



El-Keraza Magazine

Editor-in-chief: His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III

Thirty Fifth Year

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Ordaining Monks & Priests, and Ecumenical Meetings

Last week was full of joyous days at the monastery and in Cairo where ordination of monks and priests took place.

HH the Pope ordained twenty monks on one day (Friday 23/2) as follows: 3 monks for the Baramous Monastery.

4 Monks for St. Shenouda Monastery in Sohag.

5 Monks for St. Mary Monastery Mount of Akhmim.

8 for St. George Monastery in Khatatba.

HH also ordained 9 of the reverend priests at St. Pishoi's Monastery (Saturday 24/2).

And on Monday (26/2) the Pope ordained 8 of the reverend priests two of them for St. Mary Church in Zeitoun and six for St. George Monastery in Khatatba.

And the total number of those who were ordained is 20 monks and 17 priests which means 37 in total.

We thank the Lord for His Grace.

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There are many Priesthood ordination which took place at dioceses as well as the hands of the reverend bishops: in Akhmim, Abu Teeg, Menofeya, Shobra Al Kheima and Sinai which are published in this issue.

It all indicates a growth in pastoral work and care given to the congregation; we extend our congratulations on that growth.

Last week also HH the Pope had many meetings one of which is his meeting with the reverend priests of Gerga who requested the ordination of a bishop for their diocese, they presented their nomination and HH discussed it with them.

Another meeting was with the reverend priests of Heliopolis who requested the ordination of other two priests in addition to the ten priests they already have in their church, and other similar requests from other churches from Cairo and Alexandria.

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During that week also HH the

Pope received meeting of the Middle East Council of Churches' Heads at the papal residence in Cairo.

HH also presided the Council's Executive committee meeting on Thursday 1/3 and bid farewell to the members on Friday, the General Assembly's next meeting is scheduled to be by the end of Feb 2007 in Cyprus.

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HH the Pope also received some of the reverend priests from Egypt and from the land of immigration.

HH also received official VIPs: Vice President of Burundi along with an official VIPs delegate.



Central Committee meeting of the Middle East Council of Churches in St. Mark Coptic Center, Nasr City

Ordaining Nine Monks as Priests

HH the Pope along with HG Bishop Sarabamoon ordained on Saturday morning 24/2 seven priests of St. Pishoi's Monastery monks and two of St. Makar's Monastery monks who reside at the in St. Pishoi's Monastery, and they are:

From St. Pishoi's Monastery: Fr. Armanious, Fr. Demian, Fr. Pakhum, Fr. Hedra, Fr. Axious, Fr. Beamen and Fr. Yo'eel.

From St. Makar's Monastery: Fr. Axious, Fr. Niqodimos.

It was such a joyous day at the monastery.



With the Reverend Priests of Gerga

HH the Pope received at his papal residence in the monastery on Saturday 24/2, twenty four of the reverend priests of Gerga with Hegomen Mercurious Al Baramousy the Papal Vicar of Gerga, HG Bishop Isotheres Abbot of Baramous monastery attended this meeting which lasted for more than an hour, it was for supporting the Pope's stance as well as for nominating a bishop for the monastery.

With the reverend priests of St. Mark Church, Heliopolis

On Sunday evening 25/2 HH the Pope received nine of the reverend Priests of St. Mark Church-Heliopolis concerning nominating two new priests for serve the church and the surrounding area.

Their Grace Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia attended the meeting, it has been agreed upon another appointment during the next week.



Our Church in Jordan

With His Majesty King of Jordan

His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein received the Christians of Jordan in his house where he extended his felicitations on Christmas.

His Majesty is seen in the photo receiving Hegomen Antonious Sobhy.

Hegomen Antonious was chosen two months before Christmas as member of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center.



Our Church in Jordan

❖ Ambassador Ahmed Rizk of Egypt in Jordan came to our church (along with his spouse) on Christmas to extend felicitations to the church's congregation on behalf of President Mohamed Hosni Mobarak.

❖ On Epiphany (19/1), the reverend Priests, deacons and a large number of the church congregation visited the Jordan River (Baptismal site) where they prayed the Prayer of Thanksgiving

and chanted church hymns.

Our New Church in Jordan

❖ We already were handed over the new piece of land for our church on Jordan River (5000Sq Mts.) with Prayer of Thanksgiving, the congregation is waiting for HH the Pope's arrival to lay the church's foundation stone. Our congratulations to everyone.

Hegomen Antonious Sobhy

He arrived to Cairo on Tuesday 28/2 to attend a

conference affiliated to the United nations program about AIDS in the Arab countries.

He was chosen as member of the Steering committee of the Religious Leaders Regional Forum in response to HIV/ AIDS in the Arab countries; his committee promotes services to 17 countries in the Arab world, North and South of the African continent, the motto is (Religions in the Service of Humanity).

A Prayer at the Jordan Riverside



The Bishopric of Youths Church Youths message Written by the Youths...and for the Youths

It will be issued by the beginning of March with a new and different look aiming at more communication with the youths in

their needs and circumstances. Reverend bishops and priests along with church servants and a large number of the youths participate in writing on contemporary subjects.

You can get your issue from the Bishopric of youths library and

from the youths church servants and libraries at churches.

For more information:

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Ordaining 20 Monks in Four Monasteries

On Friday morning 23/2 HH the Pope went to Baramous Monastery where he ordained twenty monks.

Their Grace the Abbots of monasteries who participated in the ordinations prayers are: Bishop Sarabamoon, Bishop Metaous, Bishop Isotheres and Bishop Mina along with Their Grace Bishop Abraam, Bishop Cherubim, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Seraphim and Bishop Dawood.

The New monks are:

From El Baramous Monastery →

Monk Ibrahim, Monk Missael and Monk Nofer.



The Pope with HG Bishop Isotheres, Baramous' Monastery monks and monasticism novices.

From St. Shenouda's Monastery, Sohag

Monk Mousa, Monk Mina, Monk Abraam and Monk Karas. →



The Pope with their Grace Bishop Isotheres and Bishop Younes along with monks of the White Monastery in Sohag

From St. Mary's Monastery, Hawawish

Monk Athanasious, Monk Peagol, Monk Antonious, Monk Samuel and Monk Kirollos. →



The Pope with Their Grace Bishop Abraam and Bishop Isotheres and the monks of Akhmim

From St. George's Monastery, Khatatba

Monk Shenouda, Monk Sarabamoon, Monk Karas, Monk Philopateer, Monk Youssef, Monk Daniel, Monk Bishoy and Monk Makar.

Church's News



The Pope in Cairo and Alexandria on the Beginning of February

On Tuesday, HH gave his Theology lecture at the Institute of Coptic Studies.

On Wednesday HH delivered his weekly sermon at the Great Cathedral in the attendance of a large number of the reverend bishops and priests.

And on Thursday the Pope attended the charity committee meeting at the papal residence then traveled to the monastery.

On Friday HH traveled to Alexandria.

And on Saturday he attended the charity committee meeting at Alexandria then gave his lecture at the Theological Seminary.

Afterwards HH the Pope participated in a Colloquium about Interfaith peace where His Eminence Grand Imam of Azhar also participated.

On Sunday the Pope had miscellaneous meetings.

Then he delivered his sermon the Great Church of St. Mark.

With His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop

On Wednesday noon 14/2 HH the Pope received HE Metropolitan Bishop the Holy Synod Secretary as a representative of the Syndic Committee for Dioceses Affairs.

HH received Metropolitan Bishop another time concerning HG Bishop Pachumious' request to convene an emergency Holy Synod meeting.

Caring for the Poor, Old Cairo Region

As Old Cairo region has many poor and some of its churches cannot sometimes take care of them in fulfilling their needs; HH the Pope appointed HG Bishop Ermia and the team working with him to care for those poor and work on serving them socially giving them their needs either directly or by transforming them to the charity committee at the papal residence which receives many of such cases on weakly basis since months ago...

With HG Bishop Serapion

HH received on Tuesday 13/2 HG Bishop Serapion of Los Angeles who accompanied the new priests Fr. Kirolos Ibrahim and accompanied him on the way to the Pope's residence in St. Pishoi's Monastery.

With some of the Reverend Bishops

On Thursday 15/2 HH the Pope received Their Grace Bishop Mousa, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

HH also received Their Grace:

❖ Bishop Antony of Ireland, Scotland and North Eastern of England.

❖ Bishop Martyrous General Bishop at Eastern Seka Hadid region.

❖ Bishop Macarius General Bishop in El Menia.

❖ Bishop Mina Abbot of St. George's Monastery, Khatatba.

Fifth Conference of Childhood Committee

The Childhood committee, which is a Syndic sub committee for Social and Ecumenical Services under the auspices of its president HG Bishop Pachumious, held its fifth conference from 4/2 to 7/2/2007 in St. Mark's Karma-Damanhour and its motto was "Childhood varies in cultures and kinds", lectures revolved round the orphan who suffers Psychological and physical pain, the addicted, the normal and the gifted child. 44 dioceses participated in that meeting represented by 41 priests, church servants and devoted sisters.

Their Grace who gave lectures are Bishop Pachumious, Bishop Binyamin, Bishop Tawadrous Head of the committee of Childhood, Fr. Arsanious Nady, Pr. Ramez Bedwany, Dr. Nasif Fahmy, Dr. Mary Mikhail, Dr. Mariam Bedwany, Dr. Mary Halim (City Center-Caritas) and Qadry Habil.

Fr. Thawfelous Nesseim was the conference's Secretary, and the 'Heart of David' Choir performed the "Alexandria" marionette play and 'Marsa Matrouh' Choir also chanted church songs.

The attendees agreed on having the next meeting in Archangel Monastery-Ezbet Henein, Menofeya on 7-9/2007 and the meeting of the gifted children in King Mariout Karma on 23-28/7/2007.

Executive Committee Meeting World Council of Churches

The committee meetings will be held in Geneva-Switzerland from Tuesday 27/2 till Friday 2/3. HE Metropolitan Bishop as a member of this committee will be representing our church.

And as HE Metropolitan Bishop will be busy attending the Middle East Council of Churches Executive Committee meetings on that same period of time; HH the Pope appointed HG Bishop Youanes (member of the Council's Central Committee) to attend the Executive Committee meeting.

Syndic Sub Committee for Family Church Service

Held its 9th meeting at St. Abraam Monastery-Fayoum from 4/2 to 6/2 which was presided by the committee's Head HG Bishop Lucas of Abanoub & Fateh.

The meetings tackled several issues:

As the marital dialogue, dimensions of love in a happy marriage, families and children on their first five years, body and marriage and family visitation.

Those who gave lectures:

Their Grace Bishop Abraam, Bishop Lukas, Bishop Macarius (General Bishop), Fr. Andrawous Mounir (from Fayoum) and Dr. Magdy Isaac.

Number of attendees:

Was 185 members 32 of whom were of the reverend priests. 75 church servants, 6 Devoted Sisters and 72 female church servants who all represent 31 dioceses in addition to Cairo's and Wadi Al Gadid churches.

Hegomen Shenouda Wadie priest of St. George Church-Abanoub was the meeting's Secretary along with members of the Permanent Family Committee.

The Bishopric of Youths Meetings

On the mid term vacation the Bishopric of Youths held 28 conventions in 28 dioceses and the main motto was "The Church My Mother".

Reverend bishops, priests, professional church servants and fighting addiction church servants gave lectures during those conventions.

