

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
 Chicago



2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60067

Volume 13 - NO. 4 - April 1998

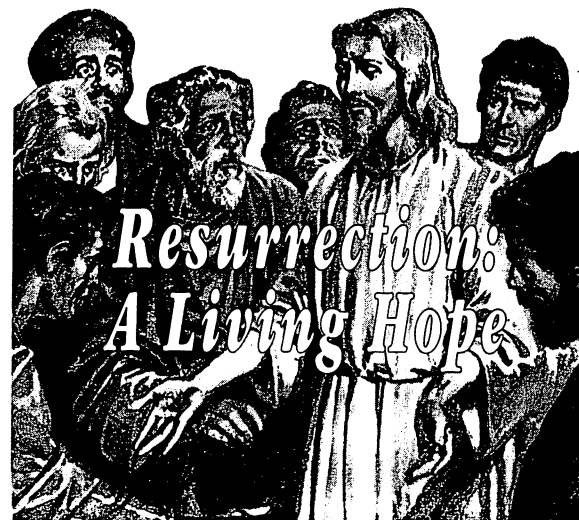


Christ Is Risen
 He Is
 Risen Indeed

Thomas, one of the twelve, when the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord", he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails ... I will not believe" (John 20:24,25)

As humans, it is very hard for us to believe except the things which we see with our own eyes and feel with our senses. This stresses that we still follow the example of Thomas and all the generation of his time. Eventhough they witnessed Jesus making the crippled walk, the blind see, the leopards cleansed and the dead raised, yet they kept saying "Lord give us a sign."

Jesus said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah, for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of earth." (Matt. 12:39,40) And, as Jonah was thrust alive from the



whale's belly, so Jesus returned alive from the grave, overcoming the power of death.

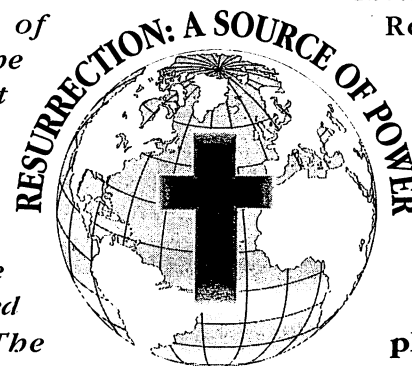
Jonah's sign is a symbol of the Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead, as a powerful proof for those who bury their beloved ones, that they will be reunited again after death. That is, death is not an end in itself, and someday they are going to see each other again.

Therefore Jonah's sign is an indication that from Jesus 'grave came out the power that gives life to those who died, a happy eternal life with unfading and unperishable bodies. The Lord Jesus Christ, ... will change our lowly body to be like His glorious body." (Phil. 3:21)

For this, St. Peter the apostle glorified God saying: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:2,3)

Defenseless as the early church was, yet it challenged Judaism and the other ancient forms of religion, paganism and the Roman aggression. It remained steadfast, and spread by the power of the resurrected Jesus until the whole Roman Empire was converted to Christianity. The power of paganism diminished from the world and "The Kingdom of the world has become

the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." (Rev. 11:15)



Resurrection has become a symbol of overcoming sin. Our teacher St. Paul the apostle says: "And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins ... and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

(Eph. 2:1,6)

H.H. Pope S'ouda III

CHURCH NEWS



- On Sunday April 5th the second monthly Parent-Teacher meeting was held - Read the corresponding article "*Convince Me!*" on the Youth Column that follows.
- On Sunday April 19th., the congregation will celebrate Easter at the church by holding an **Aghaby gathering** starting at 2:00 P.M. Come and join us, there is no better way to spend Easter than among family and friends.
- On Thursday evening, May 7th., St. Mark's church will hold Vespers to commemorate the martyrdom of her intercessor St. Mark the Apostle. The divine Liturgy service will be held on Friday, May 8th., from 6:00 to 7:30 A.M. **Mark your calendar and plan on attending.**
- **The 1998 Midwest Youth Convention**, will be held at Hope College in Holland, Michigan (about 2 1/2 hours drive from Chicago).
18 and older July 23 - 26
13 and older July 27 - 30
 For reservation please contact Wagdi Habib at: (847) 358-2271.
 We are looking forward to a successful convention this summer.

CHURCH CALENDAR

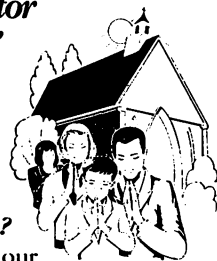
- April 6th. The Annunciation Feast
- April 12th. Palm Sunday
- April 19th. Easter

Youth column

"Remember also your creator in the days of your youth."
 (Eccles. 12:1)

Convince Me!

by A. Hanna



"Why is dating wrong?"

"... Convince me!" was the title of our second monthly Parent-Teacher meeting on Sunday 5th. of April. The large group discussion, moderated by Dr. M. Salib, was intended to respond to the concerns of parents about their children, as well as to be brain-storm for solutions.






Based on two anonymously submitted questions, the majority agreed that while the practice of dating is both inappropriate and non-Biblical, this does not mean that we discourage group outings and the growth of friendship, so long as they are not spiritually hazardous.


In this context, many suggestions were offered around which are:

1. *We must encourage our youth to seek Christ-centered lives. Live as Christian examples with their friends, and devote these precious years to serving Jesus in the church and beyond.*
2. *Teach the youth that the dating system in America has resulted in more divorce and discord than successful marriages.*
3. *There is no harm in starting a serious relationship with someone when the intent is marriage, and while under family and spiritual supervision. Of course the individuals must be spiritually, psychologically and financially ready for marriage before initiating any such relationship.*

Also, mentioned in the meeting was that dating in the high school and college years can be spiritually and psychologically damaging, not only to the one who dates, but also to his or her future marriage partner. The spiritual damage results when spiritual purity is overtaken.




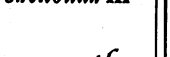

The announcement of Wagdi Habib concluded the meeting as he urged the parents to support the youth activities and commit to clearing schedules for this year's Midwest Convention.



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.

Congratulations To:

- ❖ **Sameh and Mira Tanios** for the birth of their son **Joseph**.
- ❖ **Samir and Evette Boulos** for the birth of their daughter **Jolie**.
 May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and Men.

May the blessings of the Risen Christ
be yours at Easter

HAPPY

EASTER!

*Christ Is Risen
He Is Risen Heed!*