

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
Khasia Napra
بطريركية الأقباط الأرثوذكس
كنيسة السيدة العذراء مريم
القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو

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In the 5th of Abib
(12th of July) we
celebrate the apostles
feast and commemo-
rate the martyrdom of
the chief apostles:

Sts. Peter & Paul.



The jailer fell down before Paul & Silas and said:
"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:29,30)

Our Fathers The Apostles

ST. PAUL AND SILAS

GOD HEALS

One day, Sts. Paul and Silas were going to the place of prayer, they were met by a slave girl who had an evil spirit that enabled her to predict the future. which brought a lot of money for her owners. St. Paul was able, in the name of Christ, to expel the evil spirit. When her owners saw that, they became enraged at the loss of their fortune, so they captured Paul and Silas and brought them before the Roman official and said: "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice". The official tore Paul and Silas' clothes and gave orders to beat them with rods and then to throw them into jail. Consequently the jailer threw them into an inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

GOD CARES

Suddenly, around midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, there was a violent earthquake which shook the prison to its foundations, all the doors were opened, and the chains fell off all prisoners. The jailer woke up, and when he saw that he pulled his sword and was about to kill himself, because the Roman law said that if a prisoner escaped, the jailer must suffer the penalty the prisoner would have suffered. But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, "Don't harm yourself ... we are all here."

«هؤلاء الناس هم عبيد الله العلي الذين
ينادون لكم بطريق الخلاص.» (١٦: ١٧)

ولما رأى حافظ السجن ما حدث، آمن هو وجميع بيته، وبعد ان بشرهم بولس بكلمة الرب، قام بتعميدهم جميعاً. وللوقت أخذ حافظ السجن الرسولين وغسل جراحاتهما ثم اصعدهما الى بيته وقدم لهما مائدة، وتهلل الجميع.

تأمل

كان بولس وسليلا يصليان ويسبحان الله رغم وجودهما في السجن، فالإنسان المسيحي يتהלل على الدوام حتى ولو كان في السجن مكبلاً بالقيود ومحاطاً بالظلام.

بوهن حافظ السجن على مسيحيته عن طريق أعماله فقد قام بمجرد إيمانه، بغسل جراحات الرسولين وتقديم مائدة لهما... ان الاعمال اصدق تأثيراً وأقوى تعبيراً من الأقوال.

"These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." (Acts 16:17)

GOD SAVES

When Sts. Paul and Silas preached the word of God to the jailer and his family. At that very hour of the night, the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds, and he and all his family were baptized. Then, he took Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them, and he rejoiced with all his household because they believed in God.

AN INSIGHT

Sts. Paul and Silas could sing hymns when they were fastened in the stocks, in the inner-prison at midnight ... The only thing you can never take away from a Christian is God. With God there is freedom even in prison, and at the darkest moment of the night, there is light.

A true Christian does not hold the grudge, St. Paul preached to the very man who had fastened him in the stocks.

The jailer's conversion to Christianity was reflected in his deeds. No sooner had he turned to Christianity, than he washed the wounds on the prisoners' backs and set a meal before them... Unless Christianity makes a person kind and generous, his Christianity is not real. It is not a mere change of words which Jesus Christ demands, but a change of deeds ... *Deeds speak better than words.*

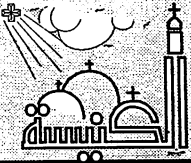
أباؤنا الرسل

القديس بولس وسليلا

يروى لنا الروحي الالهى قصة جارية كان بها روح عرافة، وكانت تكسب مواليتها كثيراً بسبب عرافتها.

أخبر بولس، باسم السيد المسيح، من الجارية ذلك الروح وشفيت تماماً. فلما رأى مواليتها انه قد ضاع رجاء مكسبهم القوا القبض على الرسولين وقدموهما الى الحكام الرومان ونسبوا اليهما تهماً باطلة جعلت الحكام يأمران بضربهما وايداعهما السجن. اما حافظ السجن، اذ اخذ اوامر مشددة بشأنهما فقد اودعهما السجن الداخلى وقام بضبط ارجلهم في المقطرة.

وقس منتصف الليل، بينما كان بولس وسليلا يصليان ويسبحان الله، حدثت بفته زلزلة عظيمة حتى تزعزعت أساسات السجن وانفتحت ابوابه وانكسرت قيود المسجونين بداخله. واذا ظن حافظ السجن ان المسجونين قد هربوا استل سيفه محاولاً ان يقتل نفسه. الا ان بولس منعه قائلاً "لا تفعل بنفسك شيئاً ردياً لان جميعنا ههنا".



THE DEACONS AND THE CHURCH SERVICE

اعرفوا كنيسةكم KNOW YOUR CHURCH

Our holy church fully adheres to the Biblical teaching. This is manifested in keeping the three orders of priesthood namely;

- I. The Deaconship,
- II. The Priesthood,
- III. The Episcopal Order.

