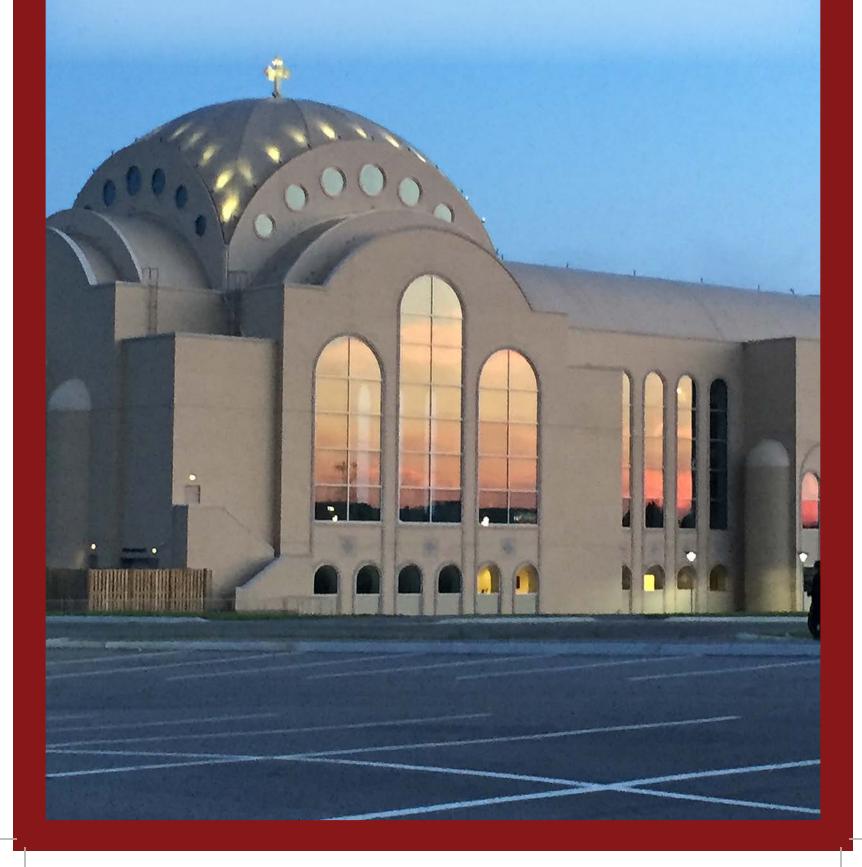
St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church | Toronto

February 2016 | Issue 1

CATHEDRAL



CHURCH WEEKLY MEETINGS AND GENERAL SERVICES

Wednesday	Bible Study (general meeting)		
	Hymnology class for children (advanced level)		
	Bible Study / English		
	Vespers in English		
Thursday	Prayer Meeting@ Cathedral		
Friday	Family Meeting		
	Youth Group meetings@Cathedral 08:00 - 09:15 pm		
Saturday	Sunday School (Grades 1 - 12)		
	Children's Activities		
	Youth Group Meeting for Grades 7 & 8		
	Vespers Praise Raising of Incense (in both Churches)		
	Midnight Prayer (of the Agpeya)		
	Midnight Praise		
	Senior Citizens Meeting (last Saturday of the month) 12:00 - 04:00 pm		
Sunday	Sunday School (Grades 1 - 12) - after the Divine Liturgy During Sermons Hymnology class for children (beginners' level)		
	Hymnology class for children (beginners' level)		
	Hymnology class for deacons		
	St. Mercurius & St. Marina Group (Arabic meeting for adults)06:30 - 08:00 pm		
	St. Mark's Museum Open upon on request (please call)		
Church Secretaries: Daily (Except Saturday & Sunday			
Church Library: Sunday: After each Divine Liturgy			
Coptic Museum: Open all week on request			
Internet address: (http://www.stmarkstoronto.ca) 24 Hours daily			

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Church number & Address: (416) 494- 4449 (41 Glendinning Ave., Scarborough, ON M1W 3E2)

Cathedral number & Address: (416) 800-5500 (455 Ferrier St. Markham, ON. L3R 2Z5)

A Moment of Reflection & Gratitude

CATHEDRA BUILDING →

Fifty years of "Building" turned into an amazing "Cathedral!"

The building will never stop. Yet, we are now "Cathedral."

A "cathedra" is the chair or throne of the Bishop (or of the Pope and Patriarch). The word "Cathedral" means: "of the cathedra," signifying the Church which houses the Bishop's throne.

Size is not the issue. A Cathedral may be large or small, as long as she contains the seat of the overseer and the mark of his authority.

This was the natural evolution of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church in Toronto, being the first Coptic Church in North America, the first such in Canada.

Fifty one years ago, "the Building" started. Now it is "Cathedral!"

It is the Church of the throne. And, on the throne, sits His Holiness the Pope who governs in the name of the Lord of lords and the King of kings, our Lord Jesus Christ who built her and owns her as His bride. which He purchased with His own blood.

So, as members of "the Building," we congratulate ourselves as we have become the throne of His power.

We have become "Cathedral."





We all want to enter the kingdom of God and be blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ. It should be noted that twice in the New Testament it is written that God despises the proud and gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5, James 4:6). How amazing would it be to attain God's grace? Grace is something that the world cannot offer to us. Let us heed King David the Prophet's advice to us: "I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully'" (Psalm 75:4). How frightful and sad would it be that God would despise us for being proud and relying on our own abilities instead of relying on the King of Kings, the Alpha and the Omega? If God gives grace to the humble then surely being humble will lead us along the narrow road that leads to life (Matthew 7:14).

According to the dictionary, "humble" is defined as "not being proud or arrogant, having a feeling of insignificance, low in rank and importance, and also low in level". It lists antonyms of humble such as "proud, assertive, and boasting".

But the word "humility" in the Bible refers to a godly position of the heart. We want to focus on the Biblical meaning of this word and fully comprehend what it means and how we as Christians should be humble according to what the Bible says. It is true, the Biblical humility is the opposite of pride, but it does not mean that we as Christians should think of ourselves as being low in worth or insignificant; on the contrary, humble people should also be assertive.

As most of you know, the New Testament was originally written in Greek. The noun "humble" in Greek means "to make low". We are called to be lower than God, to recognize that we are nothing, and to voluntarily submit ourselves to God. St. Pope Kyrillos VI realized this and used to say, "Who am I to bless you? I am just a worm." We need to have faith and fully submit to God's will. By submitting to God's will, we become obedient. Obedience to God is the strongest indicator of true humility.

My beloved, dependence on God is the greatest expression of love. Unlike what the dictionary says, humility doesn't mean we are insignificant; no, Christ didn't die on the Cross because we are insignificant, but because we are significant in His eyes. The Christian view of humility is that we submit ourselves to God and believe and obey what God asks of us.

The greatest example of humility is modeled by our Lord Jesus Christ as it is written in Philippians 2:5-8: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."



Our Lord Jesus Christ is amazing. He came to save us and to teach us. He even tells us to follow His example: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

But you might ask: Aren't the people who tell others they are humble, not really humble? Not necessarily. You see, back in Jesus' days, in the Greco-Roman culture, strong and self-willed people always became the best in class, and were the ones who generally bullied others. Look at Saul (Later St. Paul) and King Herod. Such people would have never been called humble as they were not considered weak. Back then, just like today, humble is often mistaken for weak.

We have to be comfortable with who we are; we are created in God's image. God loves us no matter what. This is who we are, God's carving and God's divine breath. We should only care about what God thinks of us and not about what other humans think, even if they are in positions of authority. Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and told him that his future son, St. John the Baptist would be "...great in the sight of the Lord..." (Luke 1:15). St. John the Baptist was never praised publicly by any earthly powers and ended up dying in prison. "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose." (Mark 1:7). How great is your humility, St. John the Baptist.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the parable of the wedding feast: "When you are invited anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you." (Luke 14:8-10)

My beloved, let us try to be humble, not proud. Pride will detach us from the love of God and from us loving Him and others too. Let's examine the word "PRIDE". In the middle of the word is the letter "i", suggesting that everything revolves around me, about my comfort, about myself, and no one else matters. So what is the opposite of Pride? Humility. And what is the opposite of "i" or "me"? It is "others"; we should always serve others and put others ahead

of ourselves. We must remember that we are the least of our brothers. We must remember to always serve others and not to judge them. As our Lord Jesus Christ said, "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Mathew 23:11)

Let us take St. Paul's great humility as an example when he says: "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God" (Colossians 1:1). St. Paul thankfully accepted who he was and his ministry that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to him.

