



**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, August 07, 2011**

- + Deacons shouldn't open the secret prayers of the people. We must keep them closed and give them to Abouna.
- + A mistake was noticed in saying **"Epi Epros Evki Estaseete"** in the joyful tune; this response should NOT change regardless of joyful season or not.
- + Once the deacon wears the tonia, he is like a soldier in the battle field; so he shouldn't go in the altar and spend the whole time there.  
Some want to pray alone, however, they shouldn't put on their tonia and go inside the altar to pray. They can pray with the congregation – without serving as deacons - but do not make this a habit, otherwise, the kids deacons will start to do the same.
- + We should not talk during the sermon even if we do not understand the language. We all understand partially each language: English or Arabic. If we pay attention we will understand some points.
- + When we use the cymbals we should play it in a simple fashion. Sometimes when we go to monasteries, we come back with a new way of playing the cymbals or singing certain hymns. Please refrain from introducing new methods; pray the hymns in humble and simple way. If we show off, we steal the glory of God as people start to praise us instead of God.
- + The altar group head deacon is the one who is responsible for distributing the hymns.
- + Every microphone is labeled and used for a specific purpose. They should be used 1-2 inches from your mouth. Please do not turn off any microphone during any service in or outside the altar.
- + Those who are scheduled for serving in the altar, they should make sure that the batteries are charged for the microphones the night before the Divine Liturgy. Also they should make sure the vessels that will be used for the wine and water are clean for use the next day.
- + Tonias should be in good condition, washed and ironed. There are lockers for the deacons that can be rented for \$40 a year.

**Glory be to God forever and ever. Amen**