



POPE KYRILLOS

*“ ... You who make mention of the Lord,
do not keep silent, And give Him no rest
till He establishes And till He makes
Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”*

(Is. 62:6-7)

HIS EARLY LIFE...



- ◉ Pope Kyrillos VI was born on **August 2, 1902** and was called Azer Ata.
- ◉ After completing high school, Azer went to work for a shipping company in Alexandria. Azer was content with little food and the ground to sleep on.
- ◉ Then much against his family's wishes, he resigned his job with the intention of becoming a monk and entered the **Monastery of El-Baramous** on July 27, 1927.
- ◉ He was ordained monk on February 25, 1928 and was named **Mina** after the name of Saint Mina, his patron saint.
- ◉ He was ordained priest on July 18, 1931. He also attended the Helwan Theological College and was rated one of the top students.

Questions



1. When was Pope Kyrillos born?
2. What was his job?
3. What monastery did he enter?
When?
4. When was he ordained a monk?
5. What did his name change to?

HIS STORY CONTINUES...

- He pursued a life of solitude at **El-Natron Valley** in the western desert between Cairo and Alexandria



....Satan sent robbers to the windmill. The robbers beat Father Mina and injured his head. When Father Mina regained consciousness, he noticed he was bleeding. He crawled to the icon of Saint Mina and put the icon on his head. The bleeding stopped at once. Father Mina then went to the hospital to be treated. The doctors were surprised when they found out that he walked 24 Kilometres from the windmill!...

- Father Mina was ordained **Pope on Sunday May 10, 1959** and was named Kyrillos VI.



- ⦿ The amount of documented miracles performed by Pope Kyrillos and his patron saint, St. Mina, is immense.
- ⦿ Nearly every person who lived in the days of Pope Kyrillos witnessed a personal miracle, whether **healing from various diseases**, miraculous **solving of difficult life problems**, **casting out of devils** or just **revelation of people's past**.
- ⦿ The miracles of Pope Kyrillos helped strengthen people's faith and they returned to God.

Questions



1. Where did he spend time in solitude?
2. What did Pope Kyrillos do when his head was bleeding?
3. When did he become Pope?
4. What types of miracles did he perform?

FROM POPE SHENOUDA...



- ◎ "... Watching this elderly man, near the age of seventy, rise daily at four o'clock in the morning to pray with **intensity** and **perseverance**, made many feel small in their own eyes by comparison. People would come to the church and find this venerable old man had been praying since dawn. **The church was his whole life**. His love for the liturgies ran in his veins like his blood. Psalms and prayers were like the air he breathed. It was never beneath his position as the pope to join the chanter of the church counter singing with him the Psalmody. For more than thirty five years he continued to celebrate the mass daily..."

SHORT VIDEO

- ◉ Play from 5:12-7:12

HUMILITY AND SERVICE

The humble He guides in justice,
And the humble He teaches His way.
Psalm 25:9

- Humility means acknowledging our **proper place** before the Lord. When we humbly worship Him, He will lead us and teach us the right way to live.
- Pope Kyrillos through his humility the Lord lead him to revive the church through on of the hardest times. **The secret of his success was his humility and meakness.**
- At the end of every liturgy, all people gathered around Pope Kyrillos and he began to bless them individually, standing for long hours with meekness and patience.



Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 18:4

- The **less** we try to honour ourselves, the **more** God honours and blesses us. Pride builds barriers that keep God out of our lives.
- Humility **opens the way** for God to work because we are more willing to seek God's help and honour him for helping.
- Pope Kyrillos did not seek to be the boss, he always considered himself the last, that is why the Lord gave him all this glory
- **Father Mina used to clean the dormitory and the lavatories by himself without letting anybody know, and would not let anyone else do this job.**
- By humiliating himself and serving others, Pope Kyrillos fulfilled our Lord's commandment:

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”



PRAYER AND SOLITUDE

Father Mina (Pope Kyrillos) moved to a deserted windmill in **El-Moukatam mountain** at the outskirts of Cairo. It was miles from the nearest city. Many dangerous animals can be found there at all times, like scorpions and snakes. Here, **Father Mina spent his time praying and contemplating because of his love for his Saviour.**

- ◉ ‘The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth’ (Psalm 145:18)
 - *The Lord invites us to make prayer our first response rather than our last resort. He always listens to those that are honest with Him.*
- ◉ ‘Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you’ (1 Peter 5:7)
 - *We experience freedom when we give a burden over to the Lord in prayer - even before the prayer is answered. The assurance of God’s love and concern refreshes us and renews our hope. Relate that to the worries they might have.*

Pope Kyrillos spent most of his days in fasting and prayer. He was a great man because of his reliance on God and alone was food for his soul.

that



EXAMPLES...