News from the Pope's Trip

Reverend Priests whom the Pope met on his Trip

- ❖ Hegomen Mikhail Edward and Fr. Zakareya Al Baramousy in Mexico.
- ❖ Hegomen Bishoy Fahmy in Pittsburg.
- ❖ Hegomen Girguis Sobhy and his wife along with Fr. Shenouda Awad and his wife in Long Island.
- ❖ Hegomen Anastasy Prior of St. Anthony Monastery in California- Fr. Rafael- and Fr. Angaelos of the monastery's monks.
- ❖ Hegomen Bishoy Demetry form East Brunswick and Fr. Mark Hanna with some of the church council members.
- ❖ Fr. Macarious for Dayton & Bergen.
- ❖ Hegomen Angaelos Mikhail from Mississauga.
- ❖ Hegomen Seraphim from Montreal.
- ❖ Hegomen Shenouda Dous from Ottawa.
- ❖ Fr. Youssef Zaki from Belleville.
- ❖ Hegomen Abram fro Holmdel.

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A picture of the visit that HH the Pope paid to the Rotary Club of Alexandria on Saturday 17/2.



St. Mary and St. Abraam's Church Council, Ajax, Ontario, Canada

Papal decree No 4/36 has been issued to form the church council presided by Fr. Mousa matter and members:

1. Adel Ibrahim.
2. Ibrahim Soliman.
3. Bassem Tawfik.
4. Sameh George.
5. Nashaat Botros.
6. Ayman Basta.
7. Osama Aazer.
8. Basel Tawadrous.

Papal Decree St. Moses the Black and St. Abraam's Church, New Jersey, America

Papal decree has been issued to form the church council as follows:

1. Fr. Youssef Halim, President.
2. Dr. Magdy Ghaly, Treasurer.
3. Accountant Ayman Sayeed, member.
4. Mrs. Claire Girguis, member.
5. Pharmacist Joseph Mousa, member.
6. Eng. Magdy Rafael, member.
7. Eng. Karam Wassef, member.
8. Mrs. Mary Ghobrial, member.
9. Miss Gina Attallah (Secretary and youths representative).

Translating the Agpeya to Spanish language

AGPEYA

"ORACOES DAS HORAS"

DA IGREJA COPTA ORTODOXA

Billiards Championship won by Sameh Kamel Selim



He is the grandchild of Dr Youssef Youakim and the son of international referee Kamel Selim, he won the Billiards Holland International Championship in which 8 countries participated: Holland, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Czech Republic, Luxemburg and Egypt.

He is now preparing himself for the World Championship.

It is to be noted that he is a student at the third year of Dentistry school and that he won Egypt's championship.

The news of his win was published in Al Akhbar Newspaper dated 2/2/2007, and on Al Ahram dated 3/2/2007.

HH the Pope's Weekly Meeting at the Cathedral

The Pope's meeting on Wednesday 21/2 was very much crowded, the Cathedral was filled with thousands of the congregation expressing their love to HH in addition to the hundreds who were outside the Cathedral having no place inside...

The meeting was attended by a large number of the reverend metropolitans, bishops and priests along with the Holy Bible Association representatives in the East:

- 1- Holy Bible Association Manager of the Gulf Area.
- 2- Holy Bible Association Manager of Palestine.
- 3- Holy Bible Association Manager of Jordan.
- 4- Holy Bible Association Manager of Turkey.
- 5- Holy Bible Association Manager of Lebanon.
- 6- Holy Bible Association Manager of Morocco.
- 7- Holy Bible Association Manager of Algeria.

And in answering questions at the beginning of the meeting HH refused to answer any question presented by those trouble makers and said: our meeting is just a spiritual meeting during which we do not talk about politics, elaborating that anyone can know the news in details from Keraza magazine.

And in answering another question HH said: the church has one unified opinion, the Holy Synod took its decision unanimously and not by majority of votes, the Clergy meeting in Cairo and Alexandria also took their decision unanimously as well as all the dioceses which had unanimity of opinion.

As the managers of the Holy Bible Association were present, HH sermon was about the Holy Bible. After the meeting, Channel 3 of Egypt which recorded the meeting had an interview with HH...

