

Thrice blessed Y. III



The thrice blessed (a bishop then) performing a wedding in Lebanon

- ✦ The thrice blessed was born in Bartley - Northern Iraq on 12OCT1912, and was christened Shaba.
- ✦ At the school in Bartley, he studied, Catechism, Syriac, Arabic and English languages.
- ✦ In the year 1923 he joined St. Matai (Matthew) Seminary, that was located at St. Matai (Matthew) Monastery in Nineveh.
- ✦ In the year 1924 he was ordained by Bishop John (Youhanna) Abaji as Reader (Qoroyo in Syriac).
- ✦ On 06AUG1929 he was promoted to the rank of Sub-Deacon or Aphodyacon (in Syriac) at the hand of the thrice blessed H.H. Elias the Third.
- ✦ In the year 1931 the thrice blessed joined the Syrian Orphanage. Then, was appointed at the same orphanage to teach the Syriac language and to lecture on Catechism studies. During his stay in Lebanon he mastered the English language, when he studied French too.
- ✦ On 20JUL1933, at the hands of the thrice blessed H.H. Ephrem I in Homs - Syria, he was given the monastic habit. This ordination was followed by his appointment to the land of Malabar (India). He left Syriac to India in 1933 accompanied by H.E. Elias Koro the Apostolic Delegate to India, where he served wholeheartedly, displaying altruistic love and zealotness towards the church.
- ✦ On 19JAN1934 he was ordained as a Deacon by the Apostolic Delegate H.E. Elias Koro.

- ✦ On 11MAR1934 he was promoted to the rank of Priest/ Monk (Ramban). In addition to being the Secretary of the Apostolic Delegate he was appointed the Principal to Mar Ighnatius Theological School. During his stay in India he undertook some missionary work. He mastered Malayalam (on the languages spoken in India by Our brethren Syrian Orthodox Community), and was able to write several books in this same language.
- ✦ In the year 1946 he was appointed by H.H. Moran Mor Ighnatius Afrem the First a teacher and theological mentor at the Seminary in Mosul. A job that lasted for one year.
- ✦ On 13DEC1947 he was appointed as a member at the Church Court in Mosul - Iraq.
- ✦ In Summer 1950 he was appointed a Vicar for the parish of Beirut and Damascus. On 17th January of the same year was ordained a Bishop at the hands of H.H. Moran Mor Ighnatius Afrem the First for the same parish. He was given the name Mor Severius Yacoub, after the Syrian Orthodox Church Scholar Mar Severius Yacoub Al-Bartley (1241 +)
- ✦ In the year 1956 he joined his brethren in ordaining the Celecia Catholichos for Armenian Church in Antelyas - Lebanon, as delegated by H.H. Patriarch Afrem the First.
- ✦ In the years 1956-1957 established Mar Severius Secondary School in Beirut - Lebanon.
- ✦ As a Patriarch he visited all the Middle Eastern countries, Turkey, North and South America, and Europe.
- ✦ On 23JUN1957 H.H. Patriarch Afrem the First departed this earthly life to the eternal life. On 27th October of the same year, Bishop Severius Yacoub was elected and appointed the next Patriarch on the Holy See of Antioch given the name Moran Mor Ighnatius Yacoub the Third.
- ✦ Through his diligent work, and huge efforts he was able to promote the Syrian Orthodox Church. During his reign Our Syrian Orthodox Church became a member of the World Council of Churches.
- ✦ He visited The Vatican City, and met Pope of Rome, Paul the Sixth. At the conclusion of this meeting a joint statement was issued outlining the close relationship between the two churches.
- ✦ He worked hard to refresh and to strengthen the relationship between the churches of Antioch and Alexandria.
- ✦ He recorded the Church Hymns (BEITH GAZO).
- ✦ Transferred the Patriarchal See of Antioch from Homs to Damascus. Supervised the building of several properties for the church in different countries. Estab-



The thrice blessed in Jordan on an apostolic visit—60s

- ✦ lished three theological and social organizations in Atshaneh - Lebanon.
- ✦ On 25JUN1980 he departed this world to the eternal life, and his body was buried in St. George's yard, Damascus. The church inherited several of his writings, either in the form of books, scrolls, either printed or handwritten. He also translated and published



The Thrice Blessed Yacoub III on a visit to Jordan at the Royal Jordanian Palace with the accompanying delegation of clergy and community members - V. Rev. Fr. Boutros Touma Issa appearing in this photo—who was the priest of Amman at the time.

books in the Syrian heritage.

May God the Almighty benefit us with the thrice blessed prayers and supplications.