



COPTIC MONASTERY OF ST. SHENOUDA  
ROCHESTER-NEW YORK

January 12, 2007

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

I would like to congratulate you for the New Year and the Feasts of the Nativity and Epiphany. I pray that God will make His presence known in our lives and in His Church throughout this year.

God has granted the Coptic Monastery of St. Shenouda many blessings over the past year including His Holiness Pope Shenouda III beginning the monastic life in the monastery, the beginning of construction of the monastery building on Lehigh Station Rd., a Coptic Mission Center for community service and missionary work in downtown Rochester, and a retreat house across the street from both St. Mark's Church and the new monastery building for people to come for spiritual retreat and to experience the monastic life.

We have no doubt that God has provided all of these opportunities for us to serve Him. For example, even though the retreat house was only purchased in mid-November of 2006 by the personal loan of someone interested in the monastery, it has already been used twice by those seeking spiritual retreat here with very positive feedback, by the grace of God.

**However, at the present time, our finances have been severely stretched. The amount of money currently present will only provide for the closing payment on Sts. Peter and Paul Church to provide for our Coptic Mission Center in downtown Rochester. We otherwise have no finances to pay for \$200,000 in outstanding bills from the contractor working on the new monastery building. In addition, the projected amount of money needed by March to pay for the current stage of construction (i.e. the foundation and outer shell of the building) is \$500,000. Furthermore, the great majority of current funds has been personal loans that are further liabilities that must eventually be paid off.**

**We are in urgent need of your help, either through loans or donations, to provide the necessary money to pay off the current outstanding bills and the upcoming bills, expenses, etc... as quickly as possible.**

**We have faith that God will provide what is necessary through your offerings and prayers on our behalf.** May God accept your gifts and offerings as a delightful aroma and reward you with heavenly and earthly blessings.

Your servant in Christ,

Shenouda Maher Ishak

Fr. Shenouda Maher Ishak  
Priest, St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church  
Rochester, NY

Handwritten signature in Arabic script:   
شهوذا ماهر ايشاك  
SHENOUDA MAHER ISHAK