



Diaries of the Beloved  
**Fr. Bishoy Kamel**  
During His 40  
Days



Translator: Mr. Mina Shenouda  
Editor: Ms. Manal Fahmy  
Design: Ms. Mary Nashed



These notes were written by our beloved Father Bishoy Kamel which contain his diaries during his 40 days (after his ordination to the priesthood) in Saint Mary's monastery in El-Seryan, Egypt. These diaries of Father Bishoy were personal notes so some places, events and people mentioned here may not be clear to the reader, nonetheless, we can hear his living voice through his notes and the spirit of prayer that is marked in all his writings.


We saw that it was essential to translate this work so Our Lord Jesus Christ can use it for those pursuing their edification, with the blessing and the prayers of Our Beloved Patriarch, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II.

We have included here the readings of the day of his ordination and the first Friday Liturgy in the monastery that he wrote in the cover of his psalmody book, cherishing the Word of God that Our Lord Jesus Christ has directed to him during these 2 days.

**The Readings of Wednesday, the day of ordination, 22 Hathor:**

1. The Pauline: *Romans (8:14-27)*
2. The Catholic Epistle: *(1 Peter 2:11-17)*
3. Praxis: *(Acts 19:11-20)*
4. Psalm: *(Psalms 65:12,13,14)*
5. Gospel: *(Luke 21:12-19)*

**The Readings of Friday, in the monastery, 24 Hathor:**

1. The Pauline: *(1 Timothy 5:17- 2 Timothy 6:2)*
  2. The Catholic Epistle: *(1 Peter 5:1-14)*
  3. Praxis: *(Acts 15:6-12)*
  4. Psalms: *(131: 6,7,17,18)*
  5. Gospel: *(John 1:1-17)*
- 
- 

# The Beginning of the Diaries

My sin is always  
before me.  
Against You only I  
have sinned  
and done evil  
before You.

Father I have sinned  
against heaven and  
before You, and I  
am no longer worthy  
to be called Your son.

Make me like  
one of Your hired  
servants.



## Friday 12/4 (Hathor 24):

We attended the first Divine Liturgy in the monastery and today's Psalm was about the Priesthood of Aaron and Samuel, and the Gospel was about "In the beginning was the Word... All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made." Thus, it was clear that all things were made by Him. God's calling was clear and certain.

**How do we serve:** Surely "nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand". Therefore, whoever is put on a lampstand has to be a lamp full of light and not in darkness.

**How do we encourage the multitudes:** The multitudes were full and twelve baskets of the remaining fragments were taken up by them. This is the blessing of the Lord that works in abundance... God gives the Spirit without measure. My knowledge of the church hymns was limited and I felt that I had to ask God concerning this matter. I was given a cell by myself to stay in so I thanked the Lord for His care for me. I stayed in vigil recording what I needed and reading Scripture and writing.

### ❖I focused my prayers on:

- My unworthiness of the service. Asking for God's help
- Praying for a successful life in matrimonial life
- Praying for the healing of my father and Michael
- Praying for the complete comfort and peace for the parents of the bride and bridegroom
- Praying for the service at St. Mary's Church
- Praying so that I could memorize the hymns


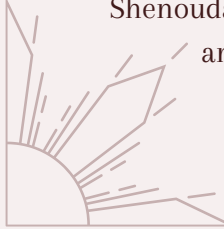


## **Saturday 12/5 (Hathor 25):**



It was a normal day.

## **Sunday 12/6 (Hathor 26):**



The priest needs during the prayer of the Divine Liturgy to feel the necessity - as a layman but yet even more- of the Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ... and his need for purity through the Holy Body and Blood. Also, the full belief- and asking on behalf of all- and the benediction of the Holy Spirit. And while taking care of pastoral matters and responsibilities it's important that the priest doesn't occupy himself with having an angelic voice or any of the outward issues, but rather focusing on the heart being filled with the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ and uniting with Him and others. This is the first Liturgy that I partook in from the beginning of the raising of incense with Father Athanasius and Father Costantine. We felt the love and the comfort of the fathers towards us especially from Father Macarius. I felt great progress in memorizing the hymns... I thanked God from my heart and quickly felt His answer for my prayer. The bishop arrived at the monastery at 12 noon, he greeted me with great love and the Lord gave me great grace through him and the rest of the fathers. I thanked my beloved Lord Jesus Christ.



