

Rejoice in God's Glory!



**OUR
LORD'S
MOTHER
VISITS
EGYPT
IN 1968 & 1969**

By PEARL ZAKI



For approximately two years following the first visit of Virgin Mary to Zeitun on April 2, 1968, the Virgin Mother Mary, the MOTHER OF GOD, appeared to thousands of the faithful and others. She would visit at Zeitun Church two or three times per week and would stay from a few moments on some evenings to eight hours on other evenings.

INTRODUCTION

“... we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,...” Hebrews 12 : 1

“Nevertheless, He left not Himself without witness.”

Acts 14 : 17

God Almighty expresses His love to the world everyday, pouring an abundance of mercies upon His creation. His gifts to each one of us are numerous, and His miracles continue to sustain and save us in due time.

We often take life for granted, without being aware of what goes on around us. We are sometimes too busy to allow time for meditation or even to feel the gifts of God and appreciate them.

In our present times, material thought has pervaded every aspect of life, to such an extent that, at times, many people forget that there still exists a spiritual dimension for life. Human beings live under strain, tension and anxiety.

It is the grace of God alone which cares, and from time to time it reveals its presence to human beings in order to restore their faith and revive their spiritual ties.

The Apparition of St. Mary in Zeitun, Cairo, was a heavenly visitation coming in due time to address the souls of millions of people who have seen Her and heard about Her. It is an event which opened new realms of light and hope to endless people, saving them from the pit of despair, lifting their hearts up, and enabling them to realize and cherish the spiritual dimension of life.

People from all walks of life, illiterate as well as learned, rural as well as urban, Egyptians and non-Egyptians alike, adherants of many religions came to Zeitun to satisfy the longing of their inner soul, and to witness and testify to that heavenly manifestation. In the words of the writer of this book, "a mystery of God that He has displayed in all its glory for thousands to witness."

From the depths of our hearts, we give thanks to our Merciful Heavenly Father, for His everlasting love, manifested again in this Apparition. The countless people who have enjoyed spiritual revival and joy, who obtained recovery from their diseases, and relief from physical pain, all are living witnesses to God's unfailing love and sustaining care.

This book is an expression of thanksgiving through which the writer — a devout American Christian with a Reformed background — wishes to share her spiritual experience with others for the glory of God.

Since she saw the Apparition, she has dedicated much of her time and efforts to witness to it by writing articles for periodicals, daily papers, and answering the queries of many correspondents — besides giving lectures in different cities in the U.S.A.

The publication of this book comes some years after the Apparition, because it continues to be a living experience to many who saw Her, and many others who are blessed by the present healing ministry at the Zeitun Church.

May this book be a blessing to many others for the Glory of Our Lord.

Bishop Samuel

Bishop Samuel died
with Anwar el Sadat
October 6 1981

ZEITUN: The Miracle at St. Mary's

by Pearl Zaki

In the land of Egypt at Zeitun, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ came to visit earth in April, 1968. Zeitun, a suburb of Cairo rather than a district in it, borders the vicinity that was once a part of ancient Heliopolis, (in Egyptian known as ON, in Greek known as CITY OF THE SUN). It is a heavily populated area today. Not too many years ago it was the edge of the city of Cairo which was mostly desert area and is located about ten miles from the Nile. But with increases in population and the marvels of science bringing irrigation the city expanded. Buildings and parks sprang up in this dry desert area which was soon divided into districts or suburbs of Cairo. Zeitun as one of these is surrounded by Matariya, Ayn Shams and Heliopolis.

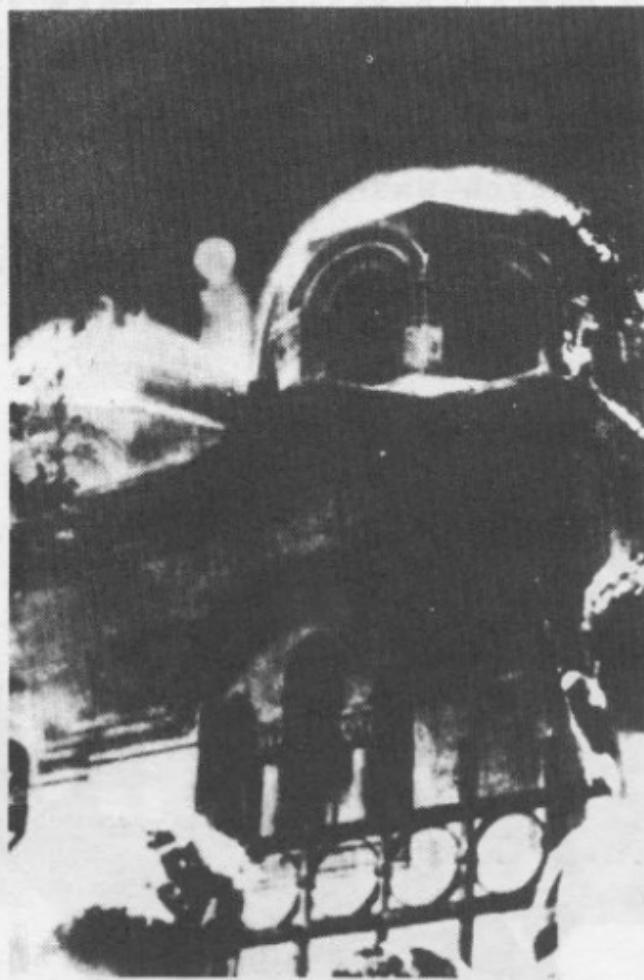


At the intersection of Tumanbay Street (the main street) and Khalil Lane in Zeitun there is a rather small Coptic Orthodox Church of our Lord named St. Mary Church in honor of the Virgin. The photograph on the opposite page shows St. Mary Church of Zeitun as it exists today. Khalil Lane is named after the Khalil Ibrahim family, a family known to have been very dedicated to the church. It has been revealed that about 1918 one very wealthy member of the family who owned a small piece of land here suffered a family crisis. During this time the Virgin Mary appeared to him in a vision or dream and told him to build a Coptic Church on this land in her honor and in fifty years she would bless the church. So in this respect it is believed that this church was built with a cause. The church was completed in 1924.

