

NEW CHURCH ... NEW HEART!

Our hearts rejoice with the establishment of a new church! We offer thanks to the lord who graciously accepts to set up his home among us. This new home proclaims His presence among his people. We look forward, filled with the spirit of the Lord, searching deep in our souls to be renewed daily and to become one with the Lord and to have the Holly Spirit dwell in us.

Many important questions have been stirred [aroused] in us.

- Where is the Lord's house built?
- How do we build it?
- What will it cost?
- Who will build it?
- What is my roll in this effort?

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WHERE IS THE LORD'S HOUSE BUILT?

It was said that a farmer looked at the abundance of his crops and he thanked the Lord for his gifts. Then he said to himself, "My brother, who is married, has much more need of this corps than do I. Let me bring to his what the Lord has given to me, so I will get up at night and secretly give him what the Lord has given to me. In truth, I give what I do not own." And the farmer gathered up his corps and took them to his brother's field.

The farmer felt such great pleasure and satisfaction with what he had done that he decided to repeat his action the following night. The farmer felt so wonderful that he repeated his deed several more times yet his own corps did not decrease but actually increased!

One night he was carrying his corps to his brother, happily praising the Lord. He saw a shadow in the darkness. It was a person carrying corps just as he was. The person came closer and he saw that it was his own brother. The two brothers dropped what they carried and hugged each other. They discovered that each one was carrying crops from his field to share with his brother, each thinking that the other was in greater need. Here the two hearts, full of love, met. The brothers thanked the Lord and praised Him. Jewish tradition tells us that, on this very site, the Temple of Solomon was built!

Do you want to contribute in building the Lord's House?

Do you want to build the Lord's House ?

Offer love to your brother. Bring to him your life sacrifice for him. Then the Lord will accept your worship, your praise, your thanks, and He will establish His kingdom within you (Luke 17:21), reveal His Divine Nature (1 Pet. 1:4), that is the partnership of God's love, that you may enjoy the sharing of heavenliness of loving language, happiness the unceasing praising!

Where is the brotherly love, the Lord sets up his secret home and declares His glory and the whole world become for the Lord!

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HOW DO WE BUILD THEE?

In August, 1970, my God sent me to Los Angeles where the Late Rev. Father Bishoy Kamel had bought a church and started a spiritual service with a living evangelistic spiritual thoughts.

I arrived on the day of the Transfiguration? Strangely enough, the day I arrived to serve in saint Peter and Saint Paul Church the “vesper” reading was also the Transfiguration (first Sunday of Baouna). It was as if a Divine voice approached me both times saying,

“How is My Church built?

The Church is not built with a human arm and not with a human plan, and not with materialistic means.

However, it is built with the revealing of My glory within My people

I reveal myself as on the mountain of Tabor, so many people can see Me with the men of the Old Testament (Moses and Elijah) and the men of the New Testament (Peter, Jacob, and John) witnessing for Me and enjoying My Glory !”

Do you want to contribute to the house of the Lord?

Let your heart be Tabor Mountain.

Let your spirit be raised with the Lord of Glory so you do not live at the bottom of the mountain ... but you are raised from glory to glory and will benefit from the grace from above.

Look upon the Lord without a veil in front of your eyes (2 Cor. 3:18).

Our Lord Jesus will appear before you.

You will see Him, touch Him, hear Him and live with Him saying with the Saint John, “ ...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the word of life – the life was manifested (1 john 1:1,2). The One dwelling in you is the Heavenly One that came as stranger in our land! Men will interact with you. Then they will experience the thinking of Christ, and His words and astonishing deeds. They will witness that you are truly a member of the Body of Christ that is greater than heaven and earth.

When I visited a sick person in the University Hospital at Alexandria, I was introduced to a non-Christian University Professor. He told me that he was a friend of Pope Kyrilos (Cyril) VI. The Professor got to know the Pope and his family and friends when they were children. He said,” We loved him very much when he was a monk in Old Cairo. We revered him. We ran to him and he was like a father to us. We enjoyed his cheerfulness and kindness. Do you know what my parents and their friends say about him? They say, “ He is not from this world!!!”

This is how the House of the Lord is built within us. We bear witness to the world that we are a heavenly house.

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WHO BUILDS THE HOUSE OF GOD?

It was said that an emperor decided to build a cathedral of which he would be the sole contributor. The emperor spent generously on the church until it was completed. Before the consecration and opening of the church, the workers placed a plaque with the name of the emperor over the entrance. The officials noticed that the emperor’s name immediately disappeared and two other names appeared instead. They were amazed!