I. The Deaconship

A Biblical Teaching

"Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, they hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then if they prove themselves blameless let them serve as deacons" (1 Tim 3 :8-13)



Ranks of the Deaconship

- 1- The Assistant Deacon (Epo-Diacon)
 - 2- The Deacon
 - 3- The Archdeacon (The head of Deacons)
- Other Positions not included among the ranks:
- The Psalter
 - The Reader

1. The Assistant Deacon

It is a dignified rank which has an important role in the service. The Assistant Deacon helps the priest in two crucial things:

- a- To keep the discipline in the church and guard its doors.
 - b- To look after the widows, orphans and the needy.
- In addition to these duties he performs the following services:

- The Praise and the offertory (assigned to the Psalter)
- The Catechism. (assigned to the Reader)

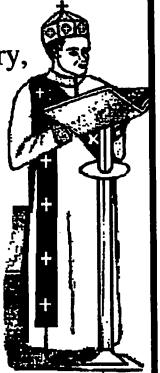
Ordination

To ordain the Assistant Deacon (Epo-Diacon), the Bishop marks the forehead of the "Epo-Diacon" with the sign of the cross in the name of the Holy Trinity using just his thumb, (no hand laying) and instructs him saying "you should submit yourself to the Deacon as well as to the priest, and help them during the service. You have to guard and protect the doors of the Church and to touch the holy vessels."

THE DEACONS AND COMMUNION

Question:

If a deacon serves outside the sanctuary, is it proper for him to wear his tunic and participate in the Liturgical service without taking communion?



Answer:

As far as communion is concerned, the church does not differentiate between serving outside or inside the sanctuary. A Deacon has to take communion, whether he serves inside or outside the sanctuary.

There is no reason that prevents a person from taking communion other than being spiritually unprepared. What prevents a person from taking communion, prevents him from participating in the service as well.

A spiritually unprepared Deacon cannot participate in the service, and consequently cannot put on his tunic, because the tunic is the special attire for the service. **Therefore, without taking communion, it is not proper for the Deacon to participate in the Liturgical service.**

CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

Construction Progress Of The Church Building

✙ The construction work has been progressing in many fronts according to schedule, however, some delays are being experienced in the procurement of the precast slabs required to complete the main floor. The contractor is working with the supplier to minimize the delay. It is expected to finish the concrete work before the middle of August 1995.

We also like to inform you that substantial savings has been achieved in the procurement of the fiberglass domes, towers and exterior trim and decorations. These items are expected to be delivered to the site by the middle of September 1995.

✙ We are asking every member of the church to support this project with prayers and generous donations. We are confident that our Lord Jesus Christ will bless your offerings and complete this work for His glory through the intercessions of Our Lady the Saint Virgin Mary and the prayers of H.H. Pope Shenouda III.



مشروع بناء الكنيسة

تقدم أعمال التشييد بمبنى الكنيسة

✙ يسير العمل بتقدم في عدة اتجاهات ووفقاً للجدول، الا ان هناك بعض التأخير في الحصول على الالواح سابقة التجهيز اللازمة لعمل الصبة الخرسانية الخاصة ببلاطة صحن الكنيسة، والمقاول يبذل قصارى جهده مع المورد لحفض مدة التأخير. ومن المتوقع ان تنتهى اعمال الخرسانة قبل منتصف اغسطس ١٩٩٥.

وجدير بالذكر انه قد امكن تحقيق وفر كبير في اعمال الفير جلاس المستخدم في تصنيع القبة والابراج والاشغال الخشبية الخارجية والزخارف. ومن المنتظر ان تصل هذه الهممات للموقع في منتصف سبتمبر القادم.

✙ اننا نهيىب بشعب الكنيسة ومحببيها ان يعضدوا المشروع بصلواتهم وعطاياهم، ولنا ملاء الثقة ان السيد المسيح له المجد سيبارك هذه العطايا ومقدميها، ويكمل هذا المشروع لمجده، بشفاعات امنا العذراء القديسة مريم، ووصلوات ابينا صاحب القداسة البابا الانبا شنودة الثالث.

CONGRATULATIONS

- ✙ Congratulations to the happy couple *Joseph & Sherry Muawad* who became one in Christ. May the Lord bless their life and make their marriage honorable and blameless. Our best wishes for a happy and prosperous life.
- ✙ Congratulations to *Gamal and Abeer Beheri* for the birth of their son *Andrew*. May the Lord bless him to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

GRADUATION

On Sunday June 11th, the church celebrated the graduation of her blessed children:

Allen Mikhail, Emile George, Haney Messiha, John Bibawi, Jenny Farag, Laura Mikhail, Michael Mikhiel, Mariem Gayed, Peter Youssef, Sam Luka, Sera Saeed, Violet Nashed.

May the Lord bless them all with his guidance as they follow their dreams, and always fill their life with joy and peace.

Congratulations and best wishes.