

Farewell Bishop Saka

By: The Editing Manager

Yesterday another pillar of our cultural edifice collapsed, another bright star went into eclipse in the sky of the Syriac culture, another of our generous stylographs came to a stand still. Yesterday Mar Serverious Isaac Saka parted from us after he wore out decades of his life ...he parted away in dignified old age.

Our church was a cross which he bore on his tired shoulders while he ascended the Golgotha of hard life, surrounded by legions of darkness army, the darkness of our painful dilemma, the predicament of our church and the hardships experienced by its followers in this hard and harsh time. The deceased lived as he carried the worries and tortures people have been caught up from all sides. Like a fruitful and generous tree, he served delicious plates full of fruits of his luminous thinking. And like a stream his stylograph ran in all the fields of knowledge. He was an encyclopedic character who wrote in spiritualities, theology and liturgies. He wrote in the field of history, travels, literature, and literary criticism. He wrote on the history of his church through many of his books in addition to hundreds of articles, solid surveys that his pen produced and which were published in Iraqi Syrian, Lebanese and Kuwaiti journals.

He was a man of knowledge, literature and faith, a man of work and reform, a creative writer, an integrated editor who dealt with our literary heritage with high scientific loyalty.

We list hereunder some of his writings:

- History of Mar Matta ,
- Exposition of the Holy Mass,
- A series of "Syriacs: A Faith and a Civilization (five volumes),
- The Seven Mysteries of the Syriac Church in collaboration with His Beatitude Patriarch Zakka Ewas,
- The Incarnated God (A Theological Research),
- Selected Poems by the Late Khorepiscopus Elias Sha'aya (a study),
- Psalms (a study),

- The Bible (a study),
- The Angles (a study).

His “History of Mar Matta Monastery” was published by Dar al-Mashriq in two Prints.

- He was born in Bartelle in 1931,
- He completed his primary school education in his town Bartelle in 1947,
- He joined the Clerical College of Mar Afram in Mosul in 1948, and graduated in 1952,
- He was appointed to teach in the Clerical School during the years 1956-1961,
- He was draped in cowl and embraced priesthood in 1961 by the imposition of hands of the late Bishop Mar Tematheus Ya’aqub Mawsiliaya(Trinity’s mercy be upon him), in the Monastery of Mar Matta.
- He was assigned to the post of manager of the Clerical School of Mar Afram in Zahle – Lebanon 1962- 1986.
- He was appointed as the Apostolic Delegate in India in 1961, but for health reasons, could not continue with his mission, and therefore returned home to minister the faithful.
- In 1971 he was appointed superior of Mar Matta Monastery whereby he worked seriously to repair and renovate the Monastery and carry out reforms in its wide diocese.
- In 1980 he was summoned by His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Ignatius Zakka Ewas to Damascus who appointed him the General Patriarchal Deputy and ordained him bishop in Damascus in 1981. He remained in his post until 1990.
- He was later appointed as the Patriarchal Deputy for Higher Syriac Studies, and teacher of Syriac and theological sciences in the Clerical College of Mosul.

Ordination:

- In 1945 he was ordained lector by the Late Patriarch Afram 1st Barsum in Bartelle .

- In 1958, he was ordained deacon and initiate religious by the late Patriarch Mar Ostoneus Quryaqus in Hasaka (Syria).
- He was ordained priest by the late Mar Temotheus Ya'aqub Mawsiliya in the Monastery of Mar Matta the hermit.
- In 1963 he was awarded with the Holy Cross by the late Patriarch Ya'aqub 3rd in Beirut
- In 1981 he was ordained bishop and general Patriarchal Deputy in the Patriarchal Cathedral of Mar Jerges in Damascus.

May God rest his soul in peace.