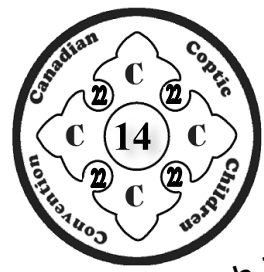


THE CHURCH BUILDING



The Church is oriented toward the East. It has 2 towers symbolizing the Old and the New Testaments. It is also where the Church bell is located.



The Shape of the Church Building.

(A) A Cross:

Represents the Church, as being the crucified Body of Christ.

(B) A circle:

Refers to the eternal nature of the Church as being an endless line.

(C) An Ark:

This is the most commonly used shape in the Coptic Orthodox Church. It is used to symbolized Noah's ark where those in the ark were saved from the flood



THE SANCTUARY

It is present in the very far East of the Church. It is therefore called the "**Holy of Holies**," It contains the Altar. The Sanctuary is elevated from the Nave. Inside the Sanctuary, and behind the Altar, lies the Tribune, on which the Bishop's Throne is placed. On top of the Tribune lies the Niche that represents God's Bosom.

The Church Building is Divided into Three Main Divisions:

- 1- The Sanctuary which contains the Altar
- 2- The Nave which is separated from the Sanctuary by the Iconostasis. It contains two divisions:
 - The place for the Deacons (The Chancel)
 - The place for the Believers, which is the main Nave.
- 3- The Narthex for the catechumens

THE SANCTITY OF THE SANCTUARY

- Laymen are forbidden to take part in the communion inside the Sanctuary. Its is for the clergymen only.
- We can only step into the Sanctuary without shoes
- No talking is allowed in the Sanctuary, except when necessary

THE ALTAR



It is derived from the Latin word “Altare” with means “the place upon which sacrifices are slain.”

Although there are no animal sacrifices, we still need the Altar for the unique Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

THE ICONOSTASIS



A wall made of wood or marble, carrying the Icons of the Lord, His Angels, and His Saints. It lies between the Sanctuary and the Nave.

The Order of the Icons on the Iconostasis:

When facing the Iconostasis, on the right side of the Royal Door, from right to left we see:

- The Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ holding a page from the Gospel, on which is written, “ I am the Good Shepherd”
- The Icon of the Forerunner, St. John the Baptist
- The Icon of the Patron Saint of the Church
- Selected Icons of Saints and Martyrs

On the left side of the Royal Door, from left to right we see:

- The Icon of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, the Mother of God.
- The Icon of the Annunciation
- The Icon of Archangel Michael
- The Icon of St. Mark the Evangelist
- Selected Icons of famous Apostles

Directly above the Royal Door, the Icon of the Last Supper is mounted.

On both sides of the Last Supper Icon, we usually find the Icons of the twelve Disciples.

On top of the Iconostasis, a Cross is mounted. The Icon of the Virgin Mary stands on one side of the Cross, and the Icon of St. John the Beloved stands on the other side.

The Church Doors

The Church must have three doors according to the Holy Trinity. The Church doors refer to the doors of the Heavenly Kingdom.



THE DOMES

Refers to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, seated in the Heavens. For this reason, it is usually painted with Icons of the Lord, decorated with Angels and stars. Some Churches have 3 domes that represent the Holy Trinity. Other Churches have 5 domes; the main large dome, in the center represents the Lord, and the four small ones around it represent the four Evangelists.



THE BAPTISTRY should be built in the north west side of the Church, i.e., at the left hand side of the entrance.

POPE KYRILLOS VI THE 116TH POPE OF ALEXANDRIA

The Coptic Church's Holy Synod has recognized the sainthood of Pope Kyrillos VI on 20 July 2013



He was a holy man
of prayer

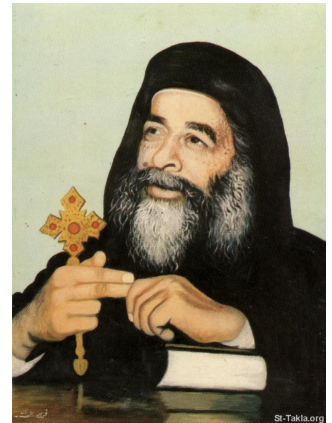
- Pope Kyrillos VI was born on August 2, 1902 and was called Azer Atta.
- He was content with little food and the ground to sleep on.
- He entered the Monastery of El-Baramous on July 27, 1927.
- He was ordained a monk on February 25, 1928 and was named Fr. Mina after the name of Saint Mina, his patron saint.
- He was ordained a priest on July 18, 1931.
- He attended the Helwan Theological College
- He desired a life of solitude, and lived in a cave near the monastery

In his first papal letter, he said: "Let us disappear for God to appear with His blessed glory."



*Pope Kyrillos performed
many many miracles along
with his patron Saint, St.
Mina*

**Pope Kyrillos VI prayed
more than 12,000 masses
during his lifetime.**



- He went to the Monastery of St. Samuel the Confessor and devoted a great deal of effort toward the restoration of this monastery.
- He then moved to a deserted windmill in El-Moukatam mountain outside Cairo where he spent his time in prayers and contemplation
- He built a Church at Ancient Cairo under the name of Saint Mina. He lived in this Church until his ordination as Pope of Alexandria and the Holy See of Saint Mark in 1959.
- He was ordained Pope on 10 May 1959 and was named Pope Kyrillos VI. He sat on the throne of Saint Mark for 12 years

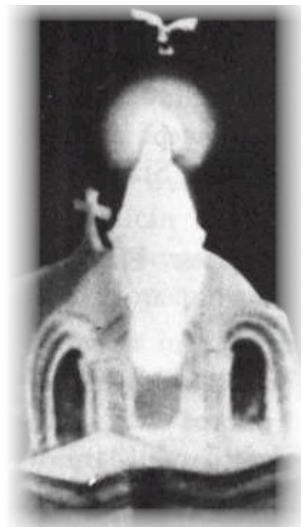


HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

- The renovation of the ancient Cathedral of St. Mark
- The establishment of the Monastery of St. Mina at Mariout,
- The establishment of the new St. Mark's Cathedral at Anba Rouis.
- For the first time, he established Coptic Orthodox Churches in Asia, America, Canada and Australia.
- He sent priests to undertake religious services in Europe and Africa.



- It is also during his era that the Blessed Virgin Mary transfigured at Zeitoun
- He restored the body (relics) of Saint Mark from Italy.



He departed on March 9, 1971
Initially, they buried him under the Altar in the Great Cathedral in Cairo.
His holy body, was moved to the Monastery of Saint Mina in Mariout.