



The Maronite Voice



A Publication of the Maronite Eparchies in the USA

Volume XV

Issue No. VI

June 2018

The Season of Pentecost, The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Every year the Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost and gives to us an entire liturgical period of time that we call "Season of Pentecost." This year we celebrate the Season of Pentecost from May 20 (Pentecost Sunday) through September 13 (Seventeenth Week of Pentecost). "Pentecost," which means "50th," is the fiftieth day after the Sunday of the Resurrection. In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke describes this Pentecost event in the life of the early Church, which is the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem.

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:1-4).

This was a decisive and important moment in the life of the Church. The followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and given the strength and power to go out and to preach the Gospel. Ten days before, at his Ascension, Jesus commanded his followers to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). The Apostles spent the next ten days in prayer preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit, since Jesus had told them He would come to them. It was only after they received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost that they were able to fulfill this command. And on Pentecost, that is exactly what they did - "they went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began to witness to salvation through Church," the followers of Jesus, become truly alive.

The Church teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit has been called the "Paraclete," that is, the one who stands with us to comfort and support us. Some Bible translations use the word "Advocate," which means much the same.



SENDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rabbula - 6th c.

(Continues on page 20)

Schedule of Bishop Elias Zaidan

June 6 -16, 2018

Annual Synod of Maronite Bishops, *Bkerke*, Lebanon

June 9, 2018

Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacons Elias Yazbeck and Rami Razzouk at Our Lady of Help, *Zouk Mikhael*, Lebanon.

June 17 - 25, 2018

Hosting U.S. Bishops in Lebanon

June 28 - 30, 2018

MYO National Workshop, Philadelphia, Penn.

July 1, 2018

St. Raymond Cathedral, St. Louis. Mo.

July 7 - 8, 2018

Pastoral Visit to Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon, Fairlawn, Ohio

July 9 - 15, 2018

NAM Convention, Houston, Tex.

June 22, 2018

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon Cathedral, Los Angeles, Calif. ☐

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- Most Reverend Bishop A. Elias Zaidan

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Maronite Convention 2018

Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Catholic Church

Houston, Texas

July 11 - 15, 2018

For more information contact the NAM office at (914) 964-3070 or visit

www.Namnews.org
www.Namconvention2018.com

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Are you looking for a special Graduation Day Gift? A Father's Day gift? Any kind of gift?

Do you wish your child, grandchild, godchild, family member or anyone special to you would remain close to their faith and the Maronite Church? Consider one of the following options:



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www.namnews.org

Food For Thought

A Church that loves the poor is always tuned to the God Channel. It never loses the Gospel signal.

Pope Francis, May 23, 2018



Eparchial Appointments

His Excellency Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, has made the following eparchial assignments:

- ★ Revoked the appointment of **Msgr. James Root** as Protopresbyter of the Mid-Atlantic East Region of the Eparchy of Saint Maron and appointed him Protopresbyter *pro tem* of the New England Region effective immediately. By virtue of this office, Msgr. Root will continue to serve as a member of the Eparchial Presbyteral Council.
- ★ Appointed **Fr. Simon El Hajj** as Protopresbyter *pro tem* of the Mid-Atlantic East Region of the Eparchy of Saint Maron effective immediately. By virtue of this office, Fr. El Hajj will serve as a member of the Eparchial Presbyteral Council.
- ★ Revoked the appointment of **Chorbishop Joseph F. Kaddo** as Chaplain of the Order of Saint Sharbel effective July 23, 2018, the Feast of St. Sharbel.
- ★ After consultation with Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, appointed **Msgr. Peter Fahed Azar** as Chaplain of the Order of Saint Sharbel effective July 23, 2018, the Feast of Saint Sharbel. As Chaplain, Msgr. Azar's duties will include representing both Eparchial Bishops at all Order of Saint Sharbel events and in all matters pertaining to the Order and to bring the concerns of the Order to both Bishops.
- ★ Appointed **Fr. Vincent Farhat** to a three-year term as President of the Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary Alumni Association. Serving along with Fr. Farhat will be Father George El Hajj, appointed by Bishop Elias Zaidan as Vice President, Monsignor Peter Azar, appointed by Bishop Mansour as Treasurer, and Father Chris Fabre, appointed by Bishop Elias Zaidan as Secretary. □

Eparchial Condolences



His Excellency Bishop George Iskandar, Bishop *Emeritus* of the Eparchy of *Zahle*, passed away on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Patriarch Bechara Peter Cardinal Rai presided at the funeral service on Friday, May 18, 2018, at St. Maron Cathedral in *Zahle*, Lebanon.

Bishop Gregory Mansour, along with the clergy and faithful of the Eparchy of Saint Maron, and Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, along with the clergy and faithful of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, extend their heartfelt sympathy and the promise of our prayers to His Beatitude Patriarch Bechara Peter Cardinal Rai; to the Maronite Synod of Bishops; to Bishop Joseph Mouawad, Bishop of the Eparchy of *Zahle*; and to Bishop Iskandar's family and relatives.

May the Lord God grant his servant George eternal rest in His Kingdom and consolation to his family and loved ones. □

Clinton Township, Michigan First Liturgies at the New St. Sharbel Church



It was a weekend of profound joy and thanksgiving in Clinton Township, Mich., as the doors of the new St. Sharbel Maronite Church opened for the first time on Saturday, May 5, and again on Sunday, May 6, 2018.

Parishioners and visitors filled the Church for the first three Divine Liturgies to celebrate and give thanks to God for this important milestone. While the Church bells rang signaling the start, many parishioners were overcome by emotion as they witnessed the unveiling of their beautiful new home.

Falling on the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon and marking the beginning of the month of May, the first Liturgies were dedicated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

In his homily, Chorbishop Alfred Badawi, Pastor, welcomed everyone home and thanked families, friends, volunteers, and benefactors for their prayerful support and stewardship. "I credit the generosity and vision of the parishioners for helping to make this beautiful house of prayer and worship a reality. I invite everyone in the community to join us in celebrating the endless possibilities now made possible by this new facility and the members who serve our Lord here, through Saint Sharbel."

The construction for the new church complex which began in April of 2017, took less than a year to complete. In addition to the large church sanctuary, it also features a chapel, banquet hall, classrooms, conference rooms and offices. The new location replaces the former St. Sharbel Church in Warren, Michigan.

Dedication celebrations for the new church will be held on the weekend of September 14 -16, 2018. The Consecration of the Altar and the Church will take place on Sunday, September 16, 2018. Numerous festivities are being planned for a weekend of great fellowship and fun, including a formal Gala, church tours and celebrations. □



Tulsa, Oklahoma Visit to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine



by Henry Harder

Parishioners of St. Thérèse Parish in Tulsa, Oklahoma, trekked through Osage County to Pawhuska, Okla., on April 28, 2018, to visit Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which has a set of stained glass windows made in Germany and featuring "The Osage Window." It has the likenesses of some of the Osage Indian parishioners listening to a Jesuit missionary preach. The building was dedicated in May 1925, during a visit of Cardinal Patrick Hayes, who had on the bronze doors of his Cathedral in New York City the image of Kateri Tekakwitha. She was beatified in 1985 by St. Pope John Paul II and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in October 2012. She is the first Native American in America to be canonized.

Tekakwitha (1656 -1680), the daughter of a Mohawk chief, Kenneronkwa, and an Algonquin mother, Tagaskouita, a Christian captured by the Mohawks. A smallpox epidemic struck the Mohawks in 1661-1663 and wiped out Tekakwitha's parents and brother; she survived with a scarred face and impaired eyesight. When she was eleven, the victorious French required the Mohawks to accept Jesuit missionaries. Thus, Tekakwitha had access to the Catholic faith. She was baptized at eighteen and named after St. Catherine of Siena; thus, Kateri.