As you look up into the big dome inside of the church you find this painting of Virgin Mary.



Today, the church nestles in a center of perpetual activity; for in the busy streets around it people come and go about their business, pausing now and again to enter the church and bow their heads to pray. The trees around the church dress it with unassuming beauty; the sun graces it with light and warmth, and the moon with a knowing reflection. But our Lord graced this little church with light brighter than many suns or moons. His gift completely disrupted the daily routine.



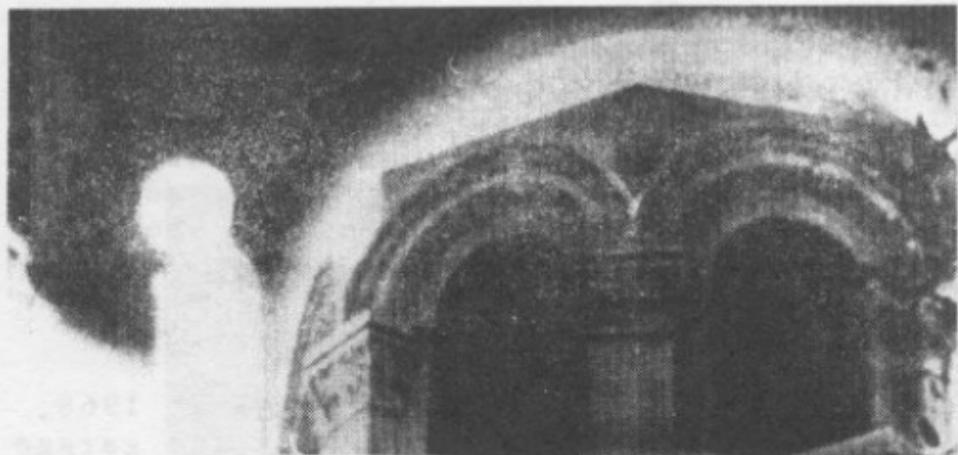
Can you imagine, though, what joy came into the hearts and minds of the devout people of Zeitun when they ceased to fear or wonder at the phenomenon of April 2, 1968, and knew within their souls that by the grace of God the figure they saw with their own eyes moving on the domes of our Lord's church was the transfigured person of Mary herself!

The photograph on the opposite page (3) by Mr. Fawzi Mansour, an architectural engineer who lived in Heliopolis, was taken in the early days of Mary's appearances. Notice how the cement cross in front of her seems to be illuminated giving off a florescent light. According to an account in the Egyptian newspaper called WATANI this is how it all began:

"It was on Tuesday night April 2, 1968, at 8:30 p. m. when some workmen at the garage that belonged to the Public Transit System which was across the street from the church were at the gate as usual for the changing of shifts. There were also some women crossing the street. All of a sudden there appeared an unusual movement up at the middle dome of the church which holds the cross. This movement attracted the attention of the women and two of the garage workmen who were enjoying a cup of tea at the gate of the garage. (They were of Moslem faith.)

The scene appearing in the darkness seemed to be of a young lady in white kneeling by the cross at the top of the dome. This scene, most unusual because the dome has a round smooth, very sloping surface, held the men and the women pedestrians as though they were nailed in their places.

As they all pointed to the dome, one of the workmen gave out a cry warning the person not to jump down. Since he could not see her face, he thought she was a girl trying to commit suicide. He spoke to the man next to him and everyone started to whisper. Then these whispers became warning shouts. The lady stood up."



(Perhaps similar as in this photograph)

"They all saw her dressed as if in a bright gown of light in a view similar to that associated with the Virgin Mary. One of the ladies gave out a very long 'Za gha ruta' or cry of joy. Involuntarily she cried out, 'Settena Mar iam,' which means, 'Our Lady, Mary.' The woman began pleading for the Lady's blessings."

Someone ran to get the priest and another, the rescue squad. Than the Lady vanished. One of the garage workmen who had pointed his bandaged right forefinger at the Lady shouting "Lady, don't jump" was scheduled to have his finger surgically amputated the next day because of gangrene. When the bandages were removed his doctor found and confirmed that his finger was completely healed.

The Egyptian Gazette



The only picture: Virgin Mary appeared at

Zeitun --
kyrollos

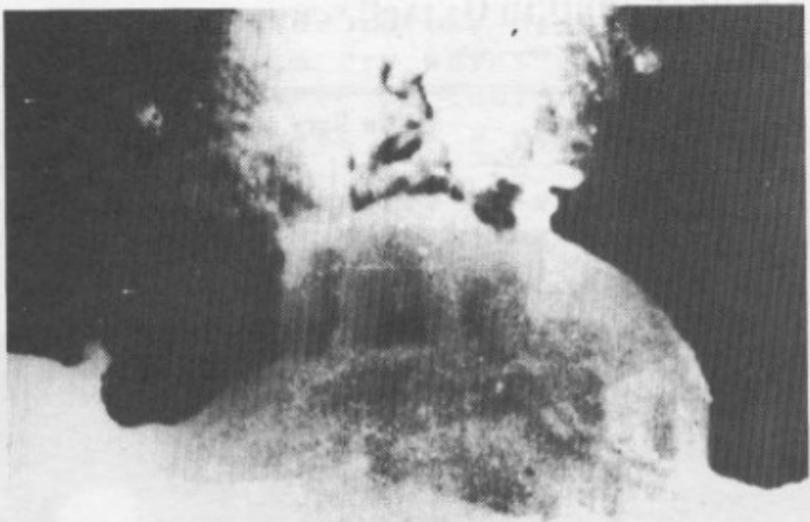


اللَاكِنْ يَعْلَمُ: ظُهُورُ الْمَرْيَمَ مُفْتَحَةٌ

سَبَقَ الْأَيَّامَ بِأَوْكَدِ مُهِمَّاتِ الْكِتَابِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

