

Bishop Ghais Abdel Malik Barsoum 1930-2016

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

This was the bible verse with which Bishop Ghais started his sermons.

He also often used the following verse to remind his Clergy of their duties towards self and others.

"Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

Bishop Ghais Abdel Malik was born on May 21, 1930 in Port Said, Egypt. His father died when Bishop Ghais was only a little boy. He was the 6th born among 9 siblings. His mother raised all the children in the Christian faith, which resulted in creating an entire family of God fearing children, many of whom grew up becoming priests and elders of all different denominations.

After finishing his school education in Port Said, he continued his higher education in Cairo where he graduated with a degree in education. After graduating, he started a job as a lab technician at the Harpur Memorial Anglican Hospital in Old Cairo where he met his future wife, Fawzia Mesak who was also a nurse at the same hospital. It was there where he received the Lord's calling for the ordained ministry. He enrolled in the Anglican seminary in Jerusalem in 1960 and returned to Egypt to be ordained deacon at Jesus the Light of the World Church in Old Cairo in 1961. In 1962 he was ordained priest and became an assistant to Archdeacon Adeeb Shamas in the same church. In 1965 he became the priest in charge of Jesus the Light of the World Church after Archdeacon Shamas's retirement. Bishop Ghais married his beloved, Fawzia, on July 23, 1956 and had three children with her, Clair, Awny and Hany.

Bishop Ghais was ordained Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa in 1984. He was the first Bishop in that diocese to be elected to that position. He succeeded Bishop Ishaq Mossad who had been appointed. In 1996, Bishop Ghais was elected as Primate of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East and he held that position until he retired in 2000. Then God chose Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis to become Bishop Ghais's successor and to continue his ministry and vision. In May 2, 2001 Bishop Ghais, along with his holiness Pope Shenouda III, the Coptic Orthodox Pope, received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from The Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin, USA..

During his long and rich ministry, Bishop Ghais devoted special attention to the children and youth of the diocese. In addition to being the director of the Anglican schools, he started many youth and family ministries in the diocese out of his belief that young people are the future of the church. He also founded the Anglican hostel for Women College Students which provided much needed shelter and spiritual support for Christian students who came

from different parts of Egypt to receive their college education in Cairo. In 1982, he founded the first Christian school for deaf students in Egypt. During his time of service, Bishop Ghais ordained more than 20 deacons and priests, many of whom are now important pillars of the diocese. Bishop Ghais also played a crucial role in establishing a productive dialogue with the leaders of other Christian denominations in Egypt with the goal of becoming one body of Christ. He also established several community development centers for families, and nurseries for providing care for children in order to allow their mothers to maintain their employment. In addition he established a new ministry for refugees to Egypt and a new ministry for prisoners inside Egyptian jails.

Bishop Ghais will always be remembered as a faithful man of God known for his loving and kind spirit.

" And when his time of service was completed, he went to his home." Luke 1:23