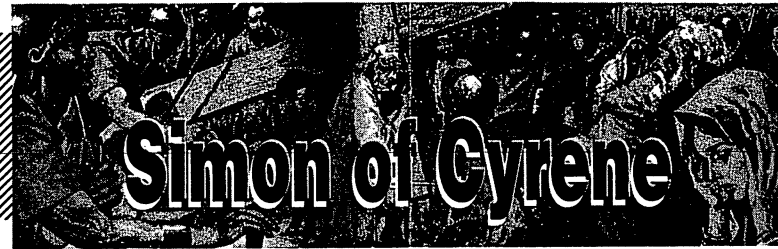


"Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross...." (Mark 15: 21-25)



Simon of Cyrene

Simon was a Jew from Cyrene in Africa. He had come from that far off land to Jerusalem for the Passover ...

Simon met Jesus of Nazareth when He was crossing the road of agony and stumbling under the weight of the heavy cross, on His way to Golgotha, the place of crucifixion.. The Roman soldiers compelled him to help Jesus.

Simon felt indignant and humiliated by their request, however when he looked at Jesus suffering under the cross ... the sweat covering His face and His wounds bleeding because of the crown of thorns they placed on His head, he felt an overwhelming surge of kindness in his heart and he bent under the cross behind Jesus and helped Him.

It is said that after Simon went back home tired and exhausted, his sons asked him why

he came late, he said: "The Roman soldiers told me to help Jesus of Nazareth, carry His cross, so I did, and I have no regrets." The story adds that when Simon went to bed that night, he saw in his dream, Jesus, looking very different from the one he saw crossing the road of agony. His face was radiating brightly like the sun in its utmost glory ... The Lord came close to Simon and said to him: *"Blessed are you Simon, the humiliation you suffered will be an eternal glory and honor for you."* The next morning when Simon woke up he felt an unequivocal joy which he has never experienced before.

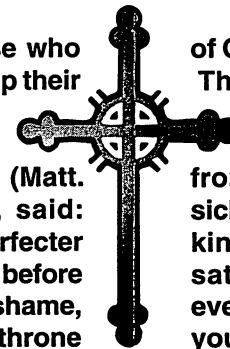
A tradition says that Simon the Cyrenian became a minister and one of the teachers of the early church in Antioch. Also his house became one of the houses that ministered for the Lord and His word



EVERY CROSS HAS ITS TROPHY

An Insight:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said that those who would like to follow Him, have to take up their cross, He said: "If anyone would come after me, let Him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24). Also, St. Paul the apostle, said: "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne



of God." (Heb. 12:2)

This empowers us to endure the cross which we might encounter in life so we can enjoy the glory that results from carrying it. Whether your cross is sickness or persecution or hardships of any kind, you should accept it with joy and satisfaction. Remembering always that every cross has its blessing and reward if you thankfully accept it.

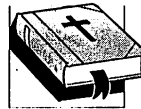
CHURCH NEWS



• On Saturday February 14th., the church youth went on a fun filled trip to Wisconsin. They left after the Divine Liturgy service and came back Sunday afternoon. It was a very successful trip and everybody had a great time.

• During the Great Lent, the church holds a Divine Liturgy Service every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

• The women group of the church meet every Tuesday from 10:30 to 12:30 to Study the New Testament. Currently they are studying the gospel according to St. Matthew. Mark your calendar and plan on coming.



• On Sunday March 1st a meeting was held after the Divine Liturgy service for Sunday school teachers and parents. Speakers were; Dr. Mourid Salib, Alfred Hanna and Maggie Bishay. The presentation given by Dr. Salib focussed on "Parents' Responsibilities Concerning Asheya and Sunday School." The topic of Alfred and Maggie's presentation was: "Sexual Education Programs in Public Schools and Proactive

Christian Parenting." This presentation focussed not only on what non-Christian ideas that many public schools teach, but also on how parents can become more actively involved in every aspect of their children's life. Alfred gave examples of things that are taught at public schools that are cause for concern, and suggested ways that the parents and the Church can help the youth to understand what the Bible teaches instead. Both speeches were intended to inform and motivate parents to become more directly involved in their children's spiritual lives - at home and at church. After the meeting, parents elected to have meetings once per month to discuss new concerns.



"He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross". (Phil 2:8)

The death of Christ is mentioned in the New Testament 175 times. The Cross and the Christ are represented as One because they were nailed together. To preach the cross is to preach Christ and Him crucified.

A shameful Death

The Roman authorities used to strip those who were convicted of robbery or murder, naked and crucify them. The Holy one who committed no sin, no guilt was found on His lips, was numbered with transgressors, fared no better than an object criminal ... They stripped Him naked, put Him to an open shame, but so deep and strong was His love for us, that "He endured the cross, despising the shame!" (Heb 12:2)

It makes you think deep and hard about your sins, which have caused putting Him - He who was not ashamed to suffer the painful death for your sake - to an open shame.

Congratulations To:

Rev. Fr. Rewais Awadallah for the Anniversary of his ordination. We ask the Lord to bless his service so it will continue to be fruitful and successful.

❖ **Asbraf and Mariam Nazir**

❖ **Armia and Safinaz Gobar**

For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their life and make their marriage honorable and blameless.

❖ **Dr. Medbat Philobos** for passing "The American Board of Internal Medicine" examination.

Our best wishes for a continued success.

❖ **Ehab and Hala Sobhy** for the birth of their daughter **Mariam**.

❖ **Atif and Sonya Maquar** for the baptism of their daughter **Mariam**.

May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and Men.

CONDOLENCES TO

❖ **Mr. Kamil Halim** for the passing away of his brother the late **Dr. Amir Halim**.

❖ **Amany Iskandar** for the passing away of her aunt the late **Ayda Helmy**.

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

Service Schedule of the Holy Pascha Week

April 12
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Palm Sunday
Divine Liturgy
Pascha prayers

April 13, 14, & 15

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Pascha prayers

April 16
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Holy Thursday
Liturgy of Water and Divine Liturgy
Pascha prayers

April 17
9:30 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday

April 17 & 18

Pokalapsis Night
(All night prayers)
Friday, 11:30 P.M. through the early hours of Saturday
April 18th.

April 18

Saturday, 4:30 A.M. - 6:30 A.M. **Divine Liturgy**

April 18
Saturday

7:30 P.M. - past midnight **Easter Divine Liturgy.**

April 19 **Easter Sunday**

