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Introduction

**Lives and Miracles of Saints:**

From the lives of saintswe learn how to live a saintly, joyful, and peaceful lifeamidst this turbulent world.Following their example we learnhow to make relations with our beloved Lord, how to abandon everything for His sake andhow to deal with Him in honesty even unto death. We also learn how much He rewards and glorifies His saints as a result of their honesty, sincerity and faithfulness. One of the means by which He glorifies them is through fulfilling their requests, performing miracles and supernatural occurrence through their intercession and in their names.

The stories of saints and their miracles make us love them, befriend them, and have strong ties with them beginning now and ongoing in eternal life. We are pushed with zeal to imitate them and follow their example in order to reach what they gained and be with them.

**Who is St. Demiana:**

St. Demiana was an only child of exceedingly wealthy parents. Her father, Mark, governed the provinces of Burrollus, Zaafarana and the valley of Saisaban in the Delta region of Egypt. He baptized and educated Demiana in the Christian faith and the fear of God. Demiana lost her mother when she was a child. At her early teen years she received proposals of marriage to which she declined choosing rather to dedicate her heart and life to becoming a bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing this, her father built her a fortified palace in a remote area where she and forty of her virgin friends lived an angelic life of worship, meditation, praise and complete isolation having their Lord as their only goal, companion and love, and caring only for the salvation of their souls.

During the Christian persecution of Emperor Diocletian, her father Mark, being a governor under his reign, was persuaded to deny Christ for the worship of idols. Demiana could not tolerate his apostasy. So following a period of prayer and fasting, she travelled to entreat him to return to the true faith. He became remorseful and repented through his daughter’s words. Filled with renewed strength he confessed his faith in the Lord Christ before the Emperor and was beheaded.

The Emperor held Mark in high esteem and grieved on beheading him. When he was informed that Demiana was the cause of his change, he became enraged and sent a detachment of troops to force her to deny Christ by any means of persecution and torture, even unto death.

The exceedingly deep profound love of Christ that inflamed Demiana’s heart made her joyful during her suffering of terrifying barbaric tortures for three years for His sake. Bravely, she endured many brutal tortures, such as having her body smashed with iron spouts, being placed in a kettle of boiling pig grease, pouring on her head boiled oil mixed with pitch, being placed between four pegs and having her limbs pulled until her body was torn, and having her eyes gouged out. Throughout her torments she was continually strengthened and healed by appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ, St. Mary the Virgin and Archangel Michael.

Finally, the Lord appeared to her and said: “Be mighty my chosen daughter, I have prepared your heavenly bridal crown in perpetual joy and will make your name exalted in this place. A church will be built in your name and people from everywhere will come to this place. My blessing and that of Virgin Mary’s will be here forever.” Then He gave her His peace and left.

Witnessing the immovability of her unshakable faith in the face of many conceivable tortures, orders were given to behead her and the forty virgins. They all received the crowns of martyrdom on 13th of the Coptic month Tooba (January 21st). It is believed that approximately four hundred souls believed in Jesus Christ by witnessing how steadfast she was in her faith in Christ, regardless of all the barbaric tortures, and also how she was healed every time she reached near death. They were all beheaded in the same spot.

Saint Demiana received three crowns; for her virginity, martyrdom and monasticism.

After erecting the church of resurrection in Jerusalem in the fourth century, Queen Helen, mother of emperor Constantine the great, came to Egypt and built many churches over the relics of Egyptian martyrs. Among the places she built were the tomb for Saint Demiana and the forty virgins, and a church in her name, which are still sources of blessing and targets for pilgrimage to many till now. This church was consecrated on the 12th of the Coptic month Bashans (May 20th) by Pope Alexander the 19th of the See of St. Mark.

St. Demiana, the ‘Princess of Martyrs’, is a powerful witness of our Lord Jesus, promise to all who believe in His words and remain steadfast in the Christian faith. More than sixteen centuries have passed since her martyrdom and yet her name is not forgotten. Her monastery is flourishing, and monastic life after her example was revived by **His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and under the auspices of His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy** when it was officially declared by the Holy Synod as the sixth contemplative monastery for nuns in Egypt in 1978 the first group of nuns were consecrated the same year.

**St. Demiana’s Miracles:**

You will find in this book real stories of people –most of them are still alive- revealing the mighty prayers of St. Demiana and her powerful aid for whoever requests her intercession. The stories are written in the same words as narrated by those involved. Through the intercession of Saint Demiana people are saved from difficulties, are cured from intractable diseases, their problems are solved, their lives changes for the glory of God. Try to beseech her and examine for yourself.

Moreover, the places in which saints lived, where their relics lie, where churches or monasteries are constructed in their names are a blessing.. You can feel their presence and many were able even to see them with their own eyes. You will also find in this book some stories of several apparitions of St. Demiana.

An Arabic issue on the miracles and apparitions of St. Demiana is released yearly on the occasion of her festivals in May. This is the first English issue; it is a translation of the first Arabic issue of this series, and God willing the rest of the series will be translated.

May the blessing of St. Demiana and the might of her prayers be an aid to everyone who requires her intercession, by the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and by the prayers of **His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**, who revived the monastic life in the Monastery of St. Demiana. May the Lord prolong the life of His Holiness, and preserve for us his high-priesthood. May our Lord keep **His Eminence Metropoliltan Bishoy** who loves St. Demiana with all his heart, and who did much and is still doing for her Monastery. What he is doing is inexpressible! He is a real sacrifice for the welfare of the monastery. He would stay all night without rest fulfilling all the needs of everyone, and seeking the salvation of every soul. His endeavor is to make the place a real paradise in which angels live a life of worship and praise keeping away from them all the problems and temptations of the world. May the Lord grant him the request of his heart and reward him on earth and in heaven through the intercession of St. Demiana.

Glory be to our Lord forever, Amen.

St. Demiana

**An Article in the Keraza Magazine**

**dated 6/2/1989**

**By His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy**

Through her life, her biography, and her history, St. Demiana expresses a Christian value begun by a group of simple poor people, chosen by God to evangelize the Gospel in all the world by the might of the Holy Spirit working in them, not relying on human potential, “*that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us*” (2 Cor 4: 7).

Christianity, with its spirituality and sublimity as a heavenly teaching and gift, was able to reach from the base to the peak; from the poor to the rich; from the ignorant to the intellectual; from the simple to the powerful and influential through abstract spiritual means.

Christianity was able to strip the world of its influence and control over the rich, and turn them to hate bondage to materialism, world desires, and all embellishments of this mortal life, by looking towards what is better, what is superior, and what is lasting in the world of the spirit, in their imperceptible relationship with God, the father of all spirits.

Thus, St. Demiana, the daughter of the governor of Burollus, endowed by God with beauty and wealth, refused all the joys of the world, preferring to become a bride for Christ. This was a symbol of the strength of Christian influence, and its ability to change the course of people’s lives by spiritual means, so that they seek the more excellent dwelling in heaven; and also its ability to send extraordinary strength into the lives of human beings to be witnesses for our Lord Christ with their blood and their lives, thereby confirming the superior unity between Christ (the head crowned with thorns), and the church (His suffering body sacrificed out of love for the Redeemer).

Christ sacrifices and gives His body for the church, and the church reciprocates His love, and thus sacrifices and gives her life to Him – a pure offering to God in fellowship of the holy divine love.

God used St. Demiana as a vessel for the Holy Spirit, chosen by God, to be a bride for Christ in the life of celibacy and monasticism. Wondrous is St. Demiana in the dawn of Christianity, as she managed, by her ability and influence, to attract the forty virgins to share in her spiritual worship, and lead them to the high level of being full witnesses to the Lord Christ.

Thus, her pure life story was able to attract Queen Helen to be blessed from her holy body, and to build her a luxurious cemetery and a great church in the wilderness – this which was consecrated by Pope Alexander on 12 Bashans (May 20) and attracted many people to emulate her life, and to seek her blessing and the might of her petitions fulfilled on their behalf.

Her monastery in the wilderness of Belqas will remain throughout the generations (especially during her feast) as a popular destination for the many thousands who love her, for they have seen the great honor bestowed upon her by God because of her intense love for Him.

Monastic life was revived in her monastery in the wilderness during **the era of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**, the catalyst of monastic revival in our generation. Virgins raced seeking the life of spiritual discipleship under her wings, renewing the vows of consecrating their hearts, and sublime celibacy, pursuing the path of angelic life through unceasing praises and prayers.

During her Feast, in the Wilderness, we are thankful to His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, who has showered her monastery with much of his love, care, and attention. May the Lord prolong his life and preserve his watchful fatherhood through the intercessions of the Mother of God St. Mary and the petitions of the chaste martyr St. Demiana and the forty virgins, the martyrs of Christ.

**Excerpt of a Sermon From the Vespers   
During the Festival of St. Demiana in the Wilderness**

**Dated 5/14/1994**

**by His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy**

Many bear in their hearts a deep love for St. Demiana. She duly deserves this, and rather, deserves even more. People have experienced the blessings of her prayers before God and received miraculous healing from their illnesses. Every day, during the festival celebrating her feast, many meet us in the monastery declaring what the Lord has done for them through the prayers and petitions of this great Saint.

There are many undeniable miracles. Many people are healed and return to their towns having been granted their requests. They return every year to confess the grace St. Demiana had shown towards them and their loved ones. All individuals can experience how St. Demiana works, and how God answers their prayers in a clear miraculously way. We are not surprised to see people sleeping around the church of her tomb throughout the days of the Festival of St. Demiana. They spread out on the ground and are covered by the open sky because they feel the blessing of this great saint. Whoever sees them, pities them, or assumes that they will get sick from sleeping in the dew; yet they remain healthy and happy. Sometimes I feel compassion towards them and try to make arrangements for their lodging, but they refuse, wanting to stay near the tomb, not wanting any other place.

No doubt, every person who sought St. Demiana has experienced in his life, or in the lives of his children or his parents, that she does not turn away anyone disappointed, and that she works with many in extreme calmness. Every person receives the petitions fulfilled by St. Demiana, returning home in peace; that is how she works.

St. Demiana works with the power of God, not with human power. Therefore, love for her is continually growing in the hearts of many. We do not marvel when we see people’s great love for St. Demiana.

**By the Lord’s grace, St. Demiana continues to be a luminous beacon witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ for all generations.**

Miracles of St. Demiana

1)The diamond ring

Miracle recorded by the venerable lady **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef** from Damietta:

Mrs. Mary had a valuable diamond ring with a green emerald. This ring was very dear to her, as it was the first gift from her deceased husband who had given it to her before their engagement. He then proposed to her after seeing her during the festivals of St. Demiana at her monastery.

Unfortunately, the green emerald stone fell out of the ring and was lost. She earnestly searched for it, but could not find it. Finally, she gave what was left of the ring to her mother and said, “The emerald stone is lost, and whenever I see the ring without the stone I’m even more depressed. You keep the ring…I don’t want to see it…it isn’t more precious than the one that I’ve already lost (referring to her deceased husband).”

Six long months passed since she lost the precious emerald. All hope seemed to be lost until one night (around 3 AM) while Mrs. Mary was sleeping, she was surprised to find someone patting her on the shoulder and calling her by name three consecutive times: “Mary, Mary, Mary.” **Looking up, she found a beautiful young lady wearing a light green gown, like the Indian sari. Its border was trimmed with gold and silver threads, and decorated with many stones; the veil on her head was also of the same material. She had long black hair reaching down to her waist; her eyes and eyebrows were also black. She wore sandals with golden straps beginning from the toes and reaching to the calves.** Mary was greatly disturbed by this scene and asked, “Who are you?” She answered: **“I am Demiana. I came to tell you that the ring’s stone was not lost. It is here.”** Here she pointed to a specific spot under the closet in the room saying, “**Look, there it is**.” The saint said this three consecutive times, and then she disappeared.

After this vision, Mrs. Mary’s body was shivering furiously, and her teeth were chittering uncontrollably. She found herself sitting up and wide awake, questioning herself, “How can I be awake, and see St. Demiana? How can this be? How did I see her standing right before me! Was it my imagination? Could the death of my husband have made me delirious?” In the morning, she told all those in the house what had happened to her. Her aunt, who was among those present, answered her, “Just go look for the stone in the place St. Demiana pointed out to you.” Mary answered in skepticism, “What are you saying? Why would St. Demiana come down from heaven just to show me the place of the emerald stone?” After much prodding, she went to search in the place pointed out by St. Demiana. The floor was covered with linoleum, so when she felt the linoleum, she found nothing. Time passed and the precious emerald still was not found. The family later traveled to Ras-El-Bar and spent three months there. When they returned home, they began thoroughly cleaning the house. As the housemaid swept the ground under the same closet pointed out by St. Demiana, **Mary’s child, who was about six years old (in 1948), found the emerald stone.** He took it and ran with it telling everyone in the house that he had found the stone that his mother was looking for **in the very place pointed out by St. Demiana. Everyone was filled with joy and thanked God and the chaste saint for returning the precious emerald to Mary.**

**Days flew by and this child graduated from the Faculty of Engineering with honors and became a lecturer at the university. God gave him the grace to be deeply religious, and so he left everything and became a monk at the Surian Monastery. Thereafter, he became bishop and abbot of the Monastery of St. Demiana.**

**This miracle was recorded in the monastery in May of the year 2000.**

2) The Spinal Cord

Miracle recorded by the same venerable lady **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef**:

Her mother had a son named George Iskander Youssef, who contracted Meningitis at his school in Mansoura when he was five years old. This disease was extremely deadly because at that time, a cure had still not been developed. The probability of survival was one in a thousand, and anyone who was lucky enough to survive would suffer a permanent disability. The impairment might be blindness, rickets, paralysis, deafness, or some other deficiency. The chances of surviving and suffering no permanent disability – that’s another one in a thousand.

These events took place during St. Demiana’s Festival. The mother cried to St. Demiana with all her heart for her son, whom she saw screaming in severe pain because the treatment (injection in the spine) was extremely painful. The mother vowed a sheep annually to St. Demiana if she healed her son. Through the prayers of St. Demiana, **the child actually did recover without any side effects**, leaving the doctors in complete awe, and unable to provide any physical explanation. How could this child be the lone survivor out of the thousands who died at that time because of this disease! **They were even more bewildered, not only by the fact that he had survived, but that he suffered no permanent disability.**

Thus it became a habit for this blessed mother that if any of her eight children fell ill, she would faithfully ask the priest to pray for them before going to any doctor.

**This miracle was also recorded in the monastery in May of the year 2000.**

3) Giving Birth after Twelve Years

Miracle also recorded by the same venerable lady **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef**. This miracle occurred to a family of her acquaints:

The wife underwent treatment for twelve years in attempts to have a baby, but all efforts failed. Desperation led people to convince her that her husband’s family had cast a magic spell on her to prevent her from giving birth, and thus they would become his beneficiaries since he was very wealthy. She believed their fabrications and agreed to go to a magician to undo the spell.

The husband, on the other hand, refused these absurd ideas and told her, “We need to resort to St. Demiana. She will give you a child.” He then took her to the monastery of St. Demiana. Our chaste saint heard their prayers, and immediately after this visit the wife became pregnant. However, because of the proximity of time between the visit to the magician and the visit to St. Demiana, there arose a dispute between the couple as to who deserved credit for the miracle – the magician or St. Demiana. The wife claimed it was the magician, while the husband insisted that it was none other than St. Demiana and the grace of God who made it possible.

This debate continued between the couple all throughout the pregnancy until the mother gave birth and St. Demiana stepped in to resolve the issue. The baby was born with a cross on his forehead protruding two millimeter: the upper three sides of equal length, while the fourth side was longer, heading down between the eyebrows and nose. This confirmed to the wife that St. Demiana is the one who intervened, and it was through her prayers that the Lord gave them this child.

**This miracle was recorded in the monastery in May of the year 2000.**

4) Giving Birth after Twenty-Five Years

Miracle also recorded by the same venerable lady **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef**. This miracle occurred to a Mr. **Ghali Shenouda**:

Ghali Shenouda was a merchant in Port Said who was a member of an association that helped bury those massacred by the English occupations. He married a woman, with a rather inflexible personality, and they remained married for twenty-five years without having any children. Some of their friends advised them to go to St. Demiana’s monastery, for she will make supplication on their behalf, and God will grant their wish. However the wife refused to go, claiming she didn’t believe in the prayers and intercessions of the saints. She gave many excuses such as being ill, having a headache, her inability to travel, and more. But the husband insisted, and took her to St. Demiana’s monastery. **That same year, God gave them a baby after twenty-five years of marriage,** and filled their lives with inexpressible joy! You, O Lord, are awesome, and great is the power of the prayers of our chaste martyr, St. Demiana, who is quick to respond to all who seek her aid.

