

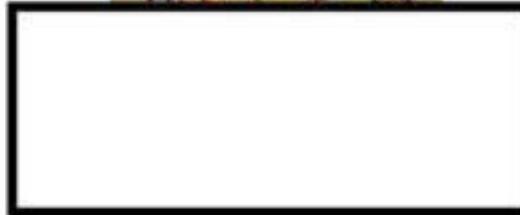


Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archangel Michael Church
P.O. BOX 256 Howell, NJ 07731

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



July 2002

Volume 3

Issue 29

Baona 1718

www.archangelmichaelchurch.net



12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

18 And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

19 They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again. ” (Luk 9: 12-19)

This Newsletter is a free monthly publication of the Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church, PO Box 256 Howell, NJ 07731, under the supervision of the priests of St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, East Brunswick, N.J.

The committee welcomes your participation in the form of articles, reviews, news or comments. Please mail your articles, comments...etc. to the church or e-mail them to newsletter@archangelmichaelchurch.net

If you would like this newsletter mailed to a friend or would like your name to be deleted from our mailing list, please email your request or fax it to (732) 821-1512.



The Holy Spirit In The Church Of The Apostles

**By His Holiness
Pope Shenouda III**

The descending of the Holy Spirit was the beginning of the work of the Christian Church. The Lord Jesus Christ started forming the Church when He chose the twelve apostles and sent them out (Matthew 10:1-16). He also appointed seventy others whom he also sent out (Luke 10:1-20), with separate groups of His beloved ones and disciples. Even though He appointed the apostles, He allowed them to start preaching only after the descending of the Holy Spirit upon them. This great occurrence was the point of great conversion in the beginning of preaching on the largest scale.

The Holy Spirit was the One who gave the necessary power for the work of preaching. The sending of the Holy Spirit was a promise from the Lord (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7), however, despite this He said to them, *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"* (Luke 24:29). Where will this power come from? He said to them regarding this, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me"* (Acts 1:8).

The Spirit of God was essential to them for they could not work without Him. The Holy Spirit worked with them in preaching and teaching. They waited according to the Lord's command. Their previous preparation for service which lasted more than three years did not dispense them of the Holy Spirit and His work in and with them. Perhaps these ten days which they waited were days of prayer and hope, from the heart, in preparation for the coming work.

How did the Holy Spirit descend?

1. The Holy Spirit descended upon them in the shape of **tongues of fire**. The result was that, *"they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:4). They spoke the tongues of all the nations gathered on that great day (people from about 15 nations), speaking about the glories of God (Acts 2:9-11). Peter spoke and the result was that the audience were cut to the heart, accepted the words with joy; three thousand were baptized on that day (Acts 2:37,41).
2. Thereafter, they granted the Holy Spirit by the **laying on of hands**, just as had occurred to the people of Samaria; the Bible says that the apostles sent Peter and John to them, *"who when they had come down prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit... Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 8:15,17). Likewise with the people of Ephesus, as the book of the Acts of the Apostles states, *"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the*

Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).

3. The Holy Spirit was then granted by the **Holy Anointment**. This is because there was no opportunity for the laying on of hands by the apostles after the spread of Christianity in many countries. Therefore, Christianity used what is now known as the Holy Myron (Chrism). Saint John the Apostle alluded to this anointment by saying, *"But you have an anointing from the Holy One...:"* (1 John 2:20) and, *"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you..."* (1 John 2:27) (Also see 2 Corinthians 1:21).

4. As for the priesthood, the apostles received this through the **Holy Breath**. The Lord Jesus Christ breathed on them, *"...and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained"* (John 20:22,23).

Thus, the Holy Spirit who was in them forgave or retained sins through them.

The apostles then granted the Holy Spirit through the **sacrament of priesthood by the laying on of hands**. Here we remember the saying of Saint Paul the Apostle to his disciple Timothy, the bishop of Ephesus, *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands"* (2 Timothy 1:6). He also said to him regarding the ordination of others, *"Do not lay hands on anyone hastily nor share in other people's sins"* (1 Timothy 5:22).

We can also see in the sending of Barnabas and Saul that, *"...having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia..."* (Acts 13:3,4). Therefore, by the laying on of hands they were sent by the Holy Spirit. Likewise in the ordination of the seven deacons, *"whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them"* (Acts 6:6).

In this way we can see that the laying on of hands was accompanied by certain prayers, which are presently the rites of ordination. We can also see that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples from God directly, as there is none higher than them to whom He may grant the Holy Spirit. They became, *"...stewards of the mysteries of God"* (1 Corinthians 4:1),

They became stewards of God who then granted the Holy Spirit with the laying on of their hands and their prayers, as in the ordination of bishops, priests and deacons. Or by the laying on of hands initially and then by anointing as with granting the Spirit to the believers in general. In this way the Spirit who is in them is transferred to others in the way that we mentioned.

