

Pope Kyrillos the Sixth **(Man of Prayer and Beloved of Mar Mina)**

Objectives

- ❖ An overview of the life of the great saint “Pope Kyrillos the sixth”
- ❖ A study of his service and achievement.

References

- ❖ The life and Miracles of Pope Kyrillos VI by Ernest T. Abdel-Massih
- ❖ Some church pamphlets and the many books about his miracles
- ❖ http://st-takla.org/Pope-Kyrellos-1_.html

Scriptural Verse

“The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him; and He will show them His covenant”
(Psalm 25:14)

Lesson Outlines

The life of Azer Youssef Ata (Pope Kyrillos VI)

- ❖ Born on August 2, 1902 from righteous parents. His father was a deacon and hymns teacher and he wrote books for the church with his elegant handwriting.
- ❖ Loved the Lord Jesus Christ, the church and the saints. Every year, he used to spend a week with his family at Mar Mina’s church in a nearby town to celebrate his feast.
- ❖ Completed his high school diploma and worked in a company. He was loved and was promoted in his work where he stayed 5 years while practicing asceticism at home.
- ❖ Having chosen the monastic life, he resigned from his job and joined the “Baramos” Monastery after completing his study in the Theological School.
- ❖ On arriving at the monastery, the monks felt he was an important person; so they put on the lights, rang the bells, opened the visitor castle and came out with their Abbot to greet him. They loved him and considered this as a prophecy for a great future because it was something that never happened before.
- ❖ He was approved by all to be ordained as a monk on February 25, 1928 and was named Mina.

Father Mina

- ❖ He was ordained a priest on July 18, 1931; studied in the monk’s theological School. He fled to Upper Egypt when he was elected to be a Bishop. The Pope accepted his refusal and permitted him to go back to his monastery.
- ❖ He longed for the life of solitude and lived in a cave one hour walk from the monastery.
- ❖ In 1936, the Abbot forced some monks to leave the monastery; he went out with them as the Abbot refused his intercession. He consecrated his life to serve them.
- ❖ They went to the monastery of El Malak in Old Egypt and lived with the blessed father Daoud Morcos till the Pope permitted them to go back to the Monastery.

- ❖ He asked the Pope to let him live near El Malak monastery in one of the windmills. He got permission from the ministry of tourism and lived there a holy and blessed life full of miracles and wonders till the year 1941 when he was forced to leave.
- ❖ He was appointed an Abbot for Anba Samuel Monastery. He went to Cairo to meet some of his beloved contractors who were very pleased to renovate the monastery.
- ❖ He longed to build a church after St. Mina's name, God helped him and let people who loved him build a cell and a small church in Old Egypt in 1949 then he enlarged it to host the out-of-town university students. It was a great spiritual and social blessing for the youth.
- ❖ He later ordained his brother as a priest to follow the service in this place that he loved and used to stay in it after his ordination to "Charge the Batteries" as he said.

Pope Kyrillos

- ❖ After the departure of Anba Yousab the Pope 115, Anba Athanasius (replacing the Pope) put his name as candidate and he was chosen by an Altar lot on May 10, 1959.
- ❖ He sat on St. Mark's throne on May 12, 1959 to be his successor # 116 for 12 years. He never changed in his rituals and never ceased to pray the liturgies every day as HH Pope Shenouda said he prayed more than 12,000 Mass as the solution for all problems.
- ❖ He departed into the Heavens on March 9, 1971. Around one million persons went for a last glimpse for the holy body on March 10 and the Funeral prayers were on March 11 then they put him to rest in his place in the New Cathedral.
- ❖ His holy body was transferred in a great celebration to lie beside his beloved "Mar Mina" in his monastery in Mariout, Alexandria, according to Pope Kyrillos' will kept by Pope Shenouda.

Some Achievements and Great Events in his Papacy

- ❖ He started a revival movement when thousands attended his daily Masses and were seeking his blessings to solve their problems and to walk in the path of the Lord.
- ❖ He took good care of the Library of the monastery and made 5 copies with his hand to make the writings of the "Fathers" available for public use. In his Papacy he made rare manuscripts and valuable books to be printed and handy.
- ❖ He ordained many Bishops among them for the 1st time General Bishop for the Education H G Abba Shenouda (HH Pope Shenouda).
- ❖ For the 1st time in history, 22 foreign representatives gathered to visit the Pope of Alexandria headed by the US representative and among them The Vatican Ambassador and the Russian consul general. He headed the historic conference for the leaders of Orthodox churches in 1965 in Ethiopia.
- ❖ He paid special attention to the Copts abroad and sent priests to a number of countries in Europe, Kuwait, Canada, Australia and USA to serve them and to build churches there.
- ❖ Through his effort, the Old Cathedral was renovated and two additional stories with 1500 seating capacity was built.
- ❖ He held the special prayers to consecrate the Holy Chrism (Myron) during the Passion Week in April 1967 being the 26th time in the church history.

- ❖ He put the cornerstone of the largest cathedral in the Middle East carrying the name of St. Mark on the feast of his martyrdom.
- ❖ His Papacy was crowned by the unique historic transfiguration of “The Holy Virgin Mary” on the domes of her Church in Zeitoun (a suburb of Cairo) on April 2, 1968.
- ❖ The relics of St. Mark returned from Rome on June 24, 1968 at 11: 30 pm. It was a huge celebration in the airport and the pope boarded the plane and carried the holy relics out to the people with great love and honor. A white dove clearly appeared in the dark.
- ❖ He headed the official opening ceremony of the New Cathedral attended by heads of states and representatives of the various churches from all over the world (172 guests) on June 25.
- ❖ In the morning he celebrated a mass on the golden altar presented by the Russian Church. It was attended by delegates from all over the world. They all moved after mass to visit place of the relics of St. Mark seeking the blessing of this great saint.
- ❖ During his Papacy, there was a great relationship with the Ethiopian church. He visited Ethiopia twice and Emperor “Haile-Selassie” looked on him with reverence and high regard.
- ❖ He had a very good relationship with the Egyptian president Nasser who gave the church a good amount of money to build the cathedral after knowing Pope Kyrillos through his miracles with him and with his daughter.
- ❖ As he always wished to honor his beloved Mar Mina, God granted him to build the great St. Mina’s Monastery in Mariout where he has been laid in peace later.

Conclusion

His Holiness Pope Kyrillos was a holy man who through full dedication to the life of prayer and fasting possessed many higher gifts which included performing wonders and miracles, the gift of knowledge, and unusual ability to lead by example.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Read one of the miracles involving both Mar Mina and Pope Kyrillos and discuss the relationship with heaven and saints.