

The Secrets behind the Strength in the Life of our Father
Pope Kyrillos the Sixth(Pope Cyril)
Practical Lessons in a Life of Evangelism

**A LOVING HEART BECAME A DWELLING FOR GOD
AND ALL OTHERS**

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4: 7)

In a friendly conversation with the late attorney Nazmy Boutros, he said to me:” Do you know how I became friends with his holiness Pope Kyrillos the Sixth? My response was “no.”

He said:” I did not know him well, but heard conflicting stories about him. Once he was nominated to become a Patriarch, I attacked him aggressively in one of the newspapers. He later became the Pope, and I traveled to Alexandria to congratulate him.

After paying him my respects, I noticed his cheerful countenance, so I assumed that he was unaware of what I had written about him in the paper. During our conversation, he said to me:” They say this and that about me” Referring to my accusation to him. I was extremely embarrassed, and said to him: “Forgive me your Holiness, for I did not know you well!” He smiled and said: “You did not attack me, but rather Father Mina the Hermit, who died to the world! I am Kyrillos the father of all!” I sensed his loving and forgiving heart, and from that moment on we became really close friends. At the end of my visit, he called his disciple and told him: “Anytime Mr. Nazmy is here to visit me, let him in. Even if I am asleep, knock on my door to wake me up.”

This is how great his heart was, and through love, he won others over. Even the ones who resisted him, they became loyal friends. Pope Kyrillos knew that the greatness of man is not due to his position, or popularity; but rather to his sincere interest in each and every person, desiring their personal friendship.

He is a Patriarch whose mission was to seek all as a father that forgives! The tremendous heart is not measured by the hierarchy in the church, or age and experience; on the other hand it is based on the amazing love.

I pray;

- ❖ Allow my little heart be vanish, and grant me Your big loving heart.
- ❖ My heart has become increasingly like a narrow tomb, unable to take others misconduct .

Moreover, it often misunderstands their intentions.

- ❖ Replace the dark tight grave with a loving heart to open the gates of Paradise within me.
- ❖ Transform my depths into Your Heaven for You and Your creation to enter.
- ❖ Come and rest within me, along with Your creation, through Your grace.
- ❖ Occupy my soul with Your Holy Spirit, and May I be not concerned with people's uttering's or their misinterpretations; but instead let me invite them to be glad and rejoice in You!

1. A personal friend of the saints

“For I will defend this city, to save it for My sake and for My servant David's sake.” (Isaiah 37: 35)

Mr. (H.) recalled the following incident to me as he experienced it, as close friend with Pope Kyrillos since the days of his ordination as (Fr. Mina the Hermit). He used to attend the daily liturgies with the Pope as a deacon in Saint Mena's Church in the historical district in Cairo. He said: “We travelled to Saint Mina's Monastery, and I attended the Vespers service (as the deacon), along with his holiness the Pope, and a monk (who was reciting with the congregation the usher responses). During the Doxologies, the Pope stood quiet in the altar, but suddenly a wide smile appeared on his face. A sight that shocked me, for knowing him for so many years, I knew firsthand how strict he was on himself and others inside the altar.

I proceeded to ask him after the service the reason for his laughter inside the altar, and he attempted to avoid my question. Upon my persistence, he promised to tell me on the condition of concealing this incident until his passing. He said: “When I entered the altar, I was deeply troubled by an issue related to the Copts. Suddenly, Saint Mina appeared to me to ask why I was distressed. When I explained the reason, he responded: “Do you think you are alone? We are all here supporting you.” “Then, he lightly pushed me, and so I laughed.”

I pray;

- ❖ Many times I struggle with the feeling of loneliness, while You dwell deep within my soul.
- ❖ You fill my depths, but I wrongly believe that I have no one to support me.
- ❖ Your Saints support me; they share my emotions, and intercede on my behalf.
- ❖ They are the cloud of witnesses that surrounds me.
- ❖ Open my eyes, so I can see You (the Holy of all holies).

2. The Intercession that defeats death

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5: 16)

Fr. Moussa Soliman, who currently serves in Sydney, shared with me the following experience, when we met in Brisbane, Australia. He said: “These recent days, Pope Kyrillos has been performing an amazing healing role in the lives of many smokers.”

One individual from his congregation struggled for many years with smoking. He had many

attempts to quit that failed. Once, he held up one of Pope Kyrillos' miracle books, while saying: "Can't you pray for me to stop smoking?" Then, he put it down next to his pack of cigarettes. Two hours passed by without any urge to smoke. He wondered the reason, but assumed that he must be a psychological reaction.. He attempted to smoke, but the smell caused him to feel sick. He interpreted "This must be all mental." He held another cigarette in hand, and repeated the attempt, without success. Later, he had a guest visiting, who also smoked. When he asked the guest for a cigarette from his personal pack, he could not smoke it either. From that moment on, he quit this terrible habit.

I told this story to another person who also struggled with smoking, and with the grace of God, he was also able to stop smoking. The same occurred with many others through the intercessions of Pope Kyrillos.

I pray;

- ❖ I thank You O Lord, for death won't destroy my life.
- ❖ I long to have You with me always, so my message will continue beyond my lifetime.
- ❖ I will always consider Your kingdom as long as I live, so death won't destroy my love for others.
- ❖ O Lord, my soul no longer fear departing from this world, but longs for it, and has deeper love for all mankind.
- ❖ The faithful generations before us intercede on our behalf. Grant this generation, clergy and congregation, the heavenly love to support the future generations.

