

"On Misrah 1st (August 7th) starts the fasting of St. Mary for 15 days, after which we celebrate (on Misrah 16th) the feast of her glorious assumption to heaven."



At that moment the guard pointed his gun towards Fr. Arkadi, however something caught his attention, he saw a woman heading to his direction.....

St. Mary's Apparition in a Penitentiary in Siberia

Fr. Arkadi, was a kind and simple villager. He could hardly support his large family. He depended completely on the parishioners who loved him for his honesty. They tried frantically to protect him whenever there was persecution on the church.

It so happened in the thirties that the government issued very high taxes on Fr. Arkadi. Since it was far beyond his resources to pay, the people raised the money for him and paid the taxes. This happened more than once, and each time the people joined hands to pay it for him which made the authorities skeptical. Accordingly, they accused him of conspiracy to turn the people against the government, so they put him in prison in a place called "Iskeet the Golgotha of the cross" which lies on a mountain in the Island of Anzer in northern Russia. There a group of monks and hermits lived in absolute seclusion. The life in the monastery was prosperous for the last two centuries. The monks never stopped praying or enchanting. It was said that the Mother of God has repeatedly appeared in that place and promised to visit the monastery and take care of its monks. It was near "Iskeet the Golgotha of the cross" that the Virgin appeared in the thirties.

This was when the prisoners under the supervision of viscous non humane guards, were cutting wood in the valley of the Golgotha mountain which was surrounded with barbed wires, that Fr. Arkadi felt weak and was unable even to lift the axe. The guard threatened to kill him. Fr. Arkadi knelt praying to God and pleading to the absolute virtuous Mother saying: "O watchful Mother, who protects her children, this is my final moments! please do not deprive my family from your love and protection". At that moment the guard pointed his gun towards Fr. Arkadi and yelled at him "start working or I'll shoot.", however something caught his attention, he saw a woman heading to his direction... he did not have a clue where she came from as there were no families on that secluded island. The guard prompted to ask her where she was going, but he was not able to do so. Even his wild dog who could attack any stranger and tear him apart, was debilitated and simply laid on the ground wiggling his tail.

The woman then passed through the barbed wires as if they did not even exist and she approached Fr. Arkadi saying: "Do not worry about your children, because I will never leave them alone.." This woman was so gentle and kind that she touched all the prisoners and filled them with peace and tranquillity - tears of joy filled their

This story is told by an eyewitness called Gennady the Russian. This is a false name of a religious Russian writer. The story is about an incident that happened in one of the hard labor jails in northern Russia. Previously this place was one of the most famous convents in Russia, in the eighties it was transformed into a museum.

eyes and uplifted their spirits. They all called her "O, Mother" and She was kind enough to call them "My children" and many of them saw tears in her eyes.



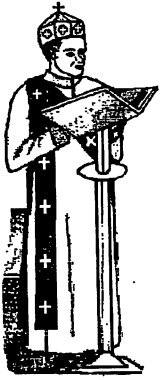
Father Arkadi knelt praying to God...

All the prisoners knelt down praying. Their life was a living hell, and they were looking forward to die. Suddenly, they stood up and right before their eyes was an old Icon on the trunk of a tree. They could not understand where it came from or who brought it or why they had not seen it before!! which baffled them. As for the guard, he was dumb struck and he was hysterically screaming, at the prisoners to stop praying. He attempted to remove the Icon, yet for some reason he was unable to do so, something seemed to restrain him.

In the evening after the prisoners returned to the prison, the guard wrote reporting the incident to his superiors saying: "During my shift in the forest, the Mother of God appeared to us, leaving behind an Icon on the trunk of a tree which causes miracles to happen". The guard was then sent across the island to the headquarters of the prisons and on his way he was enchanting the litanies of St. Mary. Nobody could explain how that pagan guard learned them.

At the headquarters, the officials threatened and questioned the guard trying to know the story behind the Icon but of no avail. As for the Icon, it had miraculously disappeared. The guard was committed to a mental hospital because they did not want that story to be told.

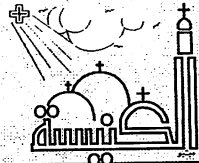
As for Fr. Arkadi, he admitted during questioning that he saw the apparition of St. Mary. The authorities then sentenced him for an extra term with hard labor. "However, we are sure that the Mother of God will always protect him". These were the words by which the eyewitness ended his testimony and it shows that he wrote his story when father Arkadi was still in prison.



ثم يتقدم احد الشماسه الى النجيلية لقراءة فصل محدد من احدى البشائر الاربعة، مبتدئاً بتلاوة فقرة من سفر المزامير تختم بكلمة «الليلويا» .
أن عبارة "مبارك الآتى باسم الرب" قد قيلت عند دخول السيد المسيح لأورشليم بموكب عظيم وذهابه الى الهيكل حيث كان هناك يعلم (لو ١٩: ٤٧) . وهنا يتمثل نفس الموقف.... السيد المسيح أتياً اليها معلماً بكلماته المحيية المدونة في الانجيل المقدس، ومذكراً ايأنا بقوله «تعلموا منى ... تجددوا راحة لنفوسكم...» (مت ١١: ٢٩)

تبدأ بعد ذلك قراءة الانجيل، واثناء القراءة يبخر الكاهن للانجيل وهو يقول سرأ صلاة تسمى «سر الانجيل» وهي صلاة عميقة فيها يتضرع الكاهن الى الله ان يجعله هو وشعبه مستحقين لسماع الانجيل المقدس وان يجعلهم لاسامعين فقط خادعين نفوسهم بل سامعين وعاملين بأوامره ووصياه من أجل خلاص نفوسهم. وعندما تنتهى قراءة الانجيل ينحن الكاهن عليه ويقبله، اكراماً واحتراماً وخضوعاً لما جاء به، وهو يقول «المجد لالهنا الى ابد الابدين.»