They removed the stone and replaced it with another one engraved with the emperor's name but the same thing happened again and again.

When the Emperor heard of these events he dressed sackcloth and prayed to God to explain what was happening. An angel appeared and informed him that the two children whose names appeared on the plaque deserved to have the church named of them rather than the emperor, because the children had paid more. The emperor questioned, "How could the children have paid more when I, the emperor, have paid for everything? The angel of the Lord told him, "These two children have a great love for God. They desired to make an offering for the construction of the House of God. They did not have any money but their hearts are rich with love. The children brought buckets full of water for the camels which were carrying the stones for construction. They worked hard all day, giving of their love and their effort. These children deserve of God needs such hidden soldiers, either children, elders or youth, men or women... their greatest asset is pure love which is very dear!

The house of God is not to be built by the priest or the deacons alone but by every living member. When Jeremiah, the prophet, felt that because he was just a youth that he was worthless, he heard the Divine voice say, "do not say, I am a youth ... I am with you..." Jer. 1:7,8.

Do not say that you are too little to contribute to the house of God. God works with those who have little just as He dose with those that have a lot.

Do not be concerned with your resources or the lack of them. Moses lacked the ability to clear speak to the people so God, who created our tongues, spoke on Moses' behalf (Exodus 3).

I remember, in the sixties, I met a lady from Bani-suef in Upper-Egypt. Her husband was a fellow-worker of mine before I joined the priesthood. She said to me, "I want to build a church in Alexandria in the name of the Archangel Michael .". she gave me 120 Egyptian pounds saying, "Take it to build the church." I informed the late father Bishoy Kamel who was astonished by this unsought yet generous gift. He saved the money and within a few months, in this miraculous way, was built. It was built by a simple lady with her love and heart and not with her money.

Do you want to build the church of the savior?

Listen to the words of St. John Chrysostom who said, "Teach the non-believers, those outside of our faith, that you were in the presence of God with the Cherubim and the Seraphim and all the heavenly hosts." This saint demanded that each man should build a house for God in his wife's heart, and each wife in her husband's heart, and every slave in his master's heart. Through such evangelism which is full of love, joy and praising, many people are saved every day and join the Lord.

With true and mature love, full of humility, we establish a house for God in many hearts... and the age, position, wealth, or skill of each of us does not stand in the way!



WHAT DO WE OFFER IN THE HOUSE OF GOD?

It is enough to mention the words of Origin that I quoted in the book “ Church, House of God.”

[O Lord Jesus Christ, will You make me worthy to partake in building Your House!...

God’s dwelling place is sanctity that we are requested to attain... Consequently, everybody can found a tabernacle for God in his heart...

Examining the tabernacle closely, the purple, the blue, the fine twined line etc. symbolize the variety of good deeds.

Gold refers to faith (Rev. 23:18);

Silver to preaching (Ps. 12:6);

Brass to patience;

Timber that does not rot to the acquaintance that the believer gains in the uninhabited wilderness and the everlasting chastity;

Linen to virginity ;

Purple to loving martyrdom,

Scarlet to the brightness of love,

Blue to hope in the heavenly kingdom.

From all these material the tabernacle is built.]

[The soul should have an alter right in the center of the heart.

On it sacrifice of prayer and burnt-offerings of mercy are offered.

Thus bullocks of pride are slaughtered with the knife of meekness, and rams of anger, goats of luxuries and passions are killed.

Let the soul know how to establish a permanently illuminating lamp stand, light in the holy of the holies of her heart.]

CONTRIBUTE IN BUILDING THE HOUSE OF GOD.

The house of God includes all the believers from the time of Adam to the end of ages where everybody will gather around God, inheriting God, and will be inheritors with Jesus, our Savior of an eternal House made by the Hand of God, Himself, and not by man’s work. God, in His love for you, wants you not to be a weak person but to be a member in Jesus’s living body to participate in this miraculous founding.

Contribute with daily prayer for the salvation of the whole world!

Contribute with the manifestation of the savior in you!

Contribute with your truth and sacrificing and love even for those who offend you!

Contribute with the spirit of private worship and with honest daily repentance!

With every daily renewal in your life, the house of God grows in you and your brethren!

This is the Church that we are obliged to build. A Church in which the Spirit of God dwells. Of such a church it is said that, “ The Gats of Hades will not overcome it .”