St. Mary's Church Greenville, America

Based on the church's council nomination (as reported by in our priest Fr. Shenouda Morkos' letter), HH the Pope issued decree No 5/36 to have Eng. Michael Khairy Wahba as member of the church council representing the youths in 2007 and he is a well known member of the church.

Letters from the Reverend Priests of Dioceses Support

We received many letters from the dioceses having which are all condemning what has been published against the Pope, referring to their love to the Pope as shepherd who is faithful in preserving the church's education. Of these messages we mention:

- 1- Formal declaration from the diocese of Tanta.
- 2- Formal declaration from Al Beheira, Matrouh and its affiliated regions.
- 3- Formal declaration from the diocese of Giza.
- 4- Formal declaration from Al Balyana, Berdeis and Dar Al Salam.
- 5- Formal declaration from the diocese of Helwan and Ma'sara.
- 6- Formal declaration from the diocese of Senbo and Deyrout.
- 7- Formal declaration from the diocese of Mansoura and its affiliated regions.
- 8- Declaration from the diocese of Shebein Al Koum and Menofeya.
- 9- Declaration from the diocese of Bani Swaif.
- 10- Declaration from the diocese of Maghagha and Adwa.
- 11- Declaration from Quena and its affiliated regions.
- 12- Declaration from Aswan and its affiliated regions.
- 13- Declaration from Mallawy, Ensena and Ashmuneyeen.
- 14- Declaration from Tahta and Guhayna.
- 15- Declaration from the diocese of Southern Sinai.
- 16- Declaration from the diocese of Northern Sinai.
- 17- Declaration from Sanbo and Deyrout.
- 18- Declaration from Quoseya and Meer.
- 19- Declaration from Gerga and its affiliated regions.
- 20- Declaration from the diocese of Meit Ghamr.
- 21- Declaration from the diocese of Akhmim and Sakeltah.
- 22- Declaration from the diocese of Shobra Al Kheima.
- 23- Declaration from the diocese of Abanoub and Fateh.
- 24- Declaration from the diocese of Fayoum.
- 25- Declaration from the diocese of Naga Hammadi.
- 26- Declaration from the diocese of Port Said.
- 27- Declaration from the diocese of Samallout.
- 28- Declaration from the diocese of

Mattay and its affiliated regions.
29- Declaration from Shebein Al Qanater.
30- Declaration from Mahalla Kobra.

Monasteries Monks also Sent us Support Letters:

- From the Baramous Monastery.
- From St. Anthony's Monastery, Jerusalem.
- St. Pishoi's Monastery, Natroun Valley.
- St. Mina Monastery, Mariout.
- Abba Faan Monastery.
- St. Mary Monastery (Mobarak).
- Archangel Gabriel Monastery, Mount Naqloun.
- Surian Monastery, Natroun Valley.
- St. George's Monastery, Khatatba.

And form all the monks of Akhmim.

We Also Received Support letters form the Sub Lay Councils, the Clerical Councils of dioceses, Religious Institutes and lots of church servants and devoted church servants.

- And we received letters from the land of immigration:
From Melbourne, Australia.
- From Ohio, America.
- From Minnesota, America.
- Priests of the North Eastern Coast, America.
- From Nebraska, America.
- From some of the Priests from the Gulf area.
- And from other reverend priests.

Purchasing a Catholic Church with Two premises Rochester, America

As reported to us by Hegomen Shenouda Maher Isaac that on 6/2 – 2nd of Amshir (St. Paula's Feast-the First Anchorite), the church of the two saints Peter and Paul has been purchased with two church premises downtown on Rochester at 700 Thousands Dollar half a million of which was paid and the rest through installments.

We extend our felicitations to them all. They requested that HH the Pope may consecrate this church in his next visit.

With Some of the reverend Priests

HH the Pope received Hegomen Athanasious Farag our priest in America on the occasion of the engagement of his daughter in Cairo. HH blessed the bride and the groom.

