



“Fear not ye, for I know you seek Jesus, He is not here, for He is risen as he said.”

Christ is Risen...



It was Friday (day of calvary) when Jesus gave up the ghost on the cross. A rich man from Arimathea, Joseph by name, took the

dead body of Jesus, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. A huge stone was then rolled over the entrance and some guards were posted.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were there and they watched the entombment and saw the great stone rolled.

Up on the first day of the week, which was the first Christian Sunday, very early in the morning, the Marys, bearing spices and ointment which they had prepared to anoint Jesus' body with, came to the tomb. On their arrival, they found the stone rolled away, and an angel sitting on it. He was sent by God to the Marys to:

1- QUIET THEIR FEARS: *“Fear not ye, for I know you seek Jesus.”* How often the Lord used those words *“Fear not”* for He knows how fearful we are and always first quiets our fears.

2- ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS: *“He is not here, for He is risen as He said*
“He is risen” ... what a startling and wonderful piece

of news it must have been. How tremendous it must have seemed to those who had looked on the expiring Lord at calvary and carried the body reverently to the tomb.

“He is risen” He who bled and died to save. This is the emblem of His triumph: Lo! He leaves an empty tomb ...But the empty tomb is the glory and foundation of Christianity for *“If He be not risen”*, says St. Paul, *“our faith is vain.”*

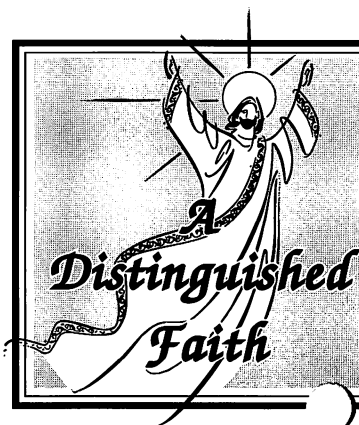
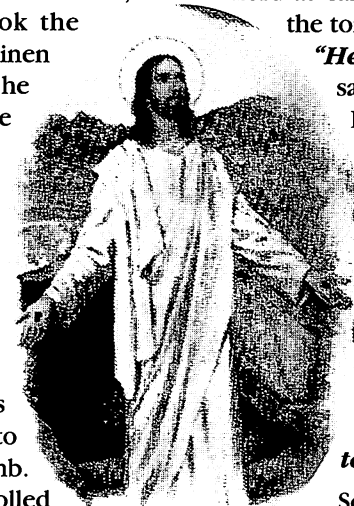
3- STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH: *“Come, see the place where the body lay.”*

Here, the angel invites the Marys to see the empty tomb. Their faith is confirmed by sight.

4- DELIVER A MESSAGE: *“Go quickly and tell His disciples.....”*

So, the Marys went to tell the disciples, and as they were on their way, behold, Jesus met them saying, *“Rejoice”* and they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, *“Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*

How wonderful it is to be asserted, on their way, by the resurrected Lord. His appearance eliminated their fears, put an end to their doubts and assured them that he is risen from the dead.



There is no religion other than Christianity, claims that its founder returned from the grave. Other religions have relics of their founders which they hold in reverence. As for example, in India, a single tooth is all that remains of Buddha, but we, Christians, have no relics, and desire none, for Jesus lives. Faith follows Him to the right hand of the Majesty on high, where He is crowned with honor and glory as King and Savior. The thing which makes Christianity unique, different from all other religions, is Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is the crowning proof of His deity. Our belief in a living, all powerful, ever-present and eternal Jesus distinguishes our faith from all others.

CHURCH NEWS

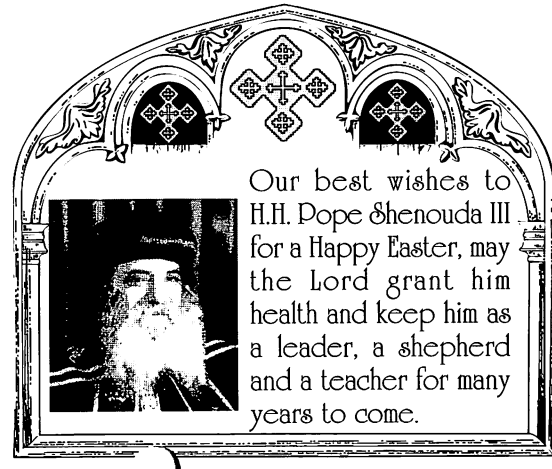


On Saturday March 29th., the periodic meeting of the Sunday School Teachers was held at St. Mary church. The participants were from; St. Mark church, Burr Ridge - Illinois, St. Mary and St. Antonious church, Waterford - Wisconsin and St. Mary church, Palatine - Illinois. It was a great opportunity to discuss ways of improving the service, and to listen to some spiritual topics.



Church loan closing

The mortgage loan will be \$750,000 payable in 20 years, adding to that the \$225,000 interest free loan from the congregation. The estimated monthly expenses will be in the vicinity of \$14,000. The church counts on you to pay off the loan. St. Paul the apostle says: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver..." (2 Corin. 9:7)



Our best wishes to H.H. Pope Shenouda III for a Happy Easter, may the Lord grant him health and keep him as a leader, a shepherd and a teacher for many years to come.

Fear Not

The early American Indians had a unique practice of training young braves. On the night of a boy's 13th. birthday, after learning hunting, scouting, and fishing skills, he was put to one final test; he was placed in a dense forest to spend the entire night alone. Until then, he had never been away from the security of the family and the tribe. But on this night, he was blindfolded and taken several miles away.

When he took off the blindfold, he was in the middle of a thick woods and he was terrified! Every time a twig snapped, he visualized a wild animal ready to pounce. After what seemed like an eternity, dawn broke and the first rays of sunlight entered the interior of the forest. Looking around, the boy saw flowers, trees and the outline of the path. Then, to his utter astonishment he beheld the figure of a man standing just a few feet away, armed with a bow and arrow. It was his father. He had been there all night long.

We sometimes feel like that boy - alone, fearful, engulfed by darkness. But the thickest gloom is no obstacle to the all-seeing eye of God. This was the Psalmist's conviction. In his mind, he marked out the farthest boundaries - the heights of heaven and the depths of Sheol - and found God's presence there. Then he contemplated total darkness, perhaps in a cave where it can almost be felt. But even such absence of light cannot hide those who belong to God. In His presence, darkness and light are alike. We have no reason to fear. As one believer puts it :

**"Do not fear,
dear fellow traveler,
Do not fear at all today;
God has given you His promise
He'll be with "you all the way."**



Congratulations

To:

- † *Samuel and Dina Akbnoukb* for becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless thier marriage and make it blameless and honorable.
- † *Nabil and Mary Tawfik* for the birth of thier son *Joseph*.
- † *Hani and Eman Awad* for the birth of thier son *John*.

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

Condolences to:

- † *Mona Farag*, daughter of Albert and Aiyda Iskandar, for the death of her husband, the late *Hany Farag*.
- † *Boctor Abadeer, and his children: Alice, Angel, Soliman, Michael, George, Samy and Albert*, for the death of his wife the late *Latifa Abadeer*.
- † *Bisrat Mikhael* for the death of his wife the late *Ferial Mikbeal*.

May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.