13:24-30		
Hidden Treasure	13:44		
Valuable Pearl	13:45-46		
Fishing Net	13:47-50		
Unmerciful Servant	18:23-35		
Workers in the Vineyard	20:1-16		
Father, Two Sons	21:28-32		
Wedding Feast	22:1-14		
Ten Bridesmaids	25:1-13		
Sheep and Goats	25:31-46		
A Growing Seed		4:26-29	
Doorkeeper on Watch		13:34-37	
Two Debtors			7:41-43
Good Samaritan			10:25-37
Friend at Midnight			11:5-10
Rich Fool			12:16-21
Ready Servants			12:37-38
Wise Manager			12:42-48
Fruitless Fig Tree			13:6-9
Place of Honor			14:7-14
Reluctant Guests			14:16-24
Lost Coin			15:8-10
Prodigal Son			15:11-32
Dishonest Manager			16:1-13
Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19-31
Servant's Duty			17:7-10
Persistent Widow			18:1-8
Pharisee and Tax Collector			18:9-14

كل عام وانتم بخير  
بمناسبة حلول عيد رأس  
السنة القبطية ١٧٠٨



## 1. The Triumph of the Blessed Mark the Mourner

Macarius the priest told us the following story:-

" At the time when I was administering the Holy Offering I took good heed unto Mark the mourner, and I never gave it to him, but an angel did so from the altar; I saw, however, the palm of the hand of the angel who gave it unto him." Now this Mark was a young man, and he could repeat by heart the New and the Old Testaments; he was meek and humbel beyond measure, and both in body and in thought he was purer than many.

## 2. The History of the Virgin Potamina

There was a certain young virgin called Potamina who was exceedingly beautiful and she was a Christian; she was a handmaiden of a certain worldly man who was given over to a life of pleasure, and she lived in very great luxury, and her master flattered her greatly, wishing to destroy her. And being unable to bring her into subjection to his will, he at length was seized with madness, and he became furiously angry with her and delivered her over a certain prefect who lived at that time in Alexandria ( i.e, Basilides ), saying "She is a Christian, and she reviles the government, and utters blasphemies against the Emperor. " And he promised to give him much money saying, " If she can be persuaded to do my will, keep her for me without disgrace and punishment, but if she persists in her obstinacy of heart, punish her with every kind of torture that pleases you, and let her not remain alive to laugh at me and at my luxurious way of life."

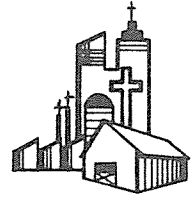
And when they brought the valiant woman before the throne of the judges, she was greatly moved, but she was not persuaded; and the prefect tortured the body of the virgin of Christ with many different kinds of tortures. Then again after these things he thought out a crafty plan, and invented a method of punishment by torture which was as follows. He commanded them to bring a huge cauldron which was full of pitch, and to light a fierce fire under it, and when the pitch was melted and was boiling, the judge cried to her, saying, " Go you and submit yourself to the will of your Lord, and know that if you does not this thing you shall straightway; fall into this cauldron."

Now when she heard this, she sealed her soul, and answered and said," You judge with iniquity, O judge, for you command me to become subject unto fornication. I am the handmaiden of Christ, and it is meet that I should stand before His throne without blemish."

And when the judge heard this, he was straightway greatly troubled and filled with wrath, and he commanded them to bring her and to cast her into the cauldron. Then the virgin said unto him, " I adjure you, by the head of the Emperor, if you command me to this thing of your own self, to command them to put me into the cauldron little by little, without stripping my apparel from me, so that you may know the patient endurance which I have through Christ for the sake of my purity." And as they were dipping her little by little into the cauldron, for a very short space of time, immediately the pitch reached her neck it became cold; thus she delivered her soul unto God, and she was crowned with a good martyrdom. And a great congregation of holy men and women were made perfect (i.e., they suffered martyrdom) at that time in the church of Alexandria, and they became worthy of that land which the meek inherit.

(Potamina was martyred, with her mother Marcella, in the reign of Septimius Severus.)

