



**Bishop Youssef**

## **COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES**



January 9, 2010

My beloved brethren

It was very sad to hear about the massacre that took place in Egypt on the Nativity Eve in Nag Hammady. No excuses or justifications are acceptable. It is merely an inhuman act that deserves severe punishment. We cry to the Lord to defend His church and to protect His people from this cruelty that has been going on for a long time now in Egypt. We also lift our voices to all those in charge in Egypt to take the serious steps to bring those criminals to justice and stop these sad events from occurring again in Egypt.

Also we will dedicate Sunday January 17, 2010 to be a day for prayers asking the Lord to:

- Bestow His peace on the world in general and Egypt in particular.
- Repose the souls of all the martyrs of terrorism and violence especially those who were martyred on Nativity Eve in Nag Hammady.
- Comfort their families and fill their hearts with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.
- Accept our repentance and forgive us our sins.
- Have mercy on the whole world especially Egypt and to take away His wrath from us.

We ask all our brethren the Christians from all the churches to participate with us in the prayers of this day trusting the words of the Lord that if two or three gathered in His name, He will be among them and grant them their request.

Bishop Youssef  
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern US