

DIOCESE OF STOCKTON



The Chancery
1105 N. Lincoln Street
P.O. Box 4237
Stockton, California 95204-0237
209-496-0636 • Fax 209/941-9722

June 27, 1996

To whom it may concern:

On June fifteenth I was privileged to be able to visit the Church of St. Basil and Father Michael Pappas, the pastor. As a Roman Catholic Bishop I felt honored to be invited to visit the Church, meet the local priests, and to be with Myrna Nazzour, the Syrian mystic.

During the time that I was there I was impressed by the kindness of Father Michael, his companion priest, Myrna and those who accompanied her.

She had been invited to St. Luke's Parish Hall to be with the prayer group that meets there regularly. Before the time of Mass in the hall she gave a brief message. Afterwards she anointed the people.

I stood at her side during the anointing. The oil that she used was **not** from a bottle or container. It exuded from her fingers and her hands. She anointed the people with balls of cotton that became moist from the oil that exuded from her hands and fingers. Probably at least two-hundred fifty people received this anointing.

I was very impressed by the patience of Myrna and the reverential way that each person was anointed.

Afterwards she assisted with reverence at the Latin Rite Mass that I celebrated.

For me, the way that the oil exuded from her hands and fingers cannot be explained naturally. The oil did not stop exuding from her fingers and hands until the people had all been anointed.

It was the first time that I had ever witnessed anything like this. Because I was standing next to her, I was in an excellent position to see everything.

I am grateful to God for her visit. For me, besides the most extraordinary experience of meeting Myrna and being with her when she ministered to others, I am grateful to God that is brought me into contact with the priests of the Orthodox Church. I pray that there will be other occasions when we can be together. The whole day was a great blessing from God.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Donald W. Montrose, D.D.
Bishop of Stockton

DWM:dt