



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
St. Mary and St. Joseph
COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

Deacons Meeting – Sunday, Feb 05, 2012

Few concerns were raised by the deacons, discussed with abouna(s), and concluded as follows:

+ Liquid Candles:

- If a deacon found any problem with any of the liquid candles, he's requested to keep them in the dedicated place down in the closet at the north side of the altar for Samuel Habib or Bassem Henes to fix them.
- The liquid candles are recommended to be used as the wax candles are so expensive.
- When abouna uses the cross with the 3 liquid candles during the prayer of "*Evnoti Nai Nan*", the deacon should take it from abouna right after and put it back in its place in the closet – hanged vertically on the back of the closet's door – and make sure not to put it on the altar to avoid liquid drops.

+ Lockers:

Some lockers are not used, people may not be aware of this service or they don't need it. The fee of \$40 per locker per year is mainly to organize the process of assigning these lockers.

+ Agpiya's Psalms:

After the matins prayer, the chorus lead deacon is requested to make sure that the agpiya's psalms of each hour are distributed on the congregation. He may ask an adult or a youth deacon to distribute the psalms of each hour – abouna will read the first and last psalms, but still they can be distributed.

+ Hymns of the Relics Saints:

- Response of "*Tovh em epshois*" can be added to the endings of the doxologies during the vespers.
- Hitens for the relics saints, or gospel response "*tovh em epshois*" can be added during their feasts, or when time permits, as long as time schedule is followed.

+ Divine Liturgy Time Schedule:

- The time schedule should be followed; chorus lead can pray as many doxologies as needed during vespers, but in matins, we may pray only St Mary & St Joseph's doxologies.

+ Altar service groups

Number of deacons in altar groups is now growing (8 altar groups - 11 deacons in each group) which may decrease the chance for the kids to participate in the responses, some ideas were discussed and concluded as follow:

- God willing, there will be 2 Divine Liturgies on Sunday, the reason is to have a full English Divine Liturgy, which may resolve the issue of the large number of deacons in each altar group.
- Each altar group has the turn every 8 weeks to serve during Sundays' Divine Liturgies. Since there are now Divine Liturgies on Saturdays, the altar groups can be scheduled on Saturdays & Sundays in a way to have the turn every 4 weeks (rather than 8 weeks) which means each altar group can have the altar service twice every 8 weeks, one time on Saturday and another time on Sunday.

However, in this case, at least 2 deacons (one of them is adult) in each scheduled altar group should commit to pray on Saturday.

This will cancel the rule of the altar group scheduled to serve on Sunday, has the service on Saturday as well.

+ Midnight Tasbeha:

The midnight tasbeha starts right after Christ in our house (CIOH) meeting which ends at 9:00 PM (or sometimes 10-15 minutes after); youth who are interested now to pray the tasbeha usually stay late till after 11:00 PM which affects their next day service in the Divine Liturgy. Some of them leave earlier about 10:00 PM to be able to come early the next day for the Divine Liturgy. Many ideas were addressed and concluded as follow:

- Abouna will check if Christ in our house meeting can be held from 5:30 – 7:00 PM (instead of 7:45 – 9:00 PM) so that the midnight tasbeha starts at 7:45 PM and finishes before 10:15 PM.
- Coptic & Hymns classes remain the same 5:30 – 6:30 PM (in parallel with CIOH meeting in this case) and CLICK program remain the same 7:45 – 9:00 PM (in parallel with the midnight tasbeha in this case).

Glory be to God forever and ever. Amen