



COPTIC SCOUTS NEWSLETTER

GETTING THE SCOOP WITH OUR TROOP



VOLUME 4
JANUARY 2022



www.copticscouts.org



PATRON SAINTS

What is the definition and the meaning of the Patron Saints and why were these people chosen to become patrons of causes, professions and countries?

- The term 'Patron' is used to describe holy and virtuous men and women who are considered to be a defender of a specific group of people or of a country.

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Saint Verena-

Saint Verena was raised into a rich Christian family in the Theban region (modern-day Luxor, Upper Egypt). In the mission to Rhaetia, Saint Verena joined the Theban legion (modern day Switzerland). During Emperor Diocletian's reign, the Theban Legion was a well-known Roman army division located in Egypt. In her capacity as a nurse, Saint Verena decided to join the army. Due to her experience as a nurse, she was especially worried about young girls and looked after them spiritually and physically. Saint Verena was equally concerned about the destitute, and she used to feed them. She also appreciated assisting the sick, particularly those with leprosy. She used to clean their wounds and apply ointments. She washed their wounds and apply ointments to them since she didn't want them to get infected. Because of her popularity, the ruler had her arrested and imprisoned, where Saint Maurice appeared to comfort and strengthen her. She moved about after her release from prison, and God used her prayers to perform multiple miracles. Many people become Christians as a result of her. The Most Holy Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Verena at the time of her departure from this world to console and strengthen her. On the 4th day of the Coptic month Thout, Saint Verena of the Theban legion left.



Just how Saint Verena served and looked out for people in the army we are taught to do the same as coptic scouts. May her prayers and blessings be with us all. Amen

Saint Maurice-

As a leader, St. Maurice encouraged the members of the Legion to strengthen and hold onto their faith along with maintaining their military loyalty to the Emperor. Saint Maurice refused to worship anyone else but God and believed and said that his service to God was his main priority and it exceeded all else. He sets an example of how humble and Christ-like we should be and how God should be above anything else in our daily lives; nothing really matters but Him. Connecting this with scouts, we are taught to set an example and become leaders like Saint Maurice was. We do many things in scouts that teach us respect and strengthen us both spiritually and mentally. He teaches us to always keep our faith in God and trust in God no matter how hard things get. Just like how hard things got for him in the military, we may also go through things but with our faith and loyalty to God, He is with us. Maurice received the crown of martyrdom and the Lord had performed many miracles from his pure body. St. Maurice is considered to be the patron saint and may the blessings of his prayers be with us all Amen.



- Jolina Hanna



COURT OF HONORS

Every Scout year, we start with a Court of Honors. This is a ceremony where current scouts are recognized for their achievements. It is also a way for newcomers to understand what scouts is. The Charter representative, Kirles, started off the Court of Honors by explaining that a scout is committed, hardworking, and shows respect towards others. This is shown through the people that have grown up in scouts, and their hardworking character and determination has grown with them. Through their determination, they were able to use the skills learned in scouts to help them with their hardships and daily struggles. Being in scouts is fun, but it is also a lot of work and not for everyone. Father Daniel Abdel-Maseih discussed that the closest thing to scouts is the military, and that in the same way that the military is not looking for a reward for their service, neither are the scouts: the way that servants in the church should be. Father Daniel also gave the scouts patron saints, Saint Verena, Saint Maurice and also discussed Saint Victor (look to the next page for their stories). These saints offered their lives for service, so as scouts, we should offer all of our efforts for service. Maximus Elmorry and Kermena Samer were recognized for being the highest scoring test-takers in their individual ranks, Scout and Tenderfoot respectively. They each gave a short speech. The new servants were then introduced: Peter Samer, Elizabeth Hanna, Kermena Shenouda, Abakir Hanna, and Abanoub Zaher. Tests were administered in September to the scouts, and moving up was based on their grades. Those that passed the exam were recognized and called up by their designated scout masters and rewarded for their achievements.

- Barsina Abdy





CARE PACKAGES

Christmas is the season for giving. That is why we are excited to announce that this year we will be starting a new Christmas Care Package program! This will happen annually, and be funded entirely by our scouts. We will be passing out packages to kindergarten and first grade students in our Sunday schools. These packages will contain hats, scarves, gloves, coloring materials and books. Each of the scouts donated to finance the drive, and the higher ranks helped buy, organize, and wrap the supplies.

- Maureen Hanna



COMIC STRIP



- Joyce Gabrael



INTERVIEW WITH ABOUNA

We've asked Abouna some questions about the church's journey through the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to get some insight of how it made him personally feel and what his thoughts were when he first heard about the quarantine news. We also learned the strategies that were implemented to adapt to Sunday School, confession, Bible Study, Alhan and liturgies with the capacity limit and distancing. We also wanted to learn if any good came out of the pandemic.

When the church was under quarantine and lockdown, Abouna felt that there was a large void in the church, as it is a gathering of the believers. Church is a fellowship, so the first two months of quarantine showed everyone the value of Church. Skipping a day of church before Covid was no big deal, but during Covid that mindset shifted. People now had to sign up and wait for a spot to open and many, including Abouna, felt the disappointment about the church being closed. When Abouna saw events like Great Friday come around, he saw an empty church which troubled him as he knew that everyone was at home and unable to have the joy that church gives. Believers and people gathering in the church is what makes it alive; it's what makes a church, a church. During the pandemic, there was complete isolation from people and the church became the opposite of a gathering area. With capacity and distancing, it made it harder for people to confess, and to go to Liturgies and Sunday school. With Sunday school, the priests made it so that the older youth have class on Sunday and the younger guys would have it on Saturday. The changes the Priests had to make for liturgies were that people had to register to go. For confession, it was to be done over a call. These changes were made in order to comply with capacity restrictions. The scout service was really useful and very important during liturgical times. They were needed to make sure everyone was placed 6 feet apart and to make sure everything was organized. In general, the pandemic gave people less chances to go to church. Abouna also explained that although people came to church less, it made them value and miss the Church more. Now that we can return to church normally, a lot of people have been coming to Saturday Alhan, Tasbahas, and liturgies. Now the church is holding up very well; everything is under control and organized.

– Mena Ghattas



CHANGE FOR CHANGE

We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated in contributing to this fundraiser! Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, we had to cut out having winners, but we will bring this event back soon! We have collected a significant amount of funding and can assure that this has been donated to Save The Children of the Developing World. God bless you all for participating!

- Joyce Gabrael

WORDSEARCH

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HITCH
NAVIGATION
MOTTO
COMPASS
FIRE
OATH
HIKING
LEADERSHIP
FELLOWSHIP
UNIFORMS
CAMPING
KNOTS
SCOUT
OUTDOORCODE
TOOLS
SALUTE
BADGES
FIRSTAID
TENT
PATROL

-Joyce Gabrael



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