The Importance of the Fast
and its Spirituality
With Some Exercises

Pope
Shenouda
III



The History of the Fast

Fasting is preventing. It is, before everything, self control.

And it is the first commandment that God gave to the man.

* For He prevented him from eating from one tree in Heaven telling him "17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gn 2:17). And so the first man lived in self control of this issue until Satan seduced him so he get tempted and ate (Gn 3:6).

* And God created the man vegetarian ever since the beginning eating beans and tree fruits (Gn 1:29). And the animal also was herbivorous (Gn 1:30). And God did not allow the man to eat meat until evil spread too much on the Earth and God felt sad that he created the man (Gn 6:6, 7). And thus God allowed for the flood which vanished every living from the face of the Earth except for the family of our father Noah and the animals that went into the ark with them...

* Then God allowed the man to eat meat after the Noah's ark landed by saying: "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood" (Gn 9:3, 4).

* And so with the permission to eat meat, the preventing factor still existed. And it is preventing them from eating flesh with its live. The man is not allowed to eat flesh with blood. And not allowed to kill his brother (Gn 9:6)... And forbidding eating flesh with blood is in the covenant that God gave to humans through Prophet Moses (Gn 17:10). Also in accepting people from different nations. God said to the fathers the apostles in their first meeting they held: that they tell people coming into faith from the nations "that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality" (Ac 15:29)...

And in the convent too He forbade eating unclean animals.

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And fasting is not only a virtue related to food: What do you eat? And When do you eat? But there is also fasting of the soul...

It is very good that the body fasts but does the soul fasts as well at the same time? There is a higher level from the fasting soul, which is the ascetic soul. But because this asceticism is not easy for everyone

to do, some limitations were placed for normal humans... And even the body fasting, specific days and occasions were set for it because not every human can fast continuously...

But the fasting of the heart, the mind and the senses from sin is required for everyone.

For he who fasts his mouth from food and does not fast his heart from sinful desires, his tongue from wrongful words, and his mind from false thoughts... The fasting of this man becomes false... Because God wants the purity of the heart before everything else. And out of the purity of the heart comes all types of fasts whether body concerned or soul concerned.

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Positives

The fast has its positives as well, and it is not only humiliation of the body.

* Maybe one of the most important of its positives is **prayer**. So that the soul participated with the body in its fast. Thus, we repeat in the fast liturgies the sentence "Fasting and prayer are the ones that..." And even for casting out daemons the Lord said "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Mt 17:21).

* And one of the important positives that accompanies fast is **the acts of mercy**.

As the person while fasting feel the pain of hunger and need for food, he has to be merciful with the hungry and the needy. And one of the fathers once said "If you do not have something to give them, fast and give them your food".

And we have noticed the importance of this issue when the Divine Inspiration mentioned it in Prophet Isaiah's book. When the people cried out to Him saying "Why have we fasted,' they say, "and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?" (Is 58:3). So God's answer to them included: "Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul?... Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?" (Is 58:5-7).

So there is an acceptable fast the Lord chooses and another than is unacceptable.

* One of the important positives of the fast is: **repentance...**

Actually, it is the most important positive because fasting without repentance is like a bird without wings. Therefore, the church has set the fasting of Nineveh People two weeks before the Great Lent so that they set an example for us in our fasting...

All Nineveh People fasted a very precise fasting and they humiliated themselves, so God forgave them and did not vanish them. But how was that? The Holy Bible says "Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." (Jon 3:10).

We notice here that the reason God forgave them was based on their repentance.



Exercises

Some people may say: We hear many sermons about fasting and there are many fasts that they have fasted every year, yet the sins are still as is and the nature did not change!! And we say that the flaw here is not in the fast but it is in the way they fasted. They thought that fasting is just a duration related to their food, its types and timing of their eating! And they forgot the virtues of the fast and did not exercise while fasting on leaving their sins...

So what are these exercises that are related to fasting.



* First, we mention exercises related to repentance:

Every person while fasting should have a serious sitting with himself and discover all his sins honestly without complements or explanations to himself. Then he should start exercising himself on leaving these sins that he loves and that control him and that he keep repeating in his confessions. Also the sins that people can see in him even if he does not know or confess about them. And firmly keep these sins away and close all the doors that allow them into himself. Meaning he should avoid the reasons that lead to them...

* Second: he should train himself on what he needs of the fruits of the spirit:

And they are as St. Paul the Apostle mentioned in (Gal 5:22, 23): "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"... He can take them one by one. Because he can't exercise on all of them at one shot. Especially that love itself has many details in (1 Co 13: 4-7).

* There are certain exercises related to praying and memorizing:

So he should train himself to start his day and end with prayer. And pray with understanding, passion, concentration and humility. He should also train on prayers of praising, thanksgiving, confessing sins and asking help in everything. And prayer for others, for the church, the society and God's Kingdom in every place. And he should train on not being fast in praying.

He also should exercise memorizing psalms, parts in Agpeya, hymns and praises and chapters from the Holy Bible. And exercise meditating in what he memorizes and use it in his prayers.

* Other exercises related to giving:

He should be honest in paying the tithes, first offering and vows. And as much as he can did not reject a request by a needy and remembered the Lord commandment in (Pv 3:27, 28).

From HE Metropolitan Mikhail of Assiout and the Oldest of Preaching Metropolitan

We received while the magazine was in printing a fax from HE in which he said:

The decisions of the Holy Synod are necessary to isolate and excommunicate everyone who attacks the church and its teachings and underestimates its leadership...

With HG Bishop Bolos

HH the Pope received him where he reported to HH about his service in Africa

With the Representative and the Secretary of the Lay Council

On the evening of Saturday 24/2, in HH Papal Residence in the Monastery, HH the Pope received Dr. Tharwat Bassilli the Representative of the General Lay Council and Counselor Edward Ghaleb the Secretary General of the Council.

HG Bishop Youanes

After attending the ordinations of the new monks for St. Shenouda's Monastery, HG traveled to Upper Egypt on the evening of Friday 23/2 and returned on Sunday 25/2. HG visited Mother Dolagy's Church in Esna and the Angel's Church in Luxor and checked up the work that is going on in both of them.

With Aghapy TV Channel Family

On Saturday 24/2, HH the Pope received Aghapy Satellite TV Channel family along with HG Bishop Botros the General Bishop. The talk was about the current events and the position of the church attackers.

HG Bishop Paula and his Trip to Sudan and Australia

HG Bishop Paula of Tanta traveled to Australia on Thursday 8/2 to be back on 1/3 to follow up the work of the Branch Clerical Council in Sydney and attend the family convention in Melbourne. And we will mention the details of this trip later, God's willing.

And before that HG traveled to Sudan as a response to an invitation from Their Grace Bishop Sarabamoon of Atbara and Omdurman and Bishop Elia of Khartoum and the South. And HG was very touched with the participation of around one thousand believes from Nubia and tens of Nubian deacons in two of the Nubian priests. HG also was touched with the love that bonds the two bishops of Sudan.

Middle East Council of Churches Meeting

Illustrated Church News

**By Mr. Girguis Saleh
The Council's Secretary General**

On Tuesday morning 27/2 the Heads of the Middle East Council of Churches met at the papal residence with the Secretariat of the council:

- 1- HH Pope Shenouda III Council's Head representing the Oriental Orthodox family.
- 2- Archbishop Dorotheos of Apella and the council's Head representing the Greek Orthodox family.
- 3- Reverend Safwat Al Baiady the council's Head representing the Evangelical family.

His Eminence Metropolitan Yohanna Keltah apologized for not attending the meeting, he is the council's Head representing the Catholic family, as he was at the celebration held in the Library of Alexandria.

And from the Executive Committee members also attended:

- 1- HE Metropolitan Bishoy.
- 2- Iconomos Dr Ibrahim Dabour.

