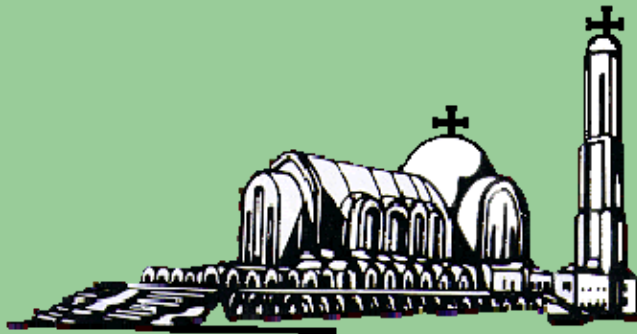




St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Pre-Service Training Seminars



Lecture 16:

*INTRODUCTION TO
THE SERVICE*

**“For God is not the author of
confusion, but of peace”
(1 Corinthians 14:33)**



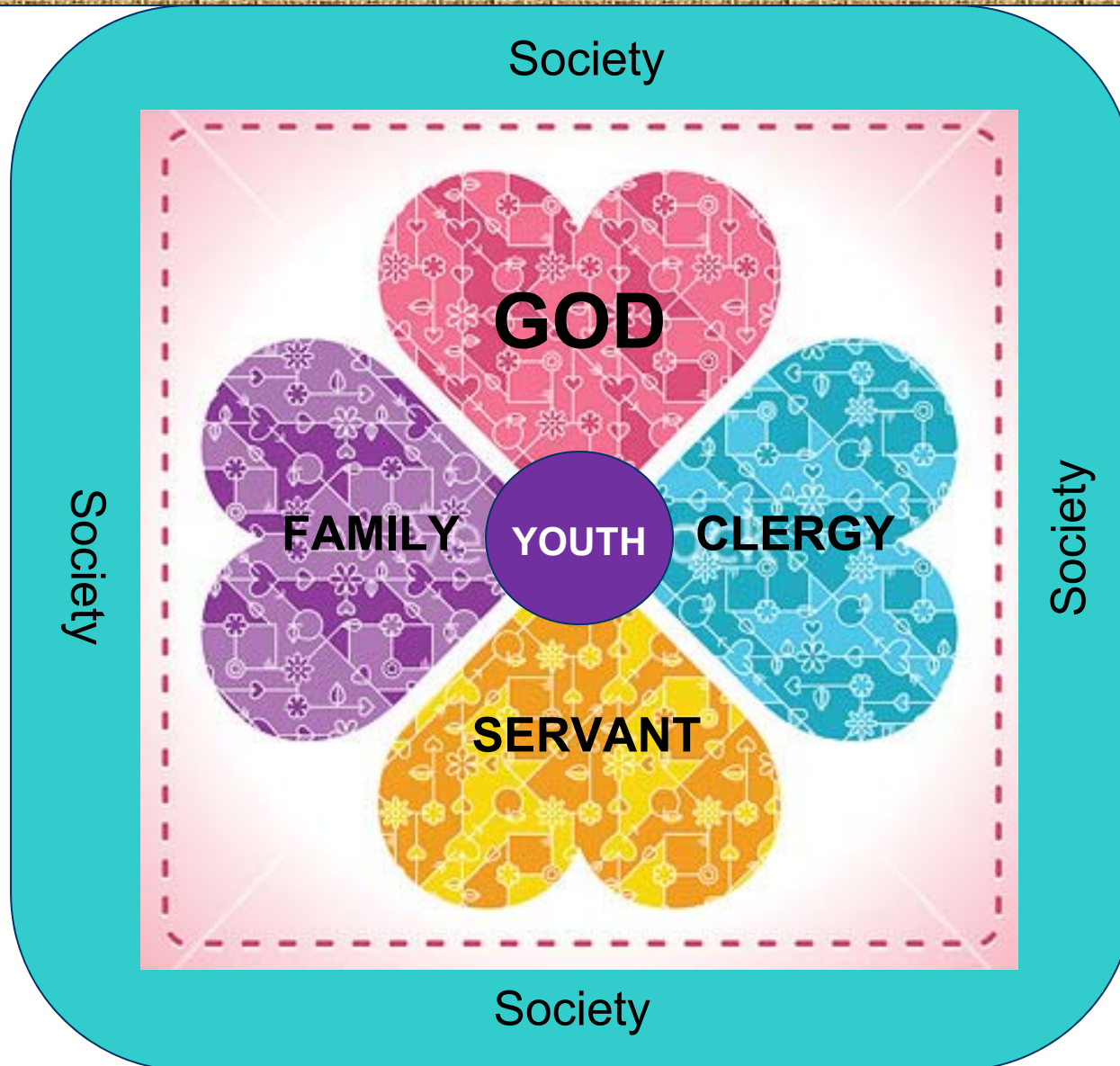
Introduction to Service



- ❖ Service is neither an art nor a science.
- ❖ It starts in the heart, and its school is the Holy Spirit, which inflames, sanctifies and teaches the heart.
- ❖ **Service is a holy love that is not limited to either a definitive service, place or time.**
- ❖ Service is an important source of happiness: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
- ❖ Service can not be restricted: “The word of God is not chained” (2 Timothy 2:9)



The influencers of a successful service





Traits of an effective Servant



1. Knows the word of God
2. Wisdom
3. Faith
4. Knowledge
5. Truth
6. Integrity
7. Persuasion
8. Applications
9. Spiritual Maturity
10. Dedication
11. Attitude
12. Discipleship



Source: H.G. Bishop Youssef,
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States



God's Servant - Spirituality



- ❖ The servant has to be at a higher spiritual level than those whom she/he is serving.
- ❖ She/He has to be pure in their thoughts, their behavior and their life in general.
- ❖ She/He reflects the true Christian life by example not by words.
- ❖ She/He must be an example of virtue.
- ❖ She/He must be well rooted in the correct teachings and dogma of the Church.
- ❖ “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you shall save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16)



God's Servant - Personality



- ❖ A servant has to have a special character.
- ❖ She/he has to have leadership qualities.
- ❖ She/he has to be mentally and psychologically stable.
- ❖ She/he has to avoid such weaknesses as anger and slips of the tongue.
- ❖ She/he has to have wisdom.
- ❖ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father” (John 14:12)



God's Servant - Responsibility



- ❖ A faithful servant feels that those whom she/he serves are her/his glory, her/his joy and the crown of her/his rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20).
- ❖ A faithful servant feels that he is responsible for the life of every individual whom she/he serves, a direct responsibility in front of God.
- ❖ Her/his struggle does not stop until he “presents every man perfect in Jesus Christ” (Colossians 1:28).
- ❖ The value of every soul is the blood of Christ for He died on the Cross to save it.
- ❖ St. Paul’s message to the Ephesians.
- ❖ “I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7)



The selection of a Servant



- ❖ Solomon said “If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth” (Ecclesiastes 11:3)
- ❖ St. Eronemeous: The clouds are the teachers. When they are full of water, they can water the earth. If they are empty, then they are waterless clouds drifted along by winds, fruitless in late autumn.
- ❖ Jude the apostle: “They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots” (Jude 1:12)
- ❖ This matter needs God’s guidance through many prayers and fasting. This is what our Lord, the examiner of hearts, did before He chose the twelve. That’s what the twelve did when choosing Metias.



Factors of Service Strength



- ❖ Love
- ❖ Faith
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Good example
- ❖ Self-Denial
- ❖ Filled with the Spirit
- ❖ Self-deprivation
- ❖ Compassion
- ❖ Wisdom & Flexibility
- ❖ Focus in Service
- ❖ Courage in Service



Fights against Service



- ❖ **Financial:** “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19)

- ❖ **Family Hindrances:** “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37)



- ❖ **Feeling of unworthiness:** “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8) “Do not be afraid, from now on, you will catch men” (Luke 5:10)



- ❖ **Waiting for God’s call:** A supernatural proof is not required to verify what is already established.

- ❖ **Jealousy:** Serving God is based on love, and love does not intermix with jealousy.

- ❖ **Self-righteousness:** Never ever take credit for the fruit of your service. Give the glory to God.



Service is for everyone



- ❖ Everyone is invited to serve.
- ❖ Service in its general meaning is not limited to teaching.
- ❖ The miracle of the paralytic: the four member spiritual rescue team
- ❖ The impotent man at Bethesda: “I have no man”



The Blessings of Service



- ❖ Our Lord blessed the peacemakers calling them the sons of God. They make peace between man and his Creator.
- ❖ Through serving, we continue the work which Jesus Christ began: “Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of those little ones should perish” (Matthew 18:14)
- ❖ “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:0)
- ❖ “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (John 12:26)



Important verses about the Service



- ❖ “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (John 12:26)
- ❖ “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19)
- ❖ “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)
- ❖ “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)



Important verses about the Service



- ❖ “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you shall save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16)
- ❖ “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:0)
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