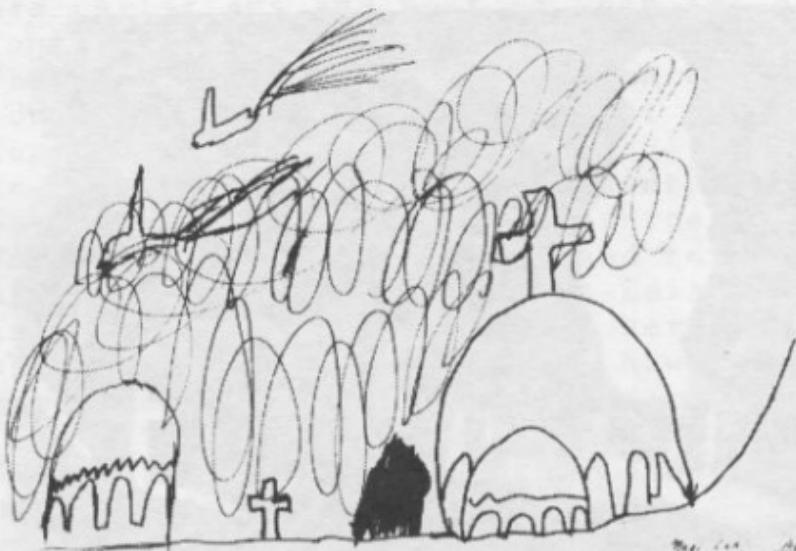
سَبَقَ الْأَيَّامَ بِأَوْكَدِ مُهِمَّاتِ الْكِتَابِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

The events following this announcement in the EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, WATANI and other papers can never be fully recorded as it would involve the witness and description of millions of individuals and their emotions. The over-all impact of this glorious event will not be completed for a long time. Christians are greatly outnumbered by Moslems, but with them have a depth of inner being with prayer ever on their lips. It is not surprising nor does it seem strange for us as out-siders yet, who know these people, to find the miracle of St. Mary taking place here. God chose Mary in her obedience and humility to be His Mother. For her part in His Divine Plan she is unquestionably, to the faithful, not an object of worship. She is given a deep respect by all who know God's Love and who know through that Love they will survive in the inherent hope for all mankind.



This still photograph taken by a German photographer who had come to Cairo to do a film for television (but was unable) is how I saw Virgin Mother Mary on August 13, 1968, at 4:30 a. m. (During a three weeks' visit to Egypt in August of 1968 I spent a total of eight nights at St. Mary Church in Zeitun.) I had spent the first four nights at Zeitun Church and had seen nothing. On my fifth night at about 4:15 a. m. I saw four yellow flashes or flames covering the front of the church. Following this about 4:30 Virgin Mary appeared 'full figure' with hands at her side and they slowly moved up to an attitude of prayer. Two meteors or shooting stars seemed to come down from heaven and form a cross behind her head. She vanished and returned to the same attitude once again. I found myself praying the ROSARY Prayer which I had not done before. The people continued to come running from all directions, calling for her intercession to praise God.

After three more visits of mine, on the third night I saw her briefly. This time a sheet of light appeared to cover the church and she was standing there on the ground beside St. Mary Church in a position similar as we know her to the Lady of Fatima Statue. She had appeared, vanished and then reappeared, each time bowing and moving as a living being. My son, Nagi, who was nine saw Virgin Mary in silhouette, the lines in the picture below represent the incense. The two objects represent the doves as were witnessed by many.

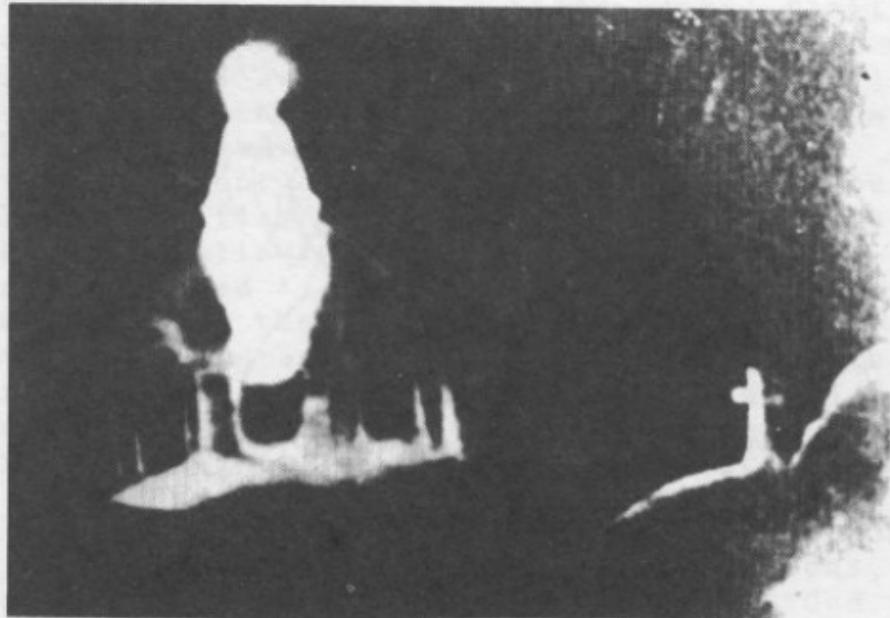


Nagi, 9 yrs. Aug. 2.
Second Apparition of
Virgin Mary
Silhouette of St. Mary's
Church, Nagoya, Japan
August 18, 1945

The following testimony of a witness says most perfectly what was revealed to me:

"The whole scene was bathed with a luminous halo surrounded with a blue circular frame all ablaze. Little by little the vision became more distinct until the figure of Mary became more evident to the vast multitudes who filled the space surrounding the church of Zeitun. The luminous circle seemed to symbolize to me the perfection of eternity in contra-distinction to the fragmentary limitations of our seemingly dreary mechanical measure of time."

