



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER~ DECEMBER 2014

## *His Human Origin*

*By HG Bishop Youssef*

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

As we celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only blameless man born in human nature, let us consider the truly abounding greatness of His human origin. Firstly, our Lord Jesus Christ came from God the Father.

*"For while gentle silence embraced everything, and night at its own speed was half over, Your all-powerful Word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of a doomed land" (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15, OSB).*

Indeed, the glorious Nativity bringing forth the miraculous human nature of the infant Lord Jesus Christ, gave all those witnessing His Holy Birth a glimpse of the "seen and unseen"--the invisible God the Father. Our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the image of man while being one essence with the Father, of Whom all things were made.

*"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15).*

Secondly, our Lord Jesus Christ came from the womb of a young totally obedient and compliant virgin. God abode with the Ever-Virgin St. Mary along with others from the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the wise men from the East as they worshipped and glorified Him in the small infant, His Only Begotten Son born of St. Mary.

*"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the Prophet, saying, 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:22).*

St. Mary's ever-virginity would "fulfill that which was spoken of by the prophets". St. Mary's virginity was never lost neither before, nor during, nor after the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He would be her first and last blood giving life.

St. Mary's blood, sanctified by the Holy Spirit was mixed with no one else's and would pump through no heart other than our Lord's. Our Lord Jesus Christ would indeed be her only Begotten Son as well as His Father's in Heaven.

*"For the life of all flesh is in its blood, and I give it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for its blood makes atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11, OSB).*

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to intercede on our behalf that our sins may be forgiven. His birth allowed us to behold the greatness of God the Father, His only Begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit as well as the greatness of an obedient young virgin. The magnanimity and glorious divine nature of the perfection of God were to be forever made known to the entire world, specifically on the night of the Glorious Nativity.

Greatness knows no boundaries nor can it be confined, confiscated, dated or minimized.

In troubled unsettled times, we must seek the greatness of "the all-powerful Word that leaped from Heaven". The Glorious Nativity had become the cornerstone of an eternal New Covenant through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this cornerstone and the life giving eternity of the Divine blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostolic Succession had risen.

*Keeping the precedence of the Glorious Nativity before us, let us all celebrate the greatness of the birth of the small Child Who existed before St. John the Baptist, before the House of David, before Abraham, before the first man. Happy Feast of the Glorious Nativity! May its glorious greatness and blessings dwell among and within you! May its joy dwell in your hearts and its peace preside all over the world!*

---

### Address

743 W. Kneeland Road  
Mio, Michigan 48647

### Mailing Address

Post Office Box 4453  
Troy, Michigan 48099

Phone 989.826.6923

Phone 248.952.1814

Fax 248.952.1828

Website: <http://www.stminaretreatcenter.org>

Email: [info@stminaretreatcenter.org](mailto:info@stminaretreatcenter.org)

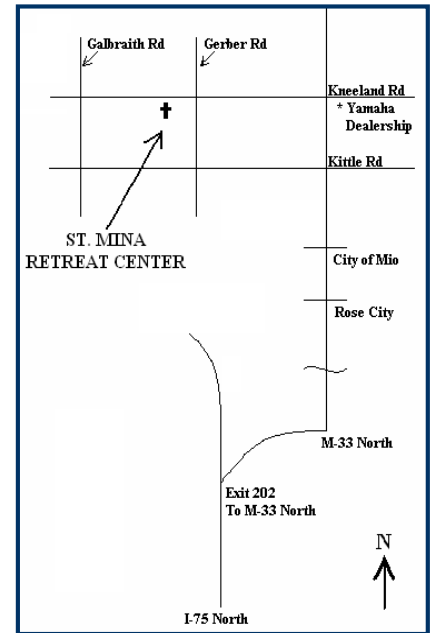
# UPCOMING RETREATS AT ST. MINA'S – 2015

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| January 1-3    | Group Retreat           |
| January 12-14  | Middle of Month Retreat |
| February 5-7   | Group Retreat           |
| February 16-18 | Middle of Month Retreat |
| March 5-7      | Group Retreat           |
| March 16-18    | Middle of Month Retreat |

## WHAT'S NEW AT ST. MINA'S RETREAT CENTER...

### COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. MINA THE WONDER-WORKER NOVEMBER 23-24, 2014

A large group gathered at St. Mina Retreat Center to commemorate the Feast of St. Mina. On the evening of Sun, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Raising of Incense was prayed followed by the changing of the wrappings of the relics of St. Mina. The next day, the Liturgy was celebrated and everyone sang praises for St. Mina. The group then shared an agape meal. The remaining time was spent in quiet time, confession, recreation, more eating, and fellowship. May the prayers and intercessions of St. Mina the martyr and miracle-maker be with us all.



### SENIORS RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 2014

The church senior citizens group gathered for a retreat at St. Mina's retreat center and house. They prayed the Asheya and the Holy Liturgy. They enjoyed a nice time in fellowship and spiritual discussion.



If you know anyone who is not currently receiving this newsletter and would like to receive it, please send their information to [info@stminaretreatcenter.org](mailto:info@stminaretreatcenter.org)