



His Holiness Pope Tawadros II Visits Museum



St. Mark's Coptic Museum was blessed and honoured to have the visit of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II on September 4, 2014 — the first day of his month long visit in Canada. Signing on a special page in St. Mark's Coptic Museum's guest book, His Holiness expressed his pleasure of the Museum's mission and collection and hoped that the Museum would have a larger space to continue to communicate Coptic tradition and legacy.

While His Holiness served as Bishop of El Beheira in The Archdiocese of El Beheira Province and Surroundings, The Coastal and The Desert Districts, The Cathedral of The Virgin Mary and St. Mina, the Great Martyr, in King Mayrut, his ministry focussed on childhood education. He was also in charge of the Children's Committee in the Holy Synod. One of His Holiness's important legacies of this ministry is the establishment of a dynamic interactive children's museum — The Holy Bible Museum — at the Retreat Center, King Mayrut. St. Mark's Coptic Museum has a video of this museum taken by one of our volunteers in 2004.



COPTIC FESTIVAL 2014

Coptic Canadian Village (Markham)



Festival 2014 Museum table offered an interactive game that “tested” participants’ knowledge of Coptic Culture and the Museum’s collection. Visitors were also able to hear about the future plans for the Museum’s building at the Coptic Canadian Village.



One of the stops at the Festival grounds His Holiness Pope Tawadros II made was at the table of the University of Toronto Coptic Studies and the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies. Professor Timothy Harisson, Chair of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilization (NMC), Dr. Ramez Boutros, Coptic Studies Lecturer at NMC and President of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies (CSCS) and Joseph Youssef, doctoral candidate doing his thesis on Coptic monasticism shared the history of Coptic Studies course offerings at the U of T since 2005 and the financial contributions of St. Mark’s Coptic Church that enabled this. Professor Harisson also explained the U of T endowment campaign now in place secure a permanent degree programme in Coptic Studies. Dr. Ramez Boutros as well gave information about the CSCS annual symposiums and publication of papers in a refereed journal since 2009.



On August 11 thirty-two children from ages six to seniors participated in a mosaic workshop to create mosaic coasters and ornaments that were to be used as prizes for a cultural game at the Museum’s Festival 2014 table.

