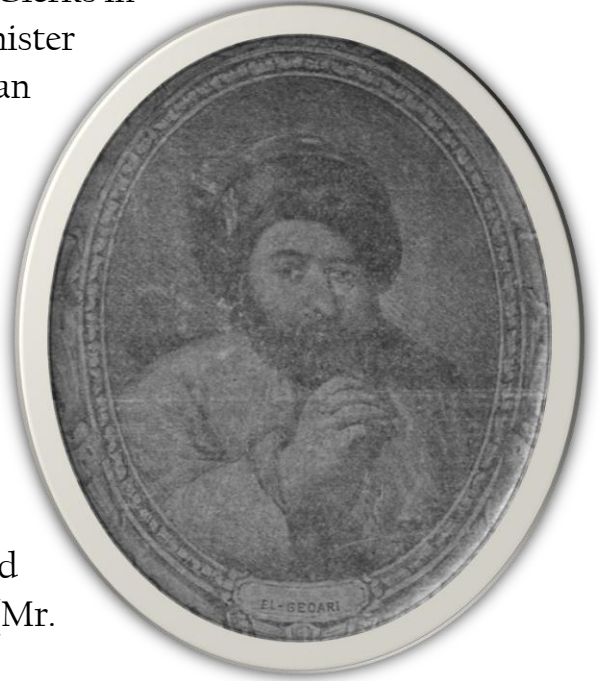


Rich in Good Deeds

Mr. Ibrahim Al-Gohari was a pious Copt in the period when Egypt was ruled by the Mamalik [Albanian Slaves of the Ottoman Empire]. In addition to his position, piety, and wealth, he occupied a prominent position as the head of the divans Clerks in Egypt, a position equivalent to the post of a prime minister nowadays. The Patriarch had also appointed him to be an overseer or an administrator over the churches of Cairo.

Being a Church administrator, he used to visit churches to pray at any time to check on them and assess their needs. Early one day, before he went to work, he stopped by the Church of Saint Mary of Alley of Zuwaila to pray the liturgy. He found out that liturgy starts late in this church, which explains why the priest was not present yet. He sent a deacon to the priest's house to bring him, and told him to inform the priest that Mr. Al-Gohari is at the church and to ask him to start the liturgy immediately so that he [Mr. Al-Gohari] wouldn't be late to work.



When the priest arrived to the church and met Mr. Ibrahim Al-Gohari, he teased him saying: “The liturgy will start at its usual time. If you do not like the schedule of our church, feel free to build a church that will suit your schedule!”

Mr. Al-Gohari took this phrase an order from God, and indeed bought a piece of land next to Saint Mary Church and built a new church by the name of Saint Marcorious Abu-Sifain. The church offered early liturgies to suit the schedule of government employees.

Thus, a humoring remark from a priest turned into a positive, constructive work, which turned into a blessing to many. Therefore Mr. Al-Gohari gave us a great example in fulfilling the important Biblical commandment that is directed towards the rich: “*Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*” (1Timothy 6:18-19)

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