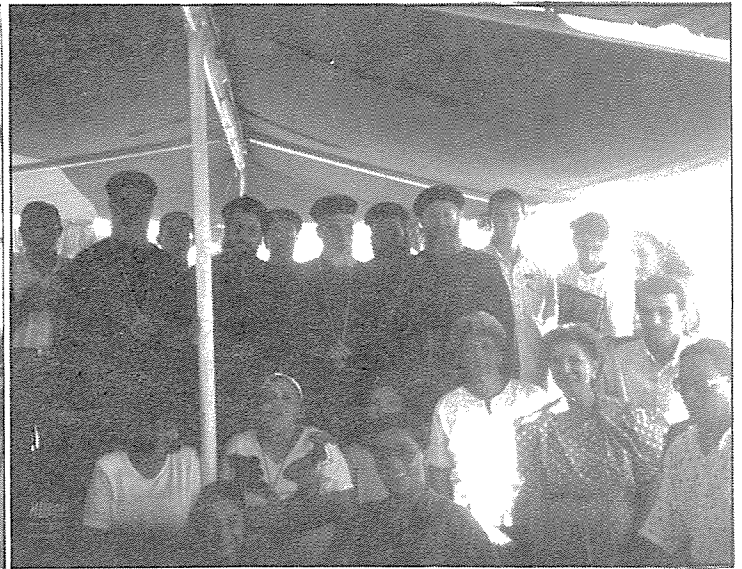
## Meeting Times



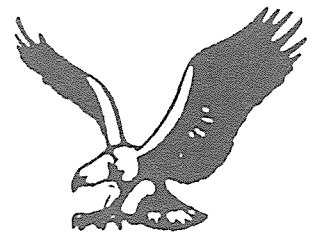
1. Sunday Arabic Liturgy 8:00 - 11:30 A.M.
2. Sunday English Liturgy 8:00 - 11:00 A.M.
3. Wednesday Liturgy from 8:00 - 10:00 A.M.
4. Friday Liturgy 8:00 -10:00 A.M.
5. Saturday Vespers from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. including Bible Study from the Old & New Testaments.
6. The Arabic youth meeting: 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. Friday
7. The youth meeting (English): Saturday from 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.
8. The deacon's meeting: Friday 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.
9. The Sunday school teacher's meeting: Sunday following the Liturgy at 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.



\* قداسة البابا شنودة يستضيف رحلة الكنيسة بدير الانبايشوي.



\* القمص صليب سوريال وكهنة الجيزة يستضيفون رحلة الكنيسة بالعوامة في النيل.



## *An Eagle Drowns !*

On one of the cold winter days, a massive iceberg floated on the surface of the Niagara River and on it was an animal's corpse. All of a sudden a huge eagle landed on it and started eating the dead meat without any attention to what the iceberg is floating towards. For at the end of the river was the infamous Niagara Falls and the current was pulling the iceberg with its hungry passenger on top.

When the iceberg finally reached the brink of the great falls, the eagle in great distress tried to fly moving his wings with all his strength, but it was too late! "What happened?"

His paws became stuck in the ice while he enjoyed his meal. He could not escape from his terrible destiny because the iceberg fell down the falls, carrying with it the great bird which was killed and drowned immediately.

*What a tragic unexpected end for the great king of birds. How many people are like this stupid eagle? Many foolish people end their lives in that same way. Jesus likened them to the five foolish virgins who took their lamps with no oil and also to the foolish man who built his house on the sand and it fell. We are going rapidly towards eternity, with everyday that passes we come closer and closer to the end of our lives. I fear that you might have forgotten this fact.*

*Are you ready now to stand before the Great Throne of God's Judgement?*

*Do you think that you have one single excuse that can stand in the face of death?*

*Do you know that death comes soon and suddenly in most cases? The Word of God declares it clear in advance, that "you are inexcusable, O man" (Rom. 2:1). The Lord Jesus Christ is reminding you, "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul, or what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:26).*

*If you want **not** to fear death or gamble with your eternal life, do the following immediately:*

- 1. Repent and reconcile with God now as the Bible says, and not tomorrow as the devil wants.*
- 2. Confess your sins, bad habits, hate and divorce them.*
- 3. Receive the Holy Communion next Sunday and in every chance possible in order to abide in Christ and He in you.*
- 4. Read the Bible on a daily basis, as much as you can and "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16).*

