

May 17, 2009
Bulletin # 20

Our Lady of Lebanon Church

(Maronite Catholic Rite)

Faith † Family † Friends

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: (304) 233-1688 • Fax: (304) 233-4714

E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

6th Sunday of Resurrection



Schedule of Divine Liturgies

- ***Weekend Masses:** Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start at 10:10 a.m.]
- ***Weekday Masses:** **At Noon.** Please refer to the Mass schedule on page 3 of this bulletin for Mass times and changes due to special events. Thank you for your cooperation.
- ***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1st Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1st Sunday after Communion
- ***Miraculous Medal Novena:** Every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- ***Reconciliation:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- ***Baptism:** Kindly phone the Pastor as soon as the baby is born. Godparents must be Catholics.
- ***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least six months in advance before any other plans are made.
- ***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the pastor any time at (304) 233-1688
- ***Parish Council:** Lou Khourey 277-3230, Linda Duffy 242-6853, Tom George 336-7142, P.J. Lenz 242-5606 and Carol Dougherty (740) 782-0146
- ***Choir Members:** Rita Thomas Strawn, Shirley George, Allison Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski, Earl Duffy, Lou Khourey, Robert Vawter, Jody & Abbie Seabright, Tracey Dierkes
- ***Altar Boys:** Louie Khourey & Dalton Haas
- ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President 242-6853
- ***Women's Society:** Sandra Dusick, President 232-7395



- *Remember the Church in your Last Will – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
- *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Advertisers
- *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the Rectory
- ***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Fr. Bakhos. Deadline is: Every Tuesday by Noon
- ***New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy and invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners
- ***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday – all spaces are for parishioners; Monday through Friday – park **ONLY** in the 3 ALLEY spaces

Gospel Reflection: 6th Sunday of Resurrection

Readings: Rom 10: 1-13 & Lk 24: 36-48

But what said the Lord Jesus? "Why are ye troubled, and why do thoughts ascend into your hearts?" If thoughts ascend into your heart, the thoughts come from the earth. But it is good for a man, not that a thought should ascend into his heart, but that his heart should itself ascend upwards, where the Apostle would have believers place their hearts, to whom he said, "If ye be risen with Christ, mind those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Seek those things which are above, not the things which are upon the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ your life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." In what glory? The glory of the resurrection. In what glory? Hear the Apostle saying of this body, "It is sown in dishonor, it shall rise in glory." This glory the Apostles were unwilling to assign to their Master, their Christ, their Lord: **they did not believe that His Body could rise from the sepulcher: they thought Him to be a Spirit, though they saw His flesh, and they believed not their very eyes. Yet we believe them who preach but do not show Him. Lo, they believed not Christ who showed Himself to them.**

Malignant wound! Let the remedies for these scars come forth. "Why are ye troubled, and why do thoughts ascend into your hearts? See My hands and My feet," where I was fixed with the nails. "Handle and see." But ye see, and yet do not see. "Handle and see." What? "That a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. When He had thus spoken," so it is written, "He showed them His hands and His feet."

"And while they were yet in hesitation, and wondered for joy." Now there was joy already, and yet hesitation continued. For a thing incredible had taken place, yet taken place it had. Is it at this day a thing incredible, that the Body of the Lord rose again from the sepulcher? The whole cleansed world has believed it; whoso has not believed it, has remained in his uncleanness. Yet at that thee it was incredible: and persuasion was addressed not to the eyes only, but to the hands also, that by the bodily senses faith might descend into their heart, and that faith so descending into their heart might be preached throughout the world to them who neither saw nor touched, and yet without doubting believed. "Have you," said He, "anything to eat?" How much doeth the good Builder still to build up the edifice of faith? He did not hunger, yet He asked to eat. And He ate by an act of His power, not through necessity. So then let the disciples acknowledge the verity of His body, which the world has acknowledged at their preaching.

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, May 16-17: 6th Sunday of Resurrection

Saturday, May 16 at 4:00 p.m.:

Fr. William Martin (on his Anniversary) by Fr. Anthony Batt

Martha Bris Corondoni by Mariam Bris Harris & her children & Anna & Jim Bougher

Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 a.m.:

Ben Roski (on his Anniversary) by Rosella Saseen

Nimnoom Ghaphery by the Ghaphery Family

Weekday Masses

Monday, May 18: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, May 19: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm: Ascension Eve Mass (Day of Obligation)

Lou Elias by his daughter Debbie Kull & Family

For success of Kara Solberg (MN) by her grandparents Peter & Mary Solberg

Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm: Ascension Day Mass (Day of Obligation)

Living and Deceased members of the Nicholas and Nimnoom Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family.

