

# DEALING WITH CONFLICT



# WHAT WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT TODAY

- How the priest/leaders/management should do their job
- How to change other people

- Uncle Talaat is an amazing deacon. His voice can shake the earth, his hazzas can move a statue to tears. He shows up to every liturgy and makes the microphone his best friend. Young Philopater gets ordained as a Deacon, he moves with grace, the priests like his humility and meekness, and they show it in the way they interact with him and show it in the way they delegate responsibility to him. Uncle Talaat loathes young Philopater, and is ready to spread rumours that Philopater goes out smoking shisha, hoping that he'll be removed from the service.
- What's the root cause of the issue?



- Tunt Sonya and Uncle Emad were both star servant at Mar Girgis, Sporting. They know everything and can walk on water. They both serve in the same service, but you can sense that there's a bit of tension between them. They butt heads frequently, and they often criticise each others' "methodology". They manage to 'keep it civil', but everyone knows they're not happy to serve together. One Sunday it's announced that Tunt Sonya is going to be stewardess of the service. She can't wait to make sure that Uncle Emad's service is kept to a minimum.
- What's the root cause?

- Annasimone is a high school servant. She is active in her service, outreaches the youth like crazy, and she can list the Books of the Bible backwards. She's the bomb. One of the girls she serves starts a relationship with a guy from the group. She hasn't done anything that serious yet, but it's clear to her that the girl is heading down the wrong path. She knows how much the girl wants to go on the next Mission trip. So she tells her that she's worried that Abouna won't let her go if he knows how she's doing such a terrible thing. Much to her chagrin, she finds out that the young woman spoke to Abouna, and that not only is she going on the trip, but she's joining servants' training too! How on earth could Abouna be so lax? Doesn't he know that the only way to deal with this type of girl is with a harsh hand - after all, he's not a woman and doesn't know what's best?!



- A church sleepover is going so well, the kids are active, engaged and loving every moment. Hany looks up, and sees that Kirollos is playing Poker with the youth! He's scandalised and goes over to Kirollos to tell him off for encouraging the kids in such terrible things!
- What's the root issue?

- Three servants: Sandy, Mark and Mary, are assigned a particular service and asked to plan together. Sandy and Mary, however, just cannot see eye to eye on anything, and Sandy sees Mary's style of service very irritating. In fact, it seems to her that Mary is a little bit useless. Whenever there's a group meeting, Mary is unavailable to go. When she does show up, usually her ideas seem really young and immature to Sandy, and she finds that she is constantly losing her peace. Sometimes, Mary's even stubborn about her ideas that seem totally backwards to Sandy. Mark is totally unable to mediate between the two, and the meetings are so unproductive. Seriously, what's the point?
- What can be done?



- Malak and Dawoud are great friends with similar philosophies and backgrounds in service. Malak served the High School boys for years and was the stuff of legend. Work moves him to Canada, however, and Dawoud finds himself having to fill some big shoes. He's content at first, but soon the students are comparing him to Malak and reminding him of his shortcomings. Malak is also told of Dawoud's failures and wonders about his friend's negligence, he feels a bit disappointed
- What's the issue here?



- The servant meeting is well under way, and someone is totally sucking up to Abouna. The servant is volunteering for every possible kind of work, and everyone knows that it's not motivated by love. That servant just wants to be in Abouna's good books, wants a place on the board, and wants to Abouna's right hand. It wouldn't be so irritating if it wasn't so in-your-face obvious. The rest of the servants feel animosity towards the servant because it's hard not to, how can you be nice to a servant who is thinking only of how to climb to the top?

# OVERALL THEMES

- Jealousy (pride) is often the root cause of conflict
- Focus on yourself and how to acquire virtue
- Recognise that everyone's on the same team
- Accept that your views might be nice but they may not be correct, or they may not be the only correct ones
- Confrontation creates division when motivated by pride
- Try and be the first to be humble, humility does not mean you agree, it means that you choose not to provoke or continue the division



# EXCEPTIONS

- Matters of doctrine
- Matters of conscience
- Solution: report to the Bishop (e.g. the Parable of the men who owed the master)



NEITHER PRAY I FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH  
SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD; THAT THEY ALL  
MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME, AND I IN THEE, THAT  
THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE  
THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.

- JOHN 17:20-21 -