His Grace Anthony El-Soryani (His Holiness Pope Shenouda III) arrived from his cave in the wilderness without anyone's knowledge and suddenly disappeared somewhere in the



monastery. The secrecy in his arrival was because he was going to ordain two monks, from his disciples, the next day. Therefore, he had to stay with them the whole night and day guiding them and praying with them (The Faithful Shepherd). I asked the Lord to be even a tenth of this faithfulness. I was asking for the forgiveness of my sins unceasingly; however, today I asked on behalf of the sins of the congregation. I felt the greatest responsibility. But I also felt the grace of God. For in my personal sins God has granted me great grace so I can be freed from it and His Name may be glorified in me. I constantly felt that my new service is in need of unceasing personal prayer. I also felt that I needed to be more disciplined in my Bible reading and end my day in praying the 11th hour. The Lord has also revealed to me that the sins that others fall in, I have also fallen in. Therefore, I cry to the Lord “Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3). I fell and took a short nap after my prayer. I dreamt of a specific issue; I saw myself as if I was in a meeting and all those who were attending were humiliating and ridiculing me but at the end they praised and comforted me. I felt that I will have to face this issue many times but the outcome will end in great benefit.





## Monday 12/7 (Hathor 27):



We attended the Holy Mystery: the Unction of the Sick.



The service and visitation of the sick is a loving, Christian message and work of charity. All the fathers took this issue as of great importance. I was the benefactor in this awesome lesson as the Lord Himself has said “I was sick and you have visited me”. After the Unction of the Sick, I entered the library. Here, Father Anthony gave me much advice:

- ❖ Not to be involved in any type of politics
- ❖ Not to mention any of the politics or the problems of the monastery in public.
- ❖ To maintain a good relationship with all the priests of the church
- ❖ Taking great care in the confessions of the youth

I felt that this matters I was already thinking about in my mind... but I needed a great grace to strengthen me to follow such advice. Then, Father Anthony prayed the divine Liturgy where I learned about the true spiritual prayer but I didn't want to study it in complete depth yet in fear of boredom and the snares of the devil. The Synaxarium today caught my attention, the most out of all the readings... it further elicited my desire to write a story that I previously thought of.

The Gospel today was about “Sitting at the right hand of God” (The sons of Zebedee). Our Lord Jesus Christ insisted that His servants drink from the same cup that He drank from. As for







me Lord, I will drink from this cup to the end, Have mercy upon me. The Homily of Father Anthony was about the food and the matters of the body and how it affects the spiritual being...For example, after partaking of the Holy Communion we must be careful that we do not spit... Later that evening was the ordination of those two monks mentioned before... This was an obvious lesson about death from the world.

## **Tuesday 12/8 (Hathor 28):**


In the morning, we found out about the departure of one of the holy elderly monks, Father Abdelmalek. I was not affected at all by his death, in fact, I went to help cover his body and carried his coffin... I felt that I was taking the blessing of a saint rather than a mere man and I was rejoicing for his departure to Paradise, his resting place. I took this as a lesson that I too will one day depart from this world sooner or later and my spirit will depart the body... So be awake, O my soul.

The topic of the evening was about the spiritual/internal toil of the monk and how this is as equal in importance and magnitude to the physical toil of a monk that he exerts in his monastic duties.

The Lord blessed me in my efforts of memorizing the hymns so thanks be to Him.







I received some anonymous requests of prayer from individuals in El- Ahram and El- Wadani (in Egypt) newspapers. Initially, I felt some happiness. but then some sort of pride...

Have mercy upon me O God and allow me to live as a despicable man rather than to be puffed up and prideful and be denied from Your grace. For I am only dust and ashes. Help me O God and give me the virtue of humility.



### **Wednesday 12/9 (Hathor 29):**



We attended the Divine Liturgy and we partook of the morning service and for the first time... I felt for the first time the meaning of deep Liturgical prayer. The priest has to always keep in mind these things during his prayers in the Divine Liturgy:

❖Unworthiness and that you are in need of this  
Divine Mystery

❖Prayer and contemplation

In the evening it was a beautiful fellowship with Father Anthony and Father Athansius and we talked about many things, first we discussed chastity and marital life in the Christian Orthodox concept through the lens of the Holy Scripture, especially in the sexual matters. He discussed the importance of controlling the sexual intimacy in marriage... and love... and family life... and the holiness and highness of God's gift in the context of sex. We also talked about celibacy and its meaning... and about the celibacy of monks who have committed sexual







immorality and how repentance leads to chastity and celibacy. Then I had a thought regarding the importance of writing those little pamphlets that had a few words of wisdom for the congregation... and making a designated box for the pamphlets and a group of servants to help me with writing them.

