

PROTOCOL FOR THE FRENCH COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

This Protocol determines the relationship of the French Coptic Orthodox Church (FCOC) to the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria.

1. The FCOC is a local church, holding to the historic faith and order of the Apostolic Church, committed to the restoration of Orthodoxy among the indigenous population and desiring to provide a powerful witness to the Orthodox Faith and Tradition in an increasingly secular society.
2. The FCOC constitutes a diocese of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, subject to the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church. This diocese is inseparable from the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria.
3. The FCOC confesses the same faith as the Coptic Orthodox Church and rejects all that the Coptic Orthodox Church rejects.
4. The spiritual jurisdiction of FCOC is confined to the French Republic.
5. The Metropolitan of Toulon shall be the ruling bishop of this diocese. He shall receive consecration at the hand of the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and shall be a member of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria.
6. The Holy Myron will be received from the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria.
7. The Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria shall be named in the diptychs of the church for each service of prayer.
8. The FCOC will use the service books, ordinals, fasts and festivals authorised in the Coptic Orthodox Church.
9. If the needs of the local church require the consecration of assistant bishops, the Metropolitan of Toulon may submit the names of suitable

Abba Marcos
 Abba Athanasios

Stenouda III12

E.C.O.F.

Eglise locale
 restauration de
 l'orthodoxie

diocese

foi

territoire

ordinaire

St Chême

diptyques

livres liturgiques
 fêtes et calendrier

évêque coadjuteur

candidates to the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church for their consideration. In case this is accepted the Pope and Patriarch shall conduct all consecrations to the episcopate.

10. a) The Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria saves the right to designate bishops for the Coptic Orthodox Community in France, but their jurisdiction and authority shall not extend over the FCOC, which is under the direct oversight of Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

b) According to this protocol, the Coptic Orthodox Church in France (COCF) is defined as consisting of Egyptians, or those of Egyptian origin, including those who are born in families deriving from marriages between Egyptians and members of the indigenous population and their children; and those members of the indigenous population received into the Coptic Orthodox Church.

11. A Standing Committee under the co-chairmanship of the Metropolitan of Toulon and an appointed Coptic Orthodox bishop resident in France, shall exist for the exploration of ways of mutual co-operation and discussion of issues of common concern. When the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria shall consider it appropriate, he shall himself take the chair of this committee or appoint some other metropolitan or bishop not resident in France to do so on his behalf.

12. In places where either the Coptic Orthodox Church or the FCOC are unable to offer regular sacramental and pastoral care to their members, it shall be possible for members of each of the two communities to resort to the other's churches.

13. All theological institutes, seminaries and schools of the FCOC shall be under the presidency of the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria. Candidates from the FCOC shall be eligible for scholarships to the Alexandrian Theological Institute in Cairo according to the availability of those scholarships.

14. The erection and establishment of all monastic houses shall be with the agreement and consent of the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, who shall thereafter remain the supreme head of all monasteries and nunneries in France. Admission to the monasteries and nunneries of the Coptic Orthodox Church shall be available to members of the FCOC, subject to the approval of the appropriate monastic authority.

Abba Athanasios

Shenouda III

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15. For all official and legal purposes, the name of the FCOC shall be:

nom officiel
de
FCOC

COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
The Apostolic See of Saint Mark
French Coptic Orthodox Church

16. This protocol has been signed, in four copies, in Cairo, the 18th of June, 1994.

17. The nominations given in this protocol shall apply from the date of its signature and shall replace any previous nominations.

Abba Marcos
Bishop of Toulon
Abba Athanasios
Chorbishop

Shenouda III
Pope of Alexandria
18/6/1994