



Statement from the Coptic Orthodox Church in Canada

The Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church is considered a beacon of Christianity around the world. It was built on a steadfast faith with a long history extending back to the dawn of the first century A.D. when Saint Mark the Apostle preached the Gospel in Egypt. This foundational preaching spread from Egypt to various parts of the world.

Christianity in Egypt is a rich tapestry woven by thousands of threads, including the lives of the saints and martyrs and the establishment and development of monastic life. This history was preserved by the greatness of the Coptic Christian artists and their creativity in drawing icons, developing decorative styles and calligraphic inscriptions, which contributed to enforcing the church's steadfastness in the face of all heresies.

Everyone should study such a glorious history as it forms an essential chapter in humanity's heritage. This heritage includes treasures such as the Coptic language and church melodies, which preserve musical tunes from Ancient Egypt, praises and their meaningful prose, meditations and symbolism, liturgical rituals, and countless other Coptic treasures

Canada is home to approximately two hundred thousand Copts, spread among the various provinces who are descendants and representatives of this religious and cultural heritage.

As a result, some keen individuals: Hani Tawfilis, Karim Botros, Yoliana Azer, Adel Andrawes and from Diocese of Ottawa, Montreal and Eastern Canada: Adel Boulos, Mariam Ishak and from Toronto and Area: Ramzi Shenouda, approached the Council of the Bishops of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Canada and proposed the last week of May to be designated as "Coptic Heritage Week"

Consecutively, the Council of the Bishops of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Canada has unanimously approved the recommendation to designate the last week of May, each year, as Coptic Heritage Week. This week is to be celebrated by all the dioceses throughout Canada, with the end of the week coinciding with the first day of June, Global Coptic Day.

A central committee will be formed under the supervision of the Bishops of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Canada in each diocese to work with, coordinate and support the sub and local committees that will be formed to organize this week every year in all Canadian provinces and will be responsible for this historical event whose mission is to spread awareness of the Coptic culture and heritage in Canada.

Praying that the Lord will use this work for the glory of His Holy Name.

By the grace of Christ,

H.G. Bishop Mina, Bishop of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

H.G. Bishop Makar, Bishop of Sharkia and 10th of Ramadan and Papal Exarch of Toronto and Area

H.G. Bishop Boulos, Bishop of Ottawa, Montreal, and Eastern Canada