Martha Bris Corondoni by Mariam Bris Harris & her children & Anna & Jim Bougher

Friday, May 22 at Noon:

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Martha Bris Corondoni by Mariam Bris Harris & her children & Anna & Jim Bougher

THIS WEEKEND, May 23-24: 7th Sunday of Resurrection**Saturday, May 23 at 4:00 p.m.:**

Robert Rose (on his Birthday) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family
Sue Linton by Joe & Carmel Safesak and Family

Sunday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m.:

Gladys Howard (on her Anniversary) by Charlotte and Lou Khourey and Family
Good health of Kay Garvey's niece in Florida

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$625)

Fr. Bakhos opened at Main Street Bank an Endowment Fund CD account exclusively for our church maintenance for the years to come. Many parishioners –primarily those who have no one to inherit their property or money– are willing to donate all or part of their assets to the church. These earmarked donations will be saved in this Endowment Fund. Only the yearly interest will be withdrawn and spent to pay for church utilities and general maintenance.

We understand that some members of our community cannot support our church as they would like to because of the need to retain funds for their retirement years. But after their death, their donation can bring stability and security to the future of the church. All benefactors will be enrolled in the daily Mass offering. Please put into writing in your will as Fr. Eugene Jacobs did. The following is suggested wording:

(I, , hereby give, devise and bequeath the sum of \$..... (or specify described real or personal property) to the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon, a non-profit organization located at 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. I want my donation to be deposited in the Endowment Fund account designated to maintain and support the church. I also wish to be enrolled as benefactor in the daily Mass intentions.) We thank each of the following individuals for their generous contribution to this Endowment Fund.

Bill & Mary Stees (\$200), Tom Ferris (\$225), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100),

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
Ascension Feast Day	Wed. & Thu., May 20 & 21st, Masses at 6:00 p.m.
Sun. May 24 th or 31 st	Restoring the Church and Cedar Hall after the Painting Project
Sunday, May 31	Women's Society 50/50 Maintenance Fund Raffle – Drawing after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Saturday, June 6	Parish Rummage Sale – from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – In Old Basement Hall <i>Drop Off Days:</i> Sunday, May 31, from after Mass to 5 p.m. Monday & Tuesday, June 1 & 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday, June 3 & 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 7	Spring Spaghetti Dinner – 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – In New Cedar Hall
Sunday, June 7	Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle Drawing – at the Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, August 9	2009 Mahrajan
Sunday, August 30	Women's Society Meeting – after 10:30 a.m. Mass

Flowers for the Blessed Mother in May (Sundays, May 3 through May 31)

The flowers donated for the Blessed mother in May will be sponsored as follows:

Sunday, May 17	Shirley George, Rita Strawn & Anna Jalad
Sunday, May 24	Fran Saseen, Marge Saseen, Rosella Saseen
Sunday, May 31	Charlotte Khourey & Mary Stees

Ascension: Day of Obligation

Ascension Mass schedule:

Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m.: Ascension Eve Mass (no noon Mass on Wednesday)

Thursday, May 21th at 6:00 p.m.: Ascension Day Mass (no noon Mass on Thursday)

Restoring the Church after Painting (Sunday, May 24th or Sunday May 31st)

According to the contract with the painting company, the job should be done by the end of May. It might be done the week before, but we don't know for certain yet. Please follow the progress of the painting in the bulletin and be prepared to help Fr. Bakhos return the statues and all items to the church and set up the Cedar Hall for the Spaghetti Dinner when called upon to do so. After painting, the church will be professionally cleaned by Panhandle and the Memorial Plaque of the donors will be mounted inside the church. Any additional donations will cover the above expenses.

Additional donations received toward the Painting Fund:

-Sue Linton Memorial (Total \$620), Kay Garvey (\$100), Mary Margaret Blum (\$100), Gary Weisner (\$1,000)

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, May 31)

The Women's Society continues to sponsor the Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds will now be designated to the benefit the Church "Maintenance Fund."

The drawing from entries received **for the May 50/50 Raffle Tickets** are provided at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletins will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, May 31**.

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets are now printed on white paper only. Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the collection or mail to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please write as "Memo: 50/50 Raffle."

For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you manifold and we ask for your continued support. Congratulations to the April 50/50 winner of \$77: Virginia Porchiran, who participates monthly and now has won for the second month in a row. May the Blessed Mother continue to grant you a long life filled with good health.

