

Timeline of the Historic Relocation of St. Mark's Relics from Italy to Egypt, June 1968

June 20, 1968	June 21, 1968	June 22, 1968	June 23, 1968	June 24, 1968	June 25, 1968	June 26, 1968
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Baunah 13, 1684	Baunah 14, 1684	Baunah 15, 1684	Baunah 16, 1684	Baunah 17, 1684	Baunah 18, 1684	Baunah 19, 1684
Delegation left Cairo on a chartered flight	Nothing recorded for this day	The Turning Over of the Relics of the Great St. Mark the Apostle by the hand of Pope Paul VI, Pope of Rome	Coptic Delegation Celebrates Divine Liturgy in the church of St. Athanasius the Apostolic in Rome	The Return of the Relics of the Great St. Mark to Egypt	The Inauguration of the New St. Mark Cathedral in the Monastery of Anba Rowais	The First Pontifical Liturgy in the New St. Mark Cathedral and the Setting of St. Mark's Relics
<p>The Papal Delegation-103:</p> <p>10 Metropolitans + Bishops (7 Coptic, 3 Ethiopians) 3 Coptic Lay-Leaders 7 Priests 83 Coptic Representatives</p> <p>Delegation headed by Metropolitan Marcus of Abu-Teeg and Tahta</p> <p>They were received at the airport in Rome by a delegation from Pope Paul VI and the Ambassador of Egypt to the Vatican</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Background</p> <p>Venetian merchants took St. Mark's body from Egypt in the 9th century to Venice, Italy.</p> <p>In 1063, St. Mark's Basilica was built in Venice to house the relics.</p> <p>After 11 centuries, efforts by Pope Kyrillos succeeded in bringing relics of St. Mark back to Egypt.</p>		<p>12 Noon:</p> <p>Met Pope Paul VI in his private office in the Papal palace, Vatican City</p> <p>Anba Marcus reads speech from Pope Kyrillos of gratitude and introducing members of the delegation</p> <p>Pope Paul gives relics of the Great St. Mark to Bishop Marcus.</p> <p>Pope & bishop took relics chest to grand room prepared for the occasion and set it on a special table</p> <p>Glorification ensues</p> <p>Bishop Gregorious- Speech in English</p> <p>Pope Paul- speech in French</p> <p>Exchange of commemorative gifts</p> <p>Giving of an official document dated May 28th, 1968 A.D. testifying that the relics are authentic</p> <p>Official celebration ended</p>	<p>The metropolitans, bishops, and priests and the rest of the Coptic delegation celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the church of St. Athanasius the Apostolic</p> <p>Attended by: +Members of the Roman Papal delegation +Residents from Rome -Reporters for newspapers and news agency -Many foreign dignitaries</p>	<p>Motorcade took delegation to Airport with the relics of St. Mark.</p> <p>The plane was to arrive Cairo airport 5:00pm but arrived 10:30pm</p> <p>Those Waiting at Cairo Airport: -Pope Kyrillos VI -Mari Ignatius Yacoub -A great number of Coptic and foreign bishops, -Heads of various denominations and religions, Egyptian and foreign, -Thousands of the Egyptian masses, Christian and Moslems.</p> <p>Pope Kyrillos went up the stairs of the aircraft to received from the head of the delegation the precious chest that contained the relics of St. Mark the Apostle,</p> <p>Pope Kyrillos returned to the old St. Mark Cathedral in El-Azbakiah with the chest of the relics</p> <p>It remained for the next 3 days till Pope Kyrillos carried it to the new St. Mark Cathedral in its inauguration</p>	<p>The Holy Church celebrates the inauguration of the new St. Mark Cathedral in Dair El-Anba Rowais, which was known also as Dair El-Khandaq.</p> <p>The celebration headed by Pope Kyrillos VI</p> <p>In Attendance: -President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Naser -Emperor Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia -Many of the heads of different religions representatives of churches from all around the world Among whom were: Mari Ignatius Yacoub III, the Syrian Orthodox Church.</p> <p>Speeches by: -Cardinal Doval of Algeria -The Patriarch of Ethiopia -The Secretary General of the World Council of Churches -The Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia</p> <p>After speeches: The Pope, the President, the Emperor went to the entrance to unveiled commemorative plaque</p> <p>This celebration was attended by the journalists, the international news agencies' reporters, radio, television and more than six thousand Egyptians and foreigners.</p>	<p>6:00AM - Pope Kyrillos took the chest of the relics of St. Mark from the old St. Mark Cathedral in El-Azbakiah</p> <p>Brought it in papal car to the new St. Mark Cathedral.</p> <p>The Liturgy was celebrated by Pope Kyrillos</p> <p>In participation: -Mari Ignatius Yacoub -A number of Syrian, Indian and Armenian Orthodox bishops.</p> <p>In Attendance: -Emperor Haile Selassie -Cardinal Doval -Heads of different religions representatives of churches from all around the world -Over 6,000 Egyptians and foreigners</p> <p>During the Liturgy, the relics were placed on a table in the middle of the eastern part of the altar</p> <p>After the liturgy, a magnificent procession to the sanctuary that was prepared for St. Mark under the main altar of the Cathedral.</p> <p>Pope Kyrillos placed the chest inside the marbled altar, which was covered by a large marble slab and on it was the altar table.</p>