I was in need of prayer and I felt my great thirst for it! My burden was heavy since the road ahead of me is tedious.

During lunchtime, Father Anthony talked about St. Pishoy and the number of times his name is mentioned in the Divine Liturgy. I asked Father Anthony to recite for me the last part of the “Commemoration of the Saints” where St. Pishoy was mentioned.

Celibacy and many people in different times and ages have chosen either a life of marriage or celibacy like Saint Amun, Saint Macarius, and Saint Demetrius... and many others.

Secondly, we talked about the Mystery of Repentance and Confession. We concluded from this discussion that it is essential to have a father of confession and spiritual guide. We should always be disciplined and consistent with our confession and more importantly that we come out of this Holy Mystery in humility and regret (without despair) from our deeds.






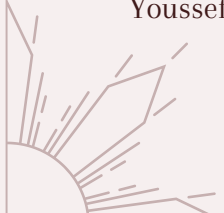
## Thursday 12/10 (Hathor 30):

We contemplated on how the Church of St. George in Sporting, Egypt was built... We found that it is only suitable to say that God has built His wonderful place as no human can do this by their own accord since “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1). We should be more concerned with building our own homes rather than the House of God because God Himself does wonders and miracles in arranging the building of His Holy place.

- ❖ We have to teach our congregation what is the meaning of an acceptable gift of charity
- ❖ Any work of charity or almsgiving should be sincere from the heart and not in pride or anger
- ❖ In love of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ In the hidden place without boasting
- ❖ The giver feels that he is the benefactor of this work of charity



## Friday 12/11 (Kiahk 1):

In the morning, I raised incense for the first time in Matins.



We went to Anba Bishoy and took the blessing of this saint and returned back to praying the Divine Liturgy with Father Matthew, the Abbot of the Baramous monastery. We called Mr. Youssef and thanked him for his great love and care for asking about us. Mr.

Youssef gave a ride to His Grace Bishop Pishoy back to his monastery after the Divine Liturgy.



Father Faltous arrived from Alexandria reciprocating the greetings of love and appreciation that he was met back in Alexandria.

Father Athanasius discussed in the morning how the rites are different in the Divine Liturgy in feast days of saints.

Brother Zaer Ibrahim talked about establishing a library in the church for people to borrow the books...



Characteristics of His Grace Bishop Pishoy:

- ❖ Love of mercy
- ❖ Humility: the story about Issac, his disciple who fell in sexual immorality and later feared women.
- ❖ Love... which started with studying Scripture before prayer... by praying through studying Scripture

## **Saturday 12/12 (Kiahk 2):**

I spent the morning in the garden and started Kiahk Praises in the afternoon.

I wrote a letter thanking the teachers for their love and appreciation that they showed towards me.





## **Sunday 12/13 (Kiahk 3):**



We woke up at 12:30 in the morning and I started Raising of Incense.

I partook in serving in the Divine Liturgy with Father Matous. It was a beautiful Liturgy where I felt the sweetness of prayer- for the priest is in constant dire need of the Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, he must strengthen this feeling of unworthiness and need of the Mystery. Also, every word prayed in the Liturgy should be as a prayer for others.

In the evening, I met one of the workers at the monastery who had shown great gratitude towards me that was full of this amazing zeal. Their simplicity and faith taught me a very useful lesson about unceasing love and the simplicity of heart... I thanked God for this beautiful lesson.

We must care about the spirit of prayer and vigilance in the Divine Liturgy not the angelic voice. It's essential to pray and understand in Coptic... this also applies to the deacons.

Mr. Ibrahim Doss sent me a letter full of useful advice.





## Monday 12/14 (Kiahk 4):

I woke up earlier in the morning to start memorizing hymns, but later in the day we all went to the garden and memorized the hymns together.



In reality, both the body and spirit are in need for such exercises, even better yet it is beneficial if a person sets aside some time to relax without the cares of the world accompanied with some spiritual readings and exercises.



