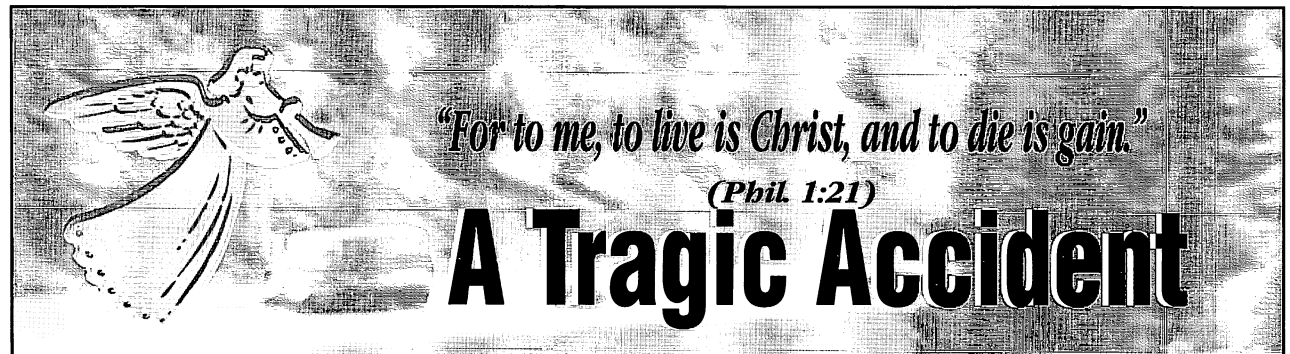




“Who are these who fly like a cloud, and like doves to their roosts.”

(Isaiah 60:8)



Friday, July 23rd. was a very sad day for those families who lost loved ones in the bus accident that took place on its way back from Virgin Mary Monastery in Samalout, Egypt. Those 29 youths, lost their young lives after being blessed in the monastery. They attended the Divine Liturgy and took communion. As they were heading back to Cairo, a trailer was separated from a truck on the opposite direction, charged at their bus in full speed. Of all the bus passengers, only 10 lives were spared and they were taken to a nearby hospital in a critical condition.

### A Word of Consolation



H.H. Pope Shenouda III was out of town, and as soon as H.H. was informed of the sad news, he held a special meeting to console the grieving families. The following is an excerpt of his homily:

“I want to tell you a few comments about the bus accident. The sudden death, although is a shock to the family and friends, but it is a rest to the deceased person himself. In a certain moment, that person will find out that he, or she, moved from earth to heaven, without pain, without sickness or toil. People who are afflicted with terminal illnesses, suffer agonizing pain, and there is no hope for them. Even their relatives pray that God may call them home to end their agony.

Those blessed youth had Holy Communion the day before the accident and on the day they died. During the trip they were singing hymns and praising God as youths usually do on trips. While they were in these spiritual moments, God called them home, to Himself. There is a verse that says, “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his” (Numbers 23:10). How great that some people die while they are praying, praising God, and rejoicing in the Lord. That makes us not to grieve for them.”

St. Mary Church, the priest, servants and congregation pray that the Lord repose the souls of those blessed and faithful servants who are considered martyrs. May they rest in peace, in the heavenly Jerusalem. Our condolences to the families who brought up those wonderful young men and women.”

### An Insight

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour...” (Mat. 25:13)

This event teaches us a priceless lesson, on how to be prepared. Those youths did not have a clue that they would die on that day. Probably they were thinking that in a couple of hours they would be home. This makes us wonder, how ready are we, if

we were to die a sudden and unexpected death? We have to be prepared every day and every moment. We are all passing away, some will go sooner than others. We are all going the same path.

(H. H. Pope Shenouda III)