Rummage Sale (Saturday, June 6th, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) – ***Held in the Old Basement Hall***

Start saving your household items that are in good condition and can be sold at our upcoming Parish Rummage Sale which will be held **in our Old Basement Hall**. There is always a profit on our sales. *If you have any questions, call Linda at 304-242-6853 or Luane at 304-242-7437.* Drop off dates are as follows:

Sunday, May 31, from after Mass until 5 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday, June 1 & 2, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, June 3 & 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, June 7th, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy our Spring Spaghetti Dinner served in our Cedar Hall following Mass Sunday, June 7. Chairperson Tom George and our parishioners invite you and your friends to come and enjoy our food and hospitality. Help our Church make this our best Spaghetti Dinner yet! Invite your friends, co-workers and neighbors to attend. Every dollar of profit earned will be used for our Church Building Maintenance Fund.

Menu: Spaghetti and meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, roll, dessert with coffee, ice tea or lemonade.

Tickets: \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12; Tickets are now available from the Church office at: 304-233-1688 or at the door. *Remember to purchase your tickets early. Our last three Spaghetti Dinners were sell outs!* **Tickets can be held at the door only if they are prepaid.** **Payment in advance is greatly appreciated.**

Notes:

1. Advance Ticket Sales: If you are able & willing to help sell tickets to make our dinner a tremendous success, please call our Church office. **Unsold tickets & payments must be returned by Sunday, May 31.**

2. Parishioners are being asked to *please bake and donate a dessert for use at the dinner* so that we may offer a variety of choices to go with the meal.
3. Parishioners are also being asked to help make our *Baked Goods Sale* –held simultaneously with the dinner– a huge success. Please make and donate an item: cookies, cake, pie, fudge, candy, Lebanese treat, etc.
4. Please save large, clean paper grocery or shopping bags and bring them to the Church any weekend so that we may use them to pack bake sale and "to go" orders.
5. If you can volunteer to work for the Spaghetti Dinner or have questions, please call the Church office at 304-233-1688.

Gift Basket Raffle Drawing (Sunday, June 7, at the Spaghetti Dinner)

“**Wine & Dine Italian Style**” is the theme of our next Gift Basket Raffle. The drawing will be at the Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, June 7. The Gift Basket includes the following Italian items: *1 bag of tri-color pasta, 1 jar Figaretti Pasta Sauce, 1 box San Georgia shells, 1 box San Georgia spaghetti, 1 box Ronzini's Healthy Harvest spaghetti, 1 jar Classico Sweet Basil sauce. 1 jar DeLallo Roasted Peppers, 1 bottle Riunite Rasp. Wine, 2 Italian Wine Goblets, 1 Pasta Italian Cook Book, 1 pair kitchen shears, 1 Oneida 4-sided grater, 1 hand cheese grater, 1 Italian Spoon rest, 1 bottle Balsamic Vinegar, 1 bottle Pure Olive Oil, 1 container Parmesan Cheese, 1 Pampered Chef Measuring Cup, 1 garlic press, 1 pasta fork, 1 kitchen towel.*

The Gift Basket Raffles are sponsored by the Women’s Society to benefit our “Maintenance Fund.” Tickets are available now at the church entrance, in our weekly Bulletin, at our upcoming St. Maron Dinner or call Kay at 232-0492. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 or **triple your chances of winning by sending in 18 ticket stubs** (3 sheets of tickets) **at one time for only \$10.00.**

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets will now be printed on white paper only. Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the weekly collection (with Gift Basket Raffle noted on the front of the envelope) or write the notation on the “Memo” line of your check when you mail it to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. For more information, contact the church office at 304-233-1688. Your generosity and cooperation enhances our Church.

Father’s Day Masses (Saturday, June 20, to Friday, June 26)

We are offering a week Masses for Deceased and Living fathers and grandfathers. Please remember the souls of those who hold you on their shoulders when you were a child.

History of Father’s Day:

Father’s Day is the 3rd Sunday in June. The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. A rose, the Father’s Day flower, is worn to show honor: Red for a living father and white if the father has died.

Special Masses already requested for the weekend and weekdays of June 20 – June 26th

Saturday, June 20th: Cathy Sharp Howard (on her Anniversary) by the Sengewalt Family

Sunday, June 21st: Jim Garvey (on his Birthday) by his wife Kay and his daughter Sue.