Though pressed to marry by aunts as customary, she refused marriage at 17 saying that she had dedicated her life to Jesus. Missionaries who prepared Kateri for baptism said she was modest, mild-mannered and well-behaved. She tried to stay holy in a secular environment. Father Claude Chauchetière, who would become her biographer, thought she was a saint. She was a model of "charity, industry, purity, and fortitude." She was also given to mortification of the flesh, moderated by the command to limit herself to what the priest would permit. Her health began to fail during Holy Week 1680, and she died on Wednesday April 17, 1680, at 3 p.m. Within a quarter-hour her scars disappeared and her face was beautiful. Within four years after her death, this model of a Christian laywoman became revered.

On Kateri's tombstone is inscribed "finest flower that ever bloomed among red men." She is commonly called the Lily of the Mohawks. The icons usually associated on paintings or sculptures are the cross, symbol of her love of penance, and a turtle, symbol of her Mohawk culture. Both of these icons are on her statue at her Shrine at Immaculate Conception Church, itself known as the Cathedral of the Osage. Further, Bishop Eusebius Beltran of Tulsa dedicated a church in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha in Roland, Okla., in December 1981.

Members of St. Thérèse parish who made the pilgrimage include: Bette Boustani, Badri Boustani, Charlotte Neller, Jean Feghali, Charles Jabbour, Annie Jabbour, Edward Joumana, Bernett Joumana, Michael Bailey, Jan Bailey and George Habib. They are pictured with Father Sean Donovan, Pastor of Immaculate Conception, and Father Elias Abi Sarkis, Pastor of St. Thérèse Church. □

Detroit, Michigan Pastor's Retirement



by Chris Kassab

Parishioners at St. Maron Church in Detroit, Mich., commemorated the retirement of their pastor, Chorbishop Louis Baz, during a special Liturgy and reception held May 5, 2018.

Chorbishop Baz, who has served as pastor of St. Maron since 2009, celebrated the Liturgy with Fr. Elias Abi Sarkis, Pastor of St. Theresa Church in Tulsa, Okla.; Fr. Tony Masaad, Pastor of St. Rafka in Livonia, Mich.; and Fr. Hanna Tayyar from Ann Arbor, Mich.

Since the event took place on the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon and during the month of May which is the month of the Blessed Mother, Chorbishop Baz devoted his homily to discussing the importance of Mary and praying the rosary.

Following the Liturgy, a banquet in Chorbishop Baz's honor was held at the Church Hall, with roughly 300 people in attendance. Several parishioners, including Dr. Edouard Daher, Rita Shemmai and Rudy Jabbour, delivered remarks thanking Chorbishop Baz for his service to St. Maron since 2009. Chorbishop Baz thanked everyone for attending and expressed his gratitude.

"I cannot tell you exactly how I feel as I think about how fast the time has gone by since the day I was ordained in 1981," he said. "So many good parishioners over the years

have touched my life and I hope I have touched theirs, too."

Chorbishop Baz served at St. Maron Church, the birthplace of the Maronite Church in Detroit, twice during his priesthood for a total of fourteen years at the parish.

"This parish holds a special place in my heart," he said. "You have helped me grow in my priestly life and in the Lord in a special way that I can never forget."

Parishioners presented Chorbishop Baz with a special plaque thanking him for his years of service to St. Maron Church. He thanked the organizers of the event, the St. Maron Parish Council and special family and friends who made a special trip to Detroit to celebrate with him, and he shared a blessing for everyone. "May God keep his loving smile over you today and for many generations to come," he said. □

Fall River, Massachusetts *Silver Jubilee Celebration*

The following homily was delivered on April 22, 2018, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, by Deacon Donald Massoud on the celebration of his 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate at St. Anthony of the Desert Church in Fall River, Mass.

I am honored and blessed that this is the Sunday that has been chosen to celebrate my vocation to the Diaconate.

In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 6, we read that the Greek-speaking followers of the apostles complained that their widows were not getting the same allotment of food as the widows of the Hebrew-speaking disciples. The apostles thought it not right for them to neglect the Word of God to wait on tables. Thus they appointed seven men to perform this task. The first appointed was Stephen, now known as the Archdeacon. The apostles prayed on them, laid hands on them and the Diaconate was instituted to serve. Deacons are ordained to serve the people of God.

For my formation classes with the Diocese of Fall River, our Director, Msgr. John Moore, told me he liked the way the Maronite Deacons wore their stoles. He said it was like a towel easily taken off to be used. One of his favorite expressions to us was that we should be fighting for the Lord, always seeking an opportunity to serve.

It is so easy for me to look back to where the seeds of my vocation were planted. As a life-long parishioner of St. Anthony of the Desert Church (as many of you), the continuity of the church as a place of worship and community has sustained itself to this day. Beginning on Quequechan Street, literally a one-minute walk up the street from the Church, the example of our parents as close parishioners was easily passed on to me and my sisters. I know it was the same for many of you as the generations of faithful families continue to worship here.

As an altar boy for Chorbishop Joseph Eid, I had my first taste of serving in the sanctuary and it seems like I have never left. One of my young friends serving alongside me was the late Msgr. Ronald Bishara. I was blessed to catch up with him a few times before he went to his eternal reward – a shining star of our parish. Of course, the other shining star of our parish is our beloved Chorbishop Norman Ferris. It was at my son's First Communion celebration that he approached Donna and me and asked if I would consider becoming a subdeacon.

"God will give you the grace," he said. It was not a solitary decision as my wife had to approve in writing, which of course she did. After all, no one wanted to disappoint Fr. Ferris.

Being a subdeacon, I learned so much from Deacon Andre Nasser. He encouraged me and showed me so much. His homilies were filled with much spiritual knowledge. I learned so much from him and I am still comforted by his wise advice. I have tried to be as good to Deacon Brian Dunn as Andre had been to me. Brian now has two older deacons looking out for him with prayers, experience and love.

Throughout twenty-five years, I have served with only two pastors, Chorbishop Ferris and Chorbishop Joseph Kaddo. They have both treated me with kindness and have shown great trust in me, which has allowed me to serve with confidence, and I hope, with effectiveness.

As you know this is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, and recently the Holy Father published a paper called "Rejoice and Be Glad," calling us to "not settle for a bland, mediocre existence but to commit ourselves to responding to God's call to holiness."

This is what the Holy Father said in detail about holiness. We could be talking about St. Anthony of the Desert on Quequechan Street in the heart of the Flint section or St. Anthony of the Desert here on N. Eastern Avenue.

The Pope wrote, "Holiness is found in ordinary, daily life. It does not include ecstasies, stigmata or formal canonizations. We should not be discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There is a middle class of holiness often found in our next door neighbors, our own mothers, grandmothers, and loved ones who live in our midst reflecting God's presence. This holiness is achieved through small gestures, bearing witness in all we do, wherever we find ourselves, mindful that every minute of our lives can be a step on the path of growth in holiness."

So many of you contribute to the life of this parish in various and necessary ways. Many of us are simply following the example of our loved ones who sustained this parish in many ways for so many years.

On this Day of Prayer for Vocations let us pray that our parish receive the blessing of another vocation to the priesthood and pray that our young ladies consider a vocation to our Maronite Servants of Christ the Light as a fitting way to serve our Lord. Deacon Andre, Brian and I are always looking for vocations to the subdiaconate and diaconate. Please pray for all vocations.

I have been blessed with a great parish family. I have been blessed with my family growing up. I am blessed with my family – my wife, children, their spouses, and my grandchildren; my sisters and their families. I have been blessed with two pastors and two deacons that are second to none. As I stand in the sanctuary, I look at the stained glass window of St. Therese. On April 23, 1993, the Feast of St. George, I was ordained a Deacon by Archbishop Francis Zayek. Next to St. George is the window of St. Therese, the Little Flower, my wife's favorite saint. Above them are the stained glass windows with the various titles of Our Blessed Mother, who is with us in prayer always. I also spent time in our St. Sharbel Chapel, our great Maronite Saint who always has an answer to my prayers.

I thank you all for your friendship and love. Please keep me in your prayers and pray for vocations in our Maronite Church. God bless you all! □

THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL



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- ★ **Adria Kimes**
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- ★ **Habib and Samira Touma**
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Simi Valley, Calif.*

The Order of Saint Sharbel is an organization of lay people and clergy who have pledged their spiritual strength and financial support for Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary and the retired Maronite clergy of the Maronite Eparchies in the USA.

For more information about the Order ask your Pastor, visit www.orderstsharbel.org or write to:

Eparchy of Saint Maron
109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

or

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
1021 South 10th Street
St. Louis, MO 63104

Boston, Massachusetts *Re-Dedication of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Maronite Community Center*



On Sunday April 15, 2018, the parish family of Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church in Jamaica Plain [Boston], Mass., gathered to re-dedicate the Richard Cardinal Cushing Maronite Community Center. First opened in June, 1969, the facility has undergone a complete remodel and renovation. We were led by Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, and Msgr. Georges Y. El-Khalli, PhD., Pastor, who were assisted by the members of the building committee in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Despite the snow, rain and freezing temperatures, hundreds of parishioners and friends turned out for the event. A plaque honoring our pastor for his diligence and perseverance in bringing this dream to reality was unveiled. Guests were treated to an array of hors d'oeuvres served by the five top caterers in Boston. A classical string ensemble provided live entertainment.

A highlight of the Open House was a video presentation of the proud history of the parish, "the oldest Maronite Church in North America," founded in 1893. This year, we celebrate our 125th Anniversary. We were blessed with remarks from our pastor and a financial report by parishioner and parish financier, Ken Raffol, on the status of the parish's treasury to help guide our fundraising efforts; as well as inspirational words from Bishop Gregory Mansour. It was a delightful afternoon, and a fitting celebration for this milestone in our distinguished history. We hope to see you soon in the new Cushing Center. □

Appeal from Caritas Lebanon

Christians in Lebanon are suffering! If you are able to relieve some of the suffering, please contact

Fr. Elias Abi Sarkis, Director
8315 South 107th East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74133
Ph: 918-872-7400

or visit *Caritas Lebanon* at <http://www.caritas.org.lb>.

Checks may be made payable to Caritas Lebanon.

Thank you for your consideration. □

Fall River, Massachusetts *MYO Regional Retreat*



by Sr. Natalie Sayde Salameh, MSCL

The MYO Regional Retreat "Maronite Identity and Spirituality" was held at St. Anthony of the Desert Church in Fall River, Mass., on Saturday, April 28, 2018, facilitated by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. The two presentations for the day featured Msgr. David George on what it means to be Maronite and Jacques Barbour, a psychotherapist, on the power of claiming our identity in Christ and the dangers of social media.

More than forty teens and a team of dedicated volunteers attended from St. Anthony Church, Fall River; Our Lady of Purgatory Church, New Bedford; St. Anthony Church, Lawrence; St. Theresa Church, Brockton, Mass.; St. George Church, Cranston, R.I.; and St. Anthony Church, Danbury, Conn. Also, the pastors, priests and deacons attending were: Msgr. Joseph Kaddo, Fr. Joseph Daiff, Fr. Herbert Nichols, Fr. Edward Correia, and Deacons Brian Dunn and Donald Massoud, and Subdeacon James Demers.

The retreat day was filled with activity, prayerful communion with God, and much laughter and fun. The morning and afternoon included small group discussions, which focused on how we pray as Maronites and how we see Christ as depicted in our Divine Liturgy. The afternoon small group discussion focused on some of the ways that social media is trying to distort our true identity as children of God, and the pressure that social media is putting on teens to project a certain image. Also, there were vocation testimonies by Sr. Natalie Sayde Salameh and Br. Marwan El-Khoury, a Monk from the Order of St. Basil, and a Q & A discussion.

The day concluded with Divine Liturgy, dinner and a *dabke* party. Thank you to Msgr. Joseph Kaddo and the parish and volunteers of St. Anthony of the Desert Church for hosting this event and for their outstanding hospitality. □



Uniontown, Pennsylvania *Altar & Rosary Society Mother's Day Luncheon*



Pictured from left: Bobbi Fetsko (Organizer), Donna George (ARS President), Mary Louise (ARS Honoree), Dr. Mabel Howard (ARS Vice President/Secretary and Presenter), Tia Chomiak (Mary Louise's granddaughter), Colleen Chomiak (Mary Louise's daughter-in-law).

by Dr. Mabel George Howard

The Altar & Rosary Society (ARS) of St. George Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, celebrated its annual Mother's Day Luncheon on May 5, 2018, in their beautiful church hall. It is a tradition of the Altar & Rosary Society to honor one member each year for her important role in the church and community. This year, ARS recognized Mary Louise Yezbak Chomiak as the recipient of this most deserving award. A biography and poem tailored to Mary Louise's contributions in the church and community were presented. She has participated in many church activities and is an active member of the Altar & Rosary Society and the Ladies Guild. Mary Louise has also worked as a volunteer for nearly twenty years in several positions at the St. Vincent de Paul's Organization in Uniontown. The Altar & Rosary Society presented Mary Louise with a wall rosary and a bouquet of lovely flowers as a token of appreciation for her dedication in helping others. As the 2018 honoree, the Altar & Rosary Society extends a sincere "thank you" to Mary Louise for her selfless acts of kindness that have touched the lives of so many people. □



Deadline for next month's issue of The Maronite Voice is June 22, 2018.

The Maronite Voice is the official newsletter of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and of the Eparchy of Saint Maron.

Send all news, pictures and personal correspondence to:
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Digital pictures must be in "JPG" format and in high resolution (300dpi). The Maronite Voice is also available online, in PDF format, at www.stmaron.org. □

Houston, Texas Silver Massabki and Faith of the Mountain Award Recipients



Bishop A. Elias Zaidan with Carol and Joseph Zehri.

by Marcella Georges

On Sunday, March 4, 2018, during a visit to Our Lady of the Cedars Church, Houston, Tex., by Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Joseph and Carol Zehri, were recognized for their dedication and involvement in the parish by awarding them the Silver Massabki Medal. Joseph and Carol are two people who have the remarkable ability to take on any task asked of them. Their timeless acts of kindness go beyond Carol's many years as a First Communion teacher and Joseph's technological knowledge. Time and time again, Joseph and Carol's willingness to volunteer at every parish event is remarkable, and we could not be more grateful for all that they have done for the Church. Congratulations to Joseph and Carol on their well-deserved award.