I do not know the source of this photograph below but many witnesses described her as they saw her in this attitude on certain appearances.



After April 2 as time went on witnesses reported seeing the Holy Virgin Mother almost nightly. From the beginning it seemed as though the Virgin Mother stepped out before man, woman and child from behind an invisible curtain; as surely as she came it was only our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who could have opened the curtain for her; she would not do this of her own accord. Two thousand years ago our Holy Mother of God and her Son, Jesus Christ, were known to St. Mark. He travelled with Saint Peter and eventually ended up in Alexandria, Egypt. This was the place where he began to preach Christianity and became the first bishop of the Egyptian Christian Church (known as the Coptic Orthodox Church).

Today, His Holiness, Shenouda, III, is 117th in apostolic succession from St. Mark. In population Egypt has about 40 million who are predominantly Moslem. Ten million of these are Christians and most of whom are of the Coptic Orthodox faith. Throughout the Middle East there are about 20 million Coptic Orthodox Christians altogether. It was to these Copts that the Lord's Holy Mother appeared and she was seen by many present at the church. Her appearances were two or three times weekly for nearly two years. One had to be present at the church of St. Mary at Zeitun to witness her appearance. The time of her appearance was unpredictable. She did, however, appear more frequently on Feast Days or the eves of them. There are 32 Feast Days in the Coptic Calendar honoring the Mother of Jesus, our Holy Virgin Mother.



المنجع تقطعن الى ظهور السيدة العذراء في ليلة ودهشت
وأنهم عظيم

On Tuesday, April 9, another appearance was confirmed by the authorities. By this time many thousands of people were gathering nightly and were bringing their reports to the authorities. (With the appearances becoming so numerous the church authorities and newspapers began to publish this information. When thirty persons had appeared at a central office before an appointed committee with the same eye witness account of what had been seen; then this was published as an official account.)

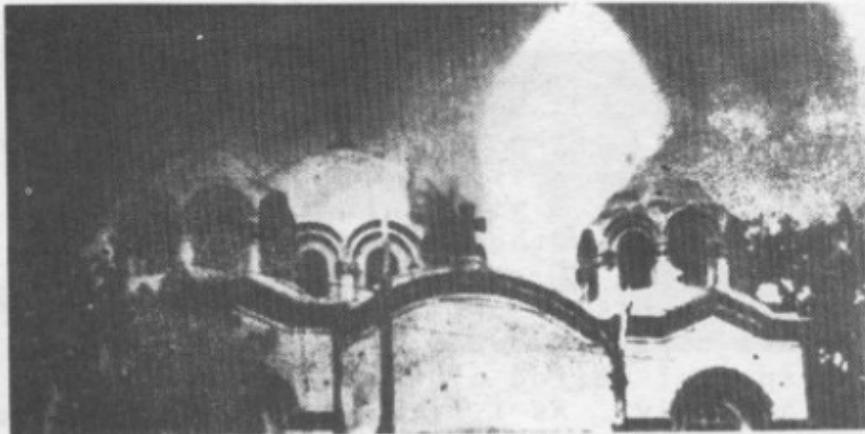
As people gathered and waited through each night, they could hear singing and praying in many languages-Coptic, Arabic, Greek, verses were chanted from the KORAN, and the Moslem book of prayer, etc. One of the greatest miracles wrought by our Holy Mother was that the LITURGY was sung over loud speakers and carried for blocks.

One of the bishops exclaimed, "Our Virgin Mary has done more than thousands of missionary workers!" in that speakers were set up and the LITURGY could be heard by thousands gathered around the church. It is against the law to preach Christianity outside of a church or home.

Throughout the long night's vigil numerous shooting stars or meteors were constantly seen falling overhead. Appearing from a distance they were very impressive and always stirred the crowd with anticipation and served to revive them in this long night's vigil. In the first two weeks of August during my visit I saw many meteors. I know they are explained scientifically during this special period of time but they were most heavenly. As I watched them it reminded me that our rich blessings all come from the CREATOR, Who keeps all in His control.

Along with, and following, many of the Blessed Virgin Mother's most glorious appearances we found the fragrance of incense, described by one of the bishops as "a fragrance so great as if from a million incensors". The smoke of incense poured out of the domes, through closed windows of the large dome actually, in large quantities; it was very bright.

Sometimes clouds like a thick fog would roll in toward the church as if they were being channeled down the streets in all directions to completely cover the church. They seemed to absorb the incense and its fragrance and carry it to the crowd of people and spread it over them like a canopy. One could reach out as if to touch it or move his hand through what seemed like a thick film of heavy air. The sky above would turn to a deep reddish-purple and seem to express tangibly the joy of the people. What a glory to be so blessed in the goodness of the HOLY SPIRIT!!!



A burst of light would appear over the church then within it, the Virgin would appear.

Some nights the appearance of the Virgin Mother Mary would vary from a few minutes to eight hours. People would be able to go home and return with families, friends and cameras, and still find her there in all God's glory. Our Holy Mother would be seen in 'full form' moving as a living person, bowing to the people. Sometimes she would be carrying a palm branch which she waved at the people in blessing. Sometimes she carried a cross with which she blessed people, other times just appearing radiant, shimmering, with a brilliant star in her crown, silently hovering over the church. She moved as if gliding, her feet did not seem, or appear, to touch the church roof.

After awhile with the intensity of her appearing so frequently many would try to photograph her. At the time of the appearance most people became so transfixed in wonder, amazement and ecstasy that all action seemed impossible. Arms and fingers could not move to adjust cameras. But somehow, by the grace of God for the sake of all posterity, photographs were made.



