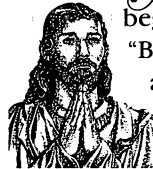


“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”



“Be kind, remember, nearly everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

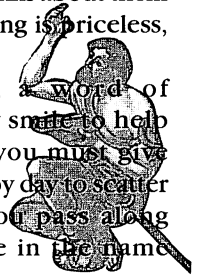


A lame man was, for years, laid daily begging at the gate of the temple called “Beautiful”. On seeing Sts. Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Fixing his eyes on him with John, Peter said: “Look at us”, so he gave them his attention expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said to him, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Then, Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him up. Immediately he stood up, and entered the temple with them walking, leaping and praising God. (Acts 3:1-6)

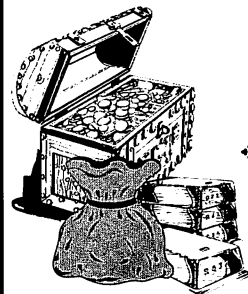
Most of the people who entered the temple scarcely

noticed this lame man, and the few who threw a coin into his container, probably did so out of a sense of duty. Peter, however, stopped and paid attention to him. He acknowledged him to be a person of worth. Such a beggar, and the like, are hungry for little assurances that someone cares, and thinks about them as human beings. For them, this feeling is priceless, and they will always cherish it.

You can give a small gift, a word of encouragement, or even a friendly smile to help someone in need. Like St. Peter, you must give what you have. Remembering day by day to scatter the seeds of kindness wherever you pass along the way. Any little kindness done in the name of Jesus can do wonders.



A Church Without Silver or Gold



History tells us the story of a meeting that took place between a bishop from Rome and a hermit monk who was visiting the Vatican. The bishop took the monk on a guided tour through the Vatican showing him the treasures and the huge vaults which contain their immense wealth and he proudly said: “Passed was the time when the church used to say: I have no silver or gold”” The monk answered him saying “Also, passed was the time when the church used to tell the lame to rise up and walk, and he did”.

An Insight:

- ❖ The first church survived without silver or gold, nevertheless, the apostles preached the gospels everywhere. “Their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (Psalms 19:4) Many miracles were performed at the hands of humble and poor saints who did not own either silver or gold. Frail and unsophisticated as the early Church was, it challenged the forces of the Roman Empire, and in the end was triumphant. All this was achieved without silver or gold .
- ❖ After stating that he does not have silver or gold Peter said to the lame man: “ ... but what I do have, I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Sts. Peter and John, did believe that they owned Christ and they strived to offer Him to everyone free of charge. Following their steps let us strive, as well, to own Jesus Christ, and offer Him to everyone free without paying in silver or gold.

CHURCH NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 12/31/1996

ASSETS

Streamwood Lot	225,000.00
New Church	1,989,370.00
Cash in Banks	145,635.00
Total Assets	\$2,360,005.00

LIABILITIES

Const. Loan - West Suburban Bank	850,137.00
Loans from Church Members	225,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,075,137.00

SOURCE OF FUND

Donations	374,117.00
Women's Activities	51,124.00
Book Sale	6,649.00
Video/Audio Sale	1,278.00
Interest Income	3,635.00
Total Income	\$436,803.00

EXPENSES

Clergy Services	49,574.00
Car Expenses	6,292.00
Church Supplies	14,043.00
Church Rent	3,225.00
Utilities/Phone Expense	15,012.00
Real Estate Taxes	11,647.00
Gift from Church	7,413.00
Loan Interest / Interest Exp. Other	82,216.00
New Church Expenses	117,995.00
J-MAC Association	402,642.00
M & M Contractor	102,680.00
Total Expenses	\$813,739.00

A Camping Trip

On Friday July 11th. our youth went on a camping trip to Wisconsin for three days. They left early on Friday morning after the Divine Liturgy and came back on Sunday evening July 13th.

Church Calender



August 7th:
St. Mary's fasting starts.

August 22nd:
Feast of the Ascension of St. Mary's body.

A CUP OF COLD WATER

"Great things are little things done with a desire to please God".



One day a soldier, Martin by name, happened to stumble upon a poor man shivering in the cold. The good hearted military man was touched, and having nothing else to give, he gallantly cut his own cloak into two with his sword and gave half to the beggar.

As God always give a special reward to those who are kind to believers of lowly status, Jesus came to Martin that same night in a dream-vision wearing the half. Thus did Martin come to know, not only the Lord's words: "Whatever you do for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." but also the Lord Himself. Martin then, left the military service and entered into the service of the Lord as a monk.

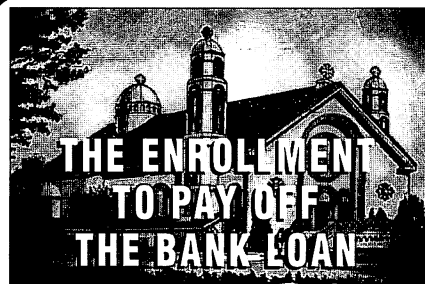
An Insight

When we care for those who are less fortunate; the homeless, the hungry, the sick or the needy, and we recognize that it is Christ whom we serve in these ones of the least, it give us joy. The source of this joy is His promise that says: "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water ... I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." (Matt. 10:42)

Caring for such little ones, might not make headlines, and you might not get the gratification from others, but it will never go unnoticed by God, as one believer puts it:



*An unselfish likely deed,
With never a thought of fame,
Becomes the cup of cold water
If given in His name.*



You are invited to be blessed by participating in this enrollment, which will start September 1st., 1997.

The church pleads to each one of her members and all the churches of the See of St. Mark everywhere to help out in paying off the bank loan.

We trust that through the intercessions of St. Mary and the prayers of H.H. Pope Shenouda III that God will provide for all the needs of the church and will reward all those who offer their spiritual and financial support.

Congratulations to

† George Atia and Emily Ann Halim.
† Anis Mekhail and Mona Obied.

For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord Bless both couples, and make their marriage blameless and honorable.

† Maged Riad and Carmen Ibrabim for their blessed engagement. May the Lord bless them and realize all their dreams.

† Gamal and Abeer Bebery for the baptism of their daughter Sarah.

† John and Eva Agaiby for the birth of their daughter Dimiana.

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



Condolences to:

† Aida Iskandar, wife of Mr. Albert Iskandar for the passing away of her sister the late Hayat Tawfik.

† Magdy Awad for the passing away of his father the late Jemmy Awad.

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