



**Servants Meeting – July 5, 2015**

**Minutes**

**Spiritual Word – Fr. Abraam**

**The Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God, He is the giver of life. The Holy Spirit is distinct but not separate from the Father and the Son having one and the same essence with them. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is God.
- We seldom pray to the Holy Spirit, we usually pray to the Father or the son but we rarely pray to the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit produces joy, comfort and peace in the hearts of believers. It enlightens our faith and allows us to grow in faith and spiritual life.

**How Does the Holy Spirit Work in Us?**

**The Holy Spirit renews our nature**

- We attain the Holy Spirit in Baptism when we are anointed with the holy Chrism (Mayroon), our inner man is created and our nature is renewed by the Holy Spirit so that we attain the new life in Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells in us for ever and never leaves us.
- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in believers, it dwelt with certain people and gave them gifts for specific tasks. The extent of dwelling was limited. He could leave the person after He had dwelt in him. The Holy Spirit came upon some people like David when he became king, or upon priests to give them certain abilities for a limited time.

**The Holy spirit advocates for us in prayers**

- He is the helper, He pleads for us and intercedes for us in front of the Father.
- We do not know how to pray, we do not know what is best for other people or for ourselves. The Holy Spirit will help us. The Holy Spirit will speak on our behalf. The Spirit knows about our pain and He knows what God wants. So the Spirit prays on behalf of us. God knows our thoughts and the mind of the Spirit. So God will answer the prayer of the Spirit on behalf of us.

**The Holy Spirit guides us in our everyday lives**

- The Holy Spirit convicts us for our sins, sanctifies us and guides us. The Holy Spirit will not prompt us to do something against God's will. People sometimes justify their actions by saying "my conscience told me..." "We

need to differentiate between the voice of our conscious and the voice of the Holy Spirit. We know which one is which by checking the voice against God's words.

- The Holy Spirit works in people who are filled with Christ and live in fellowship with Him. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are observable in the people who live in unity and love with God and in the church.
- Orthodoxy believes that one cannot live a true spiritual life without being a member of the Church.
- God commanded Moses to build the Ark of the Covenant to gather and worship Him.

### **Servants Updates**

#### **Ordination of H. G. Bishop Eklemandos**

- Discussion:**
- H. H. Pope Tawadrous II ordained H. G. Bishop Eklemandos as General Bishop of Eastern Canada, in Cairo, Egypt.
  - Eastern Canada region is east of Manitoba consisting of the Atlantic Provinces.
  - Toronto and most of the GTA churches are under the direct supervision of H.H the Pope, it is considered the archdiocese. St. Mark's Cathedral is the official papal residency, in addition to the other two papal residencies in San Francisco (California) and Cedar Grove (New Jersey).
  - The pope may commission a Bishop to represent him if needed.

### **New Items**

#### **Sunday School Servants' Questionnaire**

- Discussion:**
- A survey was e-mailed to the Sunday school servants to sort out the service schedule in the new Coptic year, September 2016.
  - Each servant would indicate if he/she would like to remain in the same grade or if he/she would like to move up with the class to the next grade or would prefer a different class.
  - The deadline to submit the survey is Sunday, July 26.
  - After all, obedience is the foundation of service, we need to be submissive to God in our service.
  - It is of benefit if the servant serves the same class for two consecutive years as he/she gets to know the kids better.
  - The servant may serve the same group of children for a maximum of two years but not more.
  - Is this questionnaire to be completed also by servants serving Grades 9-12?
  - Servants serving youth in grades 9-12 will need to contact Fr. Shenouda if they would like to change their classes.
  - Do Grade 12 servants also have the option of filling out the questionnaire?
  - Grade 12 servants who have completed servants prep. are now serving in

Sunday school classes and are not going back to servants prep. They will be contacted before the new Coptic year to sort out their choices.

### **Summer Camp**

- Discussion:**
- We could not run the summer camp at the church building this summer along with the child care as we need approval from the ministry of children and youth services first.
  - Enormous efforts have been put in preparation for the summer camp this year.
  - Maintenance work was done in different areas at Galilee to prepare the place for receiving the camp children.
  - Buses will drive the children to and from Galilee every day and to different trip locations.
  - As servants we need to have a positive attitude in our roles and towards one another for the success of our services.
  - Pray for the success and spiritual benefit of the summer camp.

### **Summer Activities**

- Discussion:**
- Various activities for the children and youth are taking place at church every day in summer, day and night.
  - As a result, we all need to serve with one mind and one spirit.
  - We need to be honest, faithful and accountable.
  - Take initiative whenever required.
  - Be a good role model for everyone you deal with; parents, children, co-servants.

### **COOL and Kids Convention**

- Discussion:**
- Adult servants serving at the summer conventions are responsible for the youth servants who will serve at the conventions.
  - Be watchful of the youth servants and educate them to embrace the servants' principles and how to lead through service and be good role models for the children who they serve.