5. At present we practice the Sacrament of the Holy Myron (Chrism) or the Sacrament of Anointing, after Baptism. During the rites of this sacrament, we anoint the child with the Myron (Chrism) on many parts of his body, and we also lay the hand on his head and breathe in his face saying to him, *"accept the Holy Spirit..."*. With respect to ladies, the bishop can lay his hand on the woman's head with prayers to accept the Holy Spirit and anoints the visible parts of her body such as her head and hands.



The Martyrdom of Saint Paul, the Apostle

St. Paul the Apostle was born in Tarsus two years before the advent of the Savior. He was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin and the son of a Pharisee. He was well learned in the Law of the Torah and he was envied for it. He persecuted the Christians. When they stoned St. Stephen, Paul was guarding the clothes of those who were stoning him. He took letters from the high priest Caiaphas to the synagogues of Damascus instructing them to bind the Christians and bring them to Jerusalem. As he journeyed near Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Then He ordered him to go to Ananias in Damascus, who baptized him, and he received his sight at once. He was filled by the grace of the Comforter, and he boldly proclaimed the Faith. He went around in the world preaching of the crucified Christ. He suffered many beatings, imprisonment and was bound with fetters, some of which are mentioned in the book of the Acts of the Apostles and in his Epistles. He went to Rome and proclaimed the Faith there and many believed by his hands. He wrote for them the Epistle to the Romans which was the first of his fourteen Epistles. Finally, Nero seized him, tortured him severely and ordered his head cut off. While St. Paul was passing along with the executioner, he met a damsel who was a kinswoman of the Emperor Nero. She had believed through him and walked along with St. Paul, weeping, to where they carried out the sentence. He comforted her and asked her for her veil. He wrapped his head with the veil, and asked her to return. The executioner cut off his head and left it wrapped in the veil of the young girl, and that was in the year 67 A.D. The young girl met the executioner on his way back to the Emperor, and asked him about Paul and he replied, "He is lying where I left him and his head is wrapped in your veil." She told him, "You are lying, for he and Peter had just passed by me, they were dressed in the apparel of kings and had crowns decorated with jewels on their heads. They gave me my veil, here it is." She showed it to the executioner and to those who were with him. They were amazed and believed on the Lord Christ. God wrought by the hands of Peter and Paul many great signs and wonders, that they even carried the sick out into the streets ... that as Peter came by ... his shadow might fall on them ... and they were all healed. (Acts 5:15) The handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from Paul's body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. (Acts 19:12)

May his prayers be with us, and Glory be to God forever. Amen.

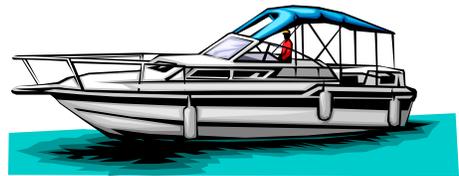
Short Story



Once upon a time there was an island where all the feelings lived; happiness, sadness, knowledge and all the others including love.

One day it was announced to all of the feelings that the island was going to sink to the bottom of the ocean. So all the feelings prepared their boats to leave. Love was the only one that stayed. She wanted to preserve the island paradise until the last possible moment.

When the island was almost totally under, love decided it was time to leave. She began looking for someone to ask for help. Just then Richness was passing by in a grand boat. Love asked, "Richness, can I come with you on your boat?" Richness answered, "I'm sorry, but there is a lot of silver and gold on my boat and there would be no room for you anywhere."



Then Love decided to ask Vanity who was passing in a beautiful vessel for help. Love cried out, "Vanity, help me please." "I can't help you", Vanity said, "You are all wet and will damage my beautiful boat."

Next, Love saw Sadness passing by. Love said, "Sadness, please let me go with you." Sadness answered, "Love, I'm sorry, but I just need to be alone now."

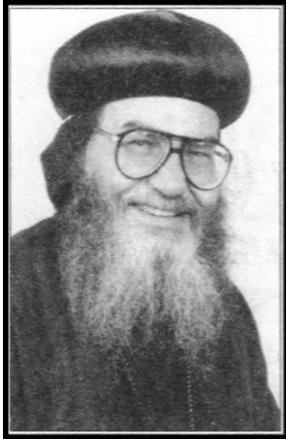
Then Love saw Happiness. Love cried out, "Happiness, please take me with you." But Happiness was so overjoyed that he didn't hear Love calling to him.

Love began to cry. Then she heard a voice say, "Come Love, I will take you with me." It was an elder. Love felt so blessed and overjoyed that she forgot to ask the elder his name. When they arrived on land the elder went on his way. Love realized how much she owed the elder.

Love then found Knowledge and asked, "Who was it that helped me?" "It was Time", Knowledge answered. "But why did Time help me when no one else would?", Love asked.

Knowledge smiled and with deep wisdom and sincerity answered, "Because only Time is capable of understanding how great Love is."

