

هذا الكل قد صار جديداً (١٧:٥٤)



لنيابة الأنبا موسى
أسقف الشباب

في بداية سنة جديدة نحتاج إلى وقوتين:
١- وقوفة في ميدان السليميات التي يجب أن تدعم بثبات الإنسان أن يراجع نفسه على الأقل في ٣ بنود:
١- السليميات الفكرة
٢- السليميات الوجهانية
٣- السليميات السلوكية
٤- السليميات الفكرية:
نراجع نفسنا على ما أكثراً انكاراً كانت سائدة في العام الذي مضى، وهل كان نجاح على نقاوة انكارانا وقداستها!! ونطلب من الله في العام الجديد أن يقسّم انكارانا ويفيقناه أبداً إنجليلية وروحية، وهذا يأتي من الشيع الدائم بربنا الذي يجعل لنا فكر المسيح
٥- السليميات الوجهانية: أي تعطى عموداً حماسته أمام الله في وقتنا أيام الله في نهاية العام، ولكننا نشاء العام لا يشتغل بتفيد هذه المهمة، لذلك نستطع تفويت كل ذلك إلى أن نحتاج في العام الماضي، لكنه يقتضي أن نتفيد، نعطي عموداً يمكن تفويتها، ونستطع فيها إثناء السنة بالاتفاق مع أحد سبب يكون لها خصومة مع أحد سبب آية ساليات أو أي شيء، ويقول القديس أغسطينوس «أزرق»: «للمقير ماريا والقفير رحيمًا يجيء أن تنتهي عن المادة والآلات، ونقدم الحب للناس، وندخل اعتاب السنة الجديدة طلاقة حب جديدة ومتقدمة تأتي لنا السما». العام الجديد أن يكون لنا نظام في قراءة الإنجيل، تحب الإنجيل ونறي في قراءته.

٦- شررتنا مع التأول: نحتاج أن الأسرة كلها تعتاد على التأول مع بعض، هذا يجعل من شررتنا كيسة، فلتجعل السنة الجديدة ستة نمو في الصلاة والصلوة في القراءة الإنجيل والنمو في التأول.

الله يعطينا سنة جديدة تسعد بها، وتسعدنا، ويكون لنا عشرة معه من خال: الصلاة والإنجيل والتأول، كل عام وجميعكم بخير.

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٤- السليميات الفكرية:

نراجع نفسنا على ما أكثراً

انكاراً

كانت

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في

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ونطلب

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العام

الجديد

أن

يقسّم

انكارانا

ويفيقناه

أبداً إنجليلية

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أنه ولد لكماليوم في مدينة داود مخلص هو المسيح الرب (لو ١١: ٢)

مجموعة شركات آفامينا

شركة آفامينا للاستثمار العقاري

كيرو ماربل للرخام والجرانيت

شركة أوليف تري للتطوير العقاري

مزارع الملائكة والأمير



أشرف عوض و إيهاب عوض

مينا إيهاب و كيرلس أشرف

ميرنا أشرف و لورا إيهاب

و جميع العاملين بالمجموعة

يتقدمون بخالص التهانى القلبية لصاحب القداسة البابا المعظم

الأبنا تواضروس الثاني

ولأصحاب النيافة المطارنة والأساقفة والكهنة والرهبان والراهبات

وجموع الأقباط فى جميع أرجاء المعمورة

بمناسبة عيد الميلاد المجيد

أعاده الله على مصرنا الغالية والعالم أجمع بالخير والبركات والسلام والاستقرار

تحت القيادة الرشيدة لرئيس كل المصريين

عبد الفتاح السيسي





**«الْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْأَعْوَادِ، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ
السَّلَامُ، وَبِنَاسِنَ الْمَسَرَّةِ».** (لو ٢: ٤).

**مع دقات أجراءات العام الجديد
وميلاد رب المجد يرسّع المسيح**

**نرفع تهانينا
لصاحب الغبطه والقداره البابا المعظم**

الأبنا تواضروس الثاني

**بابا وبطريرك الكرسي المرقسية
طالبين منه الله أن يكون هذا العام مظلة آمان
لتنعم بلادنا بالامان وسلام
ويجنّبها أثر الوباء ويحفظها في سلام
بقيادة الرئيس المحبوب**

عبد الفتاح السعيد

أبناؤك

**نبيل مهنى الأسيوطى والعائلة
خالد نبيل الأسيوطى وحرمه
مينا نبيل الأسيوطى وحرمه - أسامة رفيق وحرمه**

Editorial

Wrapped in the tender love of the Father

Youssef Sidhom

"Happy New Year ... Merry Christmas"

With these words we embark on our new year, with good wishes and prayers for the Lord to preserve our Egypt, guard her against all evil, and bless her people.