Wednesday, June 24th: Helen Fielding (on her Anniversary) by her husband Don Fielding (FL)

Arthur Long (on his Anniversary) by his wife Sylvia Long

Remembered Deceased Fathers and Grandfathers:

Deceased fathers & grandfathers of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos

Habib & Louis Khourey, Sr., & Nassif Nader by Lou & Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie

Remembered Living Fathers and Grandfathers:*Living fathers & grandfathers of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos**Lou Khourey by his children Emmalena & Louie & wife Charlotte****Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List*****Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:**

Shipley Shipley, Elizabeth Coram Purpura, Evelyn Goodson, Rosalie Conti, Donald Gibbons, Rosella Saseen,

Also please pray for those who asked us to pray for them:

Barb Sobota, Laura & Marion Wellman, Mary Piko, Virginia Khourey Bryan (aunt of Lou Khourey in Toledo, OH), Richard & Mary Ryncarz (Shadyside, OH), Manell Brice (Arlington, VA), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque, NM), John Vawter & his mom (brother & mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

May 18:	Millet L. Fadoul
May 20:	John Fadoul
May 21:	Roxanne Wurtzbacher, Rachel Zinn
May 23:	Jim George Jr., Brian K. Seidler
May 27:	Emmalena Khourey, Brad McLaughlin
May 30:	Josie Stees Fertig
May 31:	Bill Dougherty

Your Church Support Last Week

1,111	Collection
1,200	Donations to church
80	Candles
10	Utilities
49	Spaghetti Dinner
162	Reimbursement
275	Mahrajan (Ad Book)
2,895	Painting Fund
5,782	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?***Many Thanks***

- To Mike Linton for designating all Memorials of his beloved wife Sue toward the Painting Fund,
- To Randy Weisner who is building the Golden Cedar Book to be mounted next to the Cedar Tree,
- To the anonymous friend of Fr. Bakhos who sponsored the 14 feet ladder for high ceiling work,
- To Laupp's Florist for the beautiful arrangements they made for our May Procession attendees. Thank you also, for the special attention on your behalf for making them so beautiful. Nettie Seidler & Mary Lish.

A New Baby Girl

Our warmest wishes and congratulations go out to Chris and Lori DeMuth on the birth of their daughter Eden. May the Lord God and his Blessed Mother bless her and grant her a healthy life and bright future.

Congratulations on Your 40th Wedding Anniversary

Larry and Becky (Joseph) Ferrera of Benwood are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary Sunday, May 17. They were united in marriage May 17, 1969 at Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, Wheeling, with the Rev. Namalallah El-Hayek officiating. Congratulations and we wish the wonderful couple many years of happiness.

Graduation

Please inform us about the graduation of your children and grandchildren so that we publish it in our bulletin.

Extra Lebanese Bake Sale Items Available

See any of the Women's Society members to purchase the following extra items – which were frozen – from our recent sale:

Spinach Pies at \$2.25 each or Sesame Bread at \$1.25 each

Around Us

Mini Food Festival (May 21-22)

Where: Greek Church, Chapline Street from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; call for information: 304-233-1766

Menu: Gyro, Calamari, Tavern Fries, Salad, Pastries, Soft Drink.

Celebrating Christian Mothers (May 23-24)

Where: St. Michael Church, Wheeling; for info call: 304-232-1949 or 304-242-4245 or 304-242-0479

When: Saturday & Sunday, May 23rd & 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

Wisdom: Reason, Season, Lifetime

A Reason, a Season, or a Lifetime

People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a REASON . . . It is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are! They are there for the reason you need them to be.

Then, without any wrong doing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand.

What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered. And now it is time to move on.

When people come into your life for a SEASON . . . Because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Author Unknown

Spirituality: God Recall Notice

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technical termed, "sub-Sequential Internal Non-Mortality", or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include: Loss of direction, Foul vocal emissions, Amnesia of origin, Lack of peace and joy, Selfish or violent behavior, Depression or confusion in the mental component, fearfulness, idolatry, rebellion.

The manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control.

Please see the operating manual, the B. I. B. L. E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped to the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice and you may contact the Father anytime by 'Knee mail'.

Spirituality: Silence to find God

We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature, trees, flowers, grass grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence . . .

We need silence to be able to touch souls.

-Mother Teresa

Famous Quotes

“Give me truly Christian mothers and I will renew the face of the earth.”
(Pope Pius IX, 1878)

Maronites = Catholics of the East

A Maronite Role in Lebanon

Lebanese Independence.