Coptic youth ask *His Grace Bishop Moussa*



“ From the youth Bishopric web site”

Question: How can I know my partner or fiancée without having pre-marital sex?

His Grace Bishop Moussa

Answers: Pre-marital sexual relationships are wrong and harmful because you are not going to know your partner but your failure. You are going to enter marriage through the door of lust and not love.

In the Bible, there are three Greek words for love:

EROS, which is the sensual love; it is lust rather than love. It is turning the holy, sexual love into something materialistic - sex has become body to body instead of person to person. And if you are dealing with sex in such a way, you will be living in lust and you will be lost. Once you're married, you will feel bored with your partner. You will feel annoyed and frustrated, searching outside for another, and leaving your spouse within a few years. The result is that your marriage will be broken, unsuccessful, will not be eternal and will not give you happiness. As a Christian, and practically, if you enter marriage through the door of lust, you will leave from the door of lust also.

The second kind of love is PHILIA, the love you have towards your family and friends. It is the human love that is giving and taking.

The third kind of love is AGAPE - this is the most pure and spiritual love, baptized by the Holy Spirit. This is the kind of love we should aspire to in order to have successful marriages.

A journalist once asked His Holiness Pope Shenouda, "What is the difference between love and lust?" He replied, "*Love is always giving, lust is always taking.*" The people living in lust are not happy, they are suffering because they are committed to pleasures rather than happiness. Their children become stressed, rebellious, lonely and are in despair longing for family life and love.

Therefore, we are not pressuring you when we say keep yourself holy and pure. To have spiritual strength, you must struggle, but you should accept it with love and freedom, according to your own conviction. You must be freely convinced that this kind of living is wrong and that purity is right. If you don't set limitations in your life, you will end up destroying your life. If you commit yourself to lust, your conscience will be troubled, you will feel you are not able to confess or take Holy Communion and you can't enjoy Christian life and love. Please keep yourself pure so that your marriage will have fruitful results.



BIBLE STUDY

The second Epistle of Saint Peter

By: Christine Michael

Saint Peter wrote this letter to the early Christians. He wanted to make it clear to all the Christians that the Christian faith that he had been preaching to them was not a matter of philosophy, but a matter of eternal life and death. Through this epistle Saint Peter confronts the many errors and falsehoods that contradicted the truths of the faith.

The second letter of Peter was less about Jesus' life events as his first letter did. The second letter mainly concerned the Transfiguration, the prophecy of Peter's own death, the day of the Lord's coming as a thief in the night, and the prediction of the appearance of false prophets. In the letter, Saint Peter mainly addresses "those who have obtained a like precious faith with us"(1:1), which is basically saying "all believers everywhere". The people that he wrote to were very widely scattered. The people whom he addresses are facing false teachings, Gentiles, and a mixed group of Jews and Gentiles. Saint Peter had received word in Rome that there had been false teachings being spread throughout the lands, therefore, he encouraged them and warned them of the dangers facing them.

Second Peter stresses mainly holy living, efforts to disprove false teachings, and sanctification. He encourages us to live holy lives and reminds us of the Second Coming of Christ and punishment and rewards that he would bring. The five main themes set forth clearly in the letter. (1) Saint Peter initiates the authority of the apostles and his teachings and how they distinguish truth from error. (2) He stressed the connection between following Christ and living a holy life explaining how discipleship to Christ means putting away all kinds of immortality. (3) Saint Peter warned his readers not to mimic the arrogance of false teachers who spoke badly about spiritual beings. (4) He further encouraged them to strive towards keeping the truths of the faith by describing to them the day of the Lord that would result in a new heaven and earth. (5) Finally, Saint Peter closes by asking the readers to have patience with the Lord and that there are reasons behind the delay of Christ's return. However, he reminded them that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent, therefore he encourages them to watch for falsehoods and keep the truths of the faith.



His Grace Bishop David

General bishop, delegated by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III to oversee the Archdiocese of North America

Will celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us on Saturday June 29, 2002

Archangel Michael church
Dinner May 2002

We were blessed by the presence
of his Grace Bishop Misael



**If any man will come after me,
let him deny himself, and take
up his cross daily, and follow me.**

(Luk 9:23)

With the grace of God
and your generous
contributions, the
Church property was
paid in full.

Progress Chart

Goal \$500,000

Loans \$72,000

Donated \$428,000

CHURCH SERVICES

Fridays

-7:30 PM-8:30 PM

Hymms Lesson

-8:30PM-10:00PM

Arabic Bible Study

Arabic Prayer Meeting

-8:30PM-11:00PM

Midnight Praises

Midnight Prayers

SATURDAYS

-8:00AM-11:30AM:

Divine Liturgy

-12:00AM-1:00PM:

Sunday School &

Youth group meeting



The Church celebrated the
graduation of John Sharobiem
from Stevens Institute of
Technology and Geoge Mankbadi
and Marian Abdemaseih from
high school, on Saturday June 15
after the Divine Liturgy.