**This miracle was recorded in the monastery in May of the year 2000.**

5) Lost and Found Gold Rings

**Mrs. B. S.** (Address: Al-Mohandseen Str. partition 2, Kafr-El Sheikh) related the following miracle:

One day, after returning home from college, my daughter went into the kitchen to prepare lunch, so she took off her two gold rings and placed them on the table. As she cleaned off the table after lunch, she didn’t realize that the gold rings were still there, and so she unintentionally picked them up together with the scraps of food. She went out to the sky court of our apartment building where hens were raised, and gave it to the hens as food. Because birds were bred and raised in this sky court, the amounts of animal deposit and other waste would make finding the rings extremely difficult, if not close to impossible. My daughter hadn’t noticed that she had lost the rings until three days after the incident. We tried to recall her steps that day, and finally we remembered that she had taken them off at lunch time, and from there, must have ended up throwing them to the birds in the sky court. Having no hope in finding them, I told my husband, “Why don’t you try taking a look in the sky court, even though it’s obviously impossible for you to find anything down there.” Due to my lack of faith in St. Demiana, I said with skepticism, **“Alright St. Demiana. If we find the two lost rings, then there will be a vow.”** **When he went down to the sky court, he found the two rings laying right before his eyes in a clearly visible place, and none of their stones were lost.** I felt that St. Demiana wanted to teach me a lesson: that I should never forget just how strong her supplications are, and how quick she is to respond.

6) Uterine Fibroma

**Fr. Makari Gorgy**, priest of our church in Hamul, recorded the following miracle, being an eyewitness:

**The first meeting:** Grief and tears

Time: After the Sunday Divine Liturgy on January 3, 1988

Location: The Church of St. George in Hamul

Feelings: Terrible weather, violent storms, and heavy rainfall which mixed with the tears that poured out from his eyes uninterruptedly. It was as if the sky was sharing his pain and consoling his grief.

Subject:

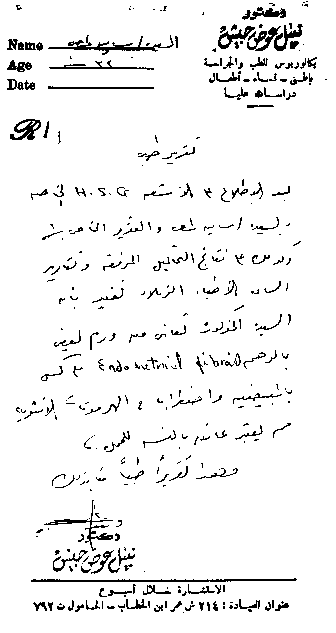
Refaat Damian Joseph came to me, Fr. Makari, and told me of his situation: “I married Samia Lamey in 1982 and the Lord did not give us a child. My difficulties are plenty: I am the only source of income for my father, mother, and siblings (Adel, Saif, Anwar, Sobhi, and Hanaa). I left the country looking for work to support them. I found work with a contracting company in Kuwait, but I get very few days off – less than a month a year, and sometimes a month every two years – so my time at home is extremely limited. I spent much on treatment for my wife so that she could bear a child, but all efforts failed. Now I only have six days left at home before I leave Egypt and return to Kuwait – and I will be gone for another year or two. Even the plane ticket has already been booked to depart Egypt on 1/9/1988. There’s no hope!”

Yet somehow, I felt a sense of amazing consolation and smiled saying, “I have found the solution, the problem is simple.” Refaat asked, “Is there a solution, father?” I told him, “Yes, *the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.* (Lk. 18:27). Tomorrow, January 4, will be the priests’ meeting at St. Demiana’s Monastery. It will be headed by His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, and there the Lord will surely speak.”

**The second meeting**: The prayer of faith

After the meeting was adjourned at about 8 o’clock in the evening, I beseeched His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy to pray for Refaat and his wife Samia. His Eminence agreed. He put his hand on them, asked for the prayers of St. Demiana, and anointed them with holy oil. Afterwards we all returned together to Hamul.

**The result:** Peace and contentment

Refaat Damian had boarded his departing flight and left for Kuwait having hope that good news would reach him soon. Through the prayers of St. Demiana, the Lord gave them a daughter whom they named Mary. Joy in Hamul over this good news was indescribable because the “*prayer of a righteous man avails much*” (Jm. 5:16). Note that the doctors’ diagnoses revealed that this lady suffered from uterine fibroma, lazy ovaries, and irregular feminine hormones, which all together give no chance for a successful pregnancy. Yet, “*the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*” (Lk. 18:27)

**Attached is a medical report by Dr. Nabil Awad and its translation:**

**Medical Report** Dr. Nabil Awad

Name: Samia Lamey Medical and Surgical BS.

Age: 33 Internist, Gynecological, Pediatrician

After examining the H.S. CR x-ray for Samia Lamey as well as her medical records, the enclosed analysis reports, the reports of my fellow physicians, we indicate that she suffers from Endometrial Fibroids and a sac in the ovaries and irregularity in the feminine hormones, which is considered a deterrent to pregnancy. This is my medical report.

7) Finding the Keys

**Fr. Moussa Wassef Gerges,** priest of St. George’s Cathedral in Tanta wrote:

Before I was ordained a priest, in the month of March 1982 the priests of the city of Tanta took a trip to the Monastery of St. Mina the Martyr in Mariot and I went with them (at that time my name was still Dr. Mokhtar Wassef Gerges). After taking the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, the angel of the Diocese of Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh, and the monastery of the chaste martyr St. Demiana — who was at St. Mina’s Monastery at the time — His Eminence distributed key chains bearing the image of St. Demiana and the forty virgins. I accepted the keychain and right away attached it to my keys. I don’t know how, but right after that, I lost them all – my keys and the new keychain together!

I resorted to St. Demiana and asked her boldly, “I want you to return to me the keychain as quickly as possible, because I cannot do without them.”

The next day, the eve of Sunday, during the Midnight Praise, when we reached the Doxology to St. Demiana, **I asked her for the keychain with persistence. I entered the sanctuary to bow down before the altar at the conclusion of the Midnight Praises and behold I found the keychain on the altar!** I rejoiced greatly and went out to offer a glorification to St. Demiana along with my fellow deacons. **Glory to God, and His chaste St. Demiana.**

**This miracle was recorded on 5/16/1994.**

8) The Window Shutter

**Fr. Moussa Wassef Gerges,** priest of St. George Cathedral’s in Tanta also wrote:

Before I was ordained a priest I was a professor at the College of Agriculture, Zagazig University. This miracle occurred at my residence on 1/6/1988. That day I returned home to my apartment building on the ever-busy Meet-Ghamr Street. It was an extremely busy street always crowded with elementary school students, businesses and shops, sellers and buyers, merchants and customers. When I reached my apartment on the third floor, my wife came to me greatly shocked saying that the wooden window shutter had fallen from her into the busy street while she was trying to remove it to clean it. On this window we had hung a flag of St. Demiana and the forty virgins. Surprisingly when I looked down from the window, I saw that there was absolutely no one, when just a few minutes ago it was packed with people. Immediately I felt that it was St. Demiana who had instantly dispersed the crowd, the cars, the school children, and the carts all in a moment, in order to save us from a serious accident. The shutter could have easily fallen on someone, causing severe injuries, and bringing upon us a messy lawsuit. Or even worse, my wife could have taken a deadly fall out the window. But by the supplications and prayers of St. Demiana nothing happened. I went down and carried the shutter back up to my apartment without anyone seeing me, and without any injuries. How great are Your works, O God, and how mighty are you, O chaste St. Demiana.

**This miracle was recorded in 5/16/1994.**

9) The Barren

This miracle was recorded by **Mrs. Mona Saeed Sleem** niece of Mr. Tawfik Al-Sayeh of Damietta. It is stored in the archives of the Monastery of St. Demiana:

I became pregnant, but unfortunately abortion followed which resulted in an inflammation near the uterus. All the doctors agreed that if the inflammation continued, it would be impossible to get pregnant again. I would need surgery, but this surgery could seriously damage the uterus, impairing me from ever being able to bear children. Also, the progression of this condition would require a hysterectomy. Therefore all the physicians agreed that any potential pregnancy was impossible, and I was told that I had become barren!

I came to St. Demiana in May of 1986 seeking her intervention and prayers with tears. I was greatly saddened, so I beseeched her fervently and told her that I long for the Lord Jesus to give me a boy or a girl.

Then I met with His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy and I told him that I long for the Lord to give me “Mina” or “Mary” and revealed to him all that the doctors told me, and that I had become barren! His reply was strange as he told me: **“God will give you what you want through the petitions and prayers of St. Demiana, and you will not undergo any surgery.”**

The miracle occurred! And so I came to the monastery the following year pregnant with Mina. I thank the Lord Jesus for His great gift, as I also thank St. Demiana for her strong petitions and her answer to the requests of His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy. May her blessings be with us all.

**This miracle was recorded at the monastery in January of 1992.**

10) Laser Rays

This miracle was recorded by **Mrs. Shilans Fadel Salib** from Damietta:

I have had diabetes for more than twelve years. This disease damaged my retina, thus causing bleeding in the House of the eye (the vitreous humor). This hindered my vision dramatically and I could only see very short distances, no more than one meter in front of me. For example, I could not see the very stairs I was climbing. I even had double vision, which further aggravated me. Dr. Abd-El-Latif Siam and Dr. Rifaat Nazmy from Damietta confirmed the need for laser treatment immediately, no later than fifteen days. I was given the necessary paperwork to fill out so I could be admitted into the hospital and undergo the operation as soon as possible. I was deeply grieved and very much afraid.

I asked St. Demiana to pray for me because I know that her petitions are strong and acceptable. I vowed to St. Demiana that if she healed me, I would grant her my eye. (By this, the narrator meant she would give St. Demiana whatever proceeds come from her crocheting, which naturally requires the use of her eyes).

Immediately thereafter I headed for St. Mary’s Church in Damietta, and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy was present that day. He prayed much for me and asked for the prayers of St. Demiana on my behalf. I placed her picture on my eyes, and reiterated my vow to her.

After one day, I felt that my eyes had miraculously become completely normal and that I had fully recovered without any procedure or any medication! To be sure, I went to Dr. Khaled in Cairo who confirmed that the eyes were completely healthy and that my distant vision measured 20/30. He gave me his official report that this indeed was now my vision.

Thus, I was sure that this had happened by none other than the blessing of St. Demiana, whose supplications and prayers I had requested, and the prayers which His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy offered on my behalf. Now I see everything clearly and can create meticulous knitted works. This is the blessing of St. Demiana, with whom none can be compared.

**This miracle was recorded at the monastery on May 22, 1992.**

11) The Promotion

We received a letter from **Dr. Reda Mikhael Beshay**, a professor of Marine Biology at Mansoura University:

In which he requested the prayers of His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy and the nuns of the monastery for his promotion to the rank of professor.

He later sent another letter in which he confessed being indebted to St. Demiana, who had answered his request – he was promoted to professor during her Festival celebrations in May. In it he wrote:

**Thank God, for His mighty arm has intervened.**

**I was promoted by the committee on Tuesday, 4 Bashans, May 12th to the rank of Professor of Marine Biology, Faculty of Science, Mansoura University. I thank God, and I thank you for your love and your supportive prayers.**

**Your son**

**Prof. Reda Mikhael Bishay**

12) Gallstones

**Mr. Mounir Habib Magli** from Banha wrote to us:

One night, about eight years ago, excruciating stomach cramps began to cause me great pain to which I felt there was no solution except death. The pain was so unbearable that I visited three physicians from the dawn of that night until noon the next day. I was given amounts of anesthetic injection, but they resolved nothing. We discovered that the source of the pain was the gallbladder. The doctors said it was known for the gallbladder to cause this pain, and requested x-rays. I went with my brother, and the x-ray showed **gallstones and bile ducts stones.** I returned to the doctor, who informed me that surgery was necessary, but as for when it would be performed would be up to me to determine based on the number of bouts of pain I feel and their intensity.

The bouts continued for more than four years, especially during the night, but I greatly feared surgery, so I resorted to taking sedative and anesthetic injections to relieve the pain. Despite all these painkillers, I was not relived, and the cramps continued to be intensely painful.

I made an appointment with Dr. Ali Moanis to put an end to my pains. By the fourth year of my painful ailment, my health had deteriorated tremendously. During the Advent fast that same year, we went to visit St. Demiana and also St. Abanoub seeking their aid. The very night we returned from the monastery of St. Demiana, I dreamt of two people dressed in white preparing me for surgery, and actually operating on me. I still had my appointment with Dr. Ali Moanis, and so I went. When I met with him I told him my history with this pain, and I also showed him the reports of the previous physicians, as well as the x-rays which confirm the presence of more than one gallstone and bile ducts stones.

The doctor did a check-up and an x-ray, and here was the shocking surprise! The doctor said there is nothing in the gallbladder and it is perfectly healthy, and marveled all the more at all the former x-rays. He asked me to go to a restaurant and order omelets in Crisco followed by Middle Eastern rich deserts, because these are very high in fat and so should reveal the condition of the gall bladder. I actually ate what the doctor specified and returned to him to reexamine me, yet he still found absolutely nothing in the gallbladder.

When I asked him if it was possible for gallstones to naturally exit the body or disappear on their own, he answered, “Impossible! Gallstones very rarely disintegrate or move from their place. What happened was a miracle.” Since then, the pains never returned.

After the examination, and the doctor’s confirmation that there is nothing in the gallbladder, I remembered the dream and realized that it was not just a dream, but truly the intervention of St. Demiana and St. Abanoub who relieved my pain for the name of the Lord to be glorified by His saints. So, here I am writing this miracle in recognition of her grace to me.

**This miracle was written February 2, 1997.**

13) Childbearing after more than Ten Years

**Mrs. Demiana Shokr-Alla Mansour, and her husband, Abu-El-Lail Saad Abdalla,** (Address: Sidi Bishr, khalil Hamada Str., Alexandria) **narrates:**

The couple was married on October 25, 1981. The wife underwent treatment for many years, because they could not give birth to children. In May of 1991 she came to the monastery of St. Demiana during the Festival celebration. On one of the Festival nights she felt deep distress and indescribable bitterness. Her heart was full of sadness because of this issue.

After the Vespers Prayers, the crowd around His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy was tremendous, and in her bitterness she kept pushing people in order to take his blessing. Finally she reached him, so she asked him bitter-heartedly to pray for the Lord to give her a child. When he did not answer her, her heart became all the more saddened; yet, he seemed to be looking for something in his pocket. Then he brought out a keychain and gave it to her saying: **“God will give you!”** She was overjoyed and felt great relief and inexpressible peace.

When she returned to her home, she told her husband what had happened, so he wanted to take the keychain from her, but she said to him: “I will not give it to you. I will not let you take away my hope. His Eminence said ‘our Lord will give you’ and I believe him. I will save this keychain for my son or my daughter, whichever the Lord chooses to give me.” Indeed she did give birth to a daughter Irene and she gave her the keychain. His Eminence was also the one who baptized Irene. All thanks are due to the Lord and to the chaste St. Demiana.

**This miracle was recorded on May 18, 1996.**

14) Childbearing after Nine Years

**Mrs. Basma Shawky Bishay and her husband Hanna Boutros Abdelmesih** from Alexandria wrote:

I was married on 1/24/1988. After three months of marriage I went to Dr. Hafez Youssef, who told me of the need for surgery, and that three months after the operation pregnancy will occur. But it didn’t! I went to Dr. Hany Mahany who prescribed me with many medications, but they agitated me greatly to the point that I had to stop taking them. After six years of marriage I became pregnant, but I had an abortion a month and a half into the pregnancy. Then I became pregnant again, a year and a half after the first abortion, but regretfully I aborted for the second time, and was then informed that the growth of the fetus ceases at a certain stage.

I came to the monastery of St. Demiana in May of 1996 and remained for the duration of the Festival. On the eve of her feast, St. Demiana appeared, so we asked her with many tears and bitter weeping that if God grants us a child, we would baptize the child at the Monastery of St. Demiana. After the Festival ended we returned to Alexandria. The pleasant surprise was that **only one month after we had returned from the monastery, God responded to our request**, which we petitioned from St. Demiana. The Lord gave us Yustina on 3/9/1997.

We have all come to St. Demiana during her Festival this year (1997) to thank her and glorify her for her quick response. Yustina has not yet completed eighty days in order to be baptized; but when she does, we will return, God willing, to baptize her.

15) Twins after Five Years

**Prof. Louis Bahnan Sadek** (ID Card no. 7050, Hagr Al- Nawatia, Alexandria, Address: Ghabrial – Dna Str. facing Abu Thabt for Carpets, the Church of the Virgin Mary and St. George in Ghabriel)**, wrote:**

I was married on 7/22/1981 and until 1985 we had no children. I came to the Monastery of St. Demiana during her Festival in May of 1985 and when I was leaving the monastery **I vowed that if God gave me a boy or a girl, I will come to the monastery from Belqas on foot – this was precisely on May 17, 1985.**

**St. Demiana fulfilled our request and God gave us more than what we asked for. On 8/11/1986 God gave me twins, a girl and a boy.** We called them Marina and Michael, and I actually came to the Monastery of St. Demiana walking on foot from the railway station together with my father, my wife, and Marina and Michael. We left the railway station at ten in the morning and arrived at the monastery at six fifteen in the evening. This was on 5/16/1987. The twins were eleven years old when the miracle was recorded.

**This miracle was written on May 18, 1997.**

16) Amputation of a Toe

**Mr. Magdy Ghattas (**Khorshid Village, Alexandria**)** came to the monastery and narrated what follows:

I have had diabetes for over twenty years. In 1982, as I walked one day, a nail went into my left foot. Because of my diabetes, if I am injured in any way I do not feel it at all due to the weak nerve ending sensors in the extremities. I had been injured more than once and did not feel anything. So the day the nail entered my foot, I did not feel it at all, and continued walking on it for a long time.