It is hard to be humble because we have a sinful nature that always wants to fulfill its desires and be comfortable. Our human nature urges us to rely on ourselves and to disobey God. Humility is self-denial. Humility is hard work. Many of us wish to be humble and obedient but we don't work hard at it. St. Paul demonstrated how it takes much effort as he wrote to the Corinthians: "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Humility takes a lot of hard work.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

What does pride lead us to? A proud person becomes insincere, and unable to truly love and care for others. Pride leads us to thirst for people's praise in every scenario. We become unable to see the needs of others because we simply become too fixed on our own need for recognition. We must ask ourselves: Why are we proud? Is it because we think we are successful, or rich, or attractive? One must always ask him- or herself: Do these things matter to God? Does God care how much we make? How many friends we have, or how attractive we are? What then do they merit if they mean nothing to God?

God cares about what we did to praise His name today. What we did to make Him known to people in the world. God will not judge you according to how much money you make, but how many times you helped someone in need, how many times you gave your time, money, and love to others. These are the things we need to value.



DECISION MAKING PROCESS IMPACTS IN THE WORKPLACE BY: MARIAN ISKANDER,

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

AND CONSULTANT



Everyone of us will make direct or indirect decisions in the workplace daily which will have an impact on them, people around, and on their work performance as well. There are also many occasions where we find ourselves faced with some difficult circumstances at work which oblige us to make critical or crucial decisions in order to deal with these situations.

We all have principles, ethics, and attributes that make us deal with these situations and decisions in a way that may differ from someone else. Work is a big part of life and it forces us to go through ongoing challenges, difficult situations, and critical decisions. Each of us chooses how they want to handle these challenges, and how to interact with their conscience based on the ethics and principles that they believe in. Our decisions should not be influenced even if it seems that our choices that we make are different than what others expect from us. We should always make the right decisions regardless of the consequences. Sometimes when we are faced with these situations we think too much and we may feel worried about the consequences, but we must always maintain our position and believe in one fact which is the right thing to do will always be correct.

We all make decisions through our jobs whether it is a complicated role, CEO of an organization or Division Manager, with huge and crucial responsibilities or if it is a less complicated role, cleaner, with simple and limited responsibilities. We must avoid some misconceptions that make some people think that those who function at higher positions are the only ones who make critical decisions or are exposed to difficult situations.

Some examples to be clearer: a Division Manager in a company makes decisions on performance assessment, appointment, or termination of staff members, and/or restructuring some of the work projects which may impact employees positively or negatively. All these decisions require the Manager to think carefully beforehand about everything and ensure that the decision taken is consistent with their principles and ethics. A cleaning worker in a restaurant, if they don't do their job right, may expose people to diseases or health problems. The cleaning worker owns the decision of whether they will do their job perfectly as they should or whether they will ignore some of their responsibilities which may have a major impact on other people.





When we are in the process of making a decision, we must acknowledge that our previous work experience, similar prior circumstances that we have been exposed to, people around who guide us, etc. are all factors that may affect our self confidence and our ability to take right or tough decisions in difficult situations. We must also be open-minded and always recognize that whatever the level of our expertise, there will be some situations that we will go through for the first time and we may not be confident enough about the right decisions to make.

When exposed to these situations, there are some tips to help with the decision making process, which are:

- What your conscience tells you is very important, you must not ignore how you feel towards a particular decision especially when you sense that something doesn't seem right, or you have reasons to doubt or question an issue or a situation
- Study the issue thoroughly and collect more information from all channels available to you in order to be able to determine the right decision
- There are always people who are more experienced in the workplace that you can seek their advice on how to handle these situations – don't make your ego or self confidence prevent you from doing that
- There are other people outside work who may provide assistance through their experiences such as family, trustworthy friends, etc.

When we have to make important decisions at work, there are some things we must avoid and try to stay away from, which are:

 Putting yourself in a questionable situation or not following your conscience in any way even if the issue seems simple or trivial. Always remember that violation of conscience in something small or simple is the beginning or first step to violate your conscience in bigger and more serious issues/ things

- Financial or higher position temptations that might make you flinch from taking the right decision
- Searching for your own personal interest and not thinking about the people who may be affected negatively by your decisions
- Trying to satisfy those above you in power and violate your principles or your morals

Finally, we must always remember that:

- We will be exposed to difficult situations and challenges in our career
- We are all held responsible for our actions even if we are in a position in which no one else reviews our decisions or if we have the power to make any decision we want in the workplace because of our job level
- No one can force a person to do something wrong that they don't want to do
- God always sees what we do and know our intentions even if we show something else to people around us
- Do not do anything or make any decision that you cannot declare in front of people or makes you ashamed of yourself when you think about it or make you violate your principles or your morals

I like very much the verse in the Bible that says: What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

We all have principles, ethics, and attributes that make us deal with these situations and decisions in a way that may differ from someone else.