3:35 a. m.

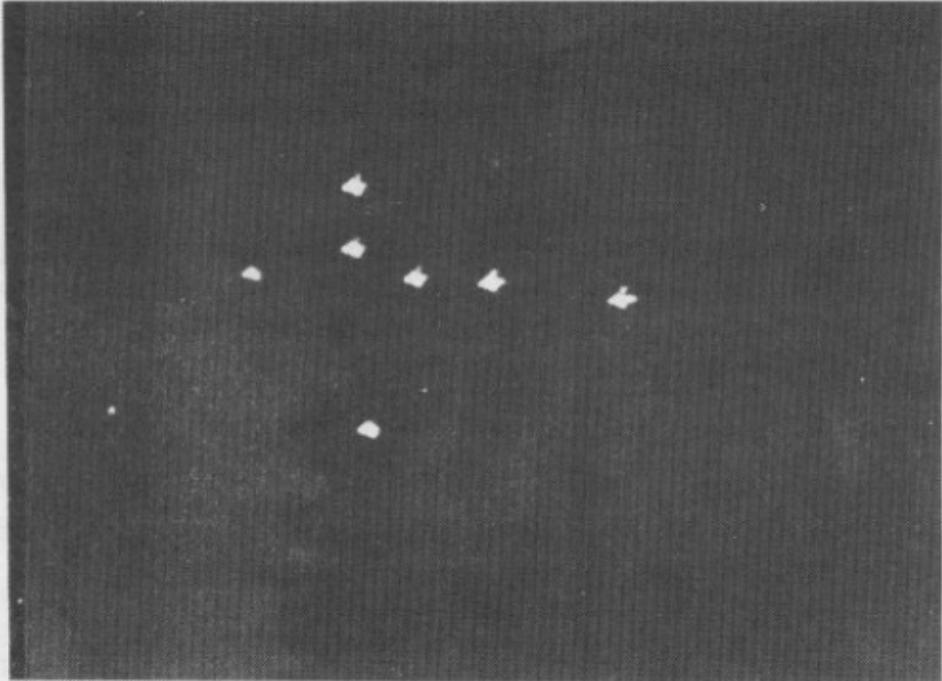


3:40 a. m.

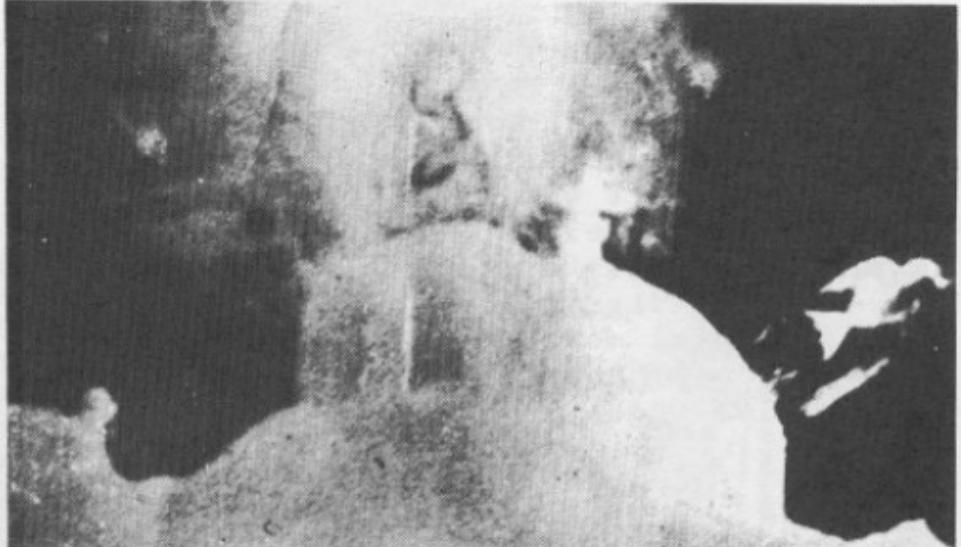
In the morning of April 13 two photographs were taken by Mr. Wagih Risk Matta, (who has written a very beautiful book in Arabic about St. Mary's appearance and has all of his photographs, about 12 in all, contained within it.) Only the light surrounding the figure was captured in these photographs. Had you been there you should have been able to see her figure, even the film captured only the light about the figure. Notice the head in the first picture.

In the second picture the head is shown to begin disappearing. I am reminded of reading where upon the authorities of Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, questioned the three children who had seen Virgin Mary, each (separately) said her head was seen to disappear first.

These photographs taken during a ten minute visit of our Virgin Mother in a five minute interval were printed in all the Egyptian newspapers but drew little response because as I said the figure of Virgin Mary was not clear in them. The head photographer of Egypt's semi-official newspaper, AL AHRAM declared that there was no tampering with any of the film or negatives at this time. Mr. Matta is known to have had a physical cure during this visit to Zeitun Church.



This is another of Mr. Wagih Risk Matta's photographs. The dove-like objects, round and golden in color were seen to emit a light and would generally be seen with wings but the wings did not move. The Cairo Zoo Keeper who was consulted and came to Zeitun determined that doves do not fly by night, when thrown up they fall to earth. These birds, doves, pigeons--spiritual beings were seen before, during and after our Holy Mother's visits, every hour during the night and in the early evenings. Sometimes they would appear without the Blessed Mother in two's, or seven's in the form of a cross, sometimes 12 would be seen in a formation and always as if one would be destined to lead the rest. If they disappeared they would return in the same formation.



This photograph was sent to me by the editor of WATANI newspaper. Mr. Michael Takla told me that this photograph was taken by a "very reliable witness, a lady from Alexandria", I did not receive her name. This is again similar to the photograph taken by the German photographer but shows how the doves or objects in flight appeared and were seen by witnesses present at the time at the church.

