

# Tonsuring of Monk Macarius



On March 22, 2016 (the Feast of the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, o.s.), the Monastery of St. John was honored to be the setting for the tonsure to the rank of stavrophor (life-professed monastic) of Monk Seraphim (Meshreky) at the end of Matins by Archbishop Benjamin of the Diocese of the West. He received the new name of Macarius, after St. Macarius the Great of Egypt.

Fr. Macarius has been a frequent guest at the monastery; he was tonsured here as a stavrophor monk on March 10 last year. He was received into the OCA in 2013 at St. John the Evangelist Mission in Tempe, AZ with the blessing of Archbishop Benjamin and settled in Phoenix, AZ.

A monk since 1970, mostly in the Coptic Church of Egypt, he spent four years in seclusion in Upper Egypt and another four years of seclusion in Cairo as part of his monastic training. In his early years of monastic life, he was asked to be a physician for the poor at a free clinic established within the Coptic Church, using his previous medical training.

While in Egypt, fulfilling his obedience to travel and lecture on monasticism and the spiritual life, he gradually attracted a group of followers, both men and women, who eventually became his disciples and migrated with him to the United States. At present, he directs these two monastic communities—a

group of five men consecrated to the monastic life, located in Phoenix, AZ, and a group of seven women located in Montclair, CA at the Monastery of St. Macarius the Great of Egypt. The superior of that community was tonsured by Archbishop Benjamin as a stavrophor nun and given the new name of Silouana on April 5, 2016; her six monastic sisters were tonsured to the rank of rasophor on the same day.

The brothers have been visiting us with Fr. Macarius since Lazarus Saturday. They will extend their stay until the end of May in order to learn chant and be exposed to the order and style of church services for use in their community.



studying Abba  
es and Sayings.

he quotes:

of humility are  
n, distrust of our  
nts, and hatred of  
rown will.

hing else we need  
ng ready to listen  
said to us and to  
submit."

do all those  
he mind come  
through arro-  
king too much  
it not through  
ves and our evil  
erence?