- Pope Kyrillos was a man of prayer and many miracles happened during his time.
 - One day, one of the children and his older brother were returning home on a bike after serving in a Liturgy with him. **A car hit them.** On the same moment back in the church, the Pope stepped out of his room suddenly saying with a loud voice **“God forbid. St. Mina protect your sons.”** What happened next was unbelievable. The older brother felt a hand grabbing him and putting him on his both feet on the curb. The younger brother fell under the bike and the car passed on top of the bike flattened both rims. Nobody expected to see him alive but he came out without a single drop of blood, only a bruise on his hand.
- The Pope had **St. Mina as his beloved patron saint.** He used to ask him to take care of a problem and it always ended up solved. He renewed his monastery near Alexandria and used to spend much time over there although it was hard to reach.
 - One day the Pope prepared to return to Cairo and they loaded the car, but suddenly a severe sand storm started and the driver was afraid they would be lost in the desert. He begged the Pope to stay, but the Pope said, **“I knew it. St. Mina is not happy because we are leaving, let me talk to him.”** He went to the church, prayed and immediately the storm ended and the road appeared again.



- The Pope had a very special relationship with the **Mother of God, St. Mary**. He used to use Her intercession to heal the sick and help in times of trouble.
 - She even appeared to all the people on top of her church in Zeiton. Also, St. Mary used to appear to him and with him, but he never talked about it. An American lady, Mrs. Pearl, wife of an Egyptian doctor was visiting Cairo during this period and failed to see the appearance of St. Mary in Zeiton for 4 consecutive days. Two days before their departure back to the States, her husband took her and went to visit Pope Kyrillos. Her husband expressed his disappointment to the Pope that they are returning without seeing St. Mary. The Pope answered **“You will see Her tonight,”** but Pearl was very sceptical. She spend the night preparing the luggage and was about to go to sleep when someone in the family said if the Pope said **“You will see her, and he knew that you are leaving tomorrow, that means St. Mary will appear tonight.”** Let us go. Reluctantly she went with them all, and sure enough it was the longest appearance of the Virgin.
- In his days, many ladies who did not have children asked for the Pope’s prayer and they gave birth to children and if their first-born is a boy they named him **Mina**. Many of them took their children to the monastery St. Mina to get baptized there.



Questions



1. Who was Pope Kyrillos' patron saint?
2. What did he do to the old monastery of St Mina?
3. Why do you think he was such a great Saint?
4. Is it possible that we can be like him?
How?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO??

- ◉ **We need to change our focus from the earthly to the heavenly!**
- ◉ **God wants to help us but He needs us to seek Him at all times like Pope Kyrillos did and then, only then will we be great in the eyes of God.**
- ◉ **When our humility becomes a real humility and our prayer becomes a prayer that has deep roots in our hearts and that we long for the chance for a moment of solitude so we can speak to our Saviour.**
- ◉ **We often forget how important it is to take some time out from the world and focus on being in the presence of God!**
- ◉ **Pope Kyrillos' example shows that whatever the situation is, our action should always begin with a prayer!**



EXTRAS

- ◉ On March 9, the Coptic Orthodox Church remembers the departure of the Great Pope (Papa, Ava) Kyrillos (Cyril) VI, the 116th Pope of Alexandria and successor of Saint Mark the Evangelist.
- ◉ He sat on the throne of Saint Mark for twelve years (1959-1971).
- ◉ Pope Kyrillos was a holy man of prayer who through full dedication to the life of prayer and fasting possessed many higher gifts which included performing wonders and miracles, the gift of knowledge, and an unusual ability to lead by example.
- ◉ He was undoubtedly a very spiritual man and brought the Coptic Church into a new era of spirituality. He was highly regarded by the people of Egypt from all walks of life, Christians and non-Christians alike.

POPE KYRILLOS EXAM PRAYER

"My Lord Jesus Christ,

I thank You for You have taught me to seek refuge in You, in times of need, when You said, Call upon Me in the day of your trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Now, oh Lord, I appeal to You to give me wisdom and understanding at this time of exams.

Give me grace to pass this test in peace. Grant me Your profound peace and blessing in the time that I am writing my test.

Lord Jesus, I ask of You to find favour in my teachers' eyes for You soften their hearts towards me as they mark my papers. Dear Lord, I am a sinner, and I have not pleased You or myself all year, but I ask You not to treat me according to my sins or the hardness of my heart, but according to Your mercy and sympathy.

Lord, You said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." So, here I am, asking, and on the gate of Your mercy I am knocking. so, do not refuse my prayer, for you have said: "whoever comes to Me I will never drive away." Answer me, through the intercession of the Holy Virgin and all Your angels. Amen"

‘Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.’

Colossians 4:2

‘Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.’

Philippians 4:6

‘Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.’

James 5:16