بعد ذلك يلقي الكاهن عظه فيها يركز علاماء بقرارات اليوم (البولس والكاثوليكون والابركسيس والسنكسار) وعلى رأسها ماجاء فى قراءة الانجيل المقدس من وصايا وتعاليم مقدسة... (يتبع)



القداس الإلهى

«ينبوع ماء ينبع الى حياة ابدية»

- ١٥ -

سلسلة هذه المقالات موضوعة للمساعدة القراء على متابعة القداس الإلهى والتمتع به، والاستفادة منه روحياً.

إن امسك الكاهن والشماس للبشارة والصليب فيه اشارة الى ان الكرازة بالانجيل موضوعها الخلاص الذى تم على الصليب، وان فى الدوران بهما حول المذبح اشارة الى الكرازة بهذه البشارة الى العالم اجمع وانها لصالح الخليقة كلها وذلك عملاً بقول السيد المسيح «اذهبوا الى العالم اجمع واكرزوا بالانجيل للخليقة كلها، من امن واعتمد خلص...» (مر ١٦: ١٥، ١٦). كما ان تلاوة تسبحة سمعان الشيخ اثناء الدورة تدعونا للعمل بوصايا الانجيل وقبول رسالة الخلاص المعلن لنا فيه فنكون مثله مستعدين للانطلاق بسلام من هذا العالم.



عند انتهاء الدورة يقف الكاهن فى الناحية البحرية وهو متجه للغرب وواضع البشارة أعلى رأسه، بينما يقف الشماس فى الناحية القبلية للباب رافعاً الصليب ومنادياً الشعب قائلاً "قفوا بخوف الله وانصتوا لسماع الانجيل المقدس"، وبعد ذلك يخرج الكاهن من الهيكل وهو يقول "مبارك الآتى باسم رب القوات، فصل شريف من بشارة معلمنا..."

اعرف كنيسةك KNOW YOUR CHURCH

قداس الكلمة

كانت «اوشية الانجيل» آخر ما نحدثنا عنه فى المرة السابقة يلى ذلك قراءة من:

الانجيل المقدس

الجانب الطقسى

يصعد الكاهن ومعه الشماس الى الهيكل، ويضع بخور فى المجرمة وهو يقول «مجداً واكراماً، اكراماً ومجداً للثالوث المقدس...» ثم يمسك كتاب البشائر وفوقه الصليب، وامامه الشماس ممسكاً بهما ايضاً ويدوران حول المذبح، واثناء ذلك يعطى الكاهن البخور للانجيل وهو يقول تسبحة سمعان الشيخ "الآن تطلق عبدك ياسيد حسب قولك بسلام. لان عيني قد ابصرتا خلاصك....." (لو ٢: ٢٩ و٣٠)



CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

Construction Progress Of The Church Building

The Church construction has progressed in every noticable manner during the last month. Through the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of our Lady St. Virgin Mary, and the prayers of H.H. Pope Shenouda III, the Church building has become quiet visible. The main floor pre-fabricated slabs has been placed and the steel main frames are presented making a subatantial progress towards the completion of the church.

The work on the fiber glass for the domes and towers is also progressing in Egypt.

Your prayers and financial support is very important for sustaining this project.



مشروع بناء الكنيسة

تقدم أعمال التشييد بمبنى الكنيسة

بنعمة السيد المسيح وبشفاعات امنا العذراء القديسة مريم، ويصلوات ابينا صاحب القداسة البابا الانبيا شنودة الثالث قد احرز العمل فى مشروع بناء الكنيسة تقدماً ملحوظاً خلال شهر يوليو الماضى، فقد تم توريد وتركيب الاجزاء الخرسانية سابقة التجهيز الخاصة بطلاطة صحن الكنيسة، كما تم توريد وتركيب الهياكل الحديدية الرئيسية للمبنى.
اما عن العمل فى تجهيز القبة والابراج الجارى تصنيعها من مادة الفيبرجلاس بمصر فانه ايضاً يسير على مايرام.

ان صلواتكم وتعضيدكم الهالى لهما عامل قوى واساسى له اثره فى سير العمل وسرعة انهاء المشروع... وان خير ما تعبر به عن ابتهاجك بعيد العذراء هو صلاة حارة ترفعها للعزة الالهية مشفوعة بتقدمة سخية منك لانهاجاء بناء الكنيسة التى تحمل اسمها.



CONGRATULATIONS

- To the happy couple Magdy and Christine Hanna who became one in Christ.
May the Lord bless their life and make their marriage honorable and blameless.
- To Samir and Yvette Boulos for the baptism of their daughter Catherine.
- To Gamal and Abeer Behari for the baptism of their son Andrew.
- To Soliman and Sawsan Boctor for the birth of their son Samuel.
- To Ralph and Irinie Solomon for the birth of their daughter Christine.

May the Lord bless the new born children to grow in grace and stature before God and men.