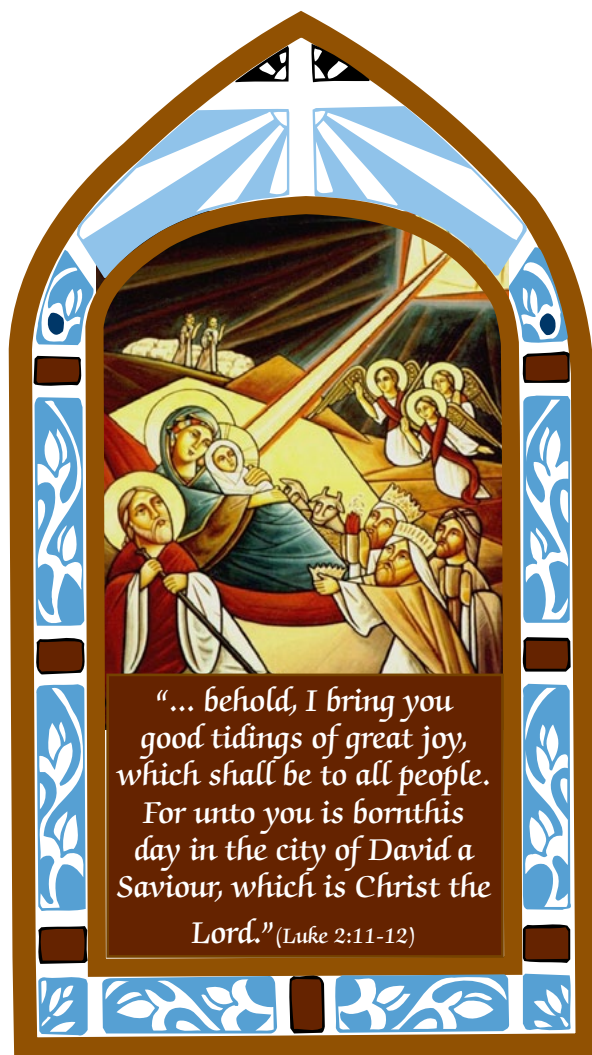




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Issue 1 Jan 2014

Established by: Fr. Isaac Boutros Tanios



“... behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11-12)

# BEFORE AND AFTER CHRIST



By: H.H. Pope Shenouda III

The world has changed completely after the birth of Christ. A new era was born, that is very different from the previous one. Christianity has brought great changes to the world. In this respect the Gospel says: “Old things have passed away, everything has become new”. (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Lord Jesus Christ presented to the world a new concept of life. He brought deep spiritual meanings to every aspect of life. His audience were amazed and His enemies said: “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:46).

Christ called for love among people, and He created love between people and God. He presented God to people as a loving Father who look upon them as His children not as slaves. People are asked to call God: “Our Father who art in heaven.” When we love God we keep His commandments, not out of fear but out of love. St. John says: “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him. (1 John 4:16). “There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear”. (1 John 4:18). In Matthew 22 Jesus said: “... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself”. Jesus taught us to love not only those

who love us but also our enemies and those who curse us, hate us and persecute us. (Matt. 5:44) .

Christ also came with a message of peace. Peace among men, and peace between man and God. The peace of God surpassed all understanding (Phil. 4:7) When Jesus was born the angels sang: “Peace on earth”, because He came to establish peace and reconcile mankind with God. Christ said: “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar and go your way, first be reconciled to your brother; and then come and offer your gift.” (Matt. 5:23-24) Christ made it clear that reconciliation is better than offering sacrifices: “I want mercy more than sacrifice.” (Matt. 9:13)

In order to keep peace Jesus promoted humility, self-denial and tolerance, that is why He said: “He who want to follow Me, let him deny himself, carry his cross and follow Me.” The humble person does good deeds in secrecy, the Bible says: “...he who seeks honor will lose it, and he who flees from it will find it” (John 12:25)

Christ defined power very differently. The old definition of the word is just physical power however, the new definition is internal, it helps to overcome one’s lust and sins. Christ taught us that power is not to humiliate others but to win them. “those who are strong ought to bear the weak (Rome 15:1)



Merry  
Christmas

and a happy

2014

ABOUNA THEODORE ORDINATION



Abouna Theodore, was ordained by H.H. Pope Tawadros II, On Nov. 14, 2013, to be the third priest at St. Mark Church of Chicago.



Abouna Theodore

This past year we are thankful to the Lord for His amazing work in Chicago land area. He granted us three precious gifts; three more priests in the area within less than a year. Abouna James (St. Paul church), Abouna Morcos (St. Mary church), and Abouna Theodore (St. Mark church).

Let us rejoice, chanting with the Psalms: "Our mouth was filled with joy, and our tongue with exaltation.. The Lord has done great things for us, we became joyful.. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy."

I have known Abouna Theodore since he was a child, he has a loving heart, and is full of energy and zeal. He is deeply rooted in Orthodoxy. He loves the church and has a lot of dreams for it. May God help him to be a fruitful tree in the Chicago land area *By: Fr. Youbanna Nassif*

Congratulation To:

- ❖ *Mathew and Marian Wilim, for the baptism of their son Logan*
  - ❖ *Karim and Meryam Thomas , for the baptism of their Daughter Olivia*
- May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

CLERGY MEETINGS



Clergy Meeting in Milwaukee on Oct. 2013



Clergy Meeting at St. Mary Church, on Dec. 19, 2013

CONDOLENCES

Reposed in the Lord:

- ❖ *Mr. Nasralla Kondos, father of Sousou and father in law of Adel Balamon, and grandfather of David and Marina.*
- ❖ *Mrs. Mary Youssef, wife of Mr. Mourice Pharoan Guirgis. Mother of Dina Ibrahim wife of Dr. Samuel Akhnouk, Mr. George Pharoan the Husband of Ranya, Dr. Ingy Nessim the wife of Dr. Mark Nessim. The grandmother of Virina, John, Miriam, George.*
- ❖ *Dr. Ebtessam Awad, Wife of Guirguis Guirguis and mother of Silvana Bebawy and Amir Bishay.*



An Open Birthday Card for Abouna Isaac

Dear Abouna:

January 7<sup>th</sup> was your birthday, this is the second year we celebrate it after your departure. But we feel your presence in our midst and we feel the spirit of love, which you instilled in us as one big family. Each and everyone of us has a story to tell about how compassionate, how loving and how understanding you were. More often than once we smile as we recall your humorous comments. You served the Lord by example not by words. You taught us how to serve in secrecy and humility without seeking recognition.

When you were born you were assigned a mission. The checklist was very long, but the Lord knows how to choose His shepherd. Throughout your life you and Tasoni Nadia tirelessly served the Lord whether in Egypt or here in Chicago. You built a beautiful church for St. Mary. The road was tough and the goal was beyond your means, but with your prayers and efforts the project was a great success.

We are sure that you are watching over us. Abouna Youhanna and Abouna Marcus are carrying the torch you left behind and it is glowing brighter and brighter. Thank you Abouna Isaac, Mission Accomplished.