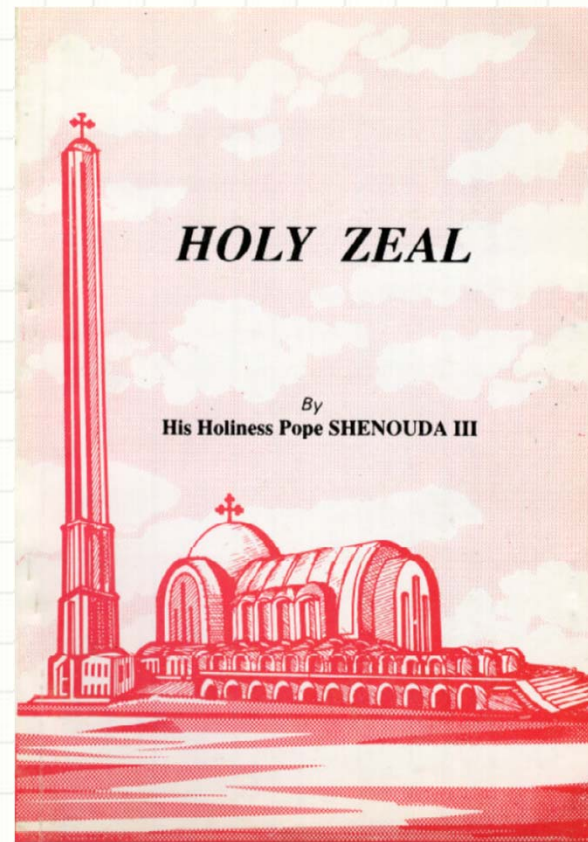


MOTIVES OF HOLY ZEAL



Outline

- ❑ Love of God and His Kingdom
- ❑ Love of People and Compassion for them
- ❑ The example of the Apostle Paul
- ❑ Don't Stand by and Watch
- ❑ The Value of the Individual Soul
- ❑ The Importance of Saving Souls
- ❑ Obstacles to Zeal

Love of God and His Kingdom

- ❑ Wants everyone to love Him. His heart becomes kindled with zeal when he finds people far away from God and those who love him
- ❑ Wants the Kingdom of God to spread, and for God to enter every heart and every home in every city. Thus he works with all his might to win everyone
- ❑ Every soul that he meets is precious to him, because it is one of God's children who are



Love of God and His Kingdom

- ❑ Whoever loves God, finds pleasure in bringing joy to God's heart. "There is joy of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).
- ❑ Obeys His commandments: *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness"* (Matt. 6:33).
- ❑ And what else? It says, *"Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life"* (John 6:27).



Love of People

- ❑ Let people feel your love, try to make them love you, then they will come to love the holy life which you lead and they will want to be spiritual like you...
- ❑ Our Lord Jesus showed His love to tax-collectors, and would sometimes eat with them, while the Pharisees looked down on them. But in the end it was Christ's love which was victorious, and which won them over
- ❑ You will feel concerned about their eternal fate



Love of People

- ❑ How difficult it is for us to come to terms with what our Lord said, that at the end He might say: *"I never knew you. Away from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*(Matt. 7:21-23)
- ❑ So the question is not just that of zeal for the Kingdom of God, this zeal also carries within it love of God, love for people and deep concern for their eternal fate
- ❑ It is a love that strives for the salvation of those souls which are threatened by eternal destruction



The Example of St. Paul

- ❑ *"Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?" (2 Cor.11:29)*
- ❑ St. Paul was creative in winning souls *"For though I am free from all men, and I have make myself a servant to all, that I might win the more. To the Jews, I became as a Jew that I might win the Jews. To those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God but under the law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor. 9:19-22)*

Don't Stand by and Watch

- ☐ You can't see a fire burning a house and stand by and watch
- ☐ You can't see a blind man fall into a ditch and say, as Cain did: *"Am I my brother's keeper?"* (Gen. 4:9)
- ☐ Look at what the apostle James said: *"Therefore to him who knows to do good and doesn't do it, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17)
- ☐ If you know what to do, do it. And if you don't know, then ask those who do, or hand over the particular task to those who know

Value of the Individual Soul

- ❑ Holy zeal create appreciation of the value of any soul (e.g., Good Shepherd visiting a Samaritan Woman)
- ❑ *"Jesus therefore being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well..."* (John 4:6)
- ❑ He cared nothing about His personal comfort despite being tired and exhausted...(true zeal for saving souls)
- ❑ Christianity does not just focus its concern on whole groups of people, but is concerned also for each individual soul (Feeding the multitudes and showing His concern for Zacchaeus)

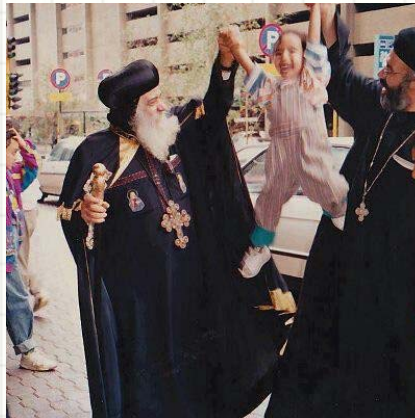
Importance of Saving Souls

- ❑ St. Peter said: *"receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls, searched intently and with the greatest care"* (1 Peter 1:9-10)
- ❑ Our Lord said: *"He who does not gather with Me scatters"* (Matt. 12:30).
- ❑ Do you gather with Christ, or scatter?
- ❑ The salvation of souls is more important to God than the act of creation (what was the price of each?)



Importance of Saving Souls

- ❑ The act of saving a soul is more important than a miracle of raising a dead body to life
- ❑ It is everyone's work: *"Therefore to him who knows the good and does not do it, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17)
- ❑ The reward: *"When the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel"* (Matt. 19:28)



Importance of Saving Souls

- ❑ Joy to the Lord: In the story of the lost sheep and the prodigal son
- ❑ So if you feel that you have saddened God in the past by your sins, try now to make Him happy by your repentance and by trying to save others
- ❑ If there is joy in heaven "*over one sinner who repents*" (Luke 15:10) then how much more rejoicing there will be over those who bring many others to righteousness



Obstacles to Zeal

❑ Concern for the salvation of Own soul

- ❖ Part of your salvation is love for others, and concern for their soul salvation
- ❖ If there is anyone whom you find you are unable to guide, then pray for him (requires no special talents or abilities)
- ❖ I would also add that there is a difference between the monk who shuts himself away in a life of seclusion, silence and worship, and a person who lives in the world, and who is aware of what people need and who cannot close his heart before them. (1 John 3:17).



Obstacles to Zeal

❑ Being zealous would make me lose my peace

- ❖ Did St. Paul lose his meek and mild temper when he became furious to see the city of Athens full of idols? (Acts 17:16). He acted and behaved in accordance with holy zeal, yet at the same time he retained his gentle character.
- ❖ Leading a spiritual life doesn't mean leading a passive life, for the spiritual life is a positive force in which one's virtues are brought to maturity and perfection, without any conflict or contradiction between them
- ❖ Just like a father who gives his son love at one time, and patronizes him at another, without feeling any contradiction



Obstacles to Zeal

❑ Haven't been called to serve God

- ❖ For a full consecration of one's life to God's service, one undoubtedly needs a vocation and a clear call, like becoming a priest, for example
- ❖ Another person, however, finds himself truly aflame with love for serving God which he cannot resist. And this inner fire is a divine call through the action of God's grace within that person. The Lord will have stirred him from within.
- ❖ Holy zeal, then, is part of the action of divine grace within the heart; so zeal in itself does not require a call; it is rather a holy feeling which should be in everyone's heart.



Obstacles to Zeal

❑ Responsibility of the various ranks of the clergy

- ❖ The priests cannot do it all on their own. They must have everyone helping and cooperating with them
- ❖ So be concerned about your brother's well being. And do all you can to win souls for the Lord. Beware of repeating Cain when he said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). For you are your brother's keeper by love and caring.
- ❖ Especially those who found no one to stand beside them, whom we pray for in the midnight absolution, when we say: "Remember, O Lord, the feeble and rejected, and those who have no one to remember them".

Summary

- ☐ Love of God and His Kingdom
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