

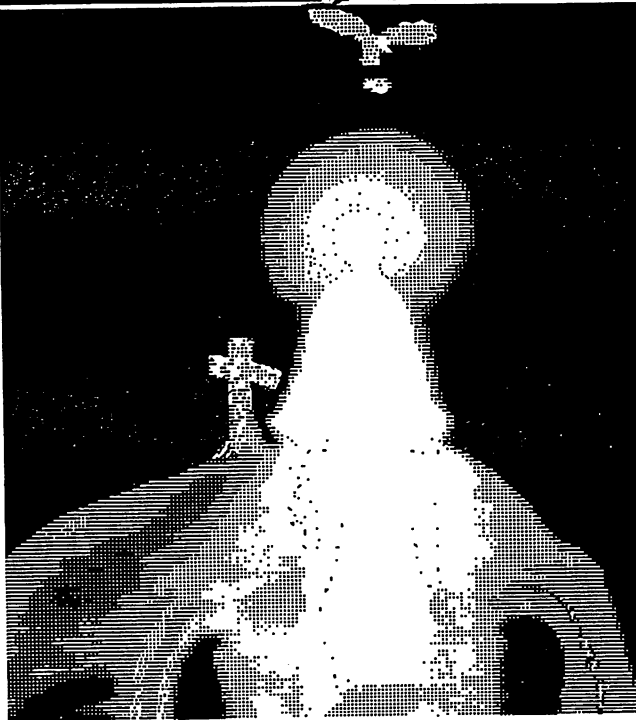
Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
 Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
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 بطريركية الاقباط الأرثوذكس
 كنيسة السيدة العذراء مريم
 القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو

P. O. Box 4317 Northbrook, Illinois 60065- 4317

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السنة ٩ - العدد ٨ - أغسطس ١٩٩٤

**"FOR HE WHO
 IS MIGHTY HAS
 DONE GREAT
 THINGS FOR ME,
 AND HOLY IS
 HIS NAME."**
 (LUKE 1:49)



Apparition of St. Mary in Zeitoun, Egypt

**ST. MARY'S
 GLORIOUS APPARITION
 IN HER CHURCH
 IN ZEITOUN**

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It was on Tuesday April 2, 1968 when two mechanics working in the garage in Tomanbey St. opposite to the church, observed what seemed to be a woman in white, standing on the top of the large dome at the center of the church roof, holding the cross atop of the dome.

The mechanics thought it was someone about to leap. One of them hurried to get the pastor, while the other summoned the emergency squad. It was the priest who first realized what was happening. The woman was none other than the Mother of God, the pure St. Mary.

Since that night hundreds of apparitions have been seen, and hundreds of thousands of persons, Christians and non Christians, from many lands assembled every night around the church from dusk till dawn awaiting an apparition.

DURATION OF THE APPARITIONS

Virgin Mary's apparitions in Zeitoun continued for about two years, almost nightly at first, then apparitions were seen on the average of three nights a week, most likely on feast days or eves of feasts. Her visits lasted only for a few minutes up to about eight hours.

DECLARING THE APPARITIONS

On May 4, 1968 the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate issued the following statement through the Papal office of the Late Pope Kyrillos VI: "The Patriarchate declares with every faith, with deep joy, and with overflowing thanks to the heavenly grace, that the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Light, has appeared clearly and steadily on many different nights. The

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church is located in Zeitoun, a suburb of Cairo, Egypt. It stands at the intersection of Tomanbey and Khalil Ibrahim Streets. It is historically acknowledged that the Holy Family passed by Zeitoun when they fled from Herod's persecution to safety in Egypt.

visions have lasted varying periods of time, sometimes lasting over two hours uninterruptedly. May God make this a sign of peace for the world, for our dear land, and our blessed people."

MIRACULOUS HEALINGS

There indeed is any apparition of St. Mary that is not surrounded by cures and graces that cannot be explained by natural science. All healings that happened have been verified and documented by a commission of physicians and scientific professors.

At Zeitoun, from the very first night, cures have been many and spectacular. A commission of seven physicians and professors was set up promptly by H. H the late Pope Kyrillos VI to gather records and statements regarding these cures. Their reports supported the miracles that happened, and baffled all scientific minds who have examined them.

WHAT MESSAGE DO APPARITIONS BRING ?

One cannot tell what message heaven may intend to inform us. As belief in God is getting weaker, it could be God trying by all means to help mankind to build up his falling faith again. Christians and no-Christian reported that Zeitoun apparitions brought them back to faith in God. Hundreds of missions could not do what St. Mary's apparitions have done. Also, tribulations of life are unbearable, and it could be our blessed Mother St. Mary way of encouraging her children to patiently bear the hardships they meet nowadays in their land. It is not at all surprising that St. Mary, in these troubled times appear to draw the human family closer together ... At any rate it may →



OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

VIRGIN MARY IN THE COPTIC CHURCH

"It is easy to see why the Virgin Mary is thought of as more honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim."

Every year on August 7th we start the fasting of St. Mary which lasts for 15 days. On August 22nd, we celebrate the great feast of her assumption. May her holy blessings be with us all Amen

As Orthodox Christians St. Mary has a special place in our hearts. In our Liturgical Services we frequently praise St. Mary and ask for her intercession. Our deep love and veneration for St. Mary lies from our belief that she is:

The Mother of God

If we truly believe that God became man, then we must believe St. Mary to be the Mother of God (Theotokos). Her veneration arises from the worship offered to her Son Jesus Christ. Those who refuse St. Mary the title Mother of God don't really believe in the human birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Pure

It is the conviction of our Church that St. Mary willingly chose never to sin, and that she was filled with all purity and righteousness. In this her worthiness to be the Mother of God found. St. Mary was not saved apart from God's grace, she stood in need of salvation, just as we all do, because she was a member of the fallen humanity. Her worthiness was demonstrated

by her holy life and her willingness to place God's will above her own.

The Ever Virgin

According to scriptures, our church believes that St. Mary was always a Virgin and Jesus Christ was her only child. Certain passages in scriptures attribute brothers to Jesus, but the word used for brother also means cousin. St. Mary's womb is reserved only for the presence of God. Ezekiel, the prophet, expressed this fact in his prophecy that says, "This gate shall remain shut, it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, therefore it shall remain shut." (Ezekiel 44:2) and we know what the scriptures say "cannot be broken" (John 10:35)

The Intercessor

In its simplest form, intercession means to ask the prayers of those who, through their righteousness, have a special place near God. We ask them to intercede for us before God because, as St. James says, "The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects." (James 5:16) Herein lies the reason for which we ask St. Mary, and all saints as well, to pray for us. Being righteous, their prayers are powerful and acceptable by God. And that is why our church correctly teaches us to seek their intercession.

→ be early to tell what the real purpose of the Zeitoun apparitions.

It is worth mentioning that when H.H. Pope Shenouda III was asked about the reason behind those apparitions, his answer was: "There must be an important reason behind these apparitions which I myself do not know, may be the future will unravel it." As for the time being let us be blessed by them and by the intercession of the saints on our behalf.

A SILENT MESSAGE

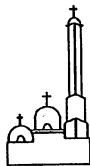
It is clearly noticeable that in all the Zeitoun apparitions, no words have been spoken by St. Mary, yet the message she brought could be read in her silent gestures of holding the olive branch, of kneeling at the cross and blessing and encouraging her children in their struggle against evil.

✠ An Invitation ✠

You are Cordially invited to attend a benefit and a program featuring St. Mary's history and miracles at Lisle Neperville Hilton, on 4 pm, Sunday, August 28, 1994. Proceeds from the event will be used toward building fund of: St. Mary Coptic Church In Chicago

For registration please contact:

Dr. Nagat Ebeid Tel (708) 682-0035
or Mrs. Mona Nashed Tel (708) 882-8355



✠ دعوة ✠

الكنيسة تدعوكم لحضور حفل اناجي يتخلله برنامج من سيرة السيدة العذراء ومعجزاتها وذلك في تمام الساعة بعد ظهر الاحد 28 اغسطس 1994 بفندق هيلتون- نابرفيل. وسيخصص ايراد الحفل لمشروع بناء:

كنيسة السيدة العذراء القبطية بشيكاغو للإستعلام رجاء الاتصال:
بالدكتورة نجاه عبيد تليفون: (708) 682-0035
أو بالسيدة منى ناشد تليفون: (708) 882-8355



اجتماعيات

رقد على رجاء القيامة

✠ المرحوم الدكتور موريس ميخائيل نجل السيدة بهية ميخائيل وشقيق كل من المهندس الفونس والدكتورة نرجس والسيدات سلوى ونادية وبيلا. الرب نسال ان ينيح نفس الفقيد الراحل في احضان ابائنا القديسين وان يهب جميع افراد العائلة الصبر والعزاء.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE PART IN BUILDING THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

مبارك من له نصيب في بناء بيت الرب