WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10115

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Executive Director of Santa Verena Charity, Dr. Mikhail welcomed guests and offered opening remarks following the ceremonial entrance of two of their Bishops. Dr. Mikhail recognized my attendance very early in her remarks and thanked World Day of Prayer USA for the grant. It was one of only three grants the organization had received. His Grace Bishop Serapion of the Diocese of Los Angeles, Southern California, and Hawaii personally thanked me for World Day of Prayer USA's support of their work. And, His Grace Bishop Thomas who traveled from Egypt shared significant updates from El Qussia and Mair Diocese.

The Santa Verena Charity 12th Annual Banquet dedicated its efforts to acknowledge the community for their support and to raise funds for continued support for their extensive and amazing work. During the gathering, both Bishops Serapion and Thomas specified the grave need for assistance and the magnitude of what needed to be done. His Grace Bishop Serapion shared the importance of sustainable support; servicing families to become self-sufficient and not quantifying how many people have been assisted. I felt very certain about the wisdom and selection of WDP USA's grant supporting Santa Verena Charity. For information and to support Santa Verena Charity, visit: http://santaverena.org/

There are 200 Coptic congregations within the USA and the southern California's Coptic community is a vibrant one. They clearly enjoyed seeing each other and celebrating together. It was a great privilege to participate in their annual banquet. This church is the oldest Coptic Church in the USA and has a congregation of about 500 families. It is located in the very diverse West Los Angeles area. Let us continue to pray and support the endeavors of Santa Verena Charity to empower and reach people all over the world.

-Susan Skoglund, WDP USA Board Member