On that special day, one of the young adults was also recognized for his hard work and dedication to the Parish. Jonathan Abou Jaoude was awarded the Faith of the Mountain Award by His Excellency Bishop A. Elias Zaidan. Jonathan has not only worked to help our local MYA flourish with the many events he has helped plan, but he is working tirelessly to make the 2018 NAM Convention for the Young Adults the greatest one yet. □

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon

The annual 25 Club raffle was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Ohio. Following is the list of winners from the monthly drawings for the 2017 - 2018 year:

Month	Winner	Ticket Number
June 2017	Marian Yazbek	391
July 2017	Anne Vross	492
August 2017	Tammy Sanders	059
September 2017	Rossi & Santucci	480
October 2017	Brian Thomas	322
November 2017	Aaron Bucci	130
December 2017	James P. Salamy	266
January 2018	Ann Echols	196
February 2018	Helen Budway	236
March 2018	Dr. George Gabriel	181

Anyone interested in supporting the Shrine through the 25 Club may send a check to Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine for \$70 for the monthly drawings, or call either the Shrine at 330-538-3351 or Rose Sahyoun at 330-565-7238. There are also monthly drawings of \$150 and the annual dinner/dance drawing held in April for three \$1000 winners, two \$500 winners and sixteen \$100 winners. □

Save This Date!
Thursday, October 4, 2018



And join Bishop Gregory Mansour at the Eparchy of Saint Maron's 9th Annual Benefit Dinner on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at the New York Athletic Club.

The proceeds of this Benefit Dinner provide essential funding for:

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Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn
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We look forward to seeing you there!
Thank you for your support.

Schedule of Bishop Gregory Mansour

May 30 - June 17, 2018

Annual Maronite Bishops Synod, *Bkerke*, Lebanon

June 17 - 26, 2018

Host to American Catholic Bishops and Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, visits to CRS and Caritas centers as well as to religious and political leaders, Lebanon

June 28 - 29, 2018

Annual MYO Retreat and Workshop, Philadelphia, Penn.

June 30, 2018

50th anniversary of Robert and Marie Di Sibio, Wilmington, Delaware

July 1 - 2, 2018

30th Anniversary of Fr. James Doran, Waterville, Me.

July 8 - 11, 2018

Annual Clergy Conference, Houston, Tex.

July 11 - 15, 2018

NAM Convention, Houston, Tex.

July 22, 2018

Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn, N.Y. ☐

Eparchy of Saint Maron Order of Saint Gregory

The following were inducted into the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great:

- ★ **Dr. Robert DiSibio**, Saint John Maron Church, Williamsville, N.Y.
- ★ **Mrs. Randa Nammour**, Our Lady Star of the East, Pleasantville, N.J.
- ★ **Mrs. Camille Manning**, Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- ★ **Miss Claire Habib**, Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- ★ **Mrs. Faith Jarvis**, Heart of Jesus Mission, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- ★ **Mrs. Marie Feefa Deeb**, Saint Joseph Church, Waterville, Maine
- ★ **Dr. Rodney Thomas**, Saint George Church, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Founded by Pope Gregory XVI on September 1, 1831, the Papal Order of St. Gregory is one of the five pontifical orders of knighthood in the Catholic Church. The Order is bestowed on Catholic men and women in recognition of their service to the Church, unusual labors, support of the Holy See, and the good example set in their communities and country. ☐



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Camino de Santiago

by

Charlene George Joaquim (Parishioner of Saint Anthony of the Desert, Fall River, Mass.)

The Camino de Santiago or the Way of Saint James is a network of paths leading to the Shrine of Saint James the Great, in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. We chose to walk the Camino of the French Route, which is a 500-mile path beginning in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and ends in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The Camino is an ancient path that has been traveled for almost 2,000 years. Many kings, popes, saints and movie stars have made this spiritual journey to the Cathedral in Santiago, where the remains of St. James the Great lie.

St. Francis of Assisi, St. James the Great, St. Ignatius, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict, and Pope Francis are a few of the holy people that have walked the Camino. A year ago last July, a friend of mine asked if I had ever heard of the Camino. I had not. She encouraged me to look it up on the Internet. After just reading one article, I knew that I had to walk this path that so many before me had done. During my research, I read that if you have a strong desire to walk the Camino, it's possibly God saying to you - "We need to have a conversation. Let's go for a walk."

Here I was suddenly planning to go to Europe and walk 500 miles with only a backpack and carrying the bare necessities. I've never hiked or traveled out of the country or slept in a Hostel or an Albergue (dormitory). Was I losing my mind? An even greater challenge than climbing the Pyrenees Mountains or walking 500 miles was telling my husband Tom.

The expression on his face was priceless as he sat across from me speechless for what seemed like an hour, but in reality it was only a minute or so. Then he spoke: "Are you crazy!" After recovering from the shock of my words, he agreed to go with me. His response was, "I don't want you to die alone in the Pyrenees Mountains." There was a lot to be done before our departure on September 9, 2017. We needed to buy equipment and training was necessary to prepare for this life changing adventure.

My friend Betty, who planted the seed, introduced us to an amazing man, Cliff, who volunteered to train Tom and me for the very difficult climbs that we would encounter. Cliff, having done the Camino five times, was an expert, and he played a crucial role in our preparation. We would have been ill-prepared for the physical and mental challenges awaiting us without his guidance and encouragement.

On September 9, we arrived in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and began walking on the 10th. Initially, I was fearful and worried about everything: Where would we sleep? How would we find places to eat? What if we got lost? Those fears and many more occupied my thoughts. As soon as I surrendered to God, He took over. Happiness, serenity, and gratitude replaced fear. I've never had so little and yet have been so happy. Although we had some very difficult days filled with trying times we never lost that joyful feeling inside. God's presence was everywhere! If we ran out of water we would come upon a fountain. If we miscalculated how much food we needed and were hungry, a fig tree would be around the next bend, or a Pilgrim on the path would invite us to eat with him. It's not that we never got discouraged or frightened. Somehow, we always had this inner sense that everything would be OK.

On the Camino you are not judged by how successful you are. You're not defined by your age, occupation, or wealth. You are only judged by how you treat each other. We were from different ethnic backgrounds and different countries. We spoke different languages. But the bottom line is- we were not different at all. We as children of God were all walking the Camino together surrounded by His guidance, love and protection. We were all searching for something and all taking care of each other. Our journey took us over mountains, through forests, over Roman roads and bridges and into towns varying in size and population. One night we stayed in a town with a population of twenty.

Every evening there was Mass and at the end of every Mass the priest would give a special blessing to the pilgrims. Everyone went to Mass, not just the Catholic pilgrims. A typical conversation over dinner: "Are you going to Vespers? What time is Mass? I want to go to the pilgrim's blessing. Are you Catholic? I'm not, so can I sit with you in Church so that I can do what you do?"

In the smaller towns you never knew exactly when evening Mass would be because the priest would travel from town to town. When the priest arrived, the church bell rang non-stop for about fifteen minutes summoning everyone to Mass. The people who lived in the town would hurry out of their homes, and the folks in the *Albergues* would join them rushing down the street to Mass. It was a beautiful sight.

(continues on page 20)

How Do we Define Calling by *Father Tony Massad*

If we took a poll of the people we come into contact with every day and asked them if they would like their life's work to be remembered and to have given value to the world around them, it would probably be a safe assumption that most people would say yes. This is true for our young people who aren't necessarily looking for just a paycheck but to make a difference in the world. They want what they do and their lives to matter, to add value to those around them. When we put this same question in the context of Christian living, we can say this is almost certainly true because as Christians we are called to be disciples who live deliberately and faithfully following Jesus Christ.

This deliberate discipleship is a beautiful ideal, yet sometimes it can be a lot more challenging than we would like to admit. We as Christians are called to discipleship but how do we define a "calling?" For us as Christians, we can define this word "calling" in knowing who is the "caller." We know that God is the "caller," and as much as our "calling" or vocation is to pursue a passion or desire, we also understand that our "calling" is to serve and glorify God. The idea of being "called" is not something that only affects one aspect of our lives but permeates throughout every facet of our life: home, work, personal life, etc. We can reflect on our own experiences and see this. How many times have we asked ourselves, "What should I do now?" or "Which path should I take?" These are questions that everyone asks themselves several times during their life. For us as Christians, our spiritual life and journey is something that helps us and enlightens us during our discerning process.