I read an article by Bishop Bishoy... and another one by Saint Philoxenos about denying oneself... the things that I really took away from his writing was:

Humility... not be quick to wrath and condemnation...  
Denying the body...Love... Reading Scripture...Faithfulness and  
Honesty.... Spiritual toil (Fasting and Prayer).

I translated a part from Saint Gregory's book about Pastoral care... It was actually a great blessing from God to use and practice this reading in my life. I thanked the Lord Jesus Christ incessantly.

I came out of reading this with something very important: The Christian is in need to constantly read from the Fathers and translate their books. This concept is what encouraged me to establish the borrowing system from the Church library in the Church in Sporting, Alexandria...May God bless this work to glorify His Holy Name.








One of the most important concepts in denying the body and detachment from the world is that the Christian only seeks Christ...no home...no children.. No father, no mother, no earthly things and praise or vainglory, but only Our Lord Jesus Christ...

I was contemplating on prayer... as a priest... I was young. I had a lot more mishaps and flaws than any other priest. Therefore, I needed humility because I was the weakest among my brothers...I am the last...I am the one that is most in need of the Grace of God to work within me... of course I am the weak one. Of course, I am also in need of the Holy Spirit to sanctify and wash away my past so He can work through me.

The devil has tempted me and pushed me to think that I am better than others, from my fellow priests...he made me forget my weakness... for you can see in my past the lack of prayer, my dry eyes that haven't weeped for repentance, my pursue of the things of the world and vainglory. These desires are what deprives us from the Heavenly Kingdom, without the grace of God.

O Lord give me humility and humiliation so that I may understand the worth of my soul... Who am I who feels as if he is a scholar when he reads? Only for knowing intellectual things... these things are not from my own accord... I forget that God teaches the humble who cannot even read. If I prayed a long prayer...I forgot that actually most of my service should be spent






in prayer and vigil. I am in need of a lot of prayer so that I can avoid much tribulation and the temptations of the enemy... I who have good stature in front of the people actually have much trouble in solving the problems of the people.

I am the least of all my brethren. O Lord allow me to understand my true self.

If You protected me O Lord so that I may not fall in despair and destroy my soul. Please give me humility so that I may not be interested in the praise of men. My place is with the least and most weak... the simplicity and love of people... prayer for others... leaving the problem of the world and church politics to whom understand it and have the wisdom to deal with it. I will not interfere in anything except in the things that pertain to the Lord and His Gospel and from the Heavens, O Lord guide me... teach me... give me understanding... give me wisdom...

I am Your son and You chose me. I am a boy... Sanctify my mouth, with the fire of coals, give me understanding of Your Word and Your commandment so that I am not sin against You...







## Tuesday 12/15 (Kiahk 5):



I attended today's Divine Liturgy and I prayed fervently and felt the sweetness of prayer and I asked God for a greater desire and fear for this service... although others say to serve with boldness and no fear.

Give me O God, understanding and appreciation for this great offering.

I prayed so that I may not fall into condemnation- in love and wishing good for others. I contemplated my place in St. Mary's Church as I was sitting in the last seat in the church, deprived from You O God... and now on the altar of God in front of the Throne of God where the angels cover their face.. Yes God You raise the lowly and seat them on the high place...Give me a humble and contrite heart O God.

Later that day, I slept after praying and I woke up from an interesting dream...I was walking on a steep, dark hill... I was walking and some dogs came and attacked trying to bite me but I was not harmed... Then I reached the end of the path at a very high hill. The place at the top was very tight so I had to be very careful with my step as any wrong maneuver could lead to my fall and death.

Was this dream analogous to my journey in service that I am about to embark in or about something else?





## **Saturday Night 12/19 (Kiahk 9):**

I spent the night in Kiahk Praises.



I started to be slothful and leaning towards comfort, but I came down for Dr. Tadros. I apologized for being so late because I prayed in joy and peace that night in church. Therefore, man should always take every chance he has to go to Church and not use the excuse of tiredness and praying at home.


I prayed fervently because I strayed away and fell in previous thoughts and matters and felt how important it is for the priest who has the privilege to turn the bread and wine to the Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ to be sanctified and holy also... and in a high state of the purity of the heart and mind... I prayed that God would grant me this perfect purity.

It is important to have an intercessor to intercede for us before God.

## **Sunday 12/20 (Kiahk 10):**

I prayed the Divine Liturgy with more zeal than before but I still need to feel God's grace more.