When I returned home, I felt something bulky under my shoes, so I assumed it was a piece of cement, or some other piece of debris stuck to the shoe. I sat down to examine it and was surprised by a piece of wood with a nail which formed a hole in the shoe and entered the nail into my foot. I removed the wood and the nail and found that the nail was 3 cm long. It was fully inserted into the pinky toe of my left foot because all day long I had continued walking on it with the full force of my weight. This was on Friday night, and the pharmacies were closed at that time. I remained in this condition for two days without taking any tetanus shots, or any antibiotic. Soon my foot swelled up and turned red. I went to the health insurance and explained to the doctor what happened. He said, “As long as you have diabetes, we cannot use any scalpels on your foot. Your treatment will be through medications and antibiotics. After that, well, it’ll just be you and your luck!”

He gave me an antibiotic and some other medications, and I took the antibiotic for about 20 days. I suffered from intense fatigue, fever, and shaking; so Father Abraam, the priest of St. Athanasius’s Church, absolved me to break my fast before the Feast (as we were in the Great Lent). By then, the swelling had worsened tremendously.

I returned to the health insurance and told Dr. Zeinab Nasr that I want to open the wound so I could be relieved of this pain. She warned against this decision saying, “If I use a scalpel on your foot, it is possible that your toes will become gangrenous due to the diabetes, and thus result in amputation of your toes.”

One day, my older brother, Makram Ghattas, came and told me, “The Feast of St. Demiana is near. Make her a vow and ask her to heal you. Tell her to stand by you and support you so that you could go to her.” So, that same day, I prayed to St. Demiana with all my heart, as well as St. Abanoub, because at this point the doctors were certain that the pinky toe of my left foot needed to be amputated. The miracle occurred the following morning. At about twelve in the afternoon, I found the wound had opened and was draining itself of the pus on its own, without any intervention. Within two days it had returned completely normal. We thank God for this miracle. This cure was before the Feast of St. Demiana by nearly a month.

**Notes** by Magdy’s brother, Makram Ghattas:

When I visited my brother Magdy, I found him in a very bad condition, so I told him: “What are you thinking? You have not gone to visit any saints or any of their monasteries. Every year I ask you to go, but circumstances always stop you from going.” Due to the extent of his pain, he told me, **“I** **will visit St. Demiana, walking on my feet, not just riding transportation. I will go to her Feast walking.”** Indeed, that same day we lit a candle for St. Demiana and St. Abanoub, and asked the prayers of many saints that night.

The next morning, at around twelfth o’clock, the wound had miraculously opened, and the operation took place without a scalpel or a doctor. I told him: “This cure that took place in a night and a day is nothing but a miracle.” He agreed and replied, “Thank the Lord.”

The next day, my brother Maurice was surprised by a complete stranger who came asking him, “Are you the brother of the patient?” Maurice replied, “Yes, I am.” The stranger then gave him a picture saying, “Take this picture,” and it was a **picture of St. Demiana.** **This person also brought us a blessing from St. Demiana.** This truly is a great miracle. We thank our Lord for the witness of the saints by whose blessings we live. “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*” (Lk. 18:27)

Another comment by Makram:

The miracle that happened to us shows the strength of the saints’ prayers on our behalf before the merciful Lord. I had a neighbor who had diabetes and who suffered the same injury as my brother. After they operated and amputated her foot, she died a month later. When my brother suffered the same injury, he was terrified, fearing he could also suffer the same fate. I tried to reassure him by telling him, “Remain steadfast in our Lord, His saints, and His martyrs, and by God’s grace you will be healthy and free of all pain.” Indeed, when he believed, the miracle took place.

17) Childbirth after Thirteen Years

**Mrs. Mary Sami Gerges,** (deploma in nursing)**, with her husband, Youssef Mikhael Kamel, (**employee in the military college in Mansura**,** Address: 10 Al- Karas Str. from Al-Galaa Str.)wrote:

I was married on 5/25/1985 and **for thirteen years had no children** despite treatment from countless doctors. My husband and I conducted all the tests, and did all that the doctors asked of us, but still we could not conceive. Dr. Saad Abdul-Raouf, a gynecologist in Mansoura, concluded that my rate of ovulation for pregnancy was extremely weak, negligible of 2%.

I was accustomed to attending the Festival of St. Demiana in May of each year; because I had lost all hope in any medical treatment I would ask her to help us. Last year, before the beginning of the Festival, I arrived at the monastery and entered the Church of the tomb feeling suffocation because all my younger siblings had children, and I could not for the past thirteen years. I was crying, and began speaking to St. Demiana, as if I was talking to a person standing right in front of me, saying, “Every year I come to you in tears begging for a child, but this year is the last time I will come here. If you do not ask the Lord to give me children, I will not come here again.”

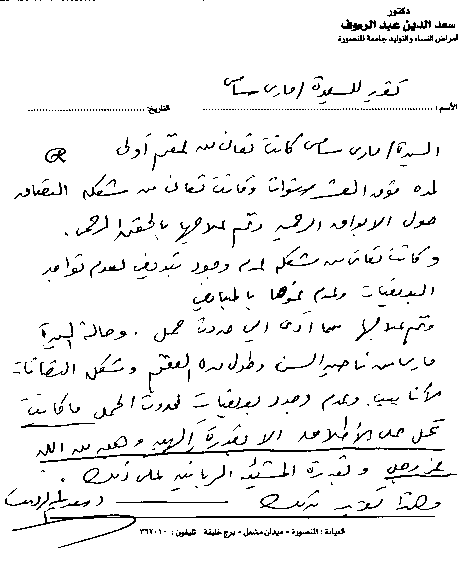
The chaste St. Demiana did not disappoint me, and did not delay. That same month, after the end of the Festival, I found out that I was pregnant. I went for a pregnancy test on May 21 and the doctor confirmed that I was indeed pregnant. The Lord gave us a son whom we called Mina on 1/7/1998. Now we come to the Festival every year from April 30 until May 20 to thank St. Demiana for what she has done for us.

With my husband, I have come this year for the first time carrying my son, to receive the blessings of our beloved St. Demiana, and to baptize her child – because he came through her requests and prayers – on her anniversary in her monastery. Today, May 17, 1998 he was truly baptized at the Monastery of St. Demiana.

I have come today to thank the Lord, and confess His grace and the grace of St. Demiana in the joy and happiness which I live with my husband and my son, and to write this miracle which happened to me, and to let everyone know the quick response of St. Demiana the chaste martyr to all who feel that they are truly in distress. I herewith witness to her prayers and requests, and her love to all who seek her and all those who petition her prayers. By the grace of our Lord I will come every year from May 1 to May 20. May the blessings of her prayers and petitions be upon us all, Amen.

**This miracle was written on May 17, 1998.**

**Attached is a handwritten report by Dr. Saad El Dine witnessing to the miracle followed by its translation.**

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Dr. Dr. Saad Eldeen Abdul-Raouf

Gynecologist

Name: Mary Sami

Mary Sami was complaining of primary infertility for over ten years. And a problem of adhesion around and in fallopian tube which is treated by inside uterus implantation. And she was suffering from bad ovulation due to absence of good, normal ovules and their undevellpment in the ovary. She was treated and became pregnant.

The case of Mrs. Mary due to her age, the long period of infertility and the shape of adhesion around tubes and absence of ovules, would not have made her able to become pregnant except through a Divine power and God’s Divine ability and according to God’s will.

This is my medical report.

18) Childbearing after Nineteen Years

**Mr. Mounir Ghally Demian** from Alexandria wrote the following:

I married Magda Thabet on 11/19/1978, however, since then, we have had no children despite treatment by many doctors. To treat the infertility, the surgeon ordered me to undergo testicular varicose operation. I came to visit St. Demiana and the tears came streaming down from my eyes. I asked her petitions and prayers, so that the Lord would give me a blessed offspring. Suddenly, as I was inside the Church of the tomb of St. Demiana, my shirt caught on fire from the candles lit in the church. But the hand of the Lord was with me and I suffered no injury, only the shirt was burned.

Three years after undergoing the varicose operation, we handed the issue over to Jesus the Lord of glory and to St. Demiana, abandoning the doctors and the treatments. The Lord answered, through the prayers of the chaste martyr St. Demiana, and the Lord honored me with a blessed son, Bishoy. I chose this name because of the man of love and peace, our father Metropolitan Bishoy. We thank the Lord and thank His chaste St. Demiana. My wife and I confess being indebted to St. Demiana and her answer to our prayers. How great are Your works O God, and how mighty is your aid O St. Demiana.

**This miracle was written on May 20, 1998.**

19) Childbearing after Two Years

**Mr. Adel Aziz Abdo,** Train Conductor, from Tanta wrote the following:

We visited St. Demiana and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy at the monastery of St. Demiana the martyr, asking the saint to pray for us that the Lord would give us a child. The Lord responded to her prayers and gave us our firstborn daughter Christine on 2/23/1984 after two years of marriage. May the prayers and petitions of St. Demiana the chaste martyr, and the prayers of our beloved Metropolitan Bishoy be with us.

20) Intercessor of the Family

**Mrs. Hanouna Farag Botros and her husband, Nasif Farid Girgis** (Address: 10 Kiriako Land- Al Siof Shamaa, Alexandria), recorded the following miracles and events:

A) Recovery from a Chest Allergy

At the tomb of St. Demiana I prayed for my sick husband who suffers from a **chest allergy** and from Asthma. Immediately, he coughed up a lot of phlegm and **since then, he has not suffered any asthma attacks, not even once, and has stopped taking any medications. May the blessings of her prayers and responsiveness to all who ask her surround us all.**

B) Purchasing a Car

**The narrator continues:**

I reserved a car four years ago from the Nasser Social Bank, and asked St. Demiana on 5/20/1975 to ease the procedures so I could attain the vehicle. As soon as I arrived home, I found a letter from the bank stating that we need to go pick up the car right away. We picked up the car and started using it as a taxi in Alexandria on 6/20/1975.

C) Paid off the Debt

**The narrator continues:**

My son George wished to buy a car, but since he did not have the money on hand, he paid for it with high interest loans. Shortly thereafter a collision occurred and he paid it off with many more loans since he had no funds to afford the cost. As a result of all this debt, it was ruled against him in court and he was imprisoned on Palm Sunday. I was greatly saddened over my son, especially since I do not have the funds to help pay off his debts, and his father is retired. I prayed and asked fervently for the prayers of St. Demiana and St. Athanasius. The Feast of the Resurrection came, yet my son was still in prison.

On Friday, 5/12/2000 I was surprised to find Mr. Girgis Khalil and Mr. Fam coming to my house to tell me, **“We are here to pay off George’s debts.”** All his debts were indeed paid off, and he is due to come out of custody on 5/21/2000 (during the festivities of St. Demiana). I had told St. Demiana, “I do not want to come to you while I’m brokenhearted. Do something for George.” I had planned on coming on 5/16/2000, and actually I did come, and with great joy, because George’s debts were all paid off and because of his pending safe release. God willing, I will come again on the 19th and 20th. Certainly, this is due to the prayers and strong petitions of St. Demiana and of St. Athanasius the Apostolic.

**These events and miracles were recorded on May 16, 2000.**

21) Military Exemption

**Mr. Joseph Ramzy Antonius,** (Address: Esco Bahteem houses -Qaliubiya- Shobra El Khema Block 38- entrance A – third floor, flat no.5) **wrote:**

I was summoned to be drafted into the army. But my family could not afford my absence because I help my father make baptism clothes at our shop, and he depends on me for most of the work. We had set a date to come visit the Monastery of St. Demiana on 5/11/2000, as we do every year.

I attended to the army’s requests and procedures before this date for two weeks, but my father feared much because my enlistment would mean that the work will be delayed, and also, that we would not be able to go to the Monastery of St. Demiana. We asked her to act quickly and to stand by me, and she did. **I was exempt from the army on the same day that we travelled to St. Demiana**, so Imade an altar cover as a gift for her. While walking at the Festival I took a severe fall, and yet I rose up completely sound by the blessings of her prayers.

**This miracle was recorded on May 16, 2000.**

22) Childbirth after Nine Years

**Mrs. Afaf Foad Youssef and her husband, Abraham Isaac Moses,** (Address: 34 Al-Tabia Str., Ghait El Enab, Alexandria), **wrote the following:**

I was married at the beginning of 1991 and remained for six years without having children. We went to the doctors, and the tests showed that my husband had weak reproductive abilities. **After these six years, we remained another two years without taking any treatment.** Every year, we came to St. Demiana on her Feast and I would stand crying at her tomb saying, “**I know that you are here and would give me a child.. I will embrace a child in my arms**.” My mother would also ask St. Demianaevery year to give me a child.

**We thank our Lord and His chaste St. Demiana who did not refuse our requests. She answered our petitions and I became pregnant in December of 1998.** The Lord gave me Samuel who filled our lives with joy and happiness. **Note that the menstrual cycle had ceased as a result of the treatment. My husband had taken treatment for one month only, and then had stopped taking it for the past two years.** After this, the miracle occurred. I say this so that no one falls into despair, no matter how long the wait. The Lord is able, through the petitions of St. Demiana to grant a child.

**This miracle was recorded on May 17, 2000.**

23) Childbirth and a Vow to Baptize

**Mrs. Naima Elias from** (Ghait El Enab, Alexandria, mother of Afaf Foad Youssef author of the previous miracle)wrote the following:

I had three daughters and one son. After that I stayed ten years without becoming pregnant again. I asked St. Demiana to give us a second son to be a brother to Nasr saying, **“Give him to me and I will come baptize him here (at the monastery).”** St. Demiana responded and gave us a second son. But when the time came for him to be baptized, I felt sick and couldn’t travel, so I decided to baptize him at St. George’s Church in Ghait El-Enab. I saw St. Demiana came to me in a dream dressed as a nun, and she got me out of bed saying, “Get up, your husband is going to St. Demiana’s, go with him.” She pulled me from my hand and got me up.

On the eve of Baptism Sunday (Man Born Blind Sunday of the Great Lent), I still said I would baptize the baby at St. George’s Church, so I dreamt that night that I was sitting next to the baptismal font at St. George’s Church and the priest came to me and said, “You need to baptize him in the place where you vowed to baptize him[[1]](#footnote-2). I will not baptize him here.” This was in 1979, and indeed I baptized Youssef Fouad Youssef here at St. Demiana’s monastery according to the vow.

**This miracle was recorded on May 16, 2000.**

24) Childbirth after Thirteen Years

**Mr. Adel Gad Bishara** (Address: Fakos Kafr El Balasy near the church of Archangel Michael)wrote:

I was married in 1976 and God gave me a daughter on 11/28/76. In 1980 God gave me a second daughter who died after only three days. After that I remained from 1980 until 1993 without having children. The late Dr. Anwar Kamel conducted tests and told us that the result **shows that the chance of pregnancy is 1%.** I came with my wife to St. Demiana’s Festival at her monastery, and asked her to give me a child. As I came out of the door of the monastery, a very elderly man, about one hundred years old, met us and told my wife, “Daughter, next year you will come here joyful with a child on your shoulder.” Two months later my wife was pregnant. The doctor warned that the birth could be difficult, but with the blessing of St. Demiana, it went very smoothly, even without the presence of a doctor. God gave us a boy whom we named Abanoub. I vowed to carry the icon of St. Demiana during the Festival procession for her love and response to my petition.

**This miracle was recorded in May of 2000.**

25) Hemiplegia

**Mrs. Malaka Gad Salib, and her husband Wissa Thabet Salib** (Address: Ezbit Akl, 13 Nevertity Str., from Al Hady Str., Mansoura) **wrote:**

I suffered paralysis on the left side during the Great Lent. My father of confession, Fr. Georgios (Church of St. Paul and St. Antony in Mansoura), ordered me to break my fast but I refused, asking God to heal me. I went for a CT scan at the emergency hospital in Mansoura, taking along with me my medical records from the El Ragaa Hospital, Mansoura. Dr. Magdy Shehata oversaw my care at the hospital. I also visited the General Hospital in Mansoura to treat my case, but all efforts failed.

On May 1, 2000 I came to visit the monastery of St. Demiana where I met with the revered Father Hedra Nassif Azer, the priest of the Church of St. Demiana in the Wilderness, who had known me previously. He prayed for me and anointed me with oil: “*The prayer of faith will save the sick*” (Jm. 5: 15). Only ten minutes later I had healed completely! My mouth and my eyes returned to their natural state, my hand moved, I was able to swallow food, and I spoke with everyone like I used to prior to my illness.

I thank God. I thank St. Demiana, the owner of this holy place. I thank Fr. Hedra, whose tears I felt as they fell while he prayed. I thank our father and shepherd Metropolitan Bishoy, the shepherd of this place, because he always prays for all his children.