As Christians, we look to Scripture and our prayer life in helping to discern our "calling" or vocation. We also look for mediators to help us on our journey. Many times, we will receive feedback or advice from people who know us best and who can help give us insight as to which path may be best for us. We self-reflect and assess and identify our God-given gifts in our discernment of our vocation, noting our strengths and looking towards a vocation that would allow us to express them in our life, for the benefit of the greater good. It is also necessary to have an understanding of the vocation to which we feel we are being called. How is the religious life lived? How and what does marriage look like? What does being a good disciple in my work/job mean? What and who are examples I can call upon to help clarify these questions for me? Last but certainly not least, a good tool to help one discern their "calling" or vocation is writing. When we write our thoughts, feelings, or reflections, we

help ourselves through deliberate and concrete exercises, noting our thinking and desires at a certain time in our life, taking note of different experiences, writing down our feelings about our circumstance. All of these things may help us to see a pattern in our life and grow in understanding in what capacity God is calling us to serve him.

Our vocation or "calling" is not just a profession or career. One way to see our vocation is the culmination of our whole being, our loves, our work, our passions, and our mission. We know as Christians we directly correlate all of these aspects of our life to God, and through His grace and providence we live our vocation in this life with a focus on the life to come. □

Prayer For Priestly Vocations

Father, in every generation You provide ministers of Christ and the Church.

We come before You now, asking that You call forth more men to serve our eparchies in the ministerial priesthood.

Give us priests who will lead and guide Your holy people gathered by Word and Sacrament.

Bless us with priestly vocations so that we can continue to be a truly Eucharistic Church, strengthened in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, Your Only Son.

Raise up, we pray, men who are generous in their service, willing to offer their lives and all their gifts for Your greater glory and for the good of Your people.

We make our prayer in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



***If the Lord
is Calling
You,
The
Church
Needs You!***

If you feel that you have a vocation to the Priesthood or religious life, contact your Pastor or write to:

Fr. Gary George, Director
Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
Office of Vocations
1021 South 10th Street
St. Louis, MO 63104
or

Fr. Dominique Hanna, Director
Eparchy of Saint Maron
Office of Vocations
c/o St. Joseph Church
6025 Glenridge Drive
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
or

Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary
7164 Alaska Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20012

The Maronite Servants Celebrate Ten Years



by Rick Allen

The relatively new congregation of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light celebrates its 10th anniversary June 1, 2018. As consecrated religious, the sisters have a special call to serve the Maronite Church by their contemplative life of prayer which animates their pastoral service in Maronite communities across the United States, as far as Australia, and perhaps someday in Lebanon itself.

Referring to the Maronite Servants as "a gift of the Holy Spirit," Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn notes the work the sisters have done in many parishes, ranging from catechesis for children, to spiritual formation for teens, young adults, and married couples, to visiting the sick, and to helping young women discern their vocations. The sisters' challenging apostolate takes place across the eparchy's forty-five parishes.

"They've become what I hoped they would become, a feminine touch, bringing the genius of women more closely into the ministry of the Church," says Bishop Gregory of the first Maronite congregation of sisters founded in America. "I'm very happy with their progress. It is a slow process. Sr. Marla Marie has been steady and careful. She's welcomed two very fine women into the congregation, Sr. Therese Maria and Sr. Natalie Sayde. Our priests are very happy with them."

The Charism

Sr. Marla Marie Lucas founded the Maronite Servants, at the bishop's encouragement, in June 2008, to be an active religious congregation with a rich Maronite contemplative prayer life.

"Our mission is to serve in the parish or eparchy alongside our priests by offering our consecrated spiritual motherhood, with Mary as our model. Our charism is to radiate the Light of Christ by nurturing the Maronite faith of our people," explains Sr. Marla Marie. "The sisters are available to our people to pray and sacrifice for them and accompany them on their journey of faith."

Soon after the congregation was founded, Fr. Jack Morrison, while pastor at Our Lady of Purgatory in New Bedford, Mass., benefited from the mission experience of Sr. Marla Marie and the sisters. For five years, the sisters taught religious education in his parish, instructing children ages five through twelve, and preparing children for First Holy Communion, and providing adult catechesis. "The children loved them. Instruction was a mixture of education and fun," says Fr. Jack.

Maronite Liturgy – Our Way of Life

The Maronite Servants' communal life of prayer is their "source of strength, charity and mutual support," says Sr. Marla Marie. They share in daily Maronite Divine Liturgy, as well as morning, evening, and night prayer from the Maronite Divine Praises. Their communal periods of retreat and daily times of Eucharistic adoration and silence are also valued spiritual exercises, she notes.

"The Maronite Liturgy is not something we 'do'--it's the way we live. Our Maronite spirituality and theology permeates our life and mission. We have a beautiful and mystical heritage in the Maronite Church that the sisters value, live and desire to preserve and pass on through our ministry," explains Sr. Marla Marie.

Working with Youth

Sr. Therese Maria Touma, who grew up in the Maronite community in Australia, was the first vocation after Sr. Marla Marie began the congregation. Sr. Therese Maria entered as a postulant in 2010 and made her final profession in 2017.

Now the Director of the Maronite Youth Organization (MYO) and Maronite Young Adults (MYA) for the Eparchy of Saint Maron, Sr. Therese Maria works with her counterparts in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, Fr. Tony Massad and Fr. Gary George. Together they help organize the annual conferences that bring together youth and young adults from Maronite parishes across the USA for fellowship and faith building. There will also be a group of young adults going to Panama for World Youth Day in January 2019.

Sr. Therese Maria sees the youth work of the sisters as a way to help teens and young adults tap into their natural energy and exuberance. "Young people have a lot of energy. And it definitely can be channeled. They want change. They want to make a difference. But they need guidance and affirmation and the tools to be that change. If they're shown goodness, beauty and truth, they respond to that," says Sr. Therese Maria. "They see how the world alone is not fulfilling. There's something more."

The Newest Vocation

Adding support to the retreats and mission of the Maronite Servants is their latest vocation, Sr. Natalie Sayde Salameh who entered in 2014 and is also from Australia. Previously, while working for the local government of New South Wales,

Sr. Natalie admits that although she practiced her Maronite faith at a local parish, still at that time "God was not a big part of my life."

After six years on the job, however, "I felt disenchanted, unsatisfied," she adds. "These were the first stirrings of my soul in wanting something more for my life that I knew only God could fulfill." Then, providentially, says Sr. Natalie Sayde, God brought the Maronite Servants to speak on vocations at her parish young women's group while on their mission in Australia in 2013. The witness of the sisters resonated with Sr. Natalie Sayde's heart.

After a time of discernment with the Maronite Servants, Sr. Natalie entered leaving her old life behind. "My father was devastated at my decision to leave home," she says. But four years on, when her parents came to witness Sr. Natalie Sayde's first vows in March 2018, her father told her "'seeing you so happy gives me peace,'" she recalls with gratitude.

Looking Ahead

"Building a new congregation is a huge undertaking, and Our Lord has blessed us," says Sr. Marla Marie, calling the past ten years "a great adventure with Our Lord, mostly uphill!" But the support from the bishop, priests, and parishioners have helped to sustain them, she adds.

"I am indebted to Bishop Gregory for his consistent support and encouragement. We couldn't do this without him. We look forward to growing in new vocations to share in our awesome mission and we are currently in conversation with a few more young women. We also seek to increase our donors for the needed financial support to assist us in our mission," she says.

"Our eparchy has the priests, deacons, subdeacons, a group of contemplative monks in Petersham, Massachusetts, and a Seminary in Washington, D.C., but we were always missing something," reflects Bishop Gregory. "And the sisters have put their finger on the pulse and supplied what was missing - active consecrated religious women. With them, we are a little more whole, and we hope that with them we will continue to become more and more what Christ wants us to be." □

(Rick Allen is a writer from the Washington, D.C., Metro area.)