All of the photographs, photo-drawings, artist's drawings shown have been verified by many witnesses in expressions to the effect..."She looked just like this!" "That is the way I saw her!" "Where did you get this photograph? That is just the way I saw her in April 1968!", etc., etc.

Computer enhancement studies have been done on some of the pictures by scientists and declared there is no trickery.

Artists present at Zeitun during our Holy Mother's visits used their talents to draw what they had seen and they, it seems, captured more of her heavenly beauty than the photographs. When actually viewing the Virgin Mother it was difficult to distinguish distinct features but some could describe her hair and eyes and hands and the shape of her figure and the color of her skin. She was mostly described as "dark and light" and "bluish-white" or whitish-blue". Sometimes yellowish and radiating, luminous, beautiful, young, healthy; like a QUEEN. The painting on the bottom of this page was done by Mr. Sabri Ibrahim in 1973. I was told that this is how he saw Mother Mary in 1968 at Zeitun Church. This painting in color, a little larger than life size, hangs at the entrance of St. Mary Church and at first sight it takes one's breath away.





Artist's conceptions of Virgin Mary, Zeitun.

Father Morcos, a Coptic priest who has witnessed the Virgin Mother's appearance in 1968, told me "and there were rays coming down from her hands like this!" The rays would come from her hands down over the people and on to the ground. We know from past revelations that these be graces from God in blessing from HIM to us through the channel of HIS GRACE, Virgin Mary, His Mother. One witness described the Virgin as "There she was at the edge of the church bowing to us from the waist!!! I couldn't believe it! But there she was, I SAW HER!!"

The miraculous cures seem to speak for themselves. This added to the great joy surrounding the glorious visitor's visit. People soon began to realize that the blind could see, the deaf could hear and the mute could speak after they had been present during one of her appearances. Many of those who were physically ill, with obvious deformities, saw, and in their faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, were cured by HIM, God the Father, through her intercession.

(It must be pointed out that in God's sanctifying power some of the physically ill people at Zeitun Church were also miraculously cured by their faith, when they were not in the presence of the Virgin Mother's transfigured person.)

Again, as in the early days of our Lord's stay on earth, she interceded where necessary on others behalf. Of herself she has no power to perform miracles; only through her presence with her Son, Jesus Christ, and in her innocent persuasion that we had the first miracle at Cana. Today, again, through her, we have and can live with renewed knowledge, not of our own making, of His continuing the miraculous in everlasting love.

Since the statements about the cures themselves at Zeitun were detailed, verified and documented by a commission of seven physicians and professors, directed by His Holiness, Kyrollos, VI, Pope of Alexandria, there need not be any question of miracles. Cures, unexplainable by natural science, are known to have happened surrounding all of our Blessed Mother's holy appearances.

I am certain Mary has each name and the identity of each person cured in her heart, detailed on earth, verified by her presence and documented in heaven. Each of them knows who they are and we can rejoice with them in the Glory of God's power. In the years following Mother Mary's visit to earth miraculous cures continue at this National Shrine of Our Lady of Zeitun. When they are reported and made known by the faithful they are held in awe and wonder at the Glory of God.

Yet, not all present at Zeitun were or are cured of physical or spiritual ills, this, of course was and is according to God's holy will.

During a visit of mine to Cairo in 1974 Bishop Gregorius told me that many he knew found renewed hope and strength in their faith in God as a result of being present at St. Mary Church during a visit of Virgin Mary. Many returned to the church after being away from God for one reason or another. He told me:

"A gentleman well known in the church, known for his generosity, goodness and Christian ways suddenly turned completely around in his thinking. He mocked the people attending services, asking 'what are these silly people doing, wasting their time?' He also went to Zeitun Church to mock. Upon arriving there he found thousands gathered which convinced him all the more of the futility of believing in God because 'how is it possible for Virgin Mary to be seen here?' Suddenly, there she was in all splendor before his eyes. He fell to his knees and until now is lamenting every moment he was away from God."

May 7, 1968

٤٤ ساعة بعد بيان البعض



Through the last two weeks of April and on into May we find the most glorious of the appearances of the Virgin Mother Mary described and along with her appearances the crowds multiplied. On some nights it was estimated to be a quarter of a million people gathered around the church. My sisters-in-law wrote us testifying to this fact:

"We had to stand straight as a statue with our arms at our sides hardly able to breathe and were pushed forward or backward by the waves of the crowd. Once we were in the crowd it was almost impossible to leave until they dispersed early at sunrise."

Also, my sister-in-law, Fawzia, wrote that on the day I left Cairo after my visit in 1968 (the day before the Feast of the Assumption) our Holy Mother was seen for 10 minutes over the church at 6:00 o'clock in the evening "as bright as a million suns." She had seen her that night.

As the crowds became larger and larger and some of the people became frantic over the possibility of its being a hoax, the governmental authorities realized that the people must be protected from this. Some were beginning to tear out the electrical wires saying that it was a trick; many climbed trees to get to the top of the church to try to touch the apparition. Authorities investigated for a 15 mile radius to see if any electronic devices were used, they turned every inch, but after making thorough investigations and with the help of the Blessed Virgin who kept coming again and again they became convinced of its authenticity and gave orders to prepare the church and surrounding area to receive her properly.

The government ordered the garage that covered the whole block on the south side of the church to be removed to accommodate the masses. It was from the entrance of this garage that the Virgin Mother was first noticed. Actually some persons thought that the sight they saw on the church dome was in some manner a reflection from the garage. However, after the garage was removed the apparition of Virgin Mary continued.

The trees around the church were cut away so that the people would not climb into them to fall and be hurt; the larger ones were so trimmed that they were very difficult to climb. Actually, when the Virgin Mother appeared near or over the palm tree some said the branches created an illusion, after it was trimmed she appeared as bright as before.



