



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, September 11, 2011

+ Deacons resembling the angels, in serving God. It is a great honor and blessing to serve in the altar as the Cherubim and the Seraphim.

+ A deacons' newsletter is used to be issued seasonally – stopped lately, it needs to resume again. A newsletter can talk about church feasts, theology or rites, and their significance. It may also include points were discussed during the deacons meetings.

A suggestion was made to have this info on e-mails if the newsletter needs more preparation work.

+ Deacons, who are not serving in the altar, should stand outside. Only those who serve is in the Altar can be in the Altar.

+ One of the adult deacons who serve in the altar can help translating the sermon to the young deacons. An idea is to use the translation device as well, for the English speakers from the congregation, to listen to the translation in the same time.

+ We should not use the utensils (water containers) of the altar to drink water. This is not a cup and it is solely dedicated for the service of God and it should be respected.

+ We should try not to use the wax candles often and use the candles with liquid instead, for the following reasons:

- 1- The young deacons try to play with the wax candles during the prayers in the altar.
- 2- They vanish quickly, and if for example they were used during the Gospel reading, and it happen to vanish, quickly becomes a distraction for everyone.
- 3- They are also expensive compared to the liquid candles.

There are 6 liquid candles on the altar that can be used in the altar or during the Gospel reading; if there are more than 6 deacons serving in the altar then the wax candles can be used for the extra deacons. In this case, wax candles can be given to the adult deacon only.

During Evnoti nai nan in the regular days (no feasts), the deacon can give Abouna wax candles to hold them with the cross; however, he may give him the golden cross that holds the liquid candles during the feasts or special occasions.

+ Deacons should not open the prayers requests. They are private and may include names of people so Abouna is the only one who can open them.

+ Deacons need to improve saying the altar responses. The altar group head deacon is to follow up with his group young deacons, he can treat them as a Sunday school servant: teach them the rites and responses, encourage them - In this sense he will know which child knows which hymns.

+ Oghnostos deacons should always wear the patrasheel (patrachen) during the Divine Liturgy - This is part of deacon's uniform.

During the vespers of special occasions (such as Nayrouz vespers, St Mary's Revival week vespers, ... etc) deacons should try to wear the tunic as well.

+ The deacons who hold the candles beside abouna during the communion should be attentive, observing and very careful not to burn abouna's tunic or the lafaef.

An adult deacon should take care of this service – to hold the candle next to the Body and the Blood of Christ during the communion – As he is mature and has a keener eye to notice and resolve problems.

+ During the procession around the church, the crosses should not be distributed to kids who can't hold the metal crosses due to their weight.

+ Coptic and Hymns classes should be promoted to the kids during Sunday school classes and through emails and newsletters.

Glory be to God forever and ever. Amen