An Update from The Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament in Lebanon

Thanks to several readers of the Maronite Voice, the Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament (in Lebanon) just purchased their second new vehicle in the past thirty years!

Among the most generous donors to the campaign for the new car were a generous donor in Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Parish in Easton, Penn.; the St. Joseph Society at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio; a Maronite man in Milwaukee, Wisc.; a man who is not Catholic from Maryland; and other generous persons.

The vehicle is needed to transport the Sisters to neighboring villages in Lebanon to serve children, the poor,

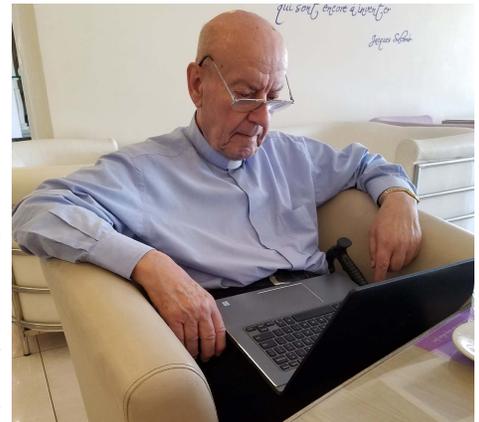


The Sisters with their new Toyota Yaris that will help them minister to thousands of people in Lebanese villages.

the elderly and those in spiritual need. The Sisters teach religious education and prepare the children for First Holy Communion, and visit the sick and elderly. For many villagers, the Sisters are the only providers of assistance, especially counseling and spiritual help.

The Missionary Sisters are comprised of fifty-one consecrated women devoted to the Eucharist and to helping girls and women from childhood through old age. They operate a school for 1,400 children and orphans from thirty one rural villages northeast of *Jbeil*. They also have a retirement home for 90 poor senior citizens in *Kfarmassoun*, Lebanon. Their work relies on donations.

Monsignor Sami Hayek, who served in parishes in the U.S. from 1964 - 2010 (including in Lawrence, Mass; New Castle, Penn.; Danbury, Conn.; and Easton, Penn.) retired to Lebanon and now lives with the Sisters and helps them. Monsignor Sami introduced Bishop Gregory



Mansour to the Msgr. Sami working on his computer. Sisters several years ago, and Bishop Gregory has been helping the Sisters ever since. Monsignor Sami said, "Bishop Gregory is considered like a real father to the Sisters. He has given personally to the Sisters, and he helps in many other ways. He gives from his heart."

Two years ago, a grant from Aid to the Church in Need allowed the Sisters to buy their first new car in over thirty years. That vehicle, a durable Kia Sportage, is now used to help the Sisters cross the most rugged terrain in Lebanon to get to parishes. The Kia replaced a vehicle which was thirty-five years old and had over 300,000 miles on it.

Bishop Gregory invites anyone who wants to help the Sisters to send a donation to the Chancery in Brooklyn at 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Please include a note with your donation stating that it is designated for the Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament. □

Circle of Love



by Cecilia M Romero, parishioner, St. Joseph Maronite Church, Ga.

It all started over a year ago with a phone call from Sister Marla Marie, Superior of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light, asking my advice on fundraising for the convent. During that conversation and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I had an idea. I proposed that I could donate my crochet skills and make baby items which in turn could be displayed at the sisters' table at the annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) convention.

My reasoning for this kind of fundraising was that our Sisters are our mothers in the church and they offer their whole lives to God through various works of mercy and catechesis throughout our Maronite parishes. Mothers and children go hand in hand. Our Sisters often hold our hands in their hearts through prayer as we journey towards heaven.

The art of thread crochet is a hobby I share with my own mother, Mami. In her youth, Mami was taught to crochet by her sister and together they would make blankets and other baby items to support their family. As a child, I was fortunate to learn from Mami how to crochet as she taught me with lots of motherly love and patience the many details that go into making baby items. During our time, as we worked on many projects, Mami would share stories of her youth growing up in Puerto Rico (PR) where she was born, raised and lived most of her eighty-three years.

During last year's NAM convention, we had a successful event and many Maronites were pleasantly surprised and eager to support the Mission *Angelitos* (Spanish for little angels) as we have named the fundraiser.

When hurricane Maria struck PR on September 20, 2017, the entire island was devastated. I quickly decided to get my mom, my aunt and brother out of the island as soon as possible as the conditions were extremely difficult to sustain life. During those harrowing days and weeks, the Sisters would call and offer prayerful support. Their loving words of encouragement kept my sanity. It took three weeks of intense work and many setbacks to finally get Mami out, only to see that the living conditions after hurricane Maria had affected her health and her mental and physical state were precarious.

The months following the hurricane were extremely difficult for all Puerto Ricans and many lives have been forever changed. Having brought Mami and my aunt to Georgia was a miracle to which I give thanks to God. However, I honestly was not prepared for the aftermath in dealing with the difficult and demanding challenges of Mami's mid-stage Alzheimer's condition. I thank God for my Aunt Aurea, who cares for Mami so I can continue to work. I am also very grateful for the constant prayers of our Sisters that have continued to sustain me as I find little time and energy to pray myself.

The inability to go home to PR in combination with her Alzheimer's condition has caused a lot of frustration, anger and sadness for Mami which in turn affects her physical wellbeing. I was inspired to ask Mami if she would like to crochet baby items for our Sisters. Crocheting gives Mami a sense of purpose for her life. I was surprised to find out from Mami's nurse practitioner that crocheting is an important therapy for people who suffer from Alzheimer's. The repetitive nature of crocheting helps to improve memory, reduce anxiety, and build self-esteem. It relieves depression and is used as part of a prayer process.

We now spend our days buying material and making many baby blankets for Mission *Angelitos*. Each blanket we make is our way of praying for your families and at the same time, helping our Sisters. It is a mission of life and a circle of love. □

Uniontown, Pennsylvania World War II Veteran Turns 100

by Natalie J Plumb, granddaughter to Fouad John

Fouad Simon John, a World War II Army Medic who served from 1941-1945, is one-hundred years old. Fouad was born on May 16, 1918, in Uniontown, Penn., to Lebanese immigrants. During the week of his 100th birthday, on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, his five children, dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, innumerable cousins, neighbors and friends visited him at his home in Uniontown, where he raised his family with his late wife, Sophia John.

Fouad fought in the Pacific on the Japanese front. He was drafted on September 19, 1941, and was honorably discharged on October 5, 1945.

"I'll never forget the date: the day I went in the army or the day I came out; I'll never forget it," John said. "I forget other things, but I don't forget that. I won't forget the army, and things that I can't talk about."

He was on the front lines in three battles: the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, and the Ryukyu Islands. He received three

Brooklyn, New York *Palm Sunday Celebration*



The youth of Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn, N.Y., from pre-K children through High School took active participation in this year's Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral. Thirty-two children presented the gifts, gave peace, read the intercessions in English and Arabic, Elias Diab proclaimed the Epistle in English, and Tiana Eladam proclaimed it in Arabic. This year we engaged more youth by having them also take up the collection. The church was filled with worshipers, even in the balcony. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, celebrated by Bishop Gregory Mansour, the Maronite community processed through the streets of Brooklyn Heights around the church in a public show of our faith while we sang Maronite hymns. We gathered at the front steps of the Cathedral and held our palms high for the close of the Divine Liturgy with His Excellency. Monsignor James Root, Rector, concelebrated, Deacon Peter Frangie and Subdeacon Norbert Vogl assisted, and Mrs. Leila Vogl enlisted, trained and organized the youth. □

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania *Pastor's Farewell*



On Sunday, April 29, 2018, The Maronite Religious Education Program (MRE) of St. Anthony/St. George Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., held a party to honor Father Hanna Karam, Pastor, before he leaves for his next assignment in Carnegie, Penn. □



Bronze Stars, a Good Conduct Medal, a Ruptured Duck, "and all kinds of medals," John said. "Every time you win something, they throw something around ya, just like you're a Christmas tree," he joked.