In 1943, French colonial rule ended when the Maronites joined with their Muslim countrymen in the formulation of the National Pact. At the heart of the pact, was the understanding that the Maronites would not

resort to outside assistance from the West, and that the Muslims of Lebanon would not seek to incorporate Lebanon into the larger Arab world. From the Maronite side a clear commitment was made to the principle of Christian-Muslim coexistence. A confessional quota system of representation within the Lebanese government was established in order to balance the religious communities and guarantee the basic tenets of the National Pact understanding. The Lebanese Presidency and Army Chief, which under the French Mandate could be either Christian or Muslim, was to become the exclusive province of the Maronites with other offices established for various other religious sects and denominations in Lebanon.

In May 1948, Israel was declared by the United Nations to be an independent sovereign state, carved from the old British Mandate over Palestine. With the establishment of Israel, war commenced between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The legacy of that war on Lebanon and the region was a massive influx of Palestinian refugees and the reactionary rise of Arab Nationalism, first manifested in the name of Gamel Abdel Nasser of Egypt. The presence of such large numbers of dispossessed impoverished people, to whom an emotional appeal was made to unite in order to better confront the “enemy”, being defined as Israel, had serious repercussions on Lebanon internally.

The 1958 Crisis and Its Consequences.

The Maronite leadership of the country in 1958 turned to the West, and particularly the United States to assist in putting down what was then characterized as a civil war. The Marines landed and order was restored. This crisis took place against the regional backdrop of the rise of Arab Nationalism and the global backdrop of the East-West Cold War. The Maronite leadership in Lebanon had chosen not to take sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the time, opposition to their leadership could be emotionally rationalized to the Islamic sectors of the population by questioning Maronite loyalty to the Arab cause of confronting the Israelis. Even though, initially, the Maronites had a great deal of sympathy towards the Palestinian refugees, a general feeling of empathy gradually dissipated when the Palestinians moved to destroy the essential foundations of the Lebanese republic.

(To be continued in the next bulletin)

Religious Story: Saint Mary Magdalene

[The saints kept God first in their lives]

She stood steadfastly with Jesus’ mother at the foot of the Cross. She was one of the first to see the risen Christ on Easter Morning. This was Mary Magdalene, a sinner turned saint.

To the natives of Jerusalem she was known as “a woman of the city.” When Jesus was in Simon, the Pharisee’s house, she outraged Simon by entering his abode uninvited, falling on her knees before Jesus, weeping and wiping his feet with her disheveled hair, and anointing them with an alabaster box of precious ointment.

To Jesus, however, Mary Magdalene was not “this sort of woman” but a particular soul in need. Her sins admittedly were many, but they are forgiven, “for she loved much.”

We know very little about this “woman of the city,” except for the scanty sketches of her in the Gospels. For example, in Luke’s Gospel, 7:36-40, and 7:44-47 it is reported that when Jesus was invited to the house of Simon, ‘a woman of the city, who was a sinner, entered the Pharisee’s house uninvited, fell on her knees at Jesus’ feet, wiped them with her hair and anointed them with a precious ointment. In response to this Jesus turned to Simon, enraged by this transgression, and gently said, “Simon, I have something to say to you. Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much.”

In the Gospel according to Mark, after Jesus dies on the cross, Mark reports: “There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary, the mother of James the Less, and Salome; and many other women which came up with Him unto Jerusalem.”

In Mark’s Gospel too, after Christ was laid in the sepulchre, it is stated: “And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at

the rising of the sun, and they said among themselves, 'Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?'

Also in Luke's Gospel, after the tomb of Christ was found empty, "And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary, the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the Apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."

In John's Gospel, after Christ is crucified, it is stated: 'Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.'

And finally, in John. after the resurrection of Jesus, he declares: "When the first day of the week came, Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, went unto the sepulchre, and saw the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she run and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciples. whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him.'" Very little is known about the circumstances of Mary Magdalene's death, except that, according to the Western tradition, she is said to have died in Southern France, a part of the Roman world then known as Galhia Transalpina (Transalpine Gaul). According to the Greek or Eastern tradition, however, she is said to have spent her last days in the Ionian city of Ephesus in Asia Minor in the company of the Virgin Mary and the Apostle John, to whom Jesus had entrusted His mother.

Throughout her life Mary Magdalene exhibited an uncommon loyalty to Jesus. She will always be remembered for having stood steadfastly with Jesus' mother Mary at the foot of the cross, and for being the first to see the risen Christ on Easter Morning. She will always be the exemplary repentant woman sinner who was enlightened and chastened by the illuminating grace of God.

Joke (542)

The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"