**This miracle was recorded in May of 2000.**

26) Lost Luggage

**Mr. Y. S. F.** (Address: 187 Al Rand Str., Ghait El Enab, Alexandria) **wrote the following:**

On 10/13/1999 my mother called from home asking me where the bag containing my private papers and my money had gone. I returned home in a state of severe anxiety and fear that I might have been robbed. We searched everywhere in the house but could not find it. Some friends suggested resorting to fortune-tellers to direct me to its place. I did not agree with this idea, but, under pressure, I went. Thank God we were unsuccessful and returned home. After our return, we doubted the sincerity of someone close to us, so we took him to a desert place alone and questioned him. He denied at first, but eventually he confessed and said he would return all the money and the bag. He also told me, “When you go to the house, you will find the checks and documents out in the yard and you will find the wallet in the room.” I went to the house to confirm his story, and left a friend with him so he would not escape. Indeed, I found the items in the places he mentioned.

This is what had happened: This man, because of his closeness to the family and easy access to the house, entered the house and stole the bag, the documents, the checks, the wallet, and money. He took the money, threw the documents and checks up in the yard, and threw the wallet into the room. My aunt found that wallet and put it in the closet.

I returned once again to the thief, who promised he would return half the amount, about 15 thousand pounds. And indeed he brought half the amount on the spot.

As I returned home, I opened the wallet to make sure everything was still in it, and I found a picture of St. Demiana and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, so I reproached them saying, “You should have protected the money from theft. Return to me the rest of the money.” Then I kissed the picture and put it back in the wallet. I waited for the man to return the other half of the money as he had promised, but he escaped for a week. In the meantime, I had another sum of money, so I decided to deposit it in the bank as a lesson learned, and we made arrangements to go to St. Mina’s Monastery after the bank. I went to the bank but I forgot my identification card at home, so I went back to get it. On the way, God arranged that I find the thief before me, so my friends and I grabbed him and forced him to sign checks and promissory trust receipts. He promised to bring the remaining amount, and indeed he brought it the following day. I then decided to give half the amount to God, because He returned the full amount to me, through the prayers of St. Demiana.

**This miracle was recorded on May 19, 2000.**

27) The Name Demiana

**Mr. Fahmy Gad Mina** (Deir Al Azzab- Fayoom) **wrote:**

St. Demiana helped my wife in giving birth to our daughter Demiana on 3/3/2000. At first, I objected to giving the child this name, although I do come to visit this sacred place (her monastery). My objection was due to fear over the discourtesies offered to the names of the saints. During the delivery, my wife cried for the petitions and prayers of St. Demiana, and so she gave birth easily. When I went to the Health Office, Mr. Hassan Saad Hassan asked me if the baby was a girl or boy. I said a girl, so he said, **“I have a beautiful name, for you. I will record your daughter by this name,”** and he wrote **“Demiana.” How awesome you are O chaste St. Demiana.**  
  
28) Brain Tumor

**The mother of Mr. Milad Boshra Abdo (**Address**:** 83 Heliopolis Str., Ebrahimia, Alexandria) wrote the following:

In December 1999, we discovered that my son Milad had a malignant tumor in the brain (cerebellum). He underwent two operations: the first was a device implant to drain out the excess fluid from the brain; and the second, a month later, was to remove the tumor. However, he came out of the second operation in terrible shape. He had become cross-eyed, his shoulders were now shrugged and imbalanced, and he was unable to even walk two full steps.

At first, my son was careless in his spiritual life, not having a strong relationship with our Lord, but around the time of the operations he began to draw closer to our Lord and many priests visited him; he confessed and took communion. Even after he left the hospital, he continued in the life of prayer. His spiritual life improved and he became strongly attached to God.

One night while he slept next to me, I was surprised to find him raising his hand. Then he said to me, “I was with someone named Abu Fam. Is there a saint by this name?” I replied, “Yes.” He asked me what he looks like. I told him, “I do not know.” He said, “Abu Fam asked me to go the church in King and sleep in the altar, and he will visit me there.” He went and Abu Fam indeed came to him and said, “You confessed all you sins except one. Go confess it so that you may recover.” Milad said, “I am ashamed to say it to the priest.” He said to Milad, “Tell it to your mother and she will say it to the priest.” He did just that, and the priest prayed the absolution over him, and he began to feel better; but still he was unable to climb up the stairs, and his left hand trembled so much that he was unable to even hold a cup of water.

When we attended St. Demiana’s Festival on Tuesday, 5/16/2000, I found him climbing up the stairs two at a time! On Wednesday we went to the same hospital in Alexandria where he underwent the operation, and had a CT scan done on his brain. The doctors checked the brain and nerves, conducted the necessary tests, and miraculously, found him 100% healthy! They told him, “Congratulations, now you are completely well, and healthy enough to get married.”

We felt that the miracle would have never happened had it not been for the prayers and blessings of St. Demiana. It was only through her supplications to the Lord on our behalf that he was able to climb the stairs and his left hand was completely restored.

**This miracle was recorded on May 20, 2000.**

29) Childbirth after Four Years

**Mrs. Magda Nagib Michael** (Address: Omar Ibn Al khatab Str., Al Hamul, Kafr-El-Sheikh) wrote:

I got married on 1/15/1981 and remained four years without having children. The doctors said there is no organic cause for not having children. One day, after the Divine Liturgy in 1985, Fr. Makari told us, “His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy is in Sakha, go take the blessings of Jesus’ heel stone (the time the stone was discovered) and his blessings.” Indeed, we went and asked His Eminence to pray for us to have children. He looked at us, but gave no response. We took his blessing and the blessing of the stone. As we left the place, His Eminence called out in the crowd saying, “Where are the two who asked us to pray for them.” We rejoiced and went to him. He prayed for us, and we each felt as if electricity and chills went through our bodies. Immediately after this, I became pregnant. During the pregnancy I was very happy, and whenever I knew His Eminence he was, I went for him to pray for me and to partake of the Divine mysteries. One day, we heard that he was in Sakha, so we went to him with a group of girls and another servant who has a son named Mina. She told him, “My son, Mina, is the son of Pope Kyrillos.” So, he stretched out his staff, pointing to me and said, “And your son will be the son of the Virgin Mary.”

His words gave me the good tidings that the baby to be born will be a boy. The doctor who was monitoring my pregnancy determined a delivery date, but the birth occurred exactly 9 full months from the time when His Eminence prayed for us. The Lord gave us a son whom we called Bishoy. This happened in 1985. We asked Metropolitan Bishoy to baptize him, and he told us, “Choose either Wednesday in Sakha, Friday in Kafr El-Sheikh, or Sunday at the Monastery of St. Demiana. The most appropriate day for us was Sunday at the Monastery of St. Demiana because this is our day off.” Bishoy was one hundred days old when he baptized.

Two years after these events, we told His Eminence while at the Monastery of St Demiana, “Will you not come to Hamul?” He told me, “For Demiana’s baptism,” but I didn’t take notice of his words at that time. But my husband was aware that he meant that we will have a girl named Demiana. Indeed, from the time he prayed for us, until Demiana was born, was exactly nine months. Demiana was born on 7/14/1988 and I then took an appointment with His Eminence to baptize her at the Monastery of St. Demiana. The Lord arranged for Demiana to also be one hundred days old like Bishoy. Bishoy is now 15 years old, and Demiana is 12 years old.

**This miracle was recorded on May 21, 2000.**

30) Chest Allergy

**Mrs. Fawkia Wahba Marcos,** 42 years old(Address: 2 Bekheet Sanass from Mohamed Sanass, Ard El Lewaa, Bulak)wrote the following:

My son was born in 1983 with asthma. Since he was one week old, we have been monitoring his condition with Dr. Adel Aref from Mansoura, and giving him asthma medication.

One late Thursday evening I was shocked to find my son in a choking fit and having extreme difficulty breathing. It was 1 A.M. and the pharmacies were all closed and there were no doctors available.

**His body began to turn blue,** and his stomach began to bloat up, rising and falling from suffocation. I panicked and was extremely worried.

Our house in Mansoura overlooks the Church of St. Demiana, so I opened the window and **began to pray and cry with tears to St. Demiana asking her to save me, asking her with confidence because there is no one else who could save me at this time**. I returned to the baby, and found him sound asleep and breathing completely naturally.

I collapsed from fatigue, and behold I see St. Demiana in a dream wearing a green robe and holding an olive branch in her hand. Her face was gracefully and heavenly; she was very beautiful. She was walking, as if on a mission, motioning to me with her hands to be comfortable regarding the child. Then she left, as if going to work other miracles.

I woke up on Friday to find the child in sound health as if nothing had happened. On Saturday I took him to the doctor, along with the old prescriptions. When the doctor looked at the prescriptions and at the child he said, **“He is just fine, he has no asthma.”** I told him, “But these are your prescriptions.” He responded, “But now he doesn’t have asthma anymore, so be careful not to give him any of these medications.” It was then that I understood that what happened was a miracle by St. Demiana. Now he is 16 years old, his name is Michael Munir Sobhi, and he has not suffered any asthma attacks since that time.

**This miracle was recorded on June 2, 2000.**

31) Blockage of the Arterial Vein

**Mrs. Aida Foad Khalil** (Address: El-Haram, Zaghlul Str., Mahatet Mashal, 15 El Zohoor Str., flat 15) wrote the following:

One of the arteries in my hand was blocked, so the doctor gave me two options: surgery or an injection in the bone. I told him to wait until I ask St. Demiana. I went to her Church in El-Haram, and told her, “Please answer me, St. Demiana.” After I left the picture, I met three lady friends and told them of the doctor’s ultimatum. They each privately answered me, but with the same exact words: “Do not operate, and do not take the shot,” as if it was a rehearsed response. I felt that this was the response of St. Demiana, so I decided not to allow any medical intervention, but to **place the picture of St. Demiana on my hands. Three months later, the blockage disappeared and my hand returned to normal. It has been two years now and I feel nothing**. **How awesome you are O St. Demiana, you who respond to all who ask.**

**This miracle was recorded in June of 2000.**

32) Return of the Lost Car

**Mrs. Aida Foad Khalil continues:**

After the Feast of the Resurrection in the year 2000, my son purchased a pickup truck for 85000 pounds for his work. Suddenly, the car was missing so he informed the authorities, but to no avail. As usual, I went to St. Demiana to ask her if we will find the car. I felt as if she was nodding her head saying, “Yes, you will find it.” I felt peace and contentment so I returned and reassured my son. After seven days, we found the police informing us that they found the car on the road. It was in perfect condition and nothing at all was missing from it. They had found in the vehicle the old license of the former owner, who sold the truck to my son, and it was he who directed them to my son. The event took place on May 15, before the Feast of St. Demiana by five days.

**This miracle was recorded on June of 2000.**

33) The Earring

**Ms. A. R. C.** (Address: 8 Ibrahim Al Sarfy Str., from El Mahkama Str., Tanta) wrote the following:

I was on a retreat at the monastery of St. Demiana when I lost an earring. I searched everywhere for it but did not find it. I went down to the Church of the tomb and prayed; then I entered the monastery building and I saw one of the nuns so I asked for her prayers. She answered, “I will,” and she lit a candle for me asking St. Demiana and the forty virgins to hear me concerning this issue.

We then returned to our lodging, took the hymn books and began to sing. Meanwhile, I was praying in my heart for St. Demiana to find the missing earring. Then I went to search again. I searched under the bed, and behold, I found the missing earring, so I rejoiced greatly. I rushed down to the monastery building and found that the candle the nun lit for me was still lit.

**This miracle was recorded on June 19, 2000.**

34) Apartment Eviction

**Mr. Awad Michael Awad** wrote the following:

In 1998 and 1999 we were going to be evicted from our apartment. Since 1995 there had been a lease contract between us and the owner for fifty pounds, according to his request. Yet, we were paying only thirty pounds by consent of the owner, and continued to pay rent and receive the receipt. Suddenly, we stopped payment due to financial hardship, so the owner sued us for the payment of fifty pounds, according to the contract.

The preliminary ruling was eviction and payment of the rental value. We did pay the rental value which amounted to 2140 pounds, and only the Lord knows how we collected this amount, despite the financial hardship we were going through. We paid the amount to the owner in court and then went to St. Demiana’s church in Tanta asking her to intervene. We also spent ten days on a retreat at St. Demiana’s Monastery asking for her prayers and petitions on our behalf. On appeal, we were surprised that the judge, Malak Shenouda, dismissed the case, fined the owner twenty pounds for attorney fees, and set the rent at thirty pounds instead of fifty as of the date of the complaint. Thus, we now pay thirty pounds instead of fifty. As for the massive amount which we paid, we were credited for thirty months without paying any rent. All this occurred through the blessings of St. Demiana.

**This miracle was recorded on June 19, 2000.**

35) The Contact Lens

**Mr. M. A. B.** (Address: Agamy, Kilo 17) **wrote:**

In the year 1986 or 1987 I came for the first time, and against my will, to St. Demiana’s, accompanied by my sister’s husband, and I was not comfortable with the difficult accommodations in the tents. It was a new atmosphere for me, one I was not accustomed to. At that time I was using contact lenses instead of the thick eyeglasses (because I have weak vision). Upon arrival to the tent I wanted to return home immediately, but I couldn’t find the means of transportation, so I had to spend the night. While I was sitting, one of the lenses fell out, suddenly I sensed a difference in my vision between the two eyes. I had no idea how I would be able to find such a small lens amid the hay in the tent. Suddenly, I found it inside my hand. I was amazed and thanked the Lord.

That same night I began to visit the churches and the tomb of St. Demiana for the first time. During my stay, I saw St. Mary, and thereafter I saw St. Demiana in the form of a dove. I had a change of heart and decided to stay ten days. This trip deeply affected me and changed my life: I began to attend church regularly and partake of the holy communion. Every year since then, I have return to take the blessings of St. Demiana.

**This miracle was written on July 19, 2000.**

36) The Overturned Vehicle

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**Mrs. Nadia Wabha** (Address: Sidi Bishr Kebly, near Al Said Al Saeedy) wrote:

In 1998, while returning from St. Demiana’s Festival, the 25 passenger van we were riding was in a terrible accident. We were still close to Belqas when one of its wheels flew off and continued to spin, until the van collided into a light pole. **All 22 people on board cried out to the Lord and called upon St. Demiana, so she saved us and no one died.** However my son, Mina William Ghally, who was eleven years old, broke his arm and the bone was protruding from it. He was taken to the emergency room in Belqas, and then transferred to Alexandria where the process ended with cosmotic operation. Now he is in good health and his hand is well, thanks to the blessings of St. Demiana.

**This miracle was written in July of 2000.**

**37)** God’s care

**The wife of Fr. Barsoom Henein** of St. George’s Church, Humra, Tanta wrote:

On Friday, 5/14/1976 St. George’s Church in Tanta took a trip to St. Demiana’s Monastery under the care of Fr. Barsoom Henein. There were 130 passengers including adults, children, and also Fr. Abanoub Loius, the priest of St. Abanoub’s Church in Samanood. It was a beautiful day feeling the warm welcome of St. Demiana. When returning, about 7 miles away from the monastery, there was an 18 wheeler heading in the opposite direction. As our driver was attempting to avoid it, the bus swerved sharply and overturned as clear in the photo. There was a great outcry from inside the bus. Some easily removed the rear glass window of the bus, climbed up to the upper side of the bus and opened the driver’s door, and began lifting up individuals from inside the bus one by one until all the passengers had come out. The trip members began the Vespers Prayer, being led by Fr. Barsoom, and offered a glorification to St. Demiana. The ambulance arrived, and with difficulty was able to communicate with the members, because everyone was busy in prayer and praising. His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy personally arrived to witness the accident, bringing another bus from the monastery to return the trip to the monastery, taking great care of them. **At about eleven o’clock that evening, St. Demiana appeared in silver wearing a crown on her head.** The trip returned safely at three in the morning through the prayers of St. Demiana.

38) Great are Your Works O Lord

**Fr. Antoniuos Younan and Fr. Angelos Fayek,** the priests of St. Antony’s Church in Shobra wrote:

On St. Demiana’s Feast in May 1998, while going to the monastery, a Peugeot 305, we came across an unanticipated sharp speed bump, which lifted the car off the ground and brought it down hard. After this the water leaked out of the engine, but we thought it was radiator fluid and continued on our way to take the blessings of St. Demiana. Arriving to the monastery, we spent more than twelve hours there; thereafter we inspected the radiator fluid and found it reassuring, so we continued our way home to Cairo. That evening we discovered **a crack in the battery and the spillage of its entire fluid.** There is no interpretation for this except God’s care and the prayers St. Demiana. The vehicle electrician was surprised upon inspecting the car. What happened is above all imagination and absolutely impossible, therefore we worship God giving thanks to Him for his care, and the prayers of St. Demiana who keeps all her visitors safe.

39) He Slept Thereafter

**Mrs. Awatif Aziz Francis** wrote the following:

This story took place with my late husband, Joseph Asaad, Shebeen El Kom. I personally experienced this miracle on May 19, 1976.

My husband suffered a broken right foot which forced him to remain in bed at home. He heard that the church organized a trip to visit St. Demiana’s Monastery, so he paid the dues for himself, his daughter, and myself to the supervisor of the trip.

At the monastery of St. Demiana, he sat down in the sanctuary north of the main altar to attend Divine Liturgy, which was being prayed by the Bishop and the priests on the Feast day of St. Demiana.