When asked why he has lived so long, he always responds "levity." Fouad loves to laugh. He doesn't take himself too seriously.

Fouad's 100th birthday party hosted traditional Lebanese food made by the parishioners at St. George Maronite Catholic Church. Fouad would be the first to tell you that food helps with longevity: He eats just about everything, and he grew up on a Mediterranean diet. He surrounds himself with people and thinks of only the good things in life. "There's things I'll always carry with me," he said. "But I don't reveal them." He only shared one short story on camera. "They sent us on the South Pacific," John began. "We were walking at night. I met one of my friends, Tagliaferri, and we kept on walking and all of a sudden, I heard he got killed. In a matter of seconds, I lost a friend. That was a sad moment."

As the youngest of seven (Fouad had four sisters and two brothers), he was already eight when he first went to school. At that age, he had only spoken Arabic at home. He was raised Maronite Catholic and went to St. John High School, in Uniontown. As a teenager, and through his early 20s, he worked in his father's wholesale business. He attended St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, Penn., where he studied biology. His collegiate career was interrupted when he was drafted as a medic in the army in 1941.

Fouad John enjoys telling jokes and making others smile, laughing, people, praying his rosary, being with family, and relaxing with those he loves. □





55TH ANNUAL MARONITE CONVENTION

HOUSTON, TX

OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS

JUL 11-15, 2018

Sponsored by the
National Apostolate of Maronites



55th Annual NAM Convention Schedule

Registration Wed: 4 – 7 PM/Thu & Fri: 9AM–5PM/ Sat: 9 AM – 2 PM

Hospitality Room Wed: 4 –7 PM/Thu, Fri & Sat: 9 AM–10:30 AM/Thu 1 – 7:30 PM/Fri: 1-3:30 PM

Exhibits and Displays Wed: Noon–5 PM/ Thu & Fri: 9 AM– 5 PM / Sat: 9 AM – 5 PM

Seniors Rooms Wed: Noon–5 PM/ Thu & Fri: 9 AM– 5 PM / Sat: 9 AM – 2 PM

*These Rooms will be closed each day during Divine Liturgy

*All excursions, buses and vans will leave on time, please be at the hotel lobby 15 minutes prior to departure time, no refunds.

Please sign-up as soon as possible for the highlighted items that are not part of the regular convention registration.

Excursions will be reserved for people signing-up ahead of time. Same day sign-ups limited to availability and may incur additional fees.

Wednesday July 11, 2018

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Safro (Morning Prayer)	
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Divine Liturgy	
4:00 – 7:00 PM	Dinner on your own or join us in the Hospitality Suite	
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Ramsho (Evening Prayer)	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
7:00 PM	Excursion: Baseball Game @ Minute Maid Park	Meet in the Lobby
10:00 PM – 3:00 AM	Dance Party – DJ American and Arabic Music	
1:00 – 3:00 AM	Sing-along Time	

Thursday

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Safro (Morning Prayer)	
10:30 AM – 12:00 noon	To Become What We Are: The Challenge of Reuniting the Catholic and Orthodox workshop by: Chorbishop John Faris	
10:30 AM – 12:00 noon	Children's Program	
11:30 – Noon	Chapel open for private prayer, confessions & prayer of the Rosary	
Noon – 1:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	
1:00 – 2:30 PM	NAM Board Lunch with the Bishops	
1:30 – 6:00 PM	Excursion: Museum District	Meet in the Lobby
1:30 – 4:00 PM	Young Adults: Pool Party	Marriott Marquis Pool
3:00 – 7:30 PM	Youth: Houston Food Bank; Service Project with Dinner	Meet in the Lobby
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Living Our Faith: Opportunities and Challenges workshop by: Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio	
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Children's Program	
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Ramsho	
5:30 – 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
6:00 – 7:30 PM	Young Adults: Theology on Tap with the Bishops @ St. Arnold's Brewery	Meet in the Lobby
Free Time	Dinner on your own or join us in the Hospitality Suite	
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Evangelical & Classical Concert – Ghada Chbeir	
10:15 PM	NAM Scholarship Presentation	
10:30 PM – 12:00 AM	Stand Up Comedy – Nimr Abou Nassar	
12:00 – 3:00 AM	Dance Party – DJ American and Arabic Music	
12:00 – 3:00 AM	Sing-along Time	



55TH ANNUAL MARONITE CONVENTION

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Friday

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Safro (Morning Prayer)	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Order of St. Sharbel Breakfast Meeting	
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Youth workshop and activities with Sammy Argumaniz	
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Young Adults: Pro-Life Panel Discussion by Julie Fritsch and Rev. Tony Massad	
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Excursion: NASA, lunch included	Meet in the Lobby
10:30 AM – 12 noon	Scientific Advances & Their Impact on Health and Society workshop by Dr. Huda Zoghbi	
10:30 AM – 12 noon	Project Roots – Intishar workshop	
10:30 AM – 12 noon	Children's Program	
11:30 – Noon	<i>Chapel open for private prayer, confessions & prayer of the Rosary</i>	
Noon – 1:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Young Adults: Excursion to NASA	Meet in the Lobby
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Maronites in the USA: Present and Future workshop by Bishops Gregory Mansour and Elias Zaidan	
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Children's Program	
5:30 – 7:00 PM	NAM Delegates Meeting	
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Ramsho (Evening Prayer)	
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Young Adults Cocktail Hour	
7:00 PM – 1:00 AM	Southern Texas Night – Country & Western Band followed by Arabic music by Jabbour & his band	
1:00 – 3:00 AM	Dance Party – DJ American and Arabic Music	
1:00 – 3:00 AM	Sing-along Time	

Saturday

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Safro (Morning Prayer)	
8:30 – 9:00 AM	NAM Breakfast – Board, Delegates and Clergy	
9:00 – 11:30 AM	NAM General Assembly	
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Youth: Kemah Boardwalk Excursion	Meet in the Lobby
9:00 AM – 12:00 noon	Young Adults: Workshop by Philippe Ziade	
10:30 AM – 12:00 noon	How to Have a Happy Marriage workshop by Dominick Albano	
10:30 AM – 12:00 noon	Children's Program	
11:30 – Noon	<i>Chapel open for private prayer, confessions & prayer of the Rosary</i>	
Noon – 1:00 PM	Divine Liturgy for peace in the Middle East & especially Syria	Collection will be for Syria
1:15 – 3:00 PM	Order of St. Sharbel Luncheon	
1:30 – 3:15 PM	Excursion: Tour of Our Lady of the Cedars	
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Young Adults: Parish Feud	
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Commission on Lebanon workshop by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri and Archbishop Paul Youssef Matar	
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Children's Program	
5:00 – 6:00 PM	NAM Board of Directors Meeting	
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy; for Sunday Travelers	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Young Adults Professionals Cocktail Hour	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Order of St. Sharbel Cocktail Hour	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Pre-Banquet Cocktail Hour	
7:00 PM – 1:00 AM	Grand Banquet & Raffle Drawing – Lebanese Star: Nader Khoury	
1:00 – 3:00 AM	Dance Party - DJ American and Arabic Music	
1:00 – 3:00 AM	Sing-along Time	

Sunday

10:30 – 11:00 AM	<i>Church open for private prayer, confessions & prayer of the Rosary</i>
11:00 AM – 12 noon	Pontifical Divine Liturgy - 2 Collections: Our Lady of the Cedars and NAM Scholarship Program
12:00 noon – 2:00 PM	Farewell Brunch – “Till We Meet in Miami 2019”



Search for a New NAM Executive Director

The National Apostolate of Maronites, NAM, is in the process of recruiting and retaining the services of a new Executive Director. It is NAM's desire to recruit, interview and offer the position to a qualified individual in the immediate future, with the strong hope that a new Executive Director can be in place prior to the National Convention in Houston this July.