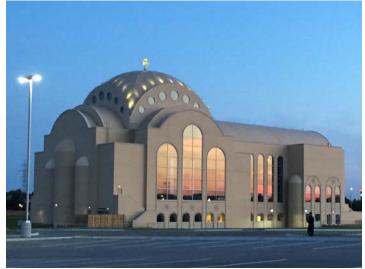


















MARK'S COPTIC MUSEUN

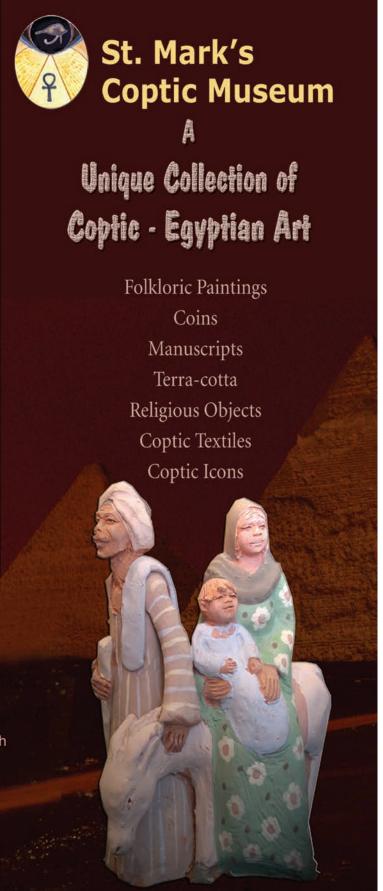
DISCOVER
THE CRAFTMANSHIP
OF THE COPTS
AND THEIR
RICH SPIRITUAL
AND
CULTURAL
HERITAGE

Museum opens upon request by leaving a message in the Museum Mailbox at 416.494.4449 (Ext. 37) under "Other Services"

www.copticmuseum-canada.org

Located at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church
41 Glendining Ave.
Scarborough, Ontario
M1W 3E2

Email: stmarkmuseum@yahoo.com





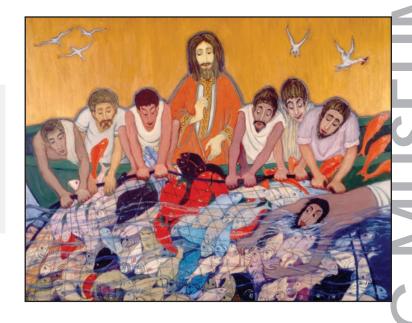
1976.4.2 The Miracle of the Great Catch

Tempera on plywood 140cm x120cm

Date: 1960 (Alexandria Egypt)

Artist: Marguerite Nakhla (1908-1975)

Photo: Dené



2000.1.2 Flight of the Holy Family

Terra cotta

Date: 1950's (Garagos, Egypt)

Artist: Said Antoun Photo: Sarah Assaad



2014.2.1 Peace Planter

Date: 2004 (Cairo, Egypt) Oil on Canvas 61cm x 76cm

Artist: Mina el-Gebaly Photo: Sarah Assaad







لابد أيضاً أن ندرك أن حجم وسنوات خبراتنا فى مجال العمل، والمواقف المماثلة التى تعرضنا لها فيما قبل، والأشخاص الذين حولنا ويقومون بتوجيهنا، كلها عوامل قد تؤثر فى ثقتنا بأنفسنا وقدرتنا على اتخاذ القرارات الصحيحة وخصوصًا فى المواقف الصعبة أو المصيرية؛ ويجب علينا أيضًا أن نكون من ذوي العقول المتفتحة، معترفين دائمًا بأنه مهما كان حجم خبراتنا وثقتنا بأنفسنا فهناك بعض المواقف التى قد نمر بها لأول مرة وقد لا نكون واثقين من القرارات الصحيحة بشأنها مهما كان حجم مسئوليتنا أو ارتفاع المستوى الوظيفى الذى وصلنا إليه، فعندما نتعرض لمثل هذه المواقف يوجد الكثير ما يمكن أن نعمله لمساعدتنا على أتخاذ القرار الصحيح مثل:

- ما يشعر به ضميرك مهم جداً . فينبغي ألا تتجاهل شعورك جاه
 قرار معين خصوصًا عندما تستشعر أن هناك ما لايبدو سليمًا أو ما
 يستدعى الشك أو التساؤل
 - هناك دائماً من هم أكثر خبرة في مجال عملك . يمكنك سؤالهم وأخذ مشوراتهم . لا جعل الغرور أو الثقة الزائدة بالنفس تمنعك من فعل ذلك
- هناك آخرون خارج مجال العمل قد يعينوك من خلال خبراتهم مثل
 أقرباء أو أصدقاء ذوي خبرة تثق بهم . الخ
- دراسة الموضوع وجمع معلومات إضافية من كافة الموارد المتاحة لك
 جُعلك أكثر قدرة على خديد القرار السليم
- وعندما يكون علينا اتخاذ قرار مهم داخل مجال العمل فهناك أمور يجب علينا جنبها والابتعاد عنها مثل:
 - وضع نفسك فى مجال الشبهات أو مخالفة ضميرك بأى شكل من الأشكال حتى ولو بدى الأمر بسيطًا ؛ تذكر دائماً أن مخالفة الضمير فى شىء صغير أو بسيط هى الخطوة الأولى لخالفة ضميرك فيما هو أكثر وأكبر

- إغراءات مادية أو وظيفية أو غيرها قد جُعلك تتراجع عن اتخاذ القرار السليم
- البحث عن مصلحة شخصية أوعدم اعتبار الأشخاص الذين قد يتأثرون سلبيًا بسبب قراراتك
 - إرضاء من هم أعلى منك فى السلطة ومخالفة مبادئك أو أخلاقياتك

و أخيرًا علينا أن نتذكر دائماً أننا جميعًا لابد وأن نتعرض لمثل هذه المواقف والضغوط فى حياتنا العملية . ولكننا فى نفس الوقت مسئولين عن قراراتنا حتى وإن لم يوجد من يراجع قراراتنا أو حتى لو كانت لدينا سلطة أخذ أى قرار نريده داخل مجال العمل : لا يستطيع أحد أن يجبر شخصًا ما على فعل خطأ هو لا يريد أن يفعله : الله دائماً يرى ما نقوم بفعله ويعرف نوايانا حتى وإن كنا نظهر غير ذلك أمام الناس .

لا تفعل أى شىء ولاتتخذ أى قرار لا تستطيع إعلانه للناس أو يجعلك تخجل من نفسك عندما تفكر فيه أو يجعلك تخالف مبادئك أو أخلاقياتك : تعجبنى جدًا الآية التى تقول : "لأنه ماذا ينتفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه ، أو ماذا يعطى الإنسان فداء عن نفسه ."

كل فرد منا لديه مبادىء وأخلاقيات وسمات جعله يتعامل مع تلك المواقف والقرارات بطريقة قد تختلف عن شخص آخر يواجه نفس الموقف.





اتخاذ القرارات وتأثيرها داخل مجال العمل

بقلم مریان أسكندر مدیر واستشاری موارد بشریه

كل منا داخل مجال العمل. مهما كانت وظيفته بسيطة أو معقدة. يقوم باتخاذ قرارات يومية سواء كانت مباشرة أو غير مباشرة لها تأثير عليه كشخص وعلى من حوله وعلى مستوى عمله أيضًا: وفي كثير من الأحيان نجد أنفسنا أمام بعض المواقف الصعبة في مجال العمل والتي ختم علينا اتخاذ قرارات حاسمة وقد تكون أيضًا مصيرية للتعامل مع مثل تلك المواقف.

كل فرد منا لديه مبادىء وأخلاقيات وسمات تجعله يتعامل مع تلك المواقف والقرارات بطريقة قد تختلف عن شخص آخر يواجه نفس الموقف : فالحياة والتى يُعتبر مجال العمل جزء كبير منها هى عبارة عن اختبارات يومية نمر بها وعلى كل واحد منا أن يختار كيف يتعامل مع تلك الاختبارات وكيف يتفاعل معها على حسب ما يمليه عليه ضميره وعلى حسب مايؤمن به من أخلاقيات ومبادىء : فإننا كثيرًا ما نتعرض لمواقف يتواجب علينا فيها اتخاذ قرار صحيح قد يبدو أنه على عكس التيار أو عكس ما يوده الآخرين منا . ولكن أخلاقياتنا ومبادؤنا تحتم علينا اتخاذ هذا القرار مهما كانت العواقب : في هذه المواقف أحيانًا نجد أنفسنا نفكر كثيرًا . وقد نشعر بالخوف من العواقب التي قد نتعرض لها . ولكن لابد لنا أن نتمسك دائمًا بموقف وحقيقة واحدة : أنه لا يصح إلا الصحيح .

فإننا لو نظرنا بأكثر تدقيق إلى مجال العمل . وعلى حسب وظيفة كل منا سواء كان له دور معقد كرئيس مجلس إدارة لإحدى الشركات أو كمدير لأحد الأقسام ذي مسئوليات ضخمة ومعقدة . أو كان له دور أبسط كعامل نظافة ذي مسئوليات بسيطة ومحدودة فلابد أن نتحاشي بعض المفاهيم الخاطئة والتى جعل البعض يظن أن أصحاب الوظائف الكبيرة هم وحدهم الذين يتخذون قرارات حرجة أو يتعرضون لمواقف صعبة .

وفيما يلى بعض الأمثلة للإيضاح :

مدير قسم فى إحدى الشركات يتخذ قرارات بشأن تقييم الإداء . وتعيين أو فصل الموظفين العاملين معه . وإعادة هيكلة بعض المشاريع التى قد تؤثر إيجابيًا أو سلبيًا على أشخاص آخرين . كلها شئون تتطلب أن يفكر الشخص فى كل ما يقوم باتخاذه من قرارات لأنه يؤثر على مصير آخرين ممن حوله . ولابد أن يتأكد أن القرار الذى اتخذه يتوافق مع المبادىء والأخلاقيات حتى ولو كان هذا القرار صعب .

عامل النظافة فى أحد المطاعم إن لم يقم بعمله على أكمل وجه فإنه قد يعرّض أشخاص إلى أمراض أو مشاكل صحية فعامل النظافة يقوم باتخاذ القرار إن كان سيقوم بعمله كما يمليه عليه ضميره أو إن كان سوف يتكاسل فى بعض مسئولياته نما قد يؤثر كثيرًا على آخرين رغم أن وظيفة عامل النظافة قد تبدو للبعض بسيطة أو لا يتدخلها قرارات مصيرية : وهذا مفهوم خاطئ لابد من تصحيحه . وهكذا الحال فى كل وأية وظيفة أخرى نقوم بها .



لحظة عرفان بالجميل

خمسون سنة من "البناء" صارت "كاتدرائية" عجيبة!

البناء لن يتوقف ؛ ولكننا صرنا "كاتدرائية" .

"الكاثدرا" هو كرسي الأسقف (أو البابا البطريرك) ، وكلمة "كاتدرال" أو "كاتدرائية" تعني: "التي بها الكاثدرا" ، وتشير إلي الكنيسة التي ختوي كرسي الأسقف .

حجمها ليس مقياسًا ؛ الكاتدرائية قد تكون كبيرة أو صغيرة ، علي أن ختوي عرش الناظر وختم سلطانه .

وكان هذا هو التطور الطبيعي لكنيسة مارمرقس القبطية الأرثوذكسية بتورنتو بما أنها أول كنيسة قبطية في أمريكا الشمالية ، ولا سيما في كندا .

منذ ٥١ سنلا بدأ "البناء" ... والآن هو "كاتدرائية"!

هو كنيسة الكرسي ، وعلي هذا العرش يجلس قداسة البابا الذي يدبرها باسم رب الأرباب وملك الملوك – ربنا يسوع المسيح – الذي بناها ويملكها كعروسه ، إذ قد اشتراها بدمه .

فنحن – كأعضاء في "البناء" – نهنئ أنفسنا إذ قد صرنا عرش قوته .

صرنا "كاتدرائية".



الخدمات الأسبوعيه و الخدمات العامه بالكنيسه

اجتماع الكرازة	الثلاثاء
الكتاب المقدس (إجتماع عام)	الأربعاء
درس ألحان للأطفال المتقدمين	
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التسبحه باللغه الإنجليزية	
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نشاط أطفال مدارس الأحد	
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