As we contemplate the past year, we find that we can do no better than to thank the Lord for His tender love and kindness, and His generous care that brought us to this hour in which we celebrate His coming to our world. In so doing, He carried to us a message of love and peace, as sung by the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace; goodwill towards men".

I say this even as I live the aftermath of the harsh experience I underwent last year: that of losing my wife, Amira, who was my life partner, love, and friend. But this was the good will of God and His fatherly

care. His overflowing grace inundated me, so that I was immersed in a sense of complete acceptance of His will. His peace gave me the comfort and strength to go through the journey of pain, loss, and deprivation. Now I have the inner joy of knowing for certain that I have a special intercessor who is free of the pains of this world, and who prays for me in Heaven.

My good wishes for a blessed Christmas go to the faithful, wise pastor Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church; and to all Metropolitans, Bishops, priests, servants, and congregation of the Church. My good wishes also go to the Heads of the Catholic and Evangelical Churches in Egypt, and to their priests and congregations. I pray to God to stretch His healing, loving hand to bless our land and her good people.



*Watani
wishes her
readers joy
and peace for
the coming New
Year 2022,
and a blessed
Christmas Day*

Christ is Born, let us glorify Him

Christ from heaven, let us go out to meet Him

His Eminence
Metropolitan Serapion***He is able to aid those who are tempted*** (Heb. 2:18).

5. To give us the model of true service. Although He is the Master, Teacher, and Lord, yet, He washed the feet of His disciples, as written, "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you'" (Jn 13: 1215-). Also, Christ taught them that, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mk 10:43).

My Beloved,

Our true celebration of the Mystery of the Incarnation, which is the mystery of Christ emptying Himself, lies in how we learn to empty ourselves and imitate our Good Lord in serving others. We ought

to understand that true greatness is revealed in service with sacrifice and self-denial. When the disciples argued amongst themselves about who is the greatest, Christ taught them and led them to the path of true greatness, "*If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all*" (Mk 9:35). In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man lived luxuriously, as written, "*There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day*" (Lk 16:19). The rich man was absorbed in the comfort of his life and did not step outside the sphere of his own self-interest. Therefore, he could not notice Lazarus the beggar, and the Gospel tells us, "*But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table*" (Lk 16: 20-21). In the end, when the rich man died, he went to Hades and was tormented; his earthly luxuries and riches could not save him, because they were all temporal. On the other hand, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan we see a different example. The Samaritan exemplified true service and cared for the man, who "*fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead*" (Lk. 10:30). Whereas, both the priest and the Levite passed by the wounded man and ignored him, the Samaritan imitated Christ by emptying himself of the hatred that existed between the Jews and the Samaritans, and cared for the wounded man.

We ask God to help us so we can imitate our Good Lord and serve one another with humility and self-denial. We pray for the peace of our Holy Orthodox Church and our beloved father, H.H. Pope Tawadros II. Wishing you many happy returns.

His Eminence Metropolitan Serapion is Metropolitan of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles.

Moving Forward

The Lord is born! Let us glorify Him! Let us glorify the incarnate and eternal Word of God!

As we refer to St Mary as the burning bush, know that you, too, are a candle enflamed with the same Holy Fire. You have a mission. You have a purpose. Understand the path from where you came and consider the motivation behind the choices you make each day. Commit your future to the One who holds it.

We would be amiss if we only thought that the pandemic of this era is merely a fleeting virus with cumbersome impositions. There are no coincidences with God. From the beginning of creation until His Second Coming, each of you has a special place and a significant purpose. Do not think that you are outside the realm of His apostles, evangelists, disciples, or servants. You are His precious child. If you are near to Him, you know that He holds your hand and carries you when you tire, and fills your heart with joy and gratitude regardless of circumstances. If you are far, know that He is searching for you, whether at the height of vain glory or at the lowest valley of despair. He knocks and knocks knowing that the void in your soul can never be filled without Him. He knows the time is near when you will no longer be able to taste His goodness and your journey will not lead you to His everlasting kingdom.

You have many choices, but selfish ambitions will never avail to anything. Time moves in one direction only and that time is the time when you will leave this world. Any a wise traveller prepares a sack with some belongings for the journey. What is in yours? The martyrs will enter heaven bearing their hardships and sufferings for the sake of Christ, and the righteous will enter bearing their virtues in the name of Christ. No one else will enter. What does your visa say? Permit? Deny?