HIS HOLINESS, KYROLLOS, VI

Pope of Alexandria

Patriarch of the See of St. Mark
(and all Africa)

116th in Apostolic
succession from St. Mark

(deceased, March 1971)

On May 5, 1968, one month after the beginning of the visits of our Holy Virgin Mother, His Holiness, Kyrollos, VI, issued THE PAPAL STATEMENT authenticating that this was truly the Virgin Mother Mary, MOTHER OF GOD. He most firmly believed our Holy Mother came because she had found refuge in Egypt before with her Son, JESUS CHRIST, and Joseph.

The church of St. Mary at Zeitun is located very near the route of the Holy Family when they fled from Herod and travelled through Egypt. Along this route, according to tradition, there are today about 14 shrines commemorating this flight and many faithful have received comfort and graces upon visiting these holy places.

The PAPAL COMMITTEE received witness accounts and official statements from many persons: Father Constantine the Pastor of St. Mary Church, The Gouvernement Delegation, Moslem witnesses, Chrisitans of all different denominations and most of the Coptic Church Hierarchy. All had witnessed the Virgin Mary on one or more of her visits during those days.

In a visit of mine with His Holiness, Kyrollos, VI, in 1968 he told me about Virgin Mother Mary's appearances and gave me his personal blessing. The witness of His Holiness in its purity transcended knowledge...he refrained from personal comment as he wished for the faithful to go to Zeitun to know for themselves; to "make up their own minds" about the holy visit. His attitude as expressed to me was that in God's time, its fruits would be known.

Many have speculated why God would send His Holy Mother at this time to this particular place. It is known that she did not speak and if verbal messages were given they were not revealed. It comes to my mind that through the Wisdom of God we in this world are again to be reminded of His great glory of appearing 2,000 years ago. When He bent down to earth and came as a child to be held in Mary's arms, He shows us that He cares so very, very much.

In 1974 Reverend Father Xavier Eid, pastor of St. Mary of Peace Catholic Church, Garden City, Cairo told me:

"The message of Zeitun is valuable for the whole world. Egypt was in need of care and help from God in very difficult times. It serves as a confirmation to people of Egypt who are very, very religious. It has helped the Coptic Orthodox Church to be better known throughout the world, to correct mis-understandings about it. The Coptic Orthodox Church has kept sight of certain values in worship--the piety of the Desert Fathers--prayer, study of Scripture and fasting, this latter at a time when fasting has gone out of vogue in the western world. Copts fast as many as 200 days in the year. All of these practices now will be better known in the world. One of the means chosen by providence, I think, is that the apparitions of Virgin Mary has brought people to Egypt from all over the world and this gives others the opportunity to know the Coptic people."



العدد السادس والثلاثون - مايو و يونيو ١٩٨٣ - المجلد السادس - السنة الخامسة والعشر



بابا البابا بولس السادس يقدم عذرية تذكارية إلى بابا البابا شنودة الثالث أباً القديس أنطونيوس



بابا شنودة والبابا بولس السادس أيام الحج الكبير في الأراضي المقدسة بطرس

٢٥ - العدد السادس والثلاثون - مايو و يونيو ١٩٨٣

بابا شنودة
بابا الطهارة العظيمة
بابا شفاعة العروس يحيى يعقوب

In May of 1973 His Holiness Shenouda, III, was invited to Rome by His Holiness, Pope Paul, VI. This was the first meeting of the two bishops, the Bishop of Rome and the Bishop of Alexandria, that had taken place in 1600 years. They celebrated the anniversary of St. Athanasius of the church, the 20th pope of the See of Alexandria. During this visit Pope Shenouda, III, told Pope Paul, VI, about the visit of the Holy Virgin Mary at Zeitun in 1968 and 1969.

The above photograph shows the holy fathers praying together in St. Peter's in Rome.



Cardinal Stephanos, 1st
(deceased, August 23, 1987)

Early in 1974 during correspondence with His Eminence Cardinal Stephanos, 1st, asking him for a statement I could share with others about the Virgin Mary's visit, he told me of his pending visit to America. His Eminence was the leader of the Coptic Catholics in Egypt who are re-united with Rome. He did visit us in New Jersey in 1974, gave me his blessing for the work I am doing for Mother Mary's efforts to bring all souls to God in Jesus Christ and said MASS for about 800 children at our parish. In the early days of our Holy Mother's appearances he was asked by his life-long friend and pope, Paul, VI, to investigate and report about the happenings at Zeitun. The first words of his statement are "It is no doubt a real appearance..."

The Holy Virgin Mother Mary's visit to earth at Zeitun is now church history. She had appeared most frequently on or before Feast Days. The 32nd Feast Day being Our Lady of Light or Our Lady of Zeitun which, in honor of this holy visit, is celebrated every April 2 from the date of her first appearance. On the first anniversary in April, 1969, the photograph below was used to commemorate the event of the blessing of the Holy Mother's visit, sent from God.

Also, about the time of her first appearing April, 1968, thousands of Egyptians, Christians and Moslems, began immigrating to America and to other parts of the world. The majority who came to America are now settled into our communities and have become citizens. In larger cities, where more persons located, Coptic Orthodox Churches for worship are now found. Many of these people have had the blessing to have witnessed the Holy Virgin Mother at Zeitun before coming here.