And from the Secretariat General:

- 1- Eng. Samer Laham the Participating Secretary General on behalf of the Orthodox family (Greek Orthodox).
- 2- Fr. Nehad Te'ma the Participating Secretary General on behalf of the Evangelical family.

And in the attendance of Mr. Girguis Saleh the Council's Secretary General.



The Pope in the Middle East Council of Churches' Heads meeting



The Pope and Their Grace Bishop Isotheres, Bishop Mina and some of the reverend bishops along with the new monks of St. George Monastery, Khatatba

With the Vice President of Burundi

HH the Pope received on Monday morning 26th Feb Dr Martin Nroweaman Premier Vice President of Burundi.

The Ambassador of Burundi in Cairo and Ambassador of Egypt in Burundi attended the meeting along with Their Grace Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Youanes and Bishop Ermia.

HH is seen in the photo presenting him a hand painted icon.



Ordaining Priests in Cairo

On Monday morning 26/2 HH the Pope ordained -at his church in the papal residence- nine reverend priests:

- ❖ Fr. Mikhail and Fr. Girguis for St. Mary Church, Zeitoun.
- ❖ Six reverend priests for St. George Monastery in Khatatba: Fr. Girguis, Fr. Kirollos, Fr. Mina, Fr. Arsanious, Fr. Pachumious and Fr. Macarius.

Their Grace Bishop Youhanna, Bishop Youanes, Bishop Ermia and Bishop Mina participated in the ordination prayers.

It was a joyous day, our congratulations to everyone.



Ordaining Two Priests at the Diocese of Akhmim

HG Bishop Besada ordained on Saturday 17/2 Deacon Shamsoun Abdou Abdenagho as Priest giving him the name of Shoura for St. Mary Church in Seflak, Sakeltah.

Also ordained Deacon Amgad Kamal Kamel giving him the name of Fr. Amonious for the churches of the diocese of Akhmim and Sakeltah.

Ordaining Four Priests at the Diocese of Abu Teeg

On Sunday 25-2 HG Bishop Andrawous of Abu Teeg ordained four reverend Priests:

Fr. Mousa Yassa, Fr. Luka Abd Al Sayed, Fr. Makar Rizk and Fr. Samuel Timothaous.

HG Bishop Wissa of Balyana participated in the ordination prayers. Our congratulations to everyone.



Ordaining Reverend Priests at Dioceses

Ordaining a Priest in Menofeya

HG Bishop Binyamin ordained Deacon Shenouda Youssef Salib as priest for St. Mary Church, Tukh Delka giving him the name of Fr. Martyrous.

HG Bishop Maximous of Banha and its affiliated regions participated in the ordination prayers.

Our congratulations to everyone.



Ordaining Priests in Shobra Al Kheima

On Friday 16/2 HG Bishop Morkos ordained five reverend Priests:

Fr. Bassillious, for Qalyoub.

Fr. Sargious Shehata for Mostorod.

Fr. Tawadrous Lahthy for Behtem.

Fr. Seraphim Ezzat for the Sacred Family at the diocese.

Fr. Nathan Abd Al Malak for Shobra Al Kheima.

Their Grace who participated in the ordination prayers are: Bishop Daniel (Maadi), Bishop Beamen, Bishop Maximous (of Banha) and Bishop Timotheaus.

Our congratulations to everyone.



Ordaining a Priests in Sharm Al Sheikh

On Friday 23/2/2007 in St. Mary & St. Mina Church in Sharm Al Sheikh, HG Bishop Apollo ordained Deacon Talaat Basta Hanna as a priest giving him the name of Fr. Mikhail at the diocese of Southern Sinai.

HG Bishop Macarious in El Menia participated in the ordination prayers, it was such a joyous day.

The new priest is now spending the forty days at the Baramous Monastery.



**Holy Synod Meeting on Wednesday 21st of February 2007
And its Decision of Excommunicating Prof. George Habib Bebawy
from the Coptic Orthodox Church**