5. *Go to Church and to the evening spiritual meetings, continuing steadfastly with perseverance.*
6. *Get rid of all the obstacles, including the bad friends or neighbors, and substitute them with a new set of wise and Godly friends.*
7. *Love the Lord Jesus Christ who loved you and sacrificed His Blood for you on the cross to save you . Love Him from all your heart, mind, soul and strength.*
8. *Train yourself to fight sins, bad habits, shortcomings , and to love and practice good works (fruits).*
9. *Pray and talk to the Lord Jesus as your best friend, and you will experience a new pleasure, blessing and power.*
10. *Involve yourself in the Lord's service and invest your talents, arts, for His Glory, increasing your heavenly funds and treasures (Matt. 6:26).*

*If you did these things, you will have peace of mind, and will be the happiest person on earth.*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).*

#### *Church News*

1. His Holiness Pope Shenouda III is currently in the U.S., for medical treatment and also to open the new Papal Headquarters in New Jersey.
2. The church will celebrate the *Nyrouss Feast* (the Coptic New Year ), Wednesday, September 11. The program will begin at 8:30 P.M. with the Vespers, then followed by a children's performance, Homilies, and at the start of the new year the Holy Liturgy will be celebrated until 1:30 A.M. Happy New Year!
3. His Grace Bishop Rewis will bless the youth meeting, Friday September 20, at 7:30 P.M.
4. The *Feast of the Cross* will be Saturday, September 28. The Liturgy will be celebrated from 8:00 - 10:00 A.M.
5. St. John's Church went to San Diego for the second annual Labor day weekend, family conference. Fr. Augustinos prayed the Asheya and the Liturgy, Sunday morning. The families and youth that attended, said " goodbye " to summer since after this weekend, *"it's business as usual "*.


## 10 Ways To Please God


1. Do What God Says- Read and study the Bible on daily basis, and obey His commandments.
2. Love - Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God and then to love your neighbor as yourself.
3. Pray- Talk to God as your loving father or best friend, thanking, praising, and telling Him your problems- then listening to Him talking to you.
4. Go to Church - Church is an opportunity to visit the Lord, worship Him and to show God you love Him. Also you will be with other believers in a pleasant and pure fellowship. Imagine having to explain to Him one day why you didn't visit His house!
5. Have Communion- One of the greatest mysteries of the holy, victorious, abundant and blessed life, is to have communion whenever you get a chance. It is the feast of the King of Kings and the Royal way to heaven and to abide in Christ and He in you (Jn. 6: 56).
6. Share - Give of yourself, your time, your money, your care and talents as well as your possessions.
7. Help and encourage others - It's easy to find another who is in need of a "boost." A note, a special favor, or just some kind words could help someone else through a difficult situation.
8. Forgive Others - Remember God will forgive you in the same way that you forgive others. You should try hard not to hold grudges when others mistreat you. Forgive and forget.
9. Set a good example- God wants you to influence others for Him. The best way to do that is to live so that His influence shows in your own life. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who live in me" (Gal. 2:20).
10. Follow the golden rule in Christianity- "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them." ( Luke 6:31)




# SYMBOLS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

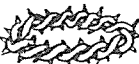
**Apple**—Temptation; Sin 


**Butterfly**—Easter; Resurrection; New Life 


**Candle**—Light; Jesus, the Light of the World 


**Circles (Trefoll)**—The Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit); God's Love; Salvation 


**Crown**—Christ the King 

**Crown of Thorns**—Sufferings of Christ 

**Dove (Descending)**—The Holy Spirit (With Olive Branch)—Peace, Forgiveness 


**Eye**—God the Father who knows all, sees all things 

**Fire, Flames**—Presence of God 


**Fish**—Salvation; Secret symbol of early Christians 


**Heart**—Love 

**Lamb**—Christ, the Lamb of God 

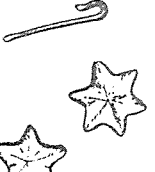
**Lily**—Easter; Resurrection 


**Menorah**—Old Testament 


**Palm Branches**—Palm Sunday; Victory 

**Rainbow**—God's promise not to flood the entire earth again 


**Staff**—The Good Shepherd, Jesus

**Star (5 Points)**—Star of Bethlehem—Jesus' Birth  
**(6 Points)**—Star of David—Judaism and now the modern country of Israel 

**Sun**—Jesus, Son of Righteousness 

**Sword**—The Spirit, conqueror of evil 

**Tablets**—Ten Commandments 

**Tree**—Tree of Life; Jesus said, "I am the vine." 

**Triangles**—The Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) 