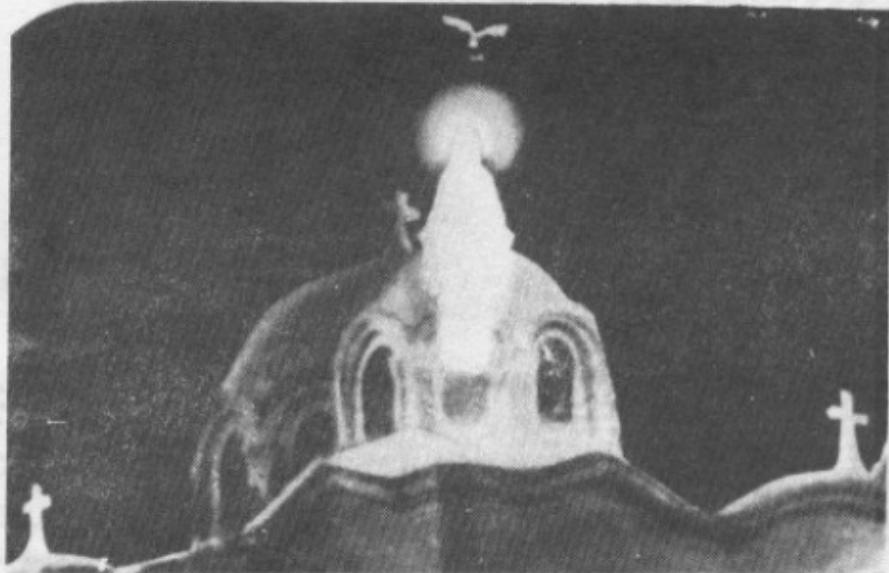
In 1975 His Grace, Bishop Gregorius, one of the leaders in the Coptic Church told me:

"Our Holy Virgin Mother or St. Mary appeared in about 10 different ways. God sent her in ways, by nature, we would know her. When she appeared she would greet the throngs of people, bow to them, bless them and then turn back to the cross. In 9 out of 10 appearances she was found in an attitude of prayer, she was saying in a sense 'do as I do, the world needs prayer for salvation' and I believe her appearances are the further preparation before the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST."

Thousands flocked to Zeitun and saw our Holy Virgin Mary and were comforted and edified. As these faithful waited and prayed clouds seemed to gather together from nowhere, like a florescent lamp flashing out light suddenly and then giving its light. There she stood, full length figure wavering quietly and gently in the air, standing on the domes or over a palm tree with one foot seeming to rest on it, or even seen on the ground. Her clothes and veil moved in the breeze. She turned from side to side and a profile was also seen as clearly as a front view.

To reflect on the visit of Virgin Mary radiating the Glory of God in its fullness, we find in her presence she, again, brings to us a renewed hope and comfort in the SON, JESUS CHRIST. A gift freely given by God.

HE gave His life for us at Calvary, rose from the dead, now the Risen Christ Jesus sends the Mother Mary to remind us of this great love.



The visible sign of a supernatural event, this part of the story of Zeitun is complete. The impact is captured in a space of time to be held there forever and its message and meaning will grow in the Spirit of God. The faithful and to whomever its message is revealed may draw and be nurtured by its goodness until our Lord, JESUS CHRIST, returns.

Sunday World-Herald

One Year \$1.00. OMAHA, NEBRASKA, MAY 5, 1968—244 PAGES, 10 SECTIONS. SECTION A—28 PAGES.

Egyptian Coptics Confirm Vision of the Virgin Mary

By Associated Press

Cairo, Egypt.—Reports of a vision of the Virgin Mary—which have brought thousands of people flocking to a Cairo suburb church—were verified Saturday by the Egyptian Coptic Church “with full confidence and great joy.”

A statement read in newspaper on behalf of the Coptic Patriarch Kyrillos, said the Virgin Mary appeared several consecutive nights for periods as long as 2½ hours on occasions during last to April 2.

The vision, seen standing with outstretched arms on a perch of the Church of the Virgin in the suburb of Zeitun, was accompanied by several medically verified miraculous cures, the statement added.

The road leading to the church has been packed solidly with thousands of persons from Cairo

and foreign tourists from dusk to dawn Friday night for the last two weeks as reports of the vision spread.

The road on which the church stands is reported to be part of the route taken by the Holy Family in its wandering through Egypt.

According to those who say they have seen the vision, the image of the Virgin descended from the church roof into the sky Monday evening and has not been seen since.

The church statement said the vision surrounded by a halo and accompanied by a bright light around the church descended, bowing and blessing the crowd.

At a celebration of the Coptic Easter April 21, scores of persons in the church reported seeing the vision in the form of an intense light.

THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1969

'APPARITION OF VIRGIN STILL BEING SEEN'

MORE than a quarter million Egyptians and overseas visitors attended a ceremony held at the Church of the Virgin Mary at Zeitun near Cairo to mark the first anniversary of an apparition of the Virgin Mary at and near this church.

Although a year has elapsed since the apparition was first reported, yet it is still appearing. The most recent report of its appearance was on Friday April 4 when it was seen for thirty minutes between the central dome of the church and the cross situated above the church fence. The apparition was seen addling to a large number of people who stood outside the church.

On three other recent occasions the apparition was seen and each time was preceded by the appearance of shining white clouds shaped like doves and followed by a light which covered the church.

His Beatitude Kyrilos VI, the Pope of Alexandria and All Africa and the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch, made a statement on the occasion of the first anniversary of the apparition. This was read out at the ceremony held at the church.

Incurable disease

The ceremony, which lasted twelve hours started at 5:00 p.m. and continued until the following morning.

THE TIMES

New York

London

Cairo crowds see vision of Virgin

From THE DAILY NEWS
Cairo, April 8
Thousands of Egyptians, Christians and Moslems, are flocking to the Cairo suburb church where the Virgin Mary, in her first appearance in nearly two years and since October, has reportedly granted many cures. It is the first apparition since 1966.

It is reported that the apparition was seen on Saturday night and Sunday morning. The church, which has been closed for several months, was opened for the service. The priest, Father Georges, said he had received a message from the Virgin to the effect that the apparition had been preceded by a halo of shining light.

He also said that the apparition was seen above the altar and before the altar the Virgin had given him a small box containing a cross and a rosary. He said that the box contained a small amount of oil which he had used in the service. It is believed that the apparition had been seen at the service because of the many miracles which have been reported.

According to the church, the road leading to the church was part of the area saved by the Mary before where she came in Egypt.