## **Tuesday 12/22 (Kiahk 12):**



I received the Offering in the morning and I participated with the Holy Spirit in turning this bread and wine... I held God in my hand and received Him by eating His Body and drinking His Blood. This is no less with what God has done with anyone from Jeremiah to Isaiah the prophet.

God gave me the faithfulness and purity to be worthy to unite with Him...

In the evening we visited Father AbdelMessih the Recluse. We took from him a word of wisdom about pastoral care and responsibility towards the youth, men, and married couples... we later visited Baramos Monastery and took the blessings of the body Abba Arsanius, Isidorus, Moses the Strong, Maximos and Domatius.

I was greatly moved by the lives of these saints and I prayed that God would lead me to a life similar to these great saints.

We went back to the monastery. After, roaming around the desert... We arrived back safely and read in the book of Jeremiah the Prophet and I was greatly consoled.





## **Wednesday 12/23 (Kiahk 13):**

I served with the congregation during the Divine Liturgy with  
Father Constantine.

How wonderful is this matter... This led my soul and my spirit to  
be humbled as it took me back in time when I was a layman and  
was asking the priest to be worthy to partake of the Eucharist.

In the evening, we stayed up in Father Metaous' cell until 1 in the  
morning learning hymns.



## **Thursday 12/24 (Kiahk 14):**



I woke up in the morning and prayed the Liturgy... in need  
of greater humility before this Holy service... and dependency on  
God... more prayer.

## **Friday 12/25 (Kiahk 15):**

I prayed the Second Divine Liturgy... I felt its sweetness...  
The day was filled with inner peace and silence... Some even  
thought I was upset.

How wonderful it is to contemplate the meaning of a hymn  
before memorizing.





How wonderful it is to recite the prayers of the Divine Liturgy the whole day and contemplate in it.

In the evening, we stayed at Abouna Macarius'. We talked about service in the world and other things including:

- ❖ Working with a group of older deacons to go for outreach, and help the priest in this service.
- ❖ Explaining the rites of the Divine Liturgy to understand the spiritual meaning of all the movements.



I thought not to worry too much about the general things that Father Mina talked to me about.



I seriously thought about translating more books of the early fathers .....May God give me grace in this great and tedious project of translation.

The Synaxarium has such beautiful stories of saints that are beneficial for us to learn from.

### **Saturday 12/26 (Kiahk 16):**

I was quick to wrath... I need to learn how to carry my cross in patience... My love needs to grow and multiply towards others... And decrease the sins against my brothers... Two things were before me.. First: Martyrdom for the Truth... Second: Condemnation.





Although we sometimes see the weakness and sins of priests leading people to condemn them or even humiliate them, it's more important to work for change... also to leave judgement for the Just Judge... also for priests let them take their due reward according to their works from God for this Holy service.

Later that night, we went to our Father Bishoy and then prayed Kiahk praises.



### **Sunday 12/27 (Kiahk 17):**

In the morning we attended Kiahk Praises in Soryan Monastery.

We went to Abba Bishoy at 4:30 A.M.

I prayed the Divine Liturgy with Father Constantine... I received a great blessing from this saint... Abba Bishoy... I prayed that night unceasingly for the healing of the Pope.

The bishop attended in the afternoon... There was a strong wind so we stayed in the place for a time... I sat down with Dr. Yacoub Bakhoum. I learned from him the difference between holiness that is inherent (that is grounded in one's soul) and the holiness that takes toil and effort to attain... The latter is filled with falling and getting up.





## **Monday 12/28 (Kiahk 18):**

I prayed the Divine Liturgy and I felt a divine peace.



There was a conversation with a bishop about the end of times in the year 1963. On the basis of the destruction of the world... Truly the time is near and the world is exceedingly evil...



Therefore, toil and work unceasingly O my soul.

I went to sleep in Father Mettias's cell. I started to translate the book with God's grace... But the war of loneliness was severe... to realize the real value of myself... I started reading about the bridegroom in the book of Revelation (Chapters 18-22) and I was deeply consoled. At night the thoughts started to battle me by all means to conquer me.. The spiritual life is not only reactions but also unceasing toil.

While I was in this spiritual joy I became slothful in my prayers and that exposed the situation. I realised that I have to have a consistent father of confession and continuous praying and toil to save my souls before I can start my pastoral service and worry about others' salvation.

My sin is all the times before me, and to the Lord I only sought... Forgive me my Lord and help me in my salvation and strengthen my weakness...help me in my struggle and prayer of all the hours of the Agpeya and performing my prostrations (metanoias).