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins illustrates this awesome and fearful night that resulted in two drastically different outcomes. All ten began at the same threshold. They had faith, but shelved faith is unacceptable, because faith requires action. One of the most comforting words people say when someone departs is, "He was ready." or "She was prepared." This is often followed by examples of their readiness and preparedness. Then, with confidence, they proclaim, "They are celebrating the Nativity Feast this year in the Paradise of Joy with Saint Mary and the angels and saints before the throne of God," followed by, "We will meet again in heaven." These are not words of sympathy but a celebration of a life well lived.

What will they say about you? Perhaps the overwhelming presence of this aggressive and relentless virus is to remind us that life is fragile and moves in only one direction alongside time. Only you can decide how to prepare your soul and to where your journey will ultimately lead.

The glorious Nativity Feast is a constant reminder that it is time to move forward from the misery of sin and the shadow of death to the joy of repentance, forgiveness, restoration, peace, and eternal life. I wish you all the happiness and blessings of the Nativity Feast and a healthy and prosperous New Year. We pray, beseeching the intercessions of the Ever-Virgin St. Mary, Archangel Gabriel and all the angels, St John the Baptist and the prayers of all the saints, and the prayers of our blessed and beloved patriarch, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II. May the Lord protect and keep him for us for many years and peaceful times.

***Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*** (Luke 2:14)

God bless you.
His Grace Bishop Youssef is Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States.

His Grace
Bishop Youssef

Fundamentalist calls to boycott Christmas defied with social media Christmas posts and public celebration



Glittering Christmas in Cairo

As most Egyptians, Muslims and Christians alike, set out to celebrate Christmas and New Year as they are used to with the traditional Christmas trees, decoration, and music; fundamentalist voices rose on social media condemning Muslims who took part in such celebrations, and requiring them to refrain from doing so. The more extremist among these voices—among them the retired young actress Hanan Turk who donned the Islamic veil (hijab) and announced she “repented” acting—called upon Muslims not to engage in Christmas festivities and not to take photos beside the Christmas tree, because Christians went against Islamic belief.

Many figures in the theatre and cinema fields retaliated by posting remarks critical of the fundamentalist calls, or photographs of themselves with friends and family beside Christmas trees.

Actor Murad Makram called on all Egyptians to go on

celebrating Christian and Muslim feasts alike, as is their custom. Muslims are known to celebrate Christmas and New Year, and Copts celebrate Ramadan and Milid al-Nabi (the Prophet Muhammad's Birth).

Makram wrote in scathing sarcasm: "Muslims, don't you place Christmas trees in your homes! Don't celebrate the New Year! This is heretical. Christians, don't you hang Ramadan lanterns in your homes, and don't eat Milid sweets! As to Egyptian feasts such as the Spring feast of Sham al-Nessim, celebrating them is apostasy! Now, what would the next step be? Don't you talk to one another, don't buy from or sell to one another, then hate each other and set Egypt on fire!"

"To those who promote division I say: You'll never succeed. We've been living together for 1400 years, we love one another, we have our disputes but they are disputes

Nader Shukry
Sheri Abdel-Massih

between brothers. Yes, there are evil ones among us, but the majority are good, and this is the secret of the sparkle Egypt holds no matter what."

Among the stars photographed in front of Christmas trees have been Elham Shahin and Laila Elwi who posted a photo of the two of them in front of a Christmas tree. Elwi posted a photo of herself with her family around the tree, with the message: "Enjoy a blessed Christmas with your family, friends, and loved ones".

Another widely popular star, the Egyptian Tunisian Hind Sabry stood by a Christmas tree and posted: "Have a glorious Christmas ... let your hearts shine bright."

As for the actor Ahmad Hatem who was born on Christmas Day 1987, he posted a photo of himself in front of a decorated tree, with the caption: "34 years ... Glorious Christmas".

In the public sphere, Christmas trees and decorations fill hotels, malls, and even the smaller shops everywhere.

Egypt's main cities have lighted and decorated Christmas trees in not a few main squares; Heliopolis's Korba neighbourhood features a big one, as well as Christmas decorations and lights all over its buildings. The Cairo northern district of Shubra glitters in Christmas lights, trees, and decoration, with Christian and Muslim residents flocking in droves to buy Christmas paraphernalia. Satellite towns around Cairo, such as Sheikh Zayed in the west and Tagammu al-Khamis in the east have sparkling trees and decoration all around. And the Baron Empain's Palace in Heliopolis features a huge Christmas tree that can be seen from afar, and has hosted morning and evening festivities and shows on its grounds on 24 and 25 December 2021. Families took their children to spend fun days there at very affordable tickets. It was "Merry Christmas" for everyone.