

St. Bishoy



- On 8 Abib (Coptic month) - 15 July, St. Bishoy, whose memorial is honorable, the star of the desert, departed. He was born around 320 A.D. in Egypt. He had six brothers. His mother saw an angel in a vision saying to her, "The Lord says to you, give Me one of your children to serve Me." She answered, "Take whoever you want." The angel took the hand of Bishoy, who was thin and his body was frail. His mother told the angel, "Take one who is strong to serve the Lord." "This is whom the Lord has chosen," the Angel replied.

- Later on, around 340 A.D., St. Bishoy went to the wilderness of Shiheet (Wadi-El-Natroun) and became a monk. (320-417 A.D.), the great Egyptian desert father who saw and washed the feet of our Lord Jesus and whose incorrupt body is preserved to this day at the Coptic Orthodox monastery bearing his name at Wadi El-Natroun, Egypt, was known for his love, meekness, simplicity, and his extremely ascetic and prayerful life.



- Saint Abanoub of Nehesa (Abba Nob), the Child Saint and Martyr, was only twelve years old when he was martyred by the Roman ruler. On July 31 (Abib 24) the Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the day of his martyrdom, as the day of his birth into eternal life. Abanoub's relics, as well as the relics of many Christians who died with him, are still preserved in Virgin Mary and St. Abanoub Coptic Orthodox Church in Samanoud, Egypt.



The Departure of St. Shenouda, the Archimandrite (348 – 466 AD)

- He was born in Egypt. His father entrusted him with the care of the sheep. He tended to the sheep, gave his food to the shepherd, and he spent his day fasting.

- His father took him to his uncle Anba Bgoul to bless him. Anba Bgoul laid the boy's hands on his own head and said, "You bless me, my child, for you will be a father for many peoples." His father left him with his uncle and returned home.

- One day he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Shenouda has become the Archimandrite."

- Anba Shenouda had built a monastery, the number of its monks reached 2200 monks, which is still standing and is known as the monastery of Anba Shenouda. Anba Shenouda became a shining light to all the world with his sermons, discourses, and canons that he put for the good of the monks, hierarchies, and laity, men and women.

- He attended the Council of Ephesus with Pope Kyrillos (24th), and he admonished Nestorius the heretic. *May his prayers be with us. Amen.*

+++

Heavenly Message

- You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.
- Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
- Reputation is what people think about you. Character is what people know about you.
- Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case!
- No Jesus - no peace, Know Jesus - know peace!
- Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.
- Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back.



Archangels Michael & Gabriel Coptic Orthodox Church

985 N. Palm Ave.

Fresno, CA 93728

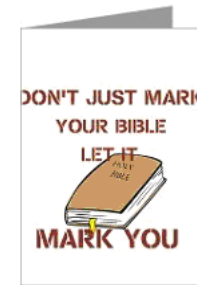
Under the auspices of H. H. Pope Shenouda III

Phone #: (559) 441 – 1698

Websites:

fresnocopticchurch.org

fresnocopticchurch.net



"Let the eye look on no evil thing, and it has become a sacrifice.

Let your tongue speak nothing filthy; and it has become an offering

Let your hand do no lawless deed, and it has become a whole burnt offering.

Let us then from our hands and feet and mouth and all other members, yield a first-fruit to God"

St. John Chrysostom

Your Prayers & Donations are very much appreciated

July 2011 Newsletter

St. Moses the Black (330–405)



- Moses was a slave of a government official in Egypt who dismissed him for theft and suspected murder. He became the leader of a gang of bandits who roamed the Nile Valley spreading terror and violence. He was a large, imposing figure.

- Attempting to hide from local authorities, he took shelter with some monks in a colony in the Western desert. The dedication of their lives, as well as their peace and contentment, influenced Moses deeply. He soon gave up his old way of life, became a Christian, was baptized and joined the monastic community.

- Moses became the spiritual leader of a colony of hermits in the Western Desert. Later, he was ordained a priest.

- At about age 75, about the year 405 AD, word came that a group of Berbers planned to attack the monastery. He and seven other monks were martyred.

- When a brother committed a fault and Moses was invited to a meeting to discuss an appropriate penance, Moses refused to attend. When he was again called to the meeting, Moses took a basket filled with sand and carried it on his shoulder. When he arrived at the meeting place, the others asked why he was carrying the basket. He replied, "My sins run out behind me and I do not see them, but today I am coming to judge the errors of another." On hearing this, the assembled brothers forgave the erring monk.

Three Old Sisters

There were 3 sisters living together 92, 94 and 95 yrs. old. The oldest went upstairs one evening to take a bath. As she was getting in the tub with one foot in and one foot out, she called down to her sisters, "Am I getting in the tub or am I getting out of the tub?"

The 94 yr. old decided to go upstairs to see if she could help figure out the situation. She got to the 3rd step and stopped - then called out, "Was I going up the stairs or was I coming down the stairs?"

The 92 yr. old, sitting at the kitchen table, thought she better knock on wood and as she knocked on the kitchen table she said, "I hope I never get as bad as my sisters. Now was that the front door or the back door?"



- St. Marina was not Christian, after her parents passed away she went to live with a Christian nanny, that Marina was inspired and yearned to taste the sweet mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The governor of Antioch fancied Marina and desired her. But when his soldiers came to her, she told them that she belonged to Christ. When she cursed his idolatry ways, he ordered her body scraped with iron combs, and then rubbed with vinegar, salt and lime. But the Lord God sent an angel to heal all her wounds. The governor ordered her hanged on the squeezing wheel. The angel of the Lord came to her, and healed her yet again.

- While she was standing up praying, a huge serpent came forth. The serpent swallowed her up. She made the sign of the cross and prayed while she was in the belly of the serpent. It split open and fell on the ground dead. St. Marina came out unharmed.

- Then the Devil appeared to her and said, "O Marina, if you obey the governor that would be for your good for he is merciless". She realized that that was the Devil, she bound him with the sign of the cross, but he did not depart until he told her all about what he does to the human race.

- Then the governor ordered to fill a large cauldron with melted lead, and to immerse her in it. When they did so, she asked the Lord to make this a baptism for her. The Lord sent his angel in the form of a dove. While being immersed in the boiling cauldron, she said, "*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God Amen.*" A voice from heaven called her and said, "*O Marina you have been baptized in the baptismal water.*", and those who were present heard what had happened to the saint. Many of them believed, and the governor ordered to cut off their necks, and afterwards ordered to cut off St. Marina's head. The executioner saw the angel of the Lord carrying a crown of bright light. Then he cut her neck off then he cut his neck also while he was saying, "I believe in the God of St. Marina."

May her prayers and intercession be with us and Glory be to God forever. Amen.

Holy Alphabet

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able

Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee

Move out of 'Camp Complaining'
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone

Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship

To 'thank' is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad,
but...

Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!



The Apostles' Feast (Abib 5- July 12)

This is the feast of martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul. It is preceded by a fasting period, which starts on the day following the Pentecost. In this feast, the liturgy of blessing the water takes place, in which the priest washes the feet of his people (men and children) commemorating what the Lord did for His disciples. Thus, the priest remembers that he is a servant who washes the feet of the people of God and not a man of authority.