Job Description

In accordance with the National Apostolate of Maronites By-Laws, the Executive Director is responsible for the successful leadership and management of the Organization according to the strategic direction set by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Bishops.

The Executive Director performs some or all of the following:

- ◆ Participate with the Board of Directors in developing a vision and strategic plan to guide the Organization
- ◆ Identify, assess and inform the Board of Directors of internal and external issues that affect the Organization
- ◆ Act as a professional advisor to the Board of Directors on all aspects of the Organization's activities
- ◆ In addition to the President of NAM, act as a spokesperson for the Organization
- ◆ Conduct official correspondence on behalf of the Board as appropriate and jointly with the Board when appropriate
- ◆ Represent the Organization at community activities to enhance the Organization's community profile
- ◆ Perform the day-to-day operations of the National Office, which can be located anywhere
- ◆ In conjunction with the education Chair, supervise NAM's scholarship applications and awards
- ◆ Maintain up to date, true and accurate financial records
- ◆ Report on the financial standing of the Organization on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis
- ◆ Supervise the receipt and disbursement of all funds of the Organization and shall authorize deposits and withdrawals of all monies under such conditions as shall be imposed by the Board and in accordance with an approved budget
- ◆ Maintain current records of membership and delegates/representatives
- ◆ With the Chairman of Finance, prepare and present to the Board, the National Convention Report and the annual financial statements
- ◆ Serve as the Convention Coordinator working in close collaboration with the Bishops, host Pastors and

chairpersons of national and regional conventions as well as the organizing committees

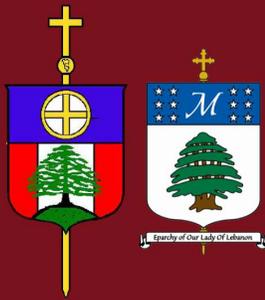
- ◆ Serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee
- ◆ In cooperation with the Public Relations committee, maintain a website for the Organization
- ◆ Perform all other duties as delegated by the Board of Directors, and all other duties that customarily devolve for the Office, not specifically mentioned herein

In addition to the above, the Executive Director must work with the Bishops on a regular basis.

Qualifications

- ◆ Knowledge of Maronite history and heritage
- ◆ Understand and believe in NAM's Mission
- ◆ Computer skills in Microsoft programs, as well as web design
- ◆ Participate in and understand Maronite traditions and interact with the Maronite Bishops, Clergy and laity
- ◆ Perform efficiently and on-time all aspects of office operations
- ◆ Knowledge of convention planning and hotel negotiations
- ◆ Ability to travel, when needed, throughout the year
- ◆ Ability to present well to the general public as the face of the Maronite Church
- ◆ Abide by all Catholic teaching and morality and practice the Catholic Faith with sincerity
- ◆ Ability to prepare, understand and present financial reports
- ◆ Bookkeeping Ability
- ◆ Bachelor's degree preferred, but not required

For further information, or to be considered for this position, please contact Father Albert Constantine at (818)416-3839 or fralbertconstantine@gmail.com. □



Effective Ways You Can Help Your Eparchy!

Please consider the following ways in which you can help the Maronite Church!

Legacy Giving

This is a creative way to support the Church. Legacy Giving can involve contributing through your *will, insurance policy, or retirement assets*.

You can get a tax deduction today and provide yourself with a steady source of income in future years through a *charitable trust*.

How to Remember Your Church in Your Will

Suggested wording for a bequest to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn:

"I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn _____% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____]."

Suggested wording for a bequest to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles:

"I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles _____% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____]."

Tax-Smart Giving of Appreciated Stock or other Assets

The gift of an asset such as *common stock or mutual fund shares* that have increased in value can be a smart way to make a contribution and receive maximum tax benefits based on the value of the asset.

Gifts of other *appreciated assets* such as land, antiques, and homes, can also be utilized as potential gifts with valuable tax benefits.

Gifts of these assets should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on any of these options, please contact:

Stewardship Director
John F. Kurey, Esq., MBA
718-237-9913 or 314-231-1021
saintmaron@yahoo.com or
maroniteswest@yahoo.com

The Season of Pentecost, The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 1

It is in the Holy Spirit that we have the possibility of receiving every gift from God, of sharing in His divine nature and life, of doing what Jesus has done by fulfilling his "new commandment" in John 13:34, to love one another as He has loved us and as St. Paul reminds us, "...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Rom 5.5).

If we have been baptized, received the anointing of Holy Chrism and share in the Body and Blood of the Lord, we, too, are called to be disciples. Like the Apostles without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are unable to fulfill our mission. But those of us who have been fully initiated into the Body of Christ, the Church, do have the ability to respond to our call and can publically proclaim our faith in Christ. We can be witnesses to this faith in word and deed, that is, by how we lead our lives and what and how we speak to others. As we have seen in the life of Jesus and in the life of the early Church, prayer was an important component of preparation. Prayer was, and is, how we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit and then in preparation for going out to share in the mission of Christ and His Church. That mission is to respond to the call of holiness by serving God and others in word and deed.

In the *Hoosoyo* prayer for the Feast of Pentecost we pray to the Holy Spirit:

"Fill us with the wisdom of your teachings.

Make us temples of your dignity.

Quench our thirst with your grace.

Enrich us with the knowledge of your Mysteries.

Illumine us with your light.

May we live for you and worship you with purity and holiness."

As Christians we live by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the promise of God's Kingdom on earth and that God's life and truth and love will always be with us. It is only in the

Holy Spirit that we can fulfill that for which we were created. All of God's actions towards us in the world – in creation, in salvation and in our final glorification at the end of time – are through the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This holy Season of Pentecost is an invitation to grow in holiness and a call for unity and a "mission-oriented" focus to our lives within the community of the Church. Throughout this holy Season, let us continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for those graces that will help us to live the life to which our Baptism and Chrismation have called us. □

+ A. Elias Zaidan
Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Camino de Santiago

Continued from page 10

The presence of God was everywhere on the Camino. God was in the magnificent colors of the sky, the lush foliage, and the majestic mountains. But He was most visible in the eyes of the other pilgrims. It is difficult to put into words the love that we felt for each other. Everyone cared unselfishly for one another. If you stopped along the way to take a rock out of your shoe, the very next person would ask if you needed assistance. No one would ever walk past you without greeting you in their native language or saying, "*Buen Camino*," which is the most common greeting. It means "Good Way."

Unfortunately Tom got injured and was forced to stop walking after 300 miles. I was prepared and happy to end my Camino so that I could be with my husband as he bussed ahead to the hospital in Santiago. He wouldn't hear of my plan to stop at this point. Having experienced the guidance and protection of this spiritual path, Tom knew that I would be fine. It was sad for us to leave each other but with Tom's encouragement and God's protection I ventured on unafraid, and Tom was off to get the medical attention that he so badly needed. It was a joyful reunion when I finally joined Tom in the beautiful city of Santiago. I had to walk 500 miles across France and Spain to learn to trust in God's protection and guidance. I learned that I always had and have the ability to call on His Power, and so do you. *Buen Camino*. □