

Discussion on Unifying The Dates of the Feasts (4)

- What is the best way in your opinion to adjust the calendar?

+ I believe that we should cut off 13 days of the Coptic year as a one-time measure and apply an accurate table to adjust the calculation of years in the future, the table has to be applied the same way it was applied with the Gregorian calendar. When this is done our Coptic calendar will match completely with the modern Gregorian Calendar. This is not only my opinion, but also the opinion of the scientists and it corresponds to the historical experience that has been applied to the Gregorian amendment.

-So if we deducted thirteen days of the Coptic calendar now to adjust it with the Gregorian calendar, isn't our calendar still 11 min and 14 sec short? Won't we start accumulating minutes again? How are we going to solve this problem?

+ Good question! The Gregorian calendar has a precise integrated and complete mechanism to adjust years in the short, medium, and long term. We will apply this same system when we adjust the timing of the Coptic calendar and so both calendars will remain identical to the end of the ages.

- What is this system?

+ In the short term three days are deleted every 400 years, over the medium term an extra day should be deleted every four thousand years and on the long term an extra day should be deleted every twenty thousand years.

- What do you mean by deletion?

+ Deletion of a day means omitting it from the calculation, because Earth will have already passed this day when it rotated around the sun. Why should we calculate it if Earth had already moved on the orbit to the next day?!

- I understand. How will the deletion happen?

+ Simply dropping February 29th of some leap years in the first year of new century such as 1700, 1800, 1900 or 2100, and so on. In the Coptic calendar the deletion will be of the smallest month in the Coptic leap year in a parallel way to the Gregorian calendar.

- I got it. We talked a lot about this point, let's go back to correct some of the information circulating between the Coptic people. What is the third information?

3- The unification of the date of resurrection feast (Easter) is easier than the unification of the date of Christmas celebration, so let's start unification of the date of Resurrection celebration first and then we work on unifying Christmas celebration. Unfortunately, this information is not sound and will only result in wasting more time, although I personally support and hope to unify the Easter date, according to the proposal made by the Coptic Church, but I see that it is very difficult in terms of implementation.

- Why?

+ Simply because all the churches of the world have to agree on that, and this is very difficult in the current era, it needs a divine miracle.

- Why do you say very difficult?!



(To be continued)

Fr. Yohanna Naseef

fryohanna@hotmail.com