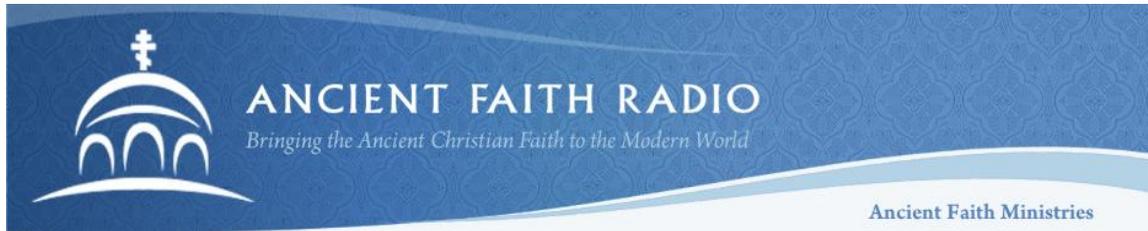


I recently had the time to explore more fully the richness of this electronic medium – **ANCIENT FAITH RADIO** – for sharing our Byzantine faith and spirituality with today’s society and culture. With all the horrific events occurring in our world this past week and a half, it is comforting to know that there is a salutary oasis in the desert where we can be assured that there is a loving God Who cares for His flock. There are two video podcasts that I especially recommend to you. They are listed below.



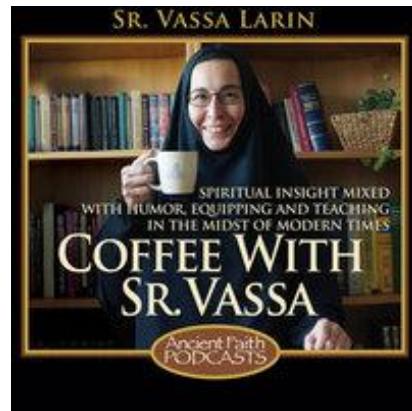
Ancient Faith Radio seeks to deepen and enrich the faith of Eastern Christians around the world with streaming audio programming, live call-ins, and on-demand podcasts. We feature liturgical music from a variety of Orthodox traditions, as well as prayers, readings, lectures, and interviews.

Be the Bee: Finding God in Everything, Everyday

A production of the GOARCH Department of Youth and Young Adult ministries and a presentation of Ancient Faith Radio, this brief weekly video podcast will focus on the various ways in which God has infused all of creation with goodness and beauty. The title refers to the metaphor of the bee and the flies that was used by Elder Paisios to describe how Christians should approach life. The host of the program is Steven



Christoforou, the GOARCH Youth Protection / Parish Ministries Coordinator. A graduate of Yale University, Fordham Law School, and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School



of Theology, Steven Christoforou is the Youth Protection and Parish Ministries Coordinator for the GOA’s Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

Coffee with Sister Vassa: “Coffee with Sister Vassa” is a brief, 10-minute weekly program hosted by Sr. Dr. Vassa Larin, a nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and liturgiologist of the University of Vienna in Austria. The program offers an engaging reflection on the Orthodox Church calendar of the current week, including the lives of the saints, scriptural passages, the Orthodox liturgical tradition, and a light dose of humor. Sr. Dr. Vassa Larin is a nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and liturgiologist of the University of Vienna in Austria. Sr. Vassa was this year’s speaker at the *14th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture Series* sponsored by our Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

(Vatican Radio) **MERIAM IBRAHIM**, the woman who was sentenced to death in Sudan for refusing to renounce her Christian faith, arrived Thursday in Italy and met with Pope Francis in the Casa Santa Marta. During the meeting, she was accompanied by her family: Husband Daniel Wani, Martin (a year and a half), and Maya, born in prison two months ago.



Her family was accompanied by the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, Lapo Pistelli, who helped negotiate and arrange her departure from Sudan and travelled with her to Italy. Pistelli spoke to Susy Hodges after the meeting with the Pope about the successful outcome of his government's mission.

The Minister spoke of his joy and satisfaction for all concerned about Meriam and her family's departure from Sudan and the meeting with Pope Francis. Pistelli said during his talks with the Sudanese Foreign Ministry he was told that the Khartoum government was considering "a rethink" of their penal code and that the current law on apostasy could be "modified or deleted."

The head of the Vatican Press Office, Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, said the meeting between the Pope and Meriam and her family took place in a "very serene and affectionate" environment, and Pope Francis thanked Meriam for her "**courageous witness to perseverance in the Faith.**"

Fr. Lombardi said Meriam thanked the Pope for his prayers, saying they provided great support and encouragement.

The Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi had earlier welcomed Meriam and her family at Rome's Ciampino airport, calling it «a day of celebration.»

Meriam Ibrahim was sentenced to death over charges of apostasy, since her father was a Muslim. She married her husband, a Christian, in a church ceremony in 2011. She was told if she accepted Islam she would be freed, but she told the court she would never apostatize from her Christian faith. Her death sentence was overturned in June, but she was then stopped at the airport and blocked from leaving the country by Sudanese officials who questioned the validity of her travel documents.

Fr. Lombardi said Pope Francis met with Meriam's family to show "his closeness, concern and prayers" for all those who suffer for their faith, and especially for Christians who suffer persecution or restrictions on their religious freedom. Meriam and her family will settle in the United States.

(From archive of Vatican Radio)

«I am a Christian, and I will remain a Christian.»

«Thanks to God we are all fine.
I trusted God from the first instant.
I knew that He would not abandon me.»

«I will put my trust in God as I always have done.
We will start a new life. My husband is a chemist
but he lost his job because of my story.
Now we will go and live in New Hampshire.
We will all be together like a real family.»

The faith of Meriam Ibrahim

Have
Faith
in
GOD