Give me tears of repentance O my Lord and always be with me.  
Forgive me... forgive me.

## **Tuesday 12/29 (Kiahk 19):**

I set my alarm at 4 pm to pray the 11th hour every day... focusing on my vigils and bible study.

Not hurting the feelings of the priests or brothers whatever is the situation and never to act in haste.

Encouraging and exhorting others in service is very important to my life and the public service in Alexandria.



Asking for the guidance of God for the matters that need much deliberation.

Not to overburden the people but instead offer unconditional love.  
It is essential not to seek vainglory and the praise of men.

This is the service I have received from my Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Wednesday 12/30 (Kiahk 20):**

Love and stillness are important in communicating with the leaders. Wisdom in expressing the truth.







## **Thursday 12/31 (Kiahk 21):**

Came back to the monastery in the morning.

Anba Benyamin arrived in the evening.

We spent the night talking about general matters.



## **Friday 1/1 (Kiahk 2):**



In the morning we prayed with Anba Benyamin. He was not satisfied with our knowledge of hymns so we spent the whole day talking about memorizing the hymns.

## **Sunday 1/3 (Kiahk 4):**

We were dismissed from Kiahk Praises early in the morning and I sent a letter to Father Morkos and Father Ishak to thank them for the confession.

I was explaining the weakness in my spiritual life as follows:

- 1.** Irregular confessions so regularity is a must.
  - 2.** Limited prayers, bible study and meditation.  
Thus there must be a weekly meditation like a research, will have to look for a topic or a feast.
  - 3.** Talking a lot .. silence is key.. I need to watch in order to not become a stumbling block through my foolish talk. Only speak when needed
- 
- 



O Jesus Christ help me and have mercy upon me.. I am in need of consistent praying and spiritual leadership.

## **Monday 25th Kiahk:**



In the morning it was the feast of the great saint John Kame the priest.

I carried his body and rotated the church. I listened to his holy story... I wrote a promise in a paper with (...) and left it in (...) to follow his steps, pray for my intercessor.

The most important test for me on this day was the consistent praying. My lord Jesus Christ, forgive my sins.

At night in the cave of Anba Bishoy, the chosen books by God were (Roman 2 and Ephesian 6) which were about judgment, and about the teachers who teach and break God's will.

Praying is the only path to understand God's will, humility by prostrations (matanyas).





## Tuesday 26th Kiahk:



The morning liturgy is beautiful. I felt that my love for others grew.



In the evening I visited our holy Father Metaos. He is one of Father Matta's disciples but he came back and left them. He talked to me about important subjects:

1. the blessings and the fruits of obedience and how it's important to gain the spiritual life.
2. the consequences of judgment on human leads them to perish. Man demands the truth in peace and stillness and with love to all without judging others otherwise stay silent.
3. offerings from the congregation are extremely important and if I rejected them, it means the following:
  - A. personal pride as Peter refused Jesus to wash his feet.
  - B. contempt of people's offerings
  - C. importance of materialistic aspect as a necessity in ...

## Wednesday the night of the feast (Paramone):

Pride is the biggest sin that I struggle with.

1. rejecting people's offerings.
  2. expecting a life full of hardships to look heroic in the people's eye.
  3. even the virtue that I am thinking of acquiring
- 
- 



is for the sake of possessing it not for the real purpose  
which is a path to Jesus.

**4.** always keep in mind (my sin is at all times before me)  
All I want is to live with Christ and to enjoy his divine love.  
Not to be humiliated by Satan through the glories I am thinking of  
or the sin.

Humility is the base of all virtues with praying, tears and worship.

## **Thursday:**

The visit of Anba Bishoy in the morning and he gave his blessing  
and prayed for us.

The meeting with Father Antonios in the evening, we discussed  
bravery. Testimony for the truth..



