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Academic News

The Israel Prize awarded to Olga Kapeliuk

The Israel Prize is awarded every year to a few persons for achievements in various scientific disciplines, in art and one Prize for national merits. It is distributed on the Independence Day at an official ceremony in the presence of the President of the State. The prize in general linguistics is awarded once in five years.

“Professor Olga Kapeliuk of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is among the best Israeli linguists and scholars of Semitic languages. She studies two of the less known branches of Semitic: the Ethiopian languages on the one hand and the Neo-Aramaic dialects on the other hand. Professor Kapeliuk is considered today a worldwide expert on the grammatical, literary, lexical and other aspects of Amharic thanks to her numerous publications and her participation at International Conferences. Professor Kapeliuk has developed a new and unique field of research in the study of Semitic languages comparing evolutionary processes of Neo-Aramaic and Ethio-Semitic.”

In memoriam Pawlos Cardinal Ṣadwa (1921–2003)

TEDROS ABRAHA, Asmara

The late Pawlos Cardinal Ṣadwa was born in a devout Christian family on August 25, 1921 in ‘Addi Fənniṣ’, a village in the Ṣān’adāglā district of the Akkālā Guzay region of Eritrea. His baptismal name was Ṣəbḥat LāAb, but until his priestly ordination he was called Məsgənnā. He was introduced to the first notions of Gəʿəz and received his basic Christian education in his home village. In 1932 he joined St. Michael’s primary school in Sägānāyti and while there he felt a call to the religious life. This call led him to the town of Mändāfara where the Franciscan Capuchins have a school. He studied there until 1940. He was then admitted to the Capuchin novitiate, but was subsequently asked to leave because the then novice master, Padre Felicissimo Suardi da Gaverina, thought him unsuited for the Capuchin way of life.

Cardinal Ṣadwa never showed any resentment for his dismissal from the religious order to which he always remained close, but he was never convinced by the argument that led the novice master from Milan to dismiss him. His determination to pursue a priestly vocation remained unshaken. In 1941 he was a seminarian in Kārān, and in 1944 he was ordained priest by Bishop