3. An amazing spirit of Humility

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another." (Romans 12: 10)

One time, a priest from Upper Egypt who was accompanied by Fr. Mikhail Ibrahim visited his holiness Pope Kyrillos,. The priest asked for the blessing of the Pope, who modestly said: "How can I bless you, while in the presence of Fr. Mikhail? Get the blessing from him?" Anytime, the Pope met with one of Fr. Mikhail Ibrahim's fellow priests, he would say: "I envy you for having his amazing blessing serving with you."

4. A remarkable power to help all others including the non-followers

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (Timothy2 1: 7)

In March, 1997, I was visiting the family of Mr. A. Sh. In South Orange county, CA. he told me the following story:

I was speaking to one of my clients, a Jewish American, who was about to embark on a major project, but every time he begins to implement his project, he would face stumbling blocks that prohibits him from pursuing his project to the point that he almost totally lost hope in the whole project. One of his employees was an Egyptian lady who one day found him very distressed. Upon telling her the reason of his distress, she told him: "Take this picture and put it in your pocket and cry unto the Lord God and He will undoubtedly answer your prayers.

The man was not really a religious person but due to his mental distress, he took the picture and went home without asking whose picture. Upon entering his room, he bitterly cried unto the Lord God conversing with Him openly like never before...

He recalls feeling an amazing sense of relief and immense power inside him. He began to put in motion the initial steps for his project and noticed that the previously closed doors began to open in an inexplicable manner. As he was conveying this story to my host, he told him that this immense power continued to accompany him throughout the project. Mr. A. Sh. asked him about this picture, to which his client immediately pulled out from his pocket, and confirmed it was the picture of his holiness Pope Kyrillos VI!

I then curiously asked him of what happened with his client after such an experience. He responded by saying that this has just recently took place. I was in Awe as my soul wondered within me as I began to think deeply regarding my beloved father who had departed in Christ, more than 40 years ago, yet here he is still working, in the spirit of prayer, more powerfully than ever across many oceans and lands!

My righteous father did not even speak English well, yet he is presently communicating with an Jewish American in the language of the Spirit, that surpasses all human languages and tongues.

I pray;

- ❖ Lord; Grant me the spirit of prayers and praise, as you gave my father, so neither weakness nor death can prevail and ruin my works and service!
- ❖ The world is in a serious need for saints, who preach with the spirit of power, not limited by a place or a time, for Your fiery Holy Spirit works within them.

5. A keen desire for the unity of the priests

“There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.”
(Ephesians 4: 4)

A day before one of the anniversaries of the enthronement of Pope Cyril the Sixth, one of the priests, who was recently ordained, travelled from Alexandria to Cairo to congratulate the Pope. Upon arrival, he paid his respects to the Pope, displaying his courtesy before any of his fellow priests. The Pope in his wisdom, who would not favor one of his children over his brethren, greeted him and had the following conversation:

- Did you travel from Alexandria to congratulate me?
- Yes your holiness.
- Why didn't you wait to come along with your brothers?
- I plan on coming back with them again.
- Rather than coming alone, next time you ought to come accompanied by them.

This is how the father the patriarch taught his son the priest a lesson in loving his brothers as himself and not to favor himself over them. As such, He was never concerned about his own personal status, as much as his concerns for the salvation for everyone that he meets.

6. A simplicity of heart

“Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10: 16)

Several individuals had misinformed the Pope about his holiness Shenouda, the General Bishop for Christian Education at the time, and Father Matta El Meskeen.

Fr. Mina Iskander and I visited his holiness in the Monastery of Saint Mina, and he professed his pain and uneasiness about what has been relayed to him about Bishop Shenouda and Father Matta. Father Mina asked the Pope: “ Your holiness, Who ordained these fathers? We have never heard either one of them attack your holiness.” The Pope sadly said: “Why would anyone relay wrong stories that may cause conflict and troubles with me.” Then he smiled and was overjoyed.

I left this gathering delighted, and comforted by my father's simple heart, yet sad and agonized over the ones who cheer for troubles.

7. A gathering of love celebrated in the midst of the Cathedral

“Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest in your souls.”
(Matthew 11: 29)

Of the memorable moments celebrating the anniversaries of the enthronement of his holiness Pope Cyril, I recall when all 30 priests serving the area gathered together to celebrate in Saint Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria. Father Youssef Megali would express on everyone's behalf our love to our father the Pope, asking for his blessing. These simple words never displayed or portrayed any of his actions including visits to the dioceses. Fr. Youssef would conclude his words, and the Pope would end the gathering with a prayer and a blessing. The event was simple and did not include any catered meals, but we all would leave the simple celebration feeling as united as one family that bears warm and spiritual bond.

8. An inspiring and encouraging leader

“Comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, and be patient with all.” (Thessalonians 1 5: 14)

Our beloved Father Bishoy Kamel and I agreed that rather than waiting for each other to visit the Pope together, either one of us can, and apologize on the behalf of the other, since it had been over six months since we last visited him. When I visited with the Pope, and asked him to excuse us, his response to me was: “What concern me are not your visits to me, but it pleases me to hear about your services!” I remember feeling his fatherly love and his encouragement for us, his children the clergymen.

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