Jerusalem ( the inner heart)

Judaism (zone of responsibility)

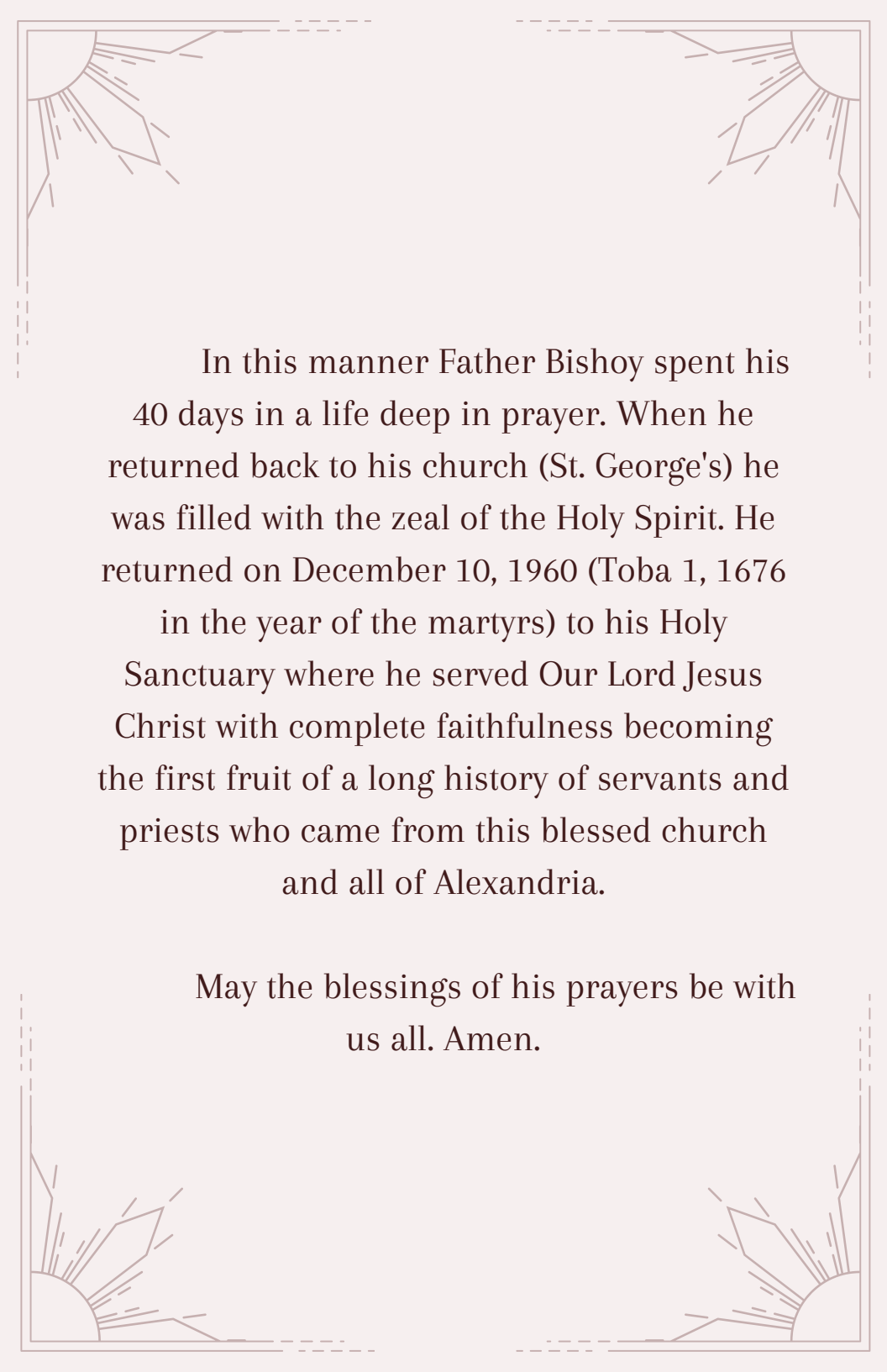
Samaria (those who are outside the zone)

End of earth (witness)

John the beloved went to Samaria before the other places and  
asked God to send fire and brimstone from the heavens to destroy  
it. The Lord answered him and his brother "You do not know what  
manner of spirit you are of " (Luke 9:55).



However, when he returned to Jerusalem... he received the  
message and became even more productive  
and filled with the Spirit.



In this manner Father Bishoy spent his 40 days in a life deep in prayer. When he returned back to his church (St. George's) he was filled with the zeal of the Holy Spirit. He returned on December 10, 1960 (Toba 1, 1676 in the year of the martyrs) to his Holy Sanctuary where he served Our Lord Jesus Christ with complete faithfulness becoming the first fruit of a long history of servants and priests who came from this blessed church and all of Alexandria.

May the blessings of his prayers be with us all. Amen.