

? Epiphanios of St Macarius, Scete, Egypt

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THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY

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Receiving the enemy in the fathers of the desert

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Anba Epiphanios was born in Tanta, Egypt in 1954. After studying medicine, in 1984 he entered the monastery of St Macarius the Great in the Scete desert. In 2002 he was ordained to the priesthood. He is a disciple of Matta el Meskin, superior of the monastery 1969–2006. In the monastery he worked for its publishing house and as editor of its journal, Saint Mark, as well as serving as the community's doctor. In 2013, after the resignation of bishop Mikhail of Assiut, abbot of the monastery, he was elected abbot of the community, and pope Tawadros II ordained him bishop. Upon becoming abbot he has continued to work as the monastery's librarian and custodian of its manuscripts. He is the author of numerous publications, among them the edition of the Arabic version of the Apophthegmata patrum, a translation with commentary of the euchology of the White Monastery, and a translation with commentary of the liturgies of St Basil and St Gregory. He is a member of the commission for the promotion of culture of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Church.