

ANAFORA



The Vision

Anafora's vision is to lift up every person, and lift up the whole person. To help each person realize and express the image of God inside of him or her, and to build each person's capacity to be like Christ.



Anafora is a Greek-Coptic word which means offering. Anafora is a Coptic Orthodox association and Christian retreat center created for education and development.

The Mission of Anafora

1 - Spiritual Dimension

The first dimension of Anafora's mission is to hold each persons hand and walk together on a spiritual path. Anafora provides a space for retreat. Anafora hopes to give every person a chance to return to him or herself, to meet with God, and to allow the Holy Spirit to help transform each person's being.



2 - Ecumenical Dimension

The second dimension of Anafora's mission is the unity of the body of Christ. This is accomplished by bridging the gap between different cultures and denominations. Anafora is a meeting place for God's people to come and experience one another in a safe, welcoming and loving atmosphere.



3 - Educational Dimension

The third dimension of Anafora's mission is to lift every person up through education. Anafora educates through participation, formation and learning through life experience rather than only learning information being taught in a classroom.



4 – Social Dimension

The fourth dimension of Anafora's mission is to strengthen and reinforce local development, human rights, and gender equality. To provide a shelter of love and acceptance for traumatized people and help them to heal and reintegrate in the society. To empower and educate marginalized people groups, and people who are uneducated and live in poverty. To promote equality by providing a place for encounters between the rich and poor, to break social constructs.



5 – Environmental Dimension

The fifth dimension of Anafora's mission is to live in a sustainable way, to care for the environment, and create awareness of the need for us live in harmony with all of creation.



Spiritual Dimension Activities and Practices

- Daily scheduled prayer and mass
- Creating an atmosphere of deeper spirituality and openness
- Spiritual formation through community life
- Biblical teaching and teaching about the early church fathers
- Courses activities, and conferences for youth from different churches to strengthen their faith, and for them to be able to live the Gospel
- A biblical panorama with many different physical recreations of biblical sites and stories is being created to help remember, visualize, meditate on, and understand the stories and characters of the bible (Anamnesia)



Ecumenical Dimension Activities and Practices

- Creating a community of spiritual openness that embraces each person with love and acceptance
- Ecumenical evening prayer everyday
- Hosting and planning meetings and conferences for different churches to meet together
- Volunteers from all over the world are welcomed to work with the Coptic people to build good understanding between different cultures, traditions, religious backgrounds, denominations and to share experiences
- A peace building program is run to help bring unity between churches by meeting and studying conflict and the origins of conflict and how to deal with it in an open and loving atmosphere.
- Through this program we are creating a wave of peacemakers in society who work towards reconciliation and unity specifically relating to inter-religious, interdenominational or inter organizational conflict



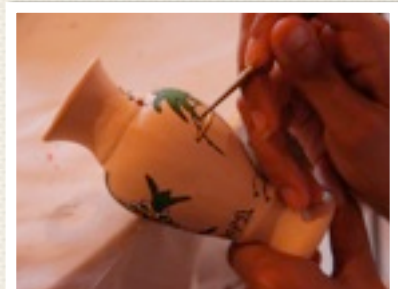
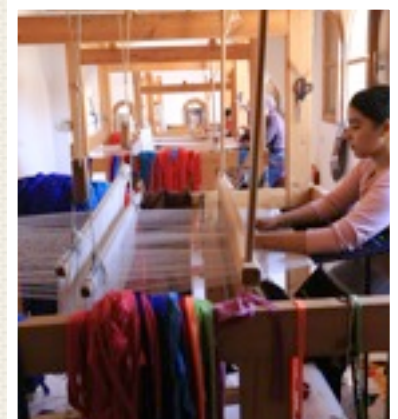
Educational Dimension Activities and Practices

- Leadership training to strengthen leaders to become actors of change in our society
- These leader can help transform our society from being hierarchical to being democratic, and from being a male oriented society to being a society that is based on gender equality
- Teaching people to move from spiritual religiosity to spiritual openness
- A program that accompanies students to start the process of learning from literacy all the way till university
- Programs for Christian counseling, and trauma healing, Courses for human rights, advocacy, and promoting the awareness of these issues
- A program to build the capacity of church leaders to be able to meet the needs of their ministry and to provide a spiritual atmosphere of love to bring individual refreshment and growth
- A library to provide good resources about Egypt regarding the history, culture, religion
- Special guest lecturers come to lead specific topics and training programs
- A folk school is being created to meet the needs of youth to help them to find jobs and improve their skills



Social Dimension Activities and Practices

- Empowerment of women program which gives women a space to heal, and helps educate, coach and equip them to gain independence and recover their autonomy
- Micro-finance projects
- Helping societies to analyze their needs
- Creating village corporations
- Trauma healing program
- Anafora has a rehabilitation center for people to come who have experienced trauma
- Health awareness program
- Program for children who dropped out of school to teach them and enable them to return to school
- Revival of old handicraft skills like candle making, cross making, weaving, icon painting, and pottery in a modern way to help society be open to older traditions
- Counseling time for individuals to help them heal and grow



Social Dimension Activities and Practices



Environmental Dimension Activities and Practices

- Program that educates about organic natural farming, permaculture, ecological farming, and environmental issues and awareness
- We reduce and recycle as much garbage as possible and refrain from burning plastics and other types of garbage, which produce harmful and unhealthy fumes.
- Reduce our use of plastic by reusing plastic bags, or replacing plastic bags with reusable longer lasting bags or paper bags
- Replace chemicals with more environmentally friendly substances for cleaning, medication and hygienic products
- Teach and train people how to create environmentally friendly hygienic products and medicinal alternative products
- Reuse organic waste and paper by composting it, and use the compost to enrich the soil in our farms
- Teach about composting practices and how to use compost in farming