Everyone was standing, while he alone was sitting down, which was very noticeable. The Bishop wanted to tell him to stand up but in a polite and indirect manner in order not hurt his feelings, so he changed the direction of the bench. After he had moved it, Joseph sat back down on the bench in its new direction.

The Bishop came again and changed the direction of the bench, and again Joseph waiting until he was finished and then he sat down. This was repeated a third time, and Joseph again sat down. The Bishop came again. This time, Joseph asked him, “Am I your target?” He smiled, and Joseph understood the answer, so he pulled away his cloths to reveal the plaster around his foot, and begged for the Bishop’s absolution and prayers.

The Bishop tried to make up for what had happened by praying over his head for a long time. After this, Joseph slept for no more than fifteen minutes only to wake up screaming at the person next to him for hitting his injured foot. The other apologized but promised that he had not done so. Everyone witnessed to the fact that no one touched him or even came near him. Joseph explained that he felt his foot was tugged, in order to return to normal. He got up and tried to walk on it, and miraculously, was able. He went to give me the staff on which he used to lean, as he no longer needed it, and he spent the rest of the Liturgy standing.

Returning home, he found that the plaster had expanded around his foot, or that his foot had shrunk away from the plaster, so he visited the doctor who confirmed the complete healing of his foot from any injury or disease affirming that this could be nothing but a miracle.

The places of the saints are not only filled with their aromatic biography, but also with the blessings of their prayers, which still and will continue to work greatly. Their shrines are not places for fun or play, vacation or display, but they have become a source of radiance and great spiritual blessings (Ex. 15:26, Is 19:22). May their holy blessings be with us, Amen. Glory to You, O Lord. O Lord, glory be to you.

40) Childbirth after Three Years

**Fr. Isaac Ibrahim Henein** (Address in Cairo: 7 Youssef Bek Eirod- Gezirat Badran Shobra- Cairo, Address in England: 49 Lynden Hyrset - Addiscombe Road Craydon - CR 5PL - Tel : 0-8-6549318) wrote the following:

I was married in 1987, after which I was ordained a priest. My wife and I spent three years without having children. In 1990, the Church of St. George, where I was ordained a priest, took out a trip to the Monastery of the great martyr St. Demiana.

On this journey my wife met one of the nuns, whose name I do not know, but who had heard from one of the church-ladies that we have been married for three years without offspring. So this nun told my wife, “Ask St. Demiana and our Lord will give you.” Indeed, my wife asked her. This was in February.

**After returning from the trip, that same month, she became pregnant and she gave birth. God gave us a girl whom we called Demiana**, for her namesake, St. Demiana the martyr. This was on 11/29/1990. After that we had two sons.

Fr. Mina Wahba Youssef

**Priest of St. Demiana’s Church in San Diego, California wrote to us the following miracles:**

St. Demiana the great is a true and chosen martyr, who has illumined the way to the life of holiness, purity, and perfection for generations and generations of her sons and daughters. This is through her true fellowship with Christ our Lord and her blood which was shed, with the forty virgin martyrs her daughters… “*The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.”* (Ps 45:14)

Those who have come to know St. Demiana, realize her greatness before Christ our God. She is great, very strong in her petitions, and very speedy in her aid, especially in cases impossible according to human understanding and capability.

41) Malignant Tumor

This blessed couple, Dr. Isis W. Botros. and her husband, are known for their love and devotion to the church. They regularly attend the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, Bible Study, and Midnight praises. They serve with me in the church, and I take the blessing of being their father of confession.

Very distraught, the couple called me one day to inform me that a few days earlier the wife felt sudden breast pains. After examination, her physician discovered breast cancer. She was referred to a surgeon, who performed a biopsy (to take a sample of the tumor) for further testing and analysis to determine the stage and type of the tumor. During the biopsy, the surgeon and her husband the doctor diagnosed the disease to be malignant breast cancer. The husband asked the surgeon to immediately perform mastectomy (removal of the breast), but the surgeon refused until the patient revives from the anesthetic and her consent is obtained.

This was a very straining situation for the entire family as they all turned to aches and tears when imagining what might be in store for the family in the near future. I was very moved by what I heard. I had nothing more to say than that we need to lift up our hearts and resort to Christ our God during this tribulation. He is the One who promised: “*Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me*” (Ps 50:15). During our conversation, I promised them to go to the church daily to light a candle for them before the icon of St. Demiana, so that God would have compassion on them, and be glorified through her petitions.

On the day the final laboratory results were to come out, the minutes and seconds pass by with great difficulty. Grief hung over everyone’s hearts. The patient was pained, crying, while commissioning me regarding her family in her absence (when she dies). Once again, we had none other to resort to except God’s sure promises to us, and leaving all matters in his good hands, and begging the prayers of the strong aid St. Demiana. With difficulty, we ended the telephone conversation, and I went to the church and begged St. Demiana to petition for the healing of her daughter the doctor, and to assuage the hearts of this pained family.

After I lit a candle in front of St. Demiana’s icon, I returned home. I found a message to call them immediately, which I did, only to listen to how the Lord was magnified, through the prayers of St. Demiana and the forty virgins: The final biopsy lab results showed that there was **no malignant tumor** at all.

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42) Childbirth after Three Years

On February 28, 1999, our beloved father His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy (Metropolitan of Damietta and Kafr El-Sheikh, Secretary of the Holy Synod, and abbot of St. Demiana’s Monastery) prayed with us the Temptation Sunday (of the Great Lent) Divine Liturgy at St. Demiana’s Church in San Diego.

After the Divine Liturgy and the homily, the congregation surrounded him eagerly to receive his apostolic blessings. It was my pleasure to introduce him to some beloved congregation members who were experiencing special circumstances and needed His Eminence to pray for them. I presented to His Eminence Iman Hanna, a servant of the church, and her husband, Ihab Hanna, a deacon who also serves our church. Both are kind and love the church. They were professors in chemistry who had been married for three years without having any children. They had consulted many doctors and tried different methods of treatment from Egypt to America. The final medical decision was that there was no way at all for them to give birth. As a father, I felt the agony in their hearts, especially after the wife was being mocked by relatives for not having children.

His Eminence was moved at hearing of their family circumstances. He placed his blessed hands upon them with the Holy Cross, and after anointing them with holy oil he said to them, “**The Lord will grant you your wish soon, by the blessings of St. Demiana**.” We joyfully anticipated good news. Meanwhile His Eminence traveled to his ceaseless day and night cares.

The following Sunday, Iman came to tell me of a dream she had, where she was standing before His Eminence who told her, “**Peace be with you. God willing, you will hear good news on May 18**.” I heard the dream, and the days went by, and we all forgot all these events amid the unending daily burdens of life.

On the eve of May 18, I returned home, after completing my visitations and services, to find several voice messages from the couple to call them immediately upon my arrival, no matter how late. Troubled and wondering what this might be, I called them. They answered, “We will be at your house in minutes.” I tried to understand the reason for this surprise visit, but they answered that they will explain everything upon arrival.

The couple arrived with the joy filling their heart written on their faces. They told me that they went to the hospital Emergency Room because the wife suffered sudden unexplainable fatigue. The doctor requested a Pregnancy Test only to reveal that the wife was pregnant in her first month.

May 20th, the Feast of the Consecration of St. Demiana’s Church, we celebrated the Divine Liturgy offering up our thanks to God and to St. Demiana for granting the couple their wish. The incredible news we received from Iman’s gynecologist, was that the due date would be approximately January 21, 2000, the Martyrdom Feast of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins. How great are Your works O Lord to all those who resort to You, and how powerful are your prayers O great saint.

43) Physical and Spiritual Healing**:**

The weakening of care and severe shortcomings of some other church sects, and the departure of its bishops and priests from educating the upright faith, the life of righteousness, repentance, prayer, piety, and the attention of the leaders of these churches to temporal trivial issues harms the church and damage it. Look for example at, those being creative in collecting money from people in indirect non-spiritual ways or using the church as a business, such as focusing on exhibitions and popular foods. The issue reached the point of gambling in the churches (the bank being kept in the church treasury) along with playing the lotto, and bidding on cars, televisions, and video equipment, and hosting concerts that include play and fun and dancing and drinking.

I say, as a result of this dangerous deviation, many of the congregations abandoned their churches, and strayed as sheep without a shepherd.

A pious woman who had left their church for the reasons mentioned above regularly attended our Bible Study. She in turn attracted another woman, who had cut off relations with her original church more than fifteen years earlier. I greeted the lady at the start of our meeting, and her greeting was extremely cold, but I paid no mind to it. We stood up to pray the Agpeya, and gathered for the Bible Study. We were studying one of the Catholic Epistles. The meeting ended with prayer, and I greeted everyone before I left. I felt a change in the new lady which was evident in the way she shook hands with me before leaving.

The week passed, and I was surprised to find this lady, her husband, and her children arrive for the Saturday Vespers Raising of Incense. We all affectionately shook hands after the service. I found them all present the following day in the church for the Sunday Liturgy. During the Divine Liturgy I kept wondering what their feelings might be after attending the entire duration of the Liturgy with its unfamiliar tunes to their ears, etc.

While distributing the Eulogia bread I asked, to see if they had benefited any, if the duration of the Liturgy was in excess or boring compared to the Protestant and Catholic churches, where the prayer time was very little and brief. Their response was really unbelievable, as they said in unison, “Today we felt we were not on the ground, we were really in heaven.” My heart rejoiced at this, as they were given grace to taste the sweetness of the heavenly kingdom. Then they each asked me to pray for them. While praying, I felt how they were affected, which was evident in their awe and the tears of some. They returned home, and we likewise.

The following day the husband contacting me seeking an appointment to meet at the church. Here the couple narrated to me their story of abandoning their original church, being about fifteen years away from the life of their church and its sacraments, including the sacraments of confession and communion. I also learned that their youngest son, who was seven years old, had not received the grace of baptism, and that he is ill with a genetic liver disease. For years they moved from one doctor to another, and from treatment institute to another, and that they spend many days and weeks with the child in the hospital, whenever his condition worsened, and that the doctors expected the death of the child from time to time.

I was very touched while listening to them, as they told me their story in tears. After praying the Litany for the Sick, I anointed the child with oil, and we agreed to immediately baptize him the next day. He was baptized and received Holy Communion, and I commissioned them with the necessity of attending the church services, praying the Psalms at home, keeping the fasts, and finally, to petition the great St. Demiana to pray for their son Matthew.

Matthew went for his periodic check-up on his liver, and a few days after the analysis the doctors called to tell the parents that **something strange happened to the boy, and that the condition of the liver had suddenly improved.** The doctors discontinued many of his medications, and requested their return after several months to run comprehensive lab tests.

During this period, we all noticed that his health was drastically improving, to which we were puzzled and amazed. He would run and play with the children, sharing in their games and their innocence in a very natural way. This he could never do before. The time arrived for the final analysis, for medicine to give its final word regarding Matthew’s health status. We prayed a special Liturgy, and asked the intervention of St. Demiana. The Lord’s name was glorified **and the result came out that the boy enjoyed a completely new liver operating very normally.** The parents cried tears of joy, thankful for all the Lord had done for them through the prayers of St. Demiana.

Both the son and his father were then ordained as deacons by our beloved Bishop Serapion. Currently, the father also serves with us in the weekly youth meeting. The mother also serves with zeal and energy in Sunday School. The entire family is now serving the Lord in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

**The following are written by Dr. Aghabi Ibrahim Youssef, the wife of Father Mina, the priest of St. Demiana’s Church in San Diego, California**

44) Finding a Job

She told us, in her own words, her personal experience:

“After we moved to the State of California, I searched endlessly for a job from the beginning of September 1995 through mid-January 1996, approximately four and a half months. Every day I would spend six or seven hours searching, from the time I dropped off the children at school until I picked them up. I would go from one company to another looking, but because of the economic hardships, it seemed impossible to find any positions in the pharmaceutical field.

At that time, I had started painting a picture of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins on silk for a new curtain for the church. Every day I would speak to her saying, “O Great Saint, I know that you will send me a position after I finish your painting.” As I finished up her painting and fixed the curtain, I said to her, “Christmas and the Feast of Epiphany draw near, as well as the Feast of your martyrdom. I know that you will send me a good position to celebrate with.”

On January 21, 1996 (the day of St. Demiana’s martyrdom), I sat next to the telephone all day waiting. I told Father Mina (my husband), “I know that I will get a job today because today is St. Demiana’s Feast.” He replied, “God’s will be done.”

By 5:00 P.M., no one had called, but I still hoped that I would get the job, if not that same day, then by the following morning. At 6:00 P.M. still no one had called so I decided to go out and run some errands. When I returned at 8:00 P.M., I was surprised to find a message on the answering machine from a woman named Nancy Peters (my current supervisor) saying: “**This message is for Aghabi Youssef. We have decided today to offer you a position with us in the company and I hope that you would accept this offer. We will be conducting some reference checks and retrieving your college certificates. This may take a few days but don’t worry. As of today you should consider yourself an employee with our company. I will call you when I reach my home; although, I really should not be doing so until I get the approval from the Human Resources Department. Talk to you soon**.” I was in total shock because this happened on the actual Feast day of my beloved St. Demiana. I truly felt the hand of God working through the prayers of St. Demiana.

I started the new job on January 29, 1996, researching new drugs for Alzheimer’s patients. All my colleagues were warm, honest, and loving people. Furthermore, my job was very close to home, only 10 minutes away.

By the following year, in January 1997, I was entitled for a review and promotion, but months passed and I was overlooked for the promotion. I prayed to St. Demiana and reminded her that her Feast in May (the Consecration of her Church) was drawing near and that she had to do something.

On May 20, 1997, my supervisor was very angry and told me to follow her to her office. I followed her as I was instructed, although I was concerned as to why she was so angry. When we reached her office, it turned out that she was upset that I had wrongfully been passed up for the review and promotion back in January. She apologized and promoted me that day, May 20, the Feast of St. Demiana. Not only did I get this job on St. Demiana’s Feast (January 21), and the promotion on her Feast (May 20), but ever since then all other promotions I received were on May 20.

Great are you O Lord and great is our saint the chaste Demiana

45) Finding Jobs

St. Demiana is always working for those who seek her prayers. There were two gentlemen, both engineers, who had been laid off from their jobs. Life circumstances were very difficult, especially considering that each one’s wife was still finishing her education at the University. Each family was living in a different city and previously employed by different companies. I was continually consoling them regarding the strong petitions of St. Demiana, telling them of my experiences with her in finding work.

On the Feast of her martyrdom in January 1999, St. Demiana helped the first gentleman find a position with a considerably higher salary than his previous position. As for the second gentleman, she also helped him find a higher position in a new company in San Diego with a much higher salary, in May of 1999 (the Feast of the Consecration of her Church).

46) Finding a Job after Seven Years

While in New Jersey on a business trip in May 1998, I visited my friend Salwa and her husband, Safwat Helmy, whom I had not seen for a long time. I was shocked when they started to tell me all the tribulations they were going through. She had been on work disability and simultaneously her husband was laid off from his job as an accountant. Since then, he had spent nearly seven years looking for another job. He worked very simple jobs unrelated to his profession to maintain some kind of income to support his household. Afterwards he found a temporary accounting position, but that did not last long either.

As we were talking, I told them of the miracles of our beloved St. Demiana and how God had worked through her, helping many others during their hardships. I told them to have hope that after a couple of weeks, on her Feast (May 20th), we would hear good news.

Months later and I returned to visit them in July 1998. I was delighted to hear that the husband was offered an excellent accounting position on July 1st. His employer apologized for the delay in hiring him, since **the decision to hire him was made during the last week of May – during the Feast of the beloved St. Demiana**.

On March 20, 2000, Salwa contacted me again to tell me of how St. Demiana had continued to work amazing miracles for them. She mentioned that her husband had been promoted several times to the point that he became a supervisor in just one year. It is unlikely for any employee to be promoted several times in one year, but this came about through the powerful petitions and prayers of the beloved St. Demiana. Before his previous supervisor (who was a religious woman) resigned she said to him: “There is no apparent reason for my resignation from this job. However, I have a feeling that the hands of God are pushing me out to another place, for you to be able to take over my position as a supervisor.” By simply mentioning her stories and wonders, and clinging to her, God was glorified in their lives through strong miracles.

47) The Metallic Thread:

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, visited Cleveland, Ohio (USA) in 1989. Near the end of their visit (on Friday), a few days before their departure back to Cairo (on Tuesday), Father Mina Wahba (St. Demiana Church in San Diego) spoke with His Eminence on the phone. After the call, he asked me to contact the factory and order metallic thread for His Eminence to take back with him to St. Demiana’s Monastery. I answered that time was extremely tight – it was already 4:30 P.M. on Friday, and the factory closes at 4 P.M. or 5 PM.. The factory was located eight hours away, it closes on Saturdays and Sundays, and shipping and delivery would take three to five business days.

Regardless of all this, I called the factory right away, and had the following conversation with the owner, he said: “It is 4:30 P.M., all the employees left and I was just about to leave, but on hearing the phone I came back to answer the call.” Then he said that he would make the order and schedule it to be shipped out Monday morning, and that it should reach us by Friday, and the conversation was over.

We knew it could not arrive before His Eminence’s departure on Tuesday, so we decided that we would just send it along with a church member travelling to Egypt soon.

On Saturday morning, the very next morning, Father Mina went to the church to pray the Divine Liturgy. When he returned home at approximately 10 A.M., he found a box blocking the entry into the garage. He asked me if I was expecting any shipment besides the thread. I said no.

We opened up the box and were astonished to find the thread that was ordered the previous day. Miraculously, it arrived the very next morning without any postal carrier stamp or any proof of postage on the box’s exterior. Inside the box they found the bill, but no shipping expenses were added to the cost. **It was as if the box was hand delivered.** We thanked the Lord and St. Demiana for this wonderful work. On Sunday, we both travelled to Cleveland with the box and handed it to His Eminence in time for him to take with him to Egypt. St. Demiana knows, and readily provides for the urgent needs of her monastery.

48) The Altar Veil

We purchased maroon velvet fabric worked with gold strings to make three altar veils for St. Abanoub’s Church in Egypt. We were certain that we ordered the exact measurements. After the fabric arrived, I received a phone call from the blessed woman who had volunteered to sew the veils, who said that the fabric was in great excess, enough to make a fourth veil. We agreed for her to make an extra one and the saint who wanted it would own to it.

After the veils were completed, we travelled to Egypt to drop off the three of them at St. Abanoub’s Church. Afterwards, we went to visit St. Demiana’s Monastery and Father Mina asked that we leave the forth veil at St. Demiana’s maybe they need it. When we reached the Monastery we were welcomed by one of the nuns. On seeing the veil (the extra one) she was surprised saying, “Did His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy contact you this quickly to make and deliver the curtain?” We had no idea what she was talking about – His Eminence had not contacted us for anything. She then explained to us that His Eminence travelled abroad three days ago and the nuns had requested from him a curtain with this exact color degree (note that this color has four different degrees). We assured her that we had been in Egypt for the past week and had the altar veils with us and that we had no communication with His Eminence whatsoever. She was amazed, especially since the measurements of the curtain were exactly the ones requested. It was then that we knew that it was St. Demiana who had arranged all this to fulfill the needs of her monastery. We were all astonished and thankful for how much St. Demiana cares and provides for her monastery.

49) Life after Death: Infant Brain Tumor

Sunday 2/19/2000 was the second time the American Lee comes to the church to narrate the miracle of his child.

Lee’s first born child, Arnold, was born with cerebrospinal fluid and a tumor in his brain. This caused his small infant head to reach the size of an adult head while he was still only two months old. The condition also stripped the child of his ability to hear or see.

Lee and his wife came to Father Mina after a Coptic doctor told them of the amazing wonders and miracles the Lord works through the prayers of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins. They begged in tears and faith, and he assured them that God will work. They were devastated; this is their firstborn child, the mother is already thirty-nine years old, and the doctors and the baby’s grandmother (a hardcore German) had suggested Mercy Killing and using the baby’s organs for other babies. After the mother began to concede to the idea, the father sternly refused.

The parents resorted to Christ our Lord and the petitions of our beloved St. Demiana. Father Mina prayed for the child and anointed him with holy oil. The following morning the infant had to undergo a surgery. During the surgery the doctors found no tumor, although the MRI scan revealed an enormous tumor that was clear to everyone. The doctors closed the skull and agreed that since the tumor had disappeared, then there is no longer blockage, and the CSF (cerebrospinal fluid) would soon clear out. The next day, they examined the eyesight and hearing of the infant, and were amazed that the baby was able to see and hear, and the size of his head was also starting to shrink. Lee and his wife realized the God was glorified through our beloved St. Demiana. They came to the church the following week and, in tears, related the miracle to the congregation.

Attached are pictures and documentations on Arnold.

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50) Changing the Course of Life

Another wondrous event took place with the wife of the Coptic doctor who led Lee to petition St. Demiana.

This doctor’s wife was very committed to certain concepts regarding the intercession of the Virgin. They had lived for many years without attending any church. During this time they had a son, now twenty-seven years old, and a daughter. The son grew up with an American lifestyle, grew distant from the church, and knew nothing of it except its external appearance, and the names of its priest and his wife. After graduating from college, he decided to leave Christianity to marry an Iranian young lady, despite all attempts by his mother, his father, Father Mina and me. We decided to resort to St. Demiana. While visiting them on one occasion, we were surprised by the mother saying, “You are requesting the prayers of St. Demiana, and this is a mistake, we Catholics are accustomed to asking the intercessions of St. Mary **only**.” I explained to her that this is not correct, especially since St. Demiana is the daughter of the Virgin, and the Virgin loves and respects all her children, and she calls, with all her children the saints and the martyrs, on behalf of all those in hardships.

Irritated, I told her, “I am amazed at you, although St. Demiana is the one who awoke you and told you where to find your lost diamond ring, which you had searched for greatly and did find. Certainly it is because of your feelings towards St. Demiana that your son has reached this level. I want to be honest with you, if this is how you feel towards St. Demiana and the prayers of the saints, then don’t waste our time, because your son will not reform his ways. St. Demiana works with those who love her and have faith in the strength of her prayers. Anyway, the choice is yours.” Her husband agreed with my words. She promised that she would try to seek the prayers of St. Demiana.

Two weeks later, she came to the Vespers service overjoyed (unlike her usual sulking over her son’s condition) saying, “I’ve begun to have faith in St. Demiana.” Her son had called her and revealed to her that he had told the Iranian girl, “Look, I don’t think this is going to work out. Let us separate for a while and see if we will be able to continue.” He told his mother that his feelings toward this girl were dying off and that he wished he would find someone from the church and get married in the Coptic Church.

The fingerprints of St. Demiana are very clear in the lives of her children. She works marvels with all those who believe in the strength of her petitions and prayers and those of the forty virgins.

51) The Lost Diamond Ring

As to the story of the diamond ring mentioned in the previous miracle, it goes as follows: While visiting her relatives for Christmas and the New Year (1998), she was surprised to realize that the diamond ring which she had inherited from her grandmother was lost. This ring’s sentimental value far exceeded its monetary value, and so the entire visit was spent searching for the ring. She and her husband Dr. Alfred both searched every floor of the house for days but were still unable to find it. She felt great sadness, because this ring was very dear to her, being from her favorite grandmother.

Her husband resorted to St. Demiana’s icon and said, “St. Demiana, we have not experienced you yet, but I beg you, this is the Advent Season of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please do not leave your daughter sad during this joyous season. Find her ring and I will give you a gift.”

They went to bed, and shortly before sunrise **his wife dreamt that she saw St. Demiana waking her up saying, “Get up, the ring is under the carpet,”** telling her the exact location. The wife immediately awoke and ran to the exact location that St. Demiana had told her, and was stunned to find the ring. St. Demiana is a strong aid in all hardships and trials. A strong bond developed between Dr. Alfred and Shadia from one side and St. Demiana and the forty virgins from the other.

52) Finding the Lost Checkbook

A similar miracle occurred with Rania and her husband, Sameh Amin, from St. Demiana’s Church in San Diego, CA. They had lost their checkbook, and although they looked for it for about four days, they found nothing. They gave up and decided that they would have to change their bank account, their direct deposits, and their billing system since all their bills are paid electronically through the bank account.

Rania took a day off from work to make all these necessary changes. She stood disappointed in front of St. Demiana’s icon asking, “Are you upset with me St. Demiana? You always stand by us in all our affairs. Is it difficult for you to find our checkbook?”

Once she finished her prayer, not even five minutes later, the doorbell rang. Rania opened the door to find a girl of about thirteen years standing there with her checkbook asking, “Is this your checkbook? I found it in the street.” Rania was astonished, she cannot believe her eyes. She was delighted that St. Demiana was with them and caring for them. Truly her eyes are on all her children; she always works with those who call to her in faith.

Note that this was during the school day; all the children were in their classes.

53) The Lost Keys

We have friends in New York, Dr. Awny Aziz and he wife Soraya who are a blessed couple who love the church and all its saints. He is an ENT surgeon who owns a big clinic, fully equipped with the most up-to-date medical instruments and computers.

One day, he lost his keychain which contained the keys of the clinic, the house, and their two cars. They spent a full day searching the house and the clinic frantically, but were unsuccessful.

Soraya remembered our conversation about St. Demiana and how she always stands by those in trouble, so she asked St. Demiana, “This is the first time I deal with you, and try your strength. Please find the keys for us and comfort our hearts.” She finished her prayer and started searching again the same places she had before. The first place she usually began searching was the kitchen, because it leads to the garage. There was a wool hat on the kitchen counter, which Soraya had moved countless times before, but this time, when she moved it, she found the keys inside the hat. From this day forward, a strong bond developed between Dr. Awny’s family and St. Demiana.

54) The Church Entrance Light

Two months ago, on January 2, 2000, after the Friday youth meeting, Mina Zaki and Michael Faltaos (one in secondary school, the other in college), two youth servants at St. Demiana’s church in San Diego, were staying late at church to finish mounting TV screens. They were accompanied by Mrs. Amany Zaki, the mother of Mina.

When they finished the job at around 11:00 P.M. they turned off all the church lights, leaving only the kitchen light so it would shed light on the dark parking lot when they came to leave. Then they secured the church doors and went out to the parking lot to leave.

The dim kitchen light was insufficient, because when Mrs. Amany searched for her keys out in the parking lot, she couldn’t see anything, so she said, “I can’t find the keys, it is too dark…” suddenly all the parking lot lights turned on at the same exact moment. This was incredible because the parking lot lights are divided into two circuit breakers, each at least 10 meters apart from the other. Mina and Michael were shocked because they knew this, and because they also knew that they were the last ones at the church and had put off all the lights by their hands. Amany did not know this however, so she thought that the boys had each gone to a switch and turned on the lights for her, so she thanked them. Mina and Michael told her that they were certain it wasn’t them, as they were also certain that no one was left in or around the church.

The next day they asked if the lights had motion sensors or if they had a timer. Learning that they did not, they were astounded and thrilled to experience the gentleness and tenderness of the church patron saint in caring for her children, and related to us the events of the previous night.

55) A Cancer Patient Healed

There was a Palestinian woman who attended church and all its services regularly for years, even before our arrival to the church (around 1993 or 1994). Her husband, who was addicted to cigarettes, was diagnosed with lung cancer. The cancer had overtaken his entire right lung, and the doctors gave him a prognosis of less than one year of life remaining.

The woman came to church constantly, in tears. After he underwent chemotherapy, the family expected the spread of the disease, according to the doctors’ prognosis, but it did not.

The Lord fulfilled her prayers and approximately six or seven years later he is still in good health. May the prayers of St. Demiana be with us. Amen.

56) Bethlehem (The Holy Bread Oven)

In November 1999, there was a certain unspiritual parishioner who filed a complaint at the Municipality of city of San Diego against St. Demiana’s church in San Diego. The main complaint against the church was that the church did not follow the gas and electrical safety codes. The parishioner also stated in his complaint that the church was using an electric oven for making the holy bread instead of a gas oven, which is in violation of the governmental codes to protect against fires. By law, this can prevent the church from making the holy bread necessary for the Divine Liturgies.

A government inspector came to the church and met with Father Mina. She gave him a two-week notice to buy a new gas oven or else the church would be forbidden from baking the holy bread. The inspector was pleasant, but adhered to the rules. She revealed to Abouna the identity of the person who filed the complaint. This saddened him greatly, but told no one, he only turned to my beloved St. Demiana asking her to care for her church, so that Bethlehem remains. An oven would cost no less than $10,000. Sunday passed, and the issue was in the hands of the patron of the church.

After the Sunday Liturgy, a blessed church member approached Father Mina asking to borrow the church keys the following Thursday. He asked the reason for this request, and the church member informed him that his brother-in-law, who had joined the church two years earlier, had never heard Abouna ask for financial assistance from the congregation, collected donations, or set up fundraising projects. This brother-in-law decided suddenly to purchase a large gas oven for Bethlehem, since our Lord had provided for him generously at work since the time he began to regularly attend church. We were amazed.

The speaker went further and purchased a kneading machine, fit for making large quantities of Bread, to match the new oven. I told them of the recent event, and we all glorified God.

57) A Youth Repents and Returns

During the summer of 1999, a woman from Los Angeles contacted me on a Sunday morning and told me the following experience she had with St. Demiana:

“May God bless the name of St. Demiana. Ever since we were young, we always attended her Feasts. I used to listen to her miracles from my parents. Those were the most beautiful days of my life. I married and moved to America and had children. My oldest son, who was in college, lived in sin with and evil girlfriend for two years and insisted to continue in that manner and not to marry. He refused to go to church, repent, or dismiss her from his life. I shed many tears, asking all the saints to help me, forgetting St. Demiana. This week only, I remembered her and her strong aid, so I begged her in tears to ask the Lord for my son to change his life. This same week I was surprised by my son breaking up with the girl and calling me to say, ‘I long to go to church. I’ve broken up with my girlfriend, and I want to repent.’ He was crying to me like a baby.”

If we write of every small and large intervention of St. Demiana we will write very much. But, very briefly, the lives of her children in her church in San Diego, California are full of many events. Even the children and youth continually ask her petitions for them. She saved many from tribulations and bitter hardships. She saved from problems. She accompanied her children in their exams and helped them through severe tribulations. Her hands are very clear in the repentance of many of her children.

May her blessings and prayers for us before the Lord of glory be with us. Amen.

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Apparitions of Saint Demiana

**1) The Emergence of Light in the Form of a Large Lantern and the Appearance of a Large White Dove:**

The Venerable lady **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef** from Damietta records:

On the eve of the Feast of the consecration of St. Demiana’s church (at the monastery), we were standing in our rooms, overlooking the many tents which had been set up to accommodate the many people who had come for her Festival. As we stood admiring the view, suddenly a strong blue light shone, like a beacon hovering around above the Festival grounds. It circled the area three times then moved towards the dome of the Church of the tomb. Half an hour later we saw a large white dove also hover above the Festival grounds three times and head towards the dome. Another half an hour later, yet another massive luminous beacon (bluish in color) hovered above the Festival grounds three times and passed directly in front of us. The crowds witnessing this apparition were greatly astonished and so greatly overjoyed for having witnessed the light of our great saint.

**This apparition was recorded in May of 2000.**

**2) The light of St. Demiana appears on the eve of her Feast in May of 1973.**

Also recorded by **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef**:

In 1973, on the eve of St. Demiana’s Feast in May, a great light emerged from her tomb. It looked like a flame of fire coming out of the tomb with a loud bang that sounded like a car tire that had suddenly burst. The crowd inside the tomb started panicking, thinking there was a fire in the church, and rushed out screaming, “Fire! Fire!” His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy calmed them and reassured them that there was no fire – it was the light of St. Demiana. Indeed, the crowd calmed down and took the blessing of this holy apparition.

**This apparition was recorded in May of 2000.**

**3) Massive amounts of incense during the Festival of May 2000**

Also recorded by **Mrs. Mary Iskander Youssef**:

She recalls how on May 20, 2000, the Feast Day of St. Demiana, her son — His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, the head of St. Demiana’s Monastery — was very exhausted that day because of being overburdened with the responsibilities of the Festival. Moreover, he always goes above and beyond attending to the needs of the sick, the poor, and the needy; but at this point his desk was covered with more papers than he could handle. His mother knows quite well that his health cannot handle the stress of this workload, and that the doctors had warned him of fatigue and increased blood pressure.

When his mother saw him in this extreme fatigue, she was greatly saddened, not knowing how to relieve him. She had to return to her lodging, in order to allow him to see to his duties in the second floor of the northern flats. This was about three o’clock in the morning. From the intensity of her grief, she threw herself on the bed only to be surprised by a tremendous amount of incense in the room. She knew that this was the incense of St. Demiana, and that St. Demiana was near to her. She called her roommate Mahasen Roshdy and asked her if she saw anything. Her roommate answered that she sees a clearly visible and massive amounts of incense in the room with a strong aroma. The roommate left the room to locate the source of this incense, but did not find any traces of it except this room.

The mother was disturbed because she thought that maybe St. Demiana had come to take away her son. She feared and began addressing St. Demiana, “Did you come, bringing funeral incense to relieve my son? No! No! Leave him to toil. Let him toil but take care of him. Don’t take him.”

Then she started to calm down and feel safe, the incense lasted for about an hour, increasing in the first half hour, and then began to diminish in the last half hour.

The surprise the following morning was that the upstairs neighbors, the family of Mr. Samir Nashed the lawyer in Damiette, told her that at 3:30 A.M. they saw and smelt incense, and when they looked for its source, found that her room was the sole source, so they asked her, “Were you offering incense at that hour!” She told them that this was the incense St. Demiana.

Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Mary traveled from the monastery to Alexandria to visit her sister who had a fractured bone. While visiting, Mrs. Mary fell on the stairs of the first floor, broke her femur, and was taken to hospital for surgery. When her son, our beloved father and head of the monastery, visited her in the hospital, she told him in front of all those present, “It seems that the incense which appeared in my room in the monastery was a sign from St. Demiana signaling my funeral.” After battling the complications of the fracture and becoming ill with pneumonia, she departed on Saturday eve, November 25th of the same year. The funeral prayers were held in the Church of St. Demiana in her monastery, as she had expected.

**The apparition occurred in May of 2000.**

**4) Light Shines between the two crosses of the church towers**

**Mrs. Manal Samuel Abadeer** from Cairo wrote:

On 5/19/1996, the eve of the Feast of St. Demiana, I was on the roof above the deaconess’ housing. From where I was standing, is a perfectly clear view of the dome of the church of the tomb, the bell tower, all the way until the end of the big church[[2]](#footnote-3). This year circumstances were not going to allow me to come to the monastery, but St. Demiana arranged for me to come, by God’s providence, in a miraculous way at the last minute to help me maintain my annual habit of taking her blessing. I arrived at the monastery at 11:30 P.M. on Saturday evening 5/18/1996. I was in a bad psychological state due to some problems, but I had a deep feeling that St. Demiana was the one who sent the transportation in order to bring me to the monastery.

At ten o’clock on the eve of 5/19/1996, I was in the company of Father Boutros Boutros, the priest of the Church in Desouk, and the family of Dr. Maher on the roof, all being anxious to see St. Demiana on the eve of her Feast. Eventually they all went downstairs and I was left alone. When I was alone on the terrace, I saw a strong light shining, beginning from the cross located above the dome over the church of the tomb and stretching longitudinally until it reached the cross located north of the big church. The light shone strongly and then disappears. The same thing was repeated two or three times within ten minutes repeatedly and with growing intensity each time. This apparition gave me a sense of consolation and calmed the tension regarding my concerns at the time. I rejoiced greatly with St. Demiana, whose blessing I do not deserve, but God always gives us out of His love, and not because we deserve anything. He is able to help us benefit from every spiritual blessing we receive. Glory is due to our God forever, Amen.

**The apparition was recorded on May 19, 1997.**

**5) The appearance of a dove with St. Demiana on 7/4/1976**

The nun in charge of the Monastery Retreat House (at that time) wrote of an apparition of St. Demiana to which she was an eyewitness, along with eight other sisters, two from Mahala and six from Alexandria:

On Sunday, July 4, 1976 at half past eight in the evening, some girls came out with us from the Retreat House to the north lounge. We found a large dove, and out of joy we beckoned to four other girls who were on the ground floor. When they came out, we all saw St. Demiana in full figure. Her dress was as white as snow. She would bow fully prostrate on the ground and rise again several times, on the fields to the north of the monastery.

From the extent of our joy, we offered her glorification and songs, this scene continued for about an hour. Then she appeared on the rice irrigation water and then this amazing scene disappeared from our eyes.

**The apparition was documented in May of 2000.**

**6) St. Demiana appears for five hours on 7/14/1976**

Mrs. Aida Fakhry Abdel Nour (Address: 58 Str. 51, Khartoom, Sudan) wrote:

Since I came to the monastery I have longed to see St. Demiana. This longing increased when I heard of her appearance on July 4, 1976 on the fields to some retreat girls.

On Wednesday, July 14, 1976 (7 Paoni 1692) at 7:30 P.M. in the evening, a nun and I entered the balcony overlooking the domes of the church and the bell tower. **We saw clearly St. Demiana looking at us from the dome of the lighthouse. She was wearing a light green dress and a green veil. Around the dome and the cross was a light blue halo of light. She stood life-sized and moved her face in three directions as if making the sign of the cross and blessing the directions. Her features were very clear.**

When the blue light disappeared, the color of her gown changed from light green to dark green. As we witnessed this great apparition, the nun and I kept on affirming with each other that indeed we were both clearly seeing St. Demiana. She did not disappear, but continued to stand before us with clear visibility.

We went down and turned off the outside lights of the tomb of Bishop Andrew, as well as the lighting of the big church, and still, we saw her as she was. We did not tell anyone, so as not to disturb the nuns.

St. Demiana then slightly moved backwards into the dome, but her face was still clearly visible, and her light filled the void until she reemerged. The light was very clear from the right side outside the opening. At this time we sang and offered glorification quietly so as not to cause a disturbance. The nun and I cautiously took turns out on the balcony to see this amazing scene, so as not to disturb the calmness of the monastery. St. Demiana continued standing until 12:30 A.M. having stood for a total of five hours. Thanks be to the Lord Jesus for allowing us to witness the appearance of the chaste St. Demiana in her blessed monastery.

**This apparition was documented on 7/15/1976.**

**7) St. Demiana appears to some of the monastery’s nuns**

There were three novices lodging in the Retreat House of the Monastery of St. Demiana (currently this has become the deaconesses’ housing). Two of them became nuns in the monastery and the third became a deaconess, also for the monastery of St. Demiana. The three persons are known to all the nuns and deaconesses of the monastery. One night in 1989, at about ten o’clock in the evening, they saw spiritual apparitions and described what they saw as follows:

“At about 10 P.M., from the balcony of the Retreat House (currently the deaconesses’ housing), we saw what was as if the sky split and a great light flashed, covering the entire roof of the big church, from the domes of the church until its western corner. We also saw heaps of light, like columns, each measuring about 60 cm, reaching from the dome in the east till the tip of the church on the west. This beam of light was brighter than the light which covered the entire roof of the church. We also saw the impression of olive trees on the roof of the church, amid the light. This is what we saw with our eyes, this apparition continued from 10 P.M. until 1 A.M.”

**The apparition occurred in 1989.**

**8) The appearance of a phosphorus colored dove**

Fr. Botros Botros Bastawros, priest of the church of Desouk and the steward of the Metropolis seat in Kafr El-Sheikh, writes:

I submit this report as a confession of what I witnessed on the eve of St. Demiana’s Feast in 1992. After we, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, placed the spices and perfumes on the tomb of St. Demiana in celebration of her Feast, I went out with some fellows to meet some members of a trip coming from Desouk to take the blessings of St. Demiana. The bus was outside the monastery walls, next to the land titled “the red earth” (i.e. the ancient hill).

It was 1 A.M. when suddenly, we heard shouts of joy and the whole crowd was looking to the domes, so I quickly glanced and behold I saw a large dove flying in the dark, luminous in a phosphoric color, coming from the area of the tomb. Then she came and stood above the red earth swinging her wings calmly in fascinating wonderful colors, being silver with a beautiful phosphoric color, amid the shouts of joy of the women and the applause of the men. I felt amazing joy and happiness, and inside me I felt a deep spiritual moment and inexpressible joy. I felt the hand of the Lord working with us and the wonders of the Lord in His saints.

May the Lord bless our lives through the prayers of the chaste St. Demiana.

**This apparition took place on St. Demiana’s Feast on May 20, 1992.**

**9) St. Demiana and the forty virgins appears amid a column of light**

Mrs. Niveen Mikhael from Cairo wrote the following**:**

On 8/10/2000, I was on a retreat at the monastery of St. Demiana. I was staying at the Retreat House, along with Sarah Essam from Kafr El-Sheikh and Teresa from El-Minya. We were all praying fervently to see St. Demiana. At about 4:20 A.M., I noticed a column of light amid a halo the length of the bell tower in the monastery. We heard Teresa scream, “St. Demiana!” When we looked, we found St. Demiana amid the halo of light, but out of fear we couldn’t gaze at her. Teresa, however, saw her in full figure surrounded by the forty virgins, and kept describing her as extremely beautiful. Sarah and I were afraid, but we saw the pillar of light moving in front of us, and suddenly a gold light appeared from bottom to top on the column of light. The apparition remained for about four minutes. Whenever we said, “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us” the light would brighten in the cell and we saw the picture of St. Demiana impressed on the glass drawing closer, and then further away again. Whenever we prayed, the light would brighten in the room and she would draw closer on the closed window, and then further away again.

**This apparition occurred on the dawn of Thursday 8/10/2000.**

**10) Apparitions to a group of girls from Mansoura at the Monastery of St. Demiana**

Deaconess Potamina, the servant at St. Antony and St. Paul Church in Mansoura narrates:

I came to the Monastery of St. Demiana with a group of girls on Monday, October 14, 1985 to spend a five day retreat at the monastery. There were fifteen girls, and they always feel the utmost joy and happiness upon arriving at the monastery, but upon departure, they are extremely saddened for leaving this blessed place.

Fr. Sherubim Jacob from Mansoura came with us for the first day, and we prayed the Divine Liturgy on the altar at the tomb of St. Demiana. On Thursday, Fr. Pakhoum AbdelMesih came and we prayed the Divine Liturgy on the same altar, and everyone was full of joy and happiness after the liturgy. Sadly, however, after the liturgy his reverence informed me of an issue that upset me greatly: one of the deaconesses who serve with us in the church will undergo a brain tumor operation on Saturday, October 19, 1985. He asked me not to tell the girls so as not to disturb them. If the Lord wills for her recovery, she will personally record the miracle and reveal her identity. I have no right to reveal her identity, but His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy knows her.

When we returned to the Retreat House after the Divine Liturgy, I gave the name of this ill deaconess to the nun supervising the Retreat House, to give it to the rest of the nuns for them to remember her in their Vespers and Midnight prayers and praises. I suggested to the girls, if we could all gather for a vigil before the tomb of St. Demiana this night, it being our last night before we depart from the monastery. I told them we will try to stay awake as long as we could, and we will pray the Midnight Praises, then we will wake up to take the blessing of the Friday Divine Liturgy before departing that day. We took permission from the nun supervising the Retreat House that we might not attend the Midnight Praises with her since we will pray it before the tomb of St. Demiana.

We gathered around the tomb of St. Demiana at about 9:30 P.M. and prayed the Midnight prayers and the Midnight Praises, and we mentioned the sick person in our prayers. The girls had known previously that she was sick, but they did not know that the disease had progressed to this level, yet it seems that they had realized the serious developments of her condition.

The most beautiful thing was that all the girls attended the prayer, and each and every one prayed with all her heart. Without exaggeration, this was the most beautiful Praise we prayed together. In the end we offered a glorification of St. Demiana then we returned to our lodging in the Retreat House.

Our rooms overlooked the plains, the ones where the tents are setup during the days of St. Demiana’s Festival. One of the girls asked to speak with me, but in truth I was overburdened and unable to speak, so I told her, “I will speak with you early tomorrow morning.” But she insisted, so I consented and stood with her in the balcony. But, to tell the truth I was distracted when she spoke with me.

There were two other girls sitting in the balcony, each praying individually. It was now 12:15 A.M. There was no one here except two girls from Alexandria, Tasoni Anasimone a deaconess from Cairo and our group from Mansoura.

While the girl spoke with me, we were looking at the horizon, **and suddenly we saw a faint neon light beginning to illuminate**. All the girls in the balcony saw this light, but no one spoke at the beginning. Then I asked her, “What is this?” She said, “I wanted to ask you,” and the other girls said the same thing.

Most of the girls were awake in their rooms, so they joined us. The deaconess from Cairo came out objecting to the loud noise we were making because it will disturb the nuns. I asked her about the light and asked her if it is possible for a car light to beam light in the sky. She said I do not know. At this point all the girls came out to the balcony, and suddenly a light appeared, like sunlight at sunset, in its beautiful pink color, but ten times the natural size of the sun.

The girls could not contain themselves with this wonderful surprise. In an attempt to maintain the stillness I told them, “Let us pray inaudibly, or sing a Hymn quietly so as not to disturb the nuns.” Deaconess Anasimone commented that this was an unusual scene. The girls began to sing, and some burst into tears from the beauty of the scene.

**The light began to echo in the sky then a beautiful rose colored cross appeared filling the whole sky. Then a cloud appeared and took the form of heads side by side wearing veils.** I could not control the situation or to allay the girls or make them lower their voices. I personally was participating with them in the songs.

We began singing a Hymn to St. Demiana and a glorification to her. Strangely enough, whenever any of us went into our rooms and turned on the electric light to get a warm blanket — since it was bitter cold — the electric light did not affect in any way the light of the apparition.

**Ball-like lights also appeared in the sky, heading one time from east to west, another from north to south, as if making the sign of the cross over our heads; luminous bodies were flying in the sky!**

We also sang songs about heaven and eternity like, “Amen Come, Lord Jesus… O Gracious City,” and similar hymns about heaven, **so** **the sky would split with a very beautiful white color, exquisite in beauty, beyond all description.** Each time this light would appear, we used to say, “*I will not let You go unless You bless me!*” (Gen 32:26 NKJ)

Even Dr. Fadia Fouad, along with the group of girls who were with us cried out, “That is enough, Jesus Christ will truly come at this time!”

**These apparitions lasted from about 12:15 A.M. until 3:45 A.M., the time of the Midnight Praises bell in the monastery.** This apparition was continuous; not a minute or second, or even a blink of an eye passed without the light splitting the sky. **St. Demiana moved in the horizon around the monastery in indescribable exquisite scenes —** I cannot begin to express the beauty of this scene.

We felt that our Lord had not left us alone, and certainly will intervene in the matter of the sick servant. I kept telling the group to pray for the sick servant, so each one of us made many requests, until the Midnight Praises bell rang.

The apparition continued for more than three hours, then the light returned to resemble a neon light, as it was in the beginning.

Thereafter, we turned into our rooms, after the girls had exhausted their voices from the many hymns, praises, and glorifications which we said, to the point that we started improvising songs for St. Demiana.

Without exaggeration, the Divine Liturgy on this Friday morning was the most beautiful Liturgy we had ever attended, in spite of the crowds of trips.

We returned to Mansoura at about 4 P.M., and I was certain that our Lord would intervene in the matter of the sick deaconess. I had a service in the Church of St. Demiana in Mansoura, but first I went to Fr. Pakhoum Abdel Mesih and told him what had happened. I told him that I feel that St. Demiana will perform a miracle, and either there won’t be an operation, or that she will personally stand in the operation.

Fr. Pakhoum tried to contact the hospital, to ask them to take an x-ray on the brain before the operation, but the hour was very late. The patient had already been admitted at El Salam Hospital in Mohandeseen for the scheduled operation.

I went to the service and asked the girls to pray for a servant who will undergo surgery the following morning, Saturday, at four o’clock.

We were informed by telephone on Saturday that the operation lasted for four hours.

I called the hospital that same evening, and her brother (a doctor) answered me. He told me, “She had regained consciousness but is now in intensive care.”

I went to her on Monday to see how she was doing, and I found the following:

She was due to remain in intensive care for four days, but she did not stay there more than one day. Rather, she is the one who personally narrated to me the story, and her health was very good. She told me, “Simply upon entering the anesthesia room, I found the room full of people dressed in green apparel.” I took her speech with simplicity because I know that sometimes surgeons wear green in the operating room, so I thought she was going to describe to me those who were present, but I found her explaining that they were saying, “In the name of the cross,” and were kissing her head saying, “The Lord is with you.” Note that the doctor who performed the operation was a non-Christian neurosurgery specialist.

I asked her who those were. She said, “St. Demiana and the forty virgins,” so I narrated to her the apparition of St. Demiana which we had seen a few days earlier.

The comment of the non-Christian doctor was, “What happened was something very amazing. How could such a big neurosurgery last only four hours?” He opened up at the exact spot of the tumor, and discovered that the tumor was not malignant.

The patient was supposed to move around after the operation by some days, but she feared movement, so she suffered a stroke.

It appears that she was ashamed or was not able to reach the bell to call the nurse, in order to go to the toilet, and there was no one with her in the chamber. She started crying and saying, “O Virgin,” and was surprised to find Virgin Mary sitting on the edge of the bed, and a very beautiful young lady sitting on the other edge (the chaste St. Demiana). She told me that, after this vision, she does not know how she went to the bathroom or how she returned, but she began to pray and chant the hymn Khen-Efran. After this apparition, thank God, the blood clot healed.

**She is now in best health, and this recovery is nothing but a great miracle.**

**As for the great miracle, it is that the girls who witnessed this amazing appearance began to attend church regularly, confess, and partake of the holy communion**, although some of them were not regular church goers even though we had exhausted much effort with them. One of them, after seeing the apparition said, “**If this is the light of St. Demiana, what would the light of the Lord of glory be like!”**

Strangely, the girl who was standing with me that night in the balcony, at the time when we first saw the light, was asking me “Is it possible for our Lord to forgive us no matter how extreme our sins?” The next day, she told me that she was addressing St. Demiana in her prayer at the tomb saying, **“If God really does forgive us, give us a sign.”** I should have understood that what happened was because **St. Demiana is a speedy aid; she gave her the sign and gave her the response.** I ask my Lord and my God, through the prayers of His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, that this apparition not be a cause of condemnation to us one day, but that God who gave us this grace would turn it into a blessing for the salvation of our souls.

I would like to leave an opportunity for the girls to each give her impression of the apparition.

Many of the girls who witnessed this apparition (they are from the Church of St. Anthony and St. Paul in Mansoura) and narrated it to us, their stories did not contradict in any way, although each one recorded what she saw in isolation, and the cassette is available for whoever wants it from the monastery.

**Here is the testimony of some of the girls from the Church of St. Anthony and St. Paul in Mansoura:**

**Demiana Edward**

One day I hoped to see the light of St. Demiana with my own eyes. The Lord gave me this grace during our retreat which started on 10/14/1985. Fr. Pakhoum Abdel Messih came on the 17th of October, sat with us, and held for us a very beautiful spiritual meeting. The sermon was about the life of submission: to hand our lives over to God, and leave God to work in it as He sees fit.

Every word coming out of Fr. Pakhoum’s mouth at this time had a strong influence on everyone, and we felt the meaning of each word. After this sermon, some of us went down to the tomb of St. Demiana, while the others sat inside their rooms. Each one who had a problem left it in our Lord’s hands.

I was one of them; I placed my problems before God although they were very complex and were continually on my mind. That night, we took permission to go down to the tomb of St. Demiana to pray the Midnight Praises there — this was the first time in my life that I had attended the Midnight Praises — and thereafter we returned to our lodging in the Retreat House (the north building). Each one of us sat separately for some quiet time, some went into their rooms while others went out to the balcony. A few minutes later we heard the girls yelling, “St. Demiana appeared!” I ran to see what they are saying but did not see anything, so I reentered the room and said, “If St. Demiana does appear, we will feel it.”

There was another girl with me in the same room. The voices outside the room escalated so we ran out together, and my roommate said, “Get up Demiana, maybe we will see St. Demiana,” but I answered, “If St. Demiana wants to appear, she will appear like St. Mina, clearly.” Ultimately, I went out with her and sat doubtful on a chair in the balcony looking up at the sky, and repeating the same phrase within myself, “If St. Demiana wants to appear, she will appear very clearly, so that we can see her.” I had not finished saying this, when suddenly I saw a very strong light, like a massive sun disk, like nothing I have ever seen my whole life. Then a very large very luminous cross of light appeared, as if St. Demiana was clearly answering me, so I said, “Peace to you, O powerful saint,” and I asked the Lord to forgive me for not believing her appearance in the beginning. She truly is a quick responder. I asked her secretly regarding a massive problem, and she looked to me with her compassionate eyes, and petitioned for me before her beloved Jesus Christ.

At the same time, a very strong light appeared. I looked at the sky, and found many lights. Simultaneously I saw the sky split open and a light came out of it. It was unlike anything I have ever ever seen. I said: “If this is the simple light of saints, what would the light of the Lord of glory be like? How could we behold it!”

**Susan Edward**

I would like to tell of what I saw at St. Demiana’s monastery. Fr. Pakhoum came and prayed the Divine Liturgy for us on the altar above the tomb of St. Demiana on October 17, 1985. We had breakfast after the Liturgy and we were filled with joy and happiness. After this Fr. Pakhoum had a spiritual session with us, the topic of the sermon being the life of submission. The words affected us greatly, so much that each one of us felt that these words were directed at her personally.

At the end of the sermon, Fr. Pakhoum commented on our joking and laughing, saying, “We need to sit with ourselves and feel the magnificence of the place. At least on this day, it being the last day of our retreat at the monastery.”

Indeed, after Fr. Pakhoum left that day, each one of us retreated with herself until the time for the Midnight Praises. Deaconess Potamina had taken permission for us to pray the Midnight Praises at the tomb of St. Demiana, and when we went to the tomb, we truly felt the magnificence and beauty of this place. The Midnight Praises were also absolutely magnificent and beautiful, to the point that I felt the great possibility of St. Demiana appearing to us.

After the Midnight Praises we returned to our lodging in the Retreat House. Not long after we went into our rooms, we heard people talking outside. We ran out to see what was going on. They told us that St. Demiana appears, but we didn’t believe them. We disregarded what they were saying, and went back into our rooms, yet the voices gradually escalated more and more. Once I came out of the door of the room this time, I found a very magnificent light in the sky. Out of shock, I did not know what to do, should I go out, or go into my room. I went in and told my roommates that St. Demiana did really appear. They did not believe at first, but after we had all gone out and seen these amazing apparitions, we all felt St. Demiana’s love for us by her appearance.

I had always wished to see St. Demiana, and in truth I saw a very massive sun disk, with a powerful light that lit up the entire sky, and other lights appeared to be moving in front of us. **St. Demiana was surrounded by the forty virgins.** At first, we thought she was surrounded by angels, because she first appeared surrounded by two, one on each side of her. The light would appear and disappear, so we thought they were angels around St. Demiana, but indeed they were the forty virgins.

The apparition would become increasingly apparent and we were all the more enthused to sing and chant hymns. When we chanted the song, “Amen Come, we are awaiting you” we found the sky split, and a very wondrous light, to the point that we held onto each other’s hands from the intensity of the scene. At this moment I remembered Fr. Pakhoum’s sermon on the life of submission, and how we must hand our problems over to God no matter how difficult they are. Also, because of the lights that I saw appear in the sky, I began to think of judgment day and how will a sinful person be able to stand before God. All my thoughts were focused on how I, a sinful person, would be able to stand before God on that awesome day. I longed for God to forgive me and forgive my sins.

**F. F.**

I am accustomed to going on retreats at St. Demiana’s monastery with Deaconess Potamina, but this time I was engaged, and my fiancé, for the first time, refused my going for retreat, so I arrived two days late. Looking at this place, I felt how precious this place is to me, and thought of how future circumstances would prevent me from coming. On the last full day before our departure, Fr. Pakhoum held a meeting for us and spoke to us on the life of submission. There was a big problem and Deaconess Potamina was very impacted by it, and was continually trying to seek isolation saying, “There is a big issue, pray for it.” There were also problems between me and my fiancé and I needed to break off this engagement.

Before going down to attend the Midnight Praises at the church of the tomb of St. Demiana, we were sitting in the balcony of the Retreat House with our Deaconess. Each one who knew of a miracle would narrate it. Although the electric light was weak, Deaconess Potamina asked us to say Shere-Ne-Maria, a praise to the saints, and a glorification to each saint. As time approached for the Midnight Praises, we took permission and went down to the church of the tomb to offer the praises there. During the praises, each one felt something inside her screaming with the words of the praises. After the Midnight Praises we returned to our lodging in the Retreat House, feeling ourselves attached to our Lord in an amazingly powerful way. It was now 12:30 A.M. so we all headed for our rooms, while Deaconess Potamina was still outside speaking with one of the girls. I heard her say that she was seeing a light, but was not sure if it was the light of St. Demiana or a distant car light.

For the first time in my life I saw spiritual apparitions. I imagined that if I see one of these scenes I would lose consciousness, I could never have imagined actually seeing it. While standing there, the image of St. Demiana and the forty virgins appeared as if in a sunset, so we were sure that it was truly the light of St. Demiana and that she was appearing to us. The deaconess was telling us not to make noise, so as not to disturb the nuns. There was another deaconess (from another group) who told us to go back to our rooms, and that if St. Demiana wanted to appear, she would appear over the domes or inside them. But we remained standing because we were certain that it was St. Demiana who was actually appearing to us from about 12:30 A.M. until 4 A.M.

She would make a half circle over the agricultural fields overlooked by the Retreat House, to confirm that this was not just some car light – this was indeed her light.

Then she appeared in the form of a very large cloud in the heart of the sky, St. Demiana’s head surrounded by the heads of the forty virgins. A third scene, a very large bird appeared before us, and a luminous cross in the sky. There was a tree in front of the balcony, so the light appeared over the tree, as if St. Demiana was standing in full figure above the tree in a rosy color.

Another scene moved in semicircles before us, as if the sky split, and a magnificent light appeared and some stars were moving very rapidly. During all this, we could not control our feelings and the tears came streaming down our faces. My sister was standing with us and while we were singing, “Amen Come, we are awaiting You,” the sky split open and the light intensified, to the point that my sister told the deaconess out of awe “Don’t say that, lest He believes and really comes (the second coming – judgment day).” In the meantime, I was screaming to St. Demiana regarding my problem and my destiny with my fiancé.

After my return from the monastery I was determined to forget any problem and start afresh. After a while, there was an offer to spend a retreat at the monastery of St. Demiana, and unexpected strange problems started to become manifest, so I went to the retreat without taking my fiancés permission. This time I was earnestly seeking St. Demiana, and I said, “Last time I said I would forget everything, and your appearance was the sign, but I sense that strange things are happening and I’m unable to make a decision. You must do something.” After I returned by a week, many issues emerged mysteriously, and they appeared very clearly. I kept this between Abouna and myself, and from here we were able to make a decision. Indeed, I felt that God rescued me from a big problem I was going to fall into without feeling or knowing. I always thank God for standing by us.

**Catherine Suriel**

I was at the monastery and at that time I was having personal problems. During the Vespers I did not attend the prayer with the group but went to the church of the tomb and stayed there. For the first time I felt the awe of this place. I beckoned St. Demiana saying, “If you are truly here, and if this issue is truly resolved, show me through an apparition or through any means.” I prayed all the canonical prayers by myself and afterwards I went up and attended the meeting, then we all sat down together in the balcony and we sang songs, so I felt that something strange exists in this place. We all said with one voice, “Shere Ne Maria.. Hail to you O Mary.” Deaconess Potamina had asked permission from the nun responsible of the Retreat House for us to pray the Midnight Praises at the church of the tomb. This was the first time I had attended the Midnight Praises and prayed it truly from my heart. At that time, I felt that had I looked into the heart of the actual crypt, I would see St. Demiana. This thought caused terror to enter into my heart. Something was troubling me that day, and Deaconess Potamina was aware of this issue. I spoke with her about it, but I did not tell her that I asked St. Demiana to intervene in this problem. As we talked, we saw a light appear next to us in an amazing way and it continued to move until it arrived before us. It was a large luminous head in the middle, St. Demiana, surrounded by many other heads, the heads of the forty virgins. This light continued to move in the sky in all directions. We were singing, while Deaconess Potamina was telling us, “Lower your voices so as not to disturb the nuns.”

St. Demiana appeared in all directions, her face always directed towards up. Then we would find the sky split lengthwise with an amazing light and from it was emerging an immaculate light. Finally, we found the sky full of stars in the form of a cross, as if the luminous white stars raced in the form of small crosses. There was a tree before us, so we saw the form of a full length lady wearing a veil. We said perhaps this is one of the nuns up praying, but it was St. Demiana wearing a full length veil and going back and forth on the tree, while the stars remained in the sky.

**Samia Fam**

We were on a retreat, and before our return by one day, St. Demiana appeared. It was in the form of light, and it was very close to us. It continued for a long time but none of us could express her feelings, so we all cried out of the abundance of joy. We started singing songs, and St. Demiana continued appearing until about five o’clock in the morning. We thank the Lord for allowing us to see these scenes and we thank St. Demiana who appeared in order to assure us of her continual presence with us. We hope to see her again when we come to her monastery.

**Mokhtara Suriel**

I was on a retreat at St. Demiana’s monastery, and on October 17, the night before our last day there, St. Demiana began appearing around midnight. It was in the form of light which was continually increasing in beauty and magnitude. We began singing songs and whenever we would mention the name of St. Demiana, the light would increase. The apparition continued until almost five in the morning. During the apparition I was crying out of joy because this was the first time I saw spiritual scenes, and even until now I cannot express what I saw. I thank God that I saw this light, and I hope to see it again on future retreats.

**Fadia Fouad**

I was on a retreat at St. Demiana’s monastery on October 14, 1985. On the last night of the retreat, October 17, we prayed the Midnight Praises at the church of the tomb of St. Demiana. Afterwards we all went back to our rooms while Deaconess Potamina and one of the girls were still out talking on the balcony. Before we knew it, they called out to us and said, “We saw a light appear!” So Demiana and I went out and we saw a light from afar, so we assumed it was a car light or anything, and went back into our room. But then the Deaconess and the other girls started calling out again saying that the light was appearing a lot this time. I looked and behold I saw a light as a sun disk at sunrise. I was greatly shocked and though I did not believe at first, now I believed. The light began to appear for more than three hours in many forms, and it was moving from place to place. Among the forms, it took on the form of a cross and of a semi-circle. The clearest form was that of St. Demiana surrounded by the virgins in a semi-circle. The strongest image, was when we sang, “O Beloved Lord, Come Come,” at that moment a very powerful luminous cloud of light appeared to the point that I told the deaconess, “Let’s not say this song, lest He really comes (the second coming – judgment day)!” At that moment I felt as if God was saying, “If you are saying it from your hearts, and are you truly ready for Me to come?” It was a great blessing that we cherish even until now, and no matter what I say, I will not be able to express what I saw. If the light of the saints is this magnificent, as one of the girls said, then how much more will be the light of our Lord in His great glory.

**Violet Fouad**

On the last day of our retreat in October 1985, we prayed the Midnight Praises at the tomb of St. Demiana and there I felt great awe. I felt that St. Demiana was going to appear to us during the praises. I wasn’t sure why I had this feeling but I continued praying the praises with my whole being, despite the fact that I was extremely exhausted. Afterwards, we returned to our rooms and tried to rest, when suddenly we found Deaconess Potamina and another girl claim that a light was appearing, so I got up quickly, as if something pulled me forcefully and brought me out of the room. I looked, and at first I only saw a slight ray in the sky, but then it began increasing. There was another deaconess there who claimed it was a car light, but at that very moment we saw an orange colored massive sun disk. In it appeared a beautiful face surrounded by many other heads. Then they disappeared. As for the deaconess who claimed it was a car light, when she saw this scene she said, “I can’t say a word on this!”

We remained standing, so we found that the light began to move and revolve around the monastery. The apparition began from twelve o’clock until about 4:30 A.M. It appeared once in the form of a very beautiful cross, and again in the form of a very large dove, and again as a cloud coming down from heaven. While we sang, “Our Beloved Lord, Come Come,” we found the sky split in half, one layer higher and another layer lower in this same scene, and a block of massive very unbelievable light came out of it. The scene was very fearful, yet wonderfully awesome. Fear mixed with tears, and we were all in disbelief, unable to express the extent of the joy that we felt. While I was seeing this scene, there was a tree before me that was dark at first, but then suddenly a massive spotlight was focused on it so that it became remarkably illuminated. There was a shadow (St. Demiana) moving above it to and forth. So I screamed “The tree! Look at the tree!” The scene was amazing. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I knew that it was St. Demiana, for nothing else could have been as awesome and beautiful. After that, the light continued circling around the monastery taking on many forms. The stars were racing rapidly and suddenly disappearing. Our feelings were mixed between joy and great awe of the beauty and splendor of the scene. We thank our Lord for allowing us to see such a scene, because we are all in need of such consolations. We thank God to Whom is due all glory forevermore, Amen.

**Eman Mansour**

I would like to speak about what happened at St. Demiana’s monastery. On October 14, 1985, for the first time I went to the monastery with some girls under the supervision of Deaconess Potamina. On the last full day, before leaving the monastery, Fr. Pakhoum came and prayed the Divine Liturgy in the church of the tomb, and after the Liturgy he spoke to us about the life of calmness and submission. In the evening, Deaconess Potamina suggested that we pray the Midnight Praises at the tomb. We were thrilled with the idea and went down at about nine o’clock at night to the tomb. We prayed with one heart, and I felt the blessing of her tomb which filled the church, I felt that St. Demiana prayed along with us. We all said within ourselves, “O that St. Demiana would appear to us.” We concluded the praises and headed for our rooms in the Retreat House. It seems that St. Demiana wanted to gladden our hearts and throw us a party on our last day in the monastery, but in her own special way. The light started slowly, then it began to grow mightily in the sky. It first appeared to the west on the horizon. At first we thought it was a car light, but a car light starts at one point and ends at other point; but this light, when it first appeared, emerged to the west of us and remained a while, then began to appear and disappear like a neon light. Then it began to move regularly, little by little, until it reached directly in front of us. It remained a while in front of our eyes on the agricultural fields. It moved every quarter of an hour (15 minutes), and did not appear randomly. This was at about half past twelve (12:30 A.M.) when St. Demiana started this special celebration for us. Then a light appeared and took the form of big box. I could not identify any of the features inside the box, but what I could distinguish was a number of luminous crowns next to each other. (I could not say if the scene was in the form of an image of St. Demiana or not because I could not distinguish features within the scene.) Meanwhile, we spontaneously chanted all the songs we could think of, not limiting ourselves to chants for St. Demiana. While we chanted the song “Our Lord Come, we are awaiting You,” a massive yellow cloud, luminous like sunlight appeared (bearing the difference in the analogy, of course) since the light of this cloud was a very beautiful reddish-yellow color. The stars were falling from the sky on the agricultural fields located in front of balcony. At about three in the morning, light began to illuminate from the tree in front of the balcony. What made me sure that these apparitions were truly of St Demiana, and not just a car light, was that the light travelled with precise regularity from 12:00 A.M. until 3:30 A.M. (or 3:45 A.M.), and with precise consistency from left to right. I could not determine for sure whether it was east or west until it reached directly in front of our eyes. The nuns began their Midnight Praises, so the light slowly began to decrease. We were thrilled that St. Demiana had thrown this amazing party for us, but I within myself said, “I do not deserve all this.” We all returned enriched with the blessings of St. Demiana’s monastery. Since that day, I love going often to her monastery to take the blessings of this place. To God be all glory forever, Amen.

**This apparition took place in October of 1985.**

1. If a child was facing death he should be baptized immediately wherever he is. If there is not priest the church allows any of his Christian Orthodox family members to baptize him either by emerging in water three times or only by anointing with water saying: “I baptize you ………. in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This occurred before constructing the news buildings the include the burial place for bishops, the church of Marcos the martyr and governor of Burrulus, the